GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists

Volume 34 Number 6 Jun 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

As I sit down to write this over the Coronation Bank Holiday, I am struck by the millions of people who came together to watch the coronation of King Charles III, the fifth monarch of the House of Windsor. Many families have their own traditions (possibly not as grand as a coronation), that act as touch points in the year, maybe your own family has one? Away from the historic festivities, it was the 6.5 million people who volunteered at the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May that stood out. It was a powerful reminder to me of the deep gratitude I, and the entire Society, owe to our volunteers.

As a charity that receives no government funding, we depend on our members and volunteers. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, but all share a passion for the Society and genealogy. Volunteers allow us to run our extensive events programme, and they tirelessly work on a range of special projects that help us to preserve the Society's collections for future generations. If you are interested in volunteering with the Society of Genealogists, you can visit our website to find out more about how you can get involved. To everyone who gives and supports the charity; members, volunteers, donors, thank you. You truly make everything we do possible.

As we go to press on this edition of the *Genealogists' Magazine*, work continues on our new home on Wharf Road. The premises designs have been approved, and we are now preparing to tender for the work to commence later this year. This means our 112th AGM will be held for the last time on Holloway Road. On Saturday 29th July the Society will come together (in-person and via Zoom) to recognize the progress we made in 2022 and to look towards the bright future that lies ahead. Though I am incredibly eager to share more details with you of the new premises (please follow us on social media for live updates), I am just as excited to see the progress being made on our online resources. The Society has membership spanning the world, and we have been investing to improve our digital records, making our irreplaceable resources more accessible wherever you are. 2023 is proving to be an exciting year for the Society and I look forward to sharing what we've been working on, later this year.

Patrick Barker
Chief Executive

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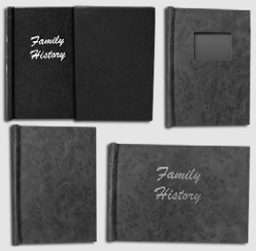

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GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Volume 34 Number 6 Jun 2023 Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

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Cover picture: *The Marriage of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville* (1464). Illuminated miniature from Vol 6 of the Anciennes Chroniques d'Angleterre, by Jean de Wavrin. Digitised manuscript from Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Public domain image sourced from Wikimedia.

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Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 112th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society of Genealogists will be held on Saturday 29th July, 2023, 1pm, precisely. The meeting shall take place at Resource for London, 356, Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA and online by Zoom.

BUSINESS:

1. The Auditor's Report
2. The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees
3. The Annual Accounts
4. The appointment of the Auditors: In accordance with Sections 485 of the Companies Act 2006 a resolution proposing the appointment of Richard Place Dobson as auditors of the Society will be put to the Annual General Meeting.
5. CEO's report and update.
6. The appointment of Trustees of the Society
7. To announce awards and Fellowship of the Society.
8. Any other competent business.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Patrick Barker
Company Secretary

All AGM documents, a proxy voting form, and links to register attendance can be found on our website at: www.sog.org.uk/agm2023.

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JACQUETTA OF LUXEMBURG

(1415/6 – 1472)

Michael Gandy FSG

The classic Ladybird books were for children, but recently there has been a parallel series explaining how adult things work. One is called ***The Mum*** and begins (opposite a picture of a smiling woman):

This is a mum.
A mum has two very important jobs to do. One is to look after her children.
The other is to do everything else as well.

This was intended to be a review of an excellent book by a well-known author but in the end I found it annoying. Since we don't review books we aren't happy with, I have decided to make my points without naming the book and those who like detective work will have to work it out. On the whole I would sooner you didn't. No names, no pack drill.

The book gives an account of three women of the 15th century but I am going to concentrate on the short biography of Jacquetta of Luxemburg, Duchess of Bedford (but widowed young), and then the wife of Richard Woodville, 1st Earl Rivers. The Foreword makes the fairly common point that Jacquetta is 'absent from the records of her time'. She was 'excluded from formal political power and military service' though 'she does have a presence in the historical records if they are carefully examined'. After a paragraph of special pleading on behalf of the dispossessed, the marginal, the powerless (none of which adjectives apply to Jacquetta) we are told: 'Jacquetta's life, as a prominent medieval woman, can tell us much about the queen's court, about elite life, about marriage, loyalty, social mobility, sex, childbirth and survival... The medieval historians do not record such things; we have to look for them through the records, reading between the lines'.

After these perfectly valid points the author then gives a biography of Jacquetta, which largely consists of saying that she was probably there when either her husband or Margaret of Anjou did stuff. Now, Margaret (wife of the useless king Henry VI) really was a disempowered woman who fought the patriarchy with every fibre of her being - but in this biography Jacquetta is mostly 'probably' just standing there.

AND YET - Jacquetta had *fourteen* children, only one of whom died in infancy and only one of whom died before her (John, executed in 1469). The skimpy family tree at the beginning of the biography just lists them with a name and a birth year (which may be approximate, as the tree sensibly says). Jacquetta lived to be (probably) 56 - by which time at least eight of her daughters were married (the youngest two aged about ten) and the number of her grandchildren had probably already reached double figures. All the daughters except one married titles. Son Lionel was already launched on the clerical pathway to becoming a Bishop.

The biography, however, barely mentions them. We get: 'Jacquetta was pregnant again in 1444 with her son John when the peace treaty between France and England was sealed…' and the rest of the paragraph is about Margaret of Anjou.The next few pages are Margaret, Margaret, Margaret and then we get: 'Jacquetta and the Queen probably watched King Henry put on his battle armour…' At a later point we have: 'Jacquetta too was expecting another baby; this was probably the year she gave birth to Lionel, perhaps joining the court on another summer progress to the troubled regions, trying rebels and enforcing the king's rule. Margaret, Margaret, Margaret again - but this is 1452/3 (not the year

Lionel was born, actually, but I am not here to be picky) and in 1453 Jacquetta had nine children of whom only the eldest was off her hands (married).

Some of the book is about what Richard Woodville did and again Jacquetta was there and (probably) thought the same as he did - but here too she always seems to be just an also-ran whom we are making assumptions about. The author is right - she isn't, for example, in the records of military service. I wonder why - Oh, Yes, because she was busy with a football team of children… and all in a foreign language, by the way, since she came from Luxemburg.

In 1464 Jacquetta had thirteen children aged from 27 to 6. In that year everything changed when her eldest daughter Elizabeth (now a young widow) became Queen of England as the wife of Edward IV. The swoosh of Woodvilles pushing to the front of the court matched the greed of the Lusignans and Savoyards 200 years earlier and the greed of the Scots after 1603. In Jacquetta's life the next three years (1465, 1466 and 1467) were dominated by fishing for good matches, haggling over settlements and then the betrothals and marriages of her daughters Anne, Margaret, Mary and Catherine and, perhaps to a lesser extent workwise, the marriage of her 19 year old son to the Dowager Duchess of Norfolk - who was very rich but also 65. (I guess his parents were more enthusiastic about that than he was. There is no mystery about what place-seeking, money-grubbing low-lifes everybody else thought the Woodvilles were.)

With a daughter's wedding all the father has to do is pay and turn up but the mother has an infinity of work to plan even if she has servants to carry it out - and Jacquetta had it four times in three years. Wedding banquets don't microwave themselves!

So, Yes, women don't appear much in political or economic histories or the records of battles and councils (they do appear a lot in court, land and religious records) but we are *family* historians and our work is all about women. Men are not much part of day-to-day family life. They go to work and may be vital financially but they are mostly off-stage.

In all generations and at all social levels women run families: the 1001 micro-decisions from Which tiara? to How many fish fingers?: education, religious practice, clothes, shopping, cooking, housework, furnishing and decoration, illnesses and the general oversight of the children who don't need anything at this moment but may come in any minute bleeding because they have fallen off a tree or had their scooter stolen or just whining 'Mum! Tell 'im' or 'Cnav a biscuit?'. With older children they have the close police surveillance of teenage daughters and their prowling boyfriends and the paranoid (because much more difficult) surveillance of sons who may be sucked in by unsuitable girls where 'unsuitable' means they don't suit the mother.

Even women with servants have to organise it all: cooks and housekeepers, nannies and governesses, debutantes' balls (inviting and angling to be invited) and a dozen dresses for the Season, paying calls and being 'at home', hampers for the boys at school, letters with news and maybe a little money for the young sons with their regiment, then dealing with all their own relatives and in-laws and neighbours and church and business connections, sucking up to the ones that matter and slapping down the ones that don't. All while maintaining their friendships and keeping their husband onside. Zsa Zsa Gabor famously said 'Men are like fires. If you don't tend them they go out'. And maybe running flirtations of their own… or organising their own remarriage if their husband has died and getting on terms with a whole new network of in-laws… And remembering who is godparent to which child (14 children at three godparents apiece equals 42 godparents with all their families)… And the families of the children they are godmother to… And remembering the ramifications of everybody else's family - who has fallen out and who has made up… And reminding their husband of everything he has forgotten… And, as a background, these are women who are continuously pregnant from their early 20s to their mid-40s and still child-rearing in their 50s. My mother-in-law (who had her youngest child at 45) said she was much too busy to notice the menopause.

Leaving Jacquetta, our married female ancestors of all social levels are documented in every parish where the register survives, and the fantastic expansion of other sources over the last 20 years

means that we can now aim at documenting what happened to *all* our ancestors' children - not just the easy ones. Vast numbers of our Victorian ancestresses had eight or ten children and 30 or 40 grandchildren as well as eight or ten siblings and the same number of siblings-in-law, 50 or 60 nephews and nieces and dozens of cousins - theirs and their husbands - and the extended families of the sons and daughters-in-law. The number of family balls they juggled is unbelievable and finding them all is our project.

You don't have to read between the lines. Baptism records, for example, tell you nothing about a man except his occupation in an unspecific way ('labourer'; 'merchant'; 'Member of Parliament') but they tell you what the woman has been doing for the previous six months (managing a growing belly while she donkey stones the front step), what she will be doing for the next year (breastfeeding inbetween getting the washing out of the copper and keeping the baby's backside clean with a tap in the yard - and cooking and washing for everybody else) and what she will be doing for the next 12 or 14 years till the girls go to service or the boys go to apprenticeship. A burial (better still a death certificate) tells you who the woman has been nursing (for days, months or years). Gawd only knows how they managed with the illnesses (their own or other people's) that involved days of diarrhoea, months of spitting up blood or years of groaning pain when there were no painkillers - but they did.

And in poor families women 'confined' after childbirth - or even people dying - couldn't have a bed to themselves. My son-in-law's father (b.1918 in Ireland) told me he slept for many months with his tubercular brother before the young man was taken away to die in 1944. As the 13th and 14th children their bed was quite empty; the elder children had slept four to a bed (and mixed genders). When father turns we all turn.

As the woman gets older her own family gets smaller and her housework gets less but she expands to running married daughters and grandchildren if they have settled within walking distance. Laughing with or rowing with sons-in-law is an important part of most older women's lives. Managing daughters-in-law needs far more skill and a woman with six sons has a very different life from a woman with six daughters. One of my aunts with seven sons (and three daughters) kept on good terms with her daughters-in-law by having all the grandchildren every Saturday afternoon so the women could get their hair done ready for the evening. With that many grandchildren, they ran riot on their own and all you had to was put the house back together when they had gone.

The biographies of all our foremothers are written in the family tree when you treat it as a narrative to be read attentively - not just glanced at as an illustration. It details their lives year by year - the snakes and ladders of birth and death, babies coming and going, older children leaving or staying, adult children there was something wrong with, daughters dying in their first childbirth or (the Holy Grail!) unmarried sons bringing their wages home to their mothers long after they might have passed them over to some wife.

At a slightly more earthy level the simple birth dates of the children show that our female ancestors never got a proper night's sleep (what with a swelling stomach half the time and night feeds and the fear of overlaying the baby for the other half) - but they hardly had any periods. No sooner were their bodies available for their next pregnancy than they fell. I said this to one of my daughters (who had a new baby and permanent broken nights at the time) and without a pause she said 'Sounds like a good swap to me' (broken nights rather than periods). Customer feedback…

I think the modern blindness of saying women aren't in the records, is that you are looking in the records of things they didn't do. We have been brought up to think that the girls' playground is boring and all the interesting stuff goes on in the boys' playground, whether it is football or being a top executive. So a life of childrearing and housewifery is drudgery, and a day of laptop and meetings (at whatever level) is an exciting entrée to the empowered world of men. Maybe - but we really must not airbrush what women actually did just because we would sooner die than do that ourselves.

Jacquetta's children (per Wikipedia): no doubt her husband helped around the house

1. Elizabeth Woodville, Queen Consort of England (c1437-1492)
   m. 1) Sir John Grey
   m. 2) Edward IV, King of England

2. Lewis Woodville (b.c1438, died in childhood)

3. Anne Woodville (1438/9-1489)
   m. 1) William, Viscount Bourchier
   m. 2) George Grey, 2nd Earl of Kent

4. Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers (c1440-1483)
   m. 1) Elizabeth, 8th Baroness Scales
   m. 2) Mary Fitzlewis

5. John Woodville (c1444-1469)
   m. Catherine Neville, Dowager Duchess of Norfolk

6. Jacquetta Woodville (1445-1509)
   m. John, 8th Baron Strange of Knockin

7. Lionel Woodville, Bishop of Salisbury (c1446-1484)

8. Eleanor Woodville (d.c1512)
   m. Sir Anthony Grey, son of Edmund Grey, 1st Earl of Kent

9. Margaret Woodville (c1450-1490/1)
   m. Thomas Fitzalan, 17th Earl of Arundel

10. Martha Woodville (d.c1500)
    m. Sir John Bromley of Baddington

11. Richard Woodville, 3rd Earl Rivers (1453-1491)

12. Edward Woodville, Lord Scales (1454/8-1488)

13. Mary Woodville (c1456-1481)
    m. William Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke

14. Catherine Woodville (c1458-1497)
    m.1) Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham
    m.2) Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford
    m.3) Sir Richard Wingfield

FOLLOWING THE CLOWES - THE DERBYSHIRE ORIGINS OF LONG ISLAND'S FIRST ATTORNEY

Guy Hirst MBE

Of the many Derbyshire folk who emigrated to New England in the 17th century, not many surely were still hard at work as late as 1760. Samuel Clowes, whose claim to fame is that he was the first lawyer to practise on Long Island, was still drawing up documents in the few weeks before his death on 27 August of that year.

His obituary appeared in the *New York Mercury* on 1 September:

> Lately died at Jamaica on Long Island, after a few days' illness, Samuel Clowes, Esq., in his eighty-seventh year. He was for many years a noted lawyer and was skilled in mathematics in which he was instructed by the famous Dr Flamstead. He has left a numerous posterity and an unblemished character.

Samuel's fascinating career in America as a surveyor and cartographer, a devout churchman, civic leader, family man and legal adviser has been thoroughly documented[1] and I do not propose to look at his career after he crossed the Atlantic for the last time in 1698. The 'numerous posterity' have likewise made a good record of Samuel's ten children and their descendants. It is clear however from all the pedigrees I have seen that the settled view of Samuel's origins in England is incorrect.[2] The purpose of this article is to disprove that hitherto commonly shared affiliation and to establish who Samuel really was.

What is believed[3]

It is probably impossible now to discover who made the original incorrect assumption about Samuel's birth. His or her starting point was almost certainly a statement which first seems to appear in Benjamin Franklin Thompson's 1843 *History of Long Island*:[4]

> He was born at Derbyshire, England, March 16,1674 and was instructed in mathematics by Flamstead for whose use Greenwich Observatory was erected.

The detail about his relationship with the first Astronomer Royal and year of birth could have come from the 1760 newspaper obituary but the date of 16 March needs explaining. Benjamin Franklin Thompson (1784-1849) was a New Yorker and probably obtained the date from the Clowes family. We will return later to the date's significance.

The mistaken genealogist presumably searched in vain for the baptism of Samuel around March 1674 in Derbyshire. They then widened the net and lighted upon the marriage on 14 May 1673 of a Samuel Clowes to Elizabeth Clulow. Problematically it took place at Leek, just outside Derbyshire, and was of parties with an address in Leek parish.

> Samuel Clowes & Elizabetha Clulow de Rudyerd[5] matr[imonia] contr[acta] 14 die May.[6]

No baptism of a child of this marriage can be found, but when the genealogist began to research Samuel Clowes of Rudyard the 'father', they found that he died in 1709 and made a will on 8 March 1707/8[7] which proved he did indeed have a son Samuel:

> Samuel Clowes of Rudiard in the Countie of Stafford, yeoman.
>
> Imprimis - I give and bequeath unto Samuell Clowes my son the sume of fiftie shillings of lawfull English money & my great bible.
>
> Item - whereas my s'd son Samuell hath paid the sume of ten pounds to put my son William's younger daughter to Aprentice: I therefore give unto my son Samuell the sume of ten pounds of lawfull English money.
>
> Item - I give to my son Samuell my best ridinge coate.

Although the will establishes that Samuel of Rudyard had a son Samuel, three things about the above make one wary of the identification with Samuel of Long Island.

Firstly, when Samuel of Rudyard made his will, Samuel the lawyer had been in America for a decade, yet there is no indication of that in the will.

Secondly, the bequest of a second-hand riding coat does not feel likely when the recipient would have been thousands of miles away.

Thirdly, I was suspicious that old Samuel's will referred to Samuel Jr having paid to apprentice the younger daughter of old Samuel's other son, William. Later I will show that this William was born in the mid to late 1660s, so his younger daughter is unlikely to have been old enough to begin an apprenticeship before Samuel of Long Island moved to America in 1698. Would the busy New Yorker really have concerned himself with the apprenticeship of a niece back in Staffordshire?

The 1709 will of Samuel Clowes of Rudyard says nothing of his wife but five of his children are mentioned: John (deceased), Mary, Samuel, William and Margaret.

A search of Leek parish register soon showed that these were not the children of the 1673 marriage to Elizabeth Clulow but rather that they had been born to Samuel and a previous wife, Margaret Crompton. This helped explain why Samuel had appointed a William Crompton[8] of Blackwood Hill, Horton, to be his executor.

Samuel 'the father' had married Margaret Crompton at Leek in 1657:

> Samuel Clowes of Rudyard in the parish of Leeke And Margaret the daughter of William Crompton in the parish of Horton were married August 13th.[9]

A search through the registers[10] for baptisms of their children yielded the following:

> 1658 John the son of Samuel Clowes of Rudyard and of Margaret his wife was baptised the 15th day of June.
>
> 1659 Mary the daughter of Samuel Clowes of Rudyard and of Margaret his wife was baptised the 13th day of October.
>
> 1663 Thomas filius Samuelis Clowes et ___uxor eius bap 1 Octobris.
>
> 1665 [blank] fili[ ] Samuelis Clowes de Rudyard bapt 7 die Septembris.
>
> 1669 Margaret filia Samuelis Clowes et ___ uxor eius - Wilgate bapt 9 die Novembris.

This is clearly the same family but unfortunately the baptisms of Samuel and of William are missing. A happy circumstance however allows us to slot them into the above sequence. All the children of Samuel and Margaret are listed in the will of Margaret's father, William Crompton of Blackwood Hill, yeoman, dated 2 January 1669:[11]

> my ten grandchildren viz: John Clowes, Samuel Clowes, Thomas Clowes, William Clowes, Mary Clowes, Margaret Clowes [and 4 Crompton grandchildren] ten shillings a peece.

The original total number of grandchildren has been altered from seven to eight and then to the ten above with Margaret Clowes and Margaret and Nathan Crompton added after the date of the will. The tradition with such lists of children at that period was for the sons to be given first then the daughters, both from eldest to youngest in order. Samuel would then slot in between John 1658, (Mary in 1659) and Thomas in 1663, so most likely born in 1661. William could be either the unnamed infant baptised in 1665 or born about 1667 and unrecorded.

Of course Samuel of 1661 could theoretically have died between his grandfather's death in March 1671[12] and his father's remarriage two years later and another Samuel come along on 16 March 1674 but there is no evidence for either. Applying Occam's Razor it is reasonable to conclude that Samuel the son of Samuel Clowes (d.1709) of Rudyard was himself born about 1661 and not on 16 March 1674 and did not go to America.

Having disposed of the Leek connection, it is time to ask whether there is a better candidate, one born in Derbyshire in 1674?

I have identified him.

The true origin of Samuel Clowes of Long Island

I found in the parish registers of the lead mining town of Wirksworth in Derbyshire the following baptism under 4 March 1673/4 (which happened to be Ash Wednesday).

> Samuel fil Samuelis Clowes de Wirksworth

This discovery made me think hard about the traditional date of 16 March. Samuel of Long Island could not have been baptised on 4 March if he wasn't born until the 16 March.

Fortunately Samuel himself came to the rescue. In his will he says:

> In the name of God, Amen. I, Samuel Clowes, of Jamaica, in Queens County, Gent., being now 85 years and 5 months old, and infirm of body, but, praised be God, of sound mind … Written with my own hand this 24 July 1760.[13]

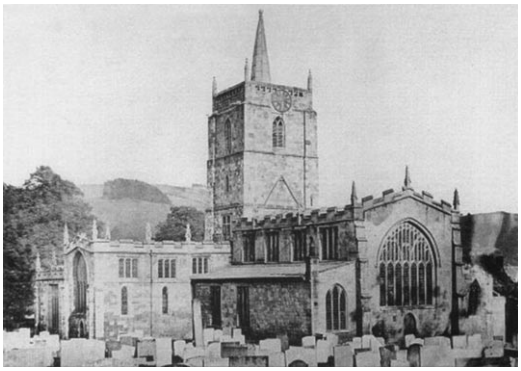
Samuel was a trained mathematician and astronomer, and his calculation must be respected. He is referring to his birth as having taken place about 24 February 1674 which fits well with a baptism on 4 March.

The Wirksworth St Mary parish registers[14] include the following Clowes entries:

4 March 1673/4	Samuel fil Samuelis Clowes de Wirksworth bapt
16 February 1675/6	Maria filia Samuelis Cloose de Wirksworth bapt
16 September 1681	Petrus filius Sam Clowe de Wirksworth bapt
10 December 1686	Anna fila Samuel Clows bapt
30 January 1689/90	Mill'a fil Sam: Cloves de Wirksworth bapt
5 June 1690	Melicentis filia Samuelis Clowes de Wirksworth sepult
29 June 1693	Milliesentia fila Samuelis Clowes de Wirksworth bapt

We can pick out the less common names of Peter and Millicent, both of which were used by Samuel of Long Island when naming his children.[15] Samuel the father died in 1712 and is buried at Wirksworth:

26 July 1712	Sam Clowes de Wirksworth



St Mary's church, Wirksworth where Samuel Clowes was baptised on 4 March 1673/4.

The Flamsteed (Flamstead) Connection

From his obituary, Samuel of Long Island can be identified with the Samuel Clowes who worked as an assistant to the Derbyshire-born Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, at the Observatory in Greenwich. The surviving correspondence of Flamsteed rarely mentions Samuel by name, but there are a number of references to him as 'my servant' and 'my man'.[16] The editors of Flamsteed's correspondence have concluded that Samuel occupied the post of assistant at the Observatory from about January 1691 to mid-February 1695.[17]

The last reference to Samuel is interesting and revealing. In a letter to Isaac Newton dated 2 March 1695, Flamsteed complains:

> my servant, about 10 days ago ran away from me without any provocation, in hopes, I suppose of preferment at sea for his skill. I have not heard of him but have hopes he may return because he is bound to me by indenture. If he should not, t'is a great loss to me tho' he be of a capricious humor.[18]

Other references by Flamsteed show that he trusted Samuel with important observations and calculations, and he clearly felt the loss of such

an able helper. He was correct in his assumption; Samuel had run away to sea.

Samuel's naval career has been established.

23 Apr to 13 Jun 1695	*HMS Queen*	Able Seaman
13 Jun to 16 Jun 1695	*HMS Fubbs Yacht*[19]	Able Seaman
17 Jun, 1695 to 3 Nov 1696	*HMS Maidstone*	Captain's Clerk
4 Nov 1696 to 24 Sep 1698	*HMS Fowey*	Captain's Clerk

As his old employer surmised, Samuel would have been capitalising on his training at the Observatory and moving into navigation. From there he moved to cartography, but that is part of the American story.

Flamsteed wrote of himself that he was born at Denby in Derbyshire and this detail together with a thorough account of his background and Derbyshire associations can be found in an excellent article in *Derbyshire Miscellany: The Local History Bulletin of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society*, (Volume 21, Part 4) of Autumn 2017.[20] The author Frances Willmoth is one of the editors of the published Flamsteed correspondence.

Dr Willmoth notes Flamsteed's business connections with Wirksworth, which is highly significant in view of my argument as to Samuel Clowes' origins. The Astronomer owned a share in an old lead mine at Wirksworth, which, about the time we are researching, looked as though it might become profitable. The article quotes a letter to Thomas Bagshaw of Bakewell, an official of the Wirksworth Barmote Court,[21] setting out his claim in the following terms:

> My father Steeven Flamsteed of Derby left me pos[e]st of some groves[22] about Workworth that could not be then wrought by reason of water.[23]

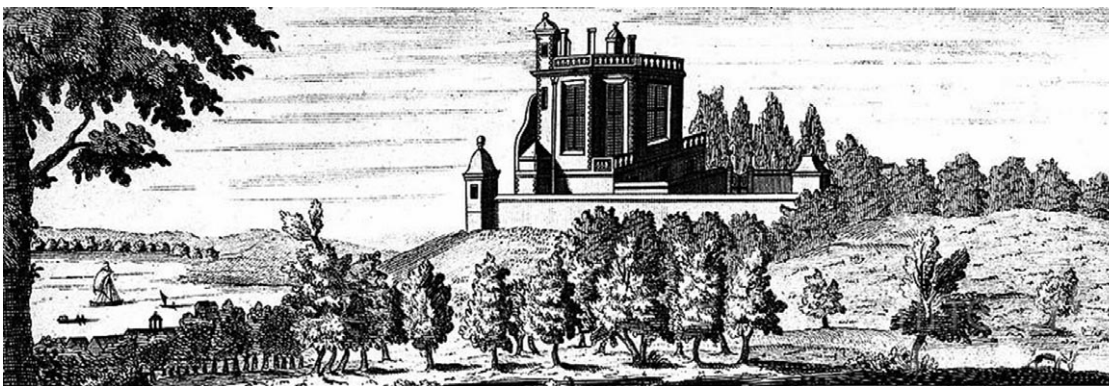
We know that Flamsteed visited Wirksworth at this period. Dr Willmoth writes:

> Soon afterwards Flamsteed visited Derby and Wirksworth in person. Towards the end of September 1698, when he was back at Greenwich, he wrote to one of the business partners he had met with during his visit (unnamed and now unidentifiable), reporting that he had paid a sum of £3 6s 8d for 'my 6th Part of the Reconings at my father's founder' and would like news of the progress of the work.[24]

The letter of 29 September 1698 to the unnamed partner begins:

> I send you this to give you my hearty thanks for your kind and friendly entertainment of me at Wirksworth.[25]

Evidence suggests that Samuel's father was a Wirksworth lead merchant and it is not entirely fanciful to think that he might have been the recipient of the letter.



Flamsteed House, the original Observatory building at Greenwich, designed by Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke and built in 1675-76. Samuel Clowes worked here from 1691 to 1695.

The parents of Samuel Clowes of Long Island

His mother

There seems to be no surviving will or administration for Samuel Clowes of Wirksworth and no mention in the parish registers of Mrs Clowes as wife or mother. Nor are there any probate records for her.

Normally all this would make any search for young Samuel's mother almost impossible. Luckily there is a little known source which proves the lady's identity and helps flesh out the family biography. The private archives at Meynell Langley Hall near Derby hold a record called 'The Commonplace Book 1669.'[26] This is described in the National Register of Archives as:

> A diary of 1671-1681 probably written by Peter Watkinson, sometime of Wirksworth, of considerable interest, probably justifying some copying.

Peter Watkinson MA (1606-1688) was one of the 'godly' ministers of the mid 17th century. Born in Chesterfield into a less prosperous branch of the Watkinson family of New House, Brampton, he attended Trinity College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1632. He was the incumbent at Kirk Ireton from 1647 and of Wirksworth from 1658 to 1662 when he was expelled for failure to conform to the Restoration church settlement. He later conformed and after a period as Rector of Hanbury in Staffordshire he was invited in 1670 by the local presbyterian squire, Sir Thomas Wharton, to be Rector of Edlington near Doncaster. It was there that he wrote his Commonplace Book.

The book itself consists mainly of the old man's religious meditations, with some pages in shorthand, and includes a biography of Bishop Ussher (d.1656). Interspersed are some really interesting diary entries relating to his friends and family with observations on the state of the nation. There are nine diary entries relating to the Clowes family. The most significant from a genealogical point of view are set out below:

> 19 Sep 1671
> We went to Wirksworth to my son Clowes who had married my youngest daughter Millicent.[27]

> 20 Sep 1671
> satisfied my sonne Clowes as concerning his wives portion being £100[28]

> 24 Jul 1672
> to my wife at Kirk Ireton where I found all well, my daughter Clowes having been delivered of a daughter on Tuesday was seven-night.[29]

> 4 Aug 1672
> I baptised my grandchild Elizabeth Clowes[30]

This last entry was the key to uncovering the Christian name of 'son Clowes'. Kirk Ireton parish register for 4 August 1672 records:

> Elizabeth Daughter of Samuel Clowes Bap 4th

It was normal for a new mother like Millicent Clowes to go to her parental home to have her first baby. Her parents Peter and Elizabeth Watkinson, however, lived too far away at Edlington near Doncaster. So instead she went to her sister's at Kirk Ireton Rectory, her sister having married Samuel Mower who had succeeded her father, the diarist Peter Watkinson, as Rector there.[31] Mrs Watkinson her mother[32] travelled to Kirk Ireton from Yorkshire[33] to be on hand for the birth of Elizabeth, who we can now identify as the sister of Samuel Clowes Jr, baptised at Wirksworth where their father Samuel Sr lived. I will go on to prove that Samuel Clowes Jr was the Samuel Clowes, born in Derbyshire in 1674, who died on Long Island in 1760.

The mother of Samuel Clowes Jr and Elizabeth, we can now see, was Millicent Watkinson, who was baptised at Kirk Ireton on 8 October 1648:

> Millisent the Daughter of Peter Watkinson Min'r of Kirk Ireton was baptised Octob 8.

So Millicent gave birth to her first baby in the rectory where she herself had been born. Young Elizabeth can now be added to the above list of siblings of Samuel of Long Island.

I have not found much further detail about Millicent Watkinson. She is mentioned in her own mother's will dated 17 May 1689 as a residuary legatee.[34] It seems, however, that although she left no will, it was she who bequeathed to her son

Samuel the gift of longevity. Surviving her husband by 25 years, she died at Wirksworth in April 1737 aged 88.[35] Wirksworth burial register records on 11 April:

> Millicent Clews of Wirksworth buried

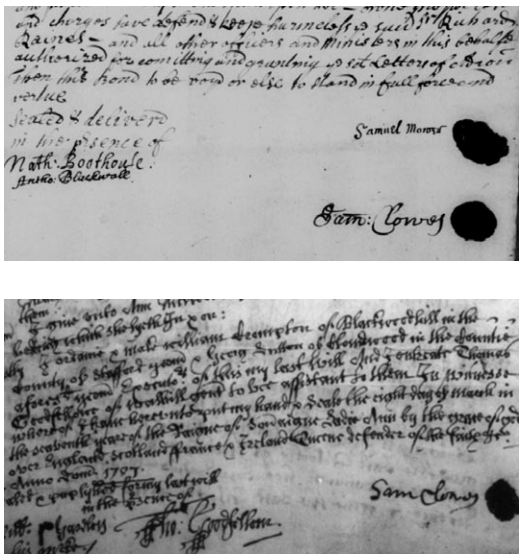
That is all I have been able to find about Samuel of Long Island's mother.

His father

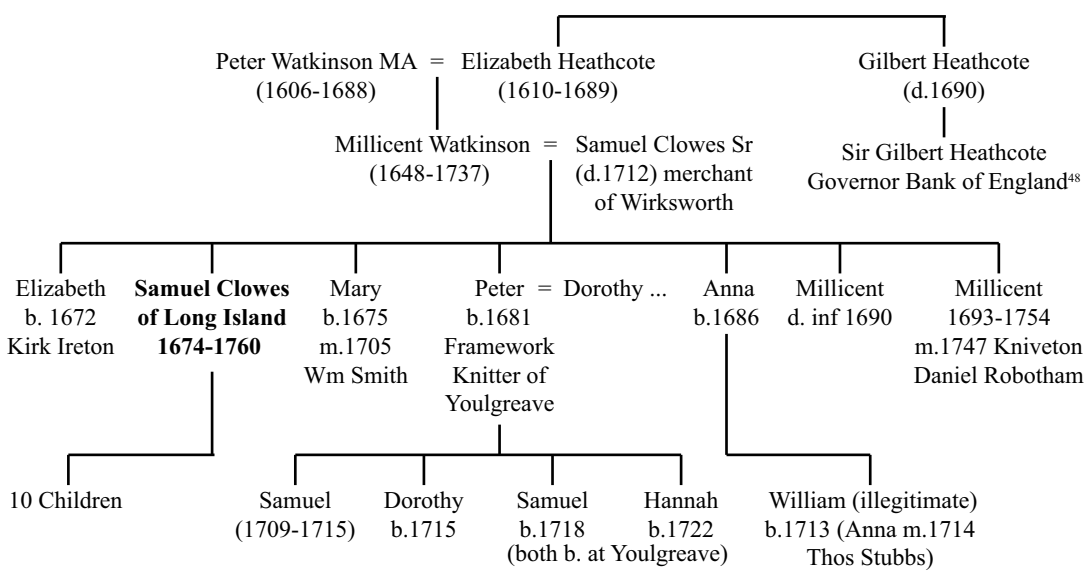
A brief biography of the father, Samuel Clowes Sr, can be pieced together from parish and probate records and the Commonplace Book.

In the Commonplace Book there is an entry from February 1672 where Peter Watkinson says that his son More is a minister and his son Clowes a merchant.[36] The latter, his son-in-law Samuel, lived and worked in Wirksworth from at least as early as 1670 when he appears in the Hearth Tax Returns until his death in 1712. Given that Wirksworth was a town totally dominated by lead mining,[37] it is reasonable to assume that he was a lead merchant.

He enjoyed a good social status. Prior to his marriage he had his own small independent household, and he appears in the Hearth Tax Assessment of Wirksworth of 1670 as 'Mr Samuel Clouse' with one hearth.[38] When he joined with his brother-in-law Samuel Mower to sign the administration bond for their mother-in-law's probate on 4 June 1690, he describes himself as 'Samuel Clowes de Wirksworth, Gener[osus].' The bond bears his signature 'Sam: Clowes' which looks firm and confident.



Signatures of Samuel Clowes of Wirksworth (d.1712) who was the father of Samuel of Long Island and of Samuel Clowes of Leek (d.1709) who wasn't. They are eerily similar.



Clowes of Wirksworth *(all details relate to Wirksworth unless otherwise stated)*

The first record that I have found of him is from 1669 when he appears as a defendant in a collective action concerning lead mines in Elton in Youlgreave parish, about 7 miles northwest of Wirksworth.[39] After the Hearth Tax record we come to his marriage settlement in 1671 and then his baptising of children at Wirksworth. In 1683 he appears in Wirksworth Churchwarden's Accounts holding parish office alongside two others, Ralph Greenhough and Richard Steere.[40] In addition to the entries cited above, the Commonplace Book has three other entries concerning Samuel Clowes:

> 25 Sep 1671[41]
> In my journey to Wirksworth, I was certainly informed (as also by letter from my son Clowes) that my adversary Sudbury was dead, which had made an end of that rash, unjust, chargeable and tedious suit[42] he hath commenced against me.

> 21 Mar 1672[43]
> I returned home at evening where I found my son Clowes newly lighted from his horse who brought me the sad news of the untimely and unhappy death of Tho: Harding of Bonsall,[44] a drunken attorney (who had without advice or consent of friends, married[45] my wife's niece Hanna Harding), who in a drunken fit was found drowned in a watering pool betwixt Snitterton and Bonsall.

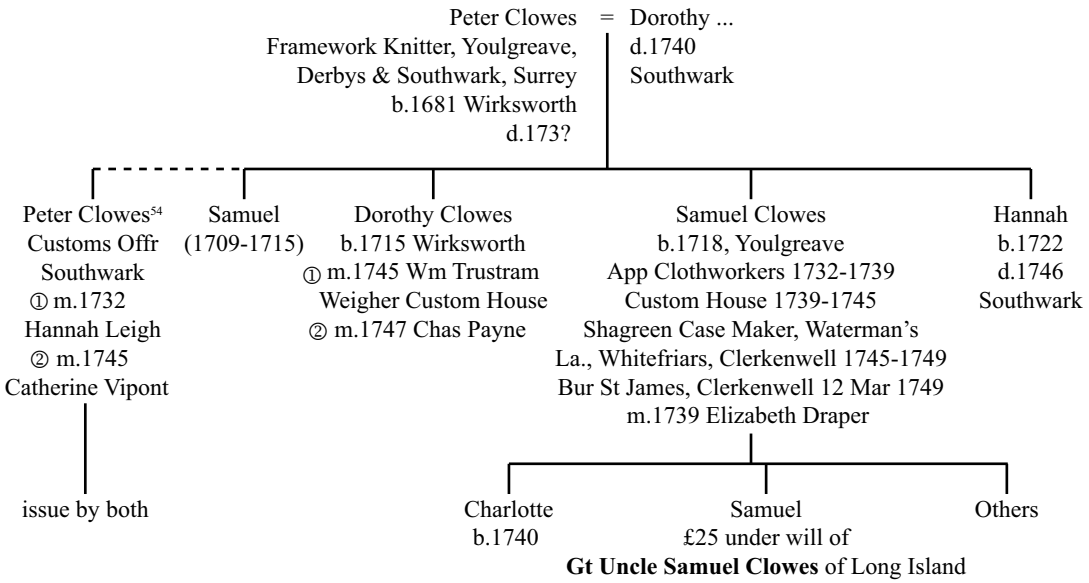
> Dec 1672[46]
> My son More and son Clowes coming to see me last evening, we all dined this day with Sr Thomas Wharton[47] who had invited his tenants and neighbours at this time.

Samuel Clowes the emigrant probably did the right thing when he moved to New England. The lead market contracted by 30% between 1706 and 1725 and by that time the industry had become dominated by larger players, edging out the smaller mine shareholders, miners and merchants who had done well in the 1670s.[49]

The brother of Samuel Clowes Jr

In 1717 Samuel's only brother, Peter, left Wirksworth with his wife and young family.[50] Peter was in the woollen cloth business and settled in Youlgreave with a view to recruiting spinners from amongst the parish poor. The Derbyshire historian Charles Cox notes:

> One Peter Clowes, of Wirksworth, 'a jarsay spinner', removed about this time to Youlgreave. Articles of agreement, dated February, 1716/7, are extant between him and the parish of Youlgreave, by which he undertakes to teach those chargeable on the parish spinning, to provide wheels at five shillings a piece,



Clowes of St George's Southwark and HM Custom House

> and to pay the spinners at the rate of eightpence to two shillings per pound, according to the coarseness or fineness of the jersey.[51]

That venture must have failed. On 5 June 1725 the *London Gazette*'s List of insolvent debtors includes 'Peter Clowes late of Youldgrave in the County of Derby, Frame-Work Knitter'. Seven years later Peter reappears in the parish of St George the Martyr, Southwark, as a framework knitter, as we know from his son's apprenticeship papers (see below).

Samuel Clowes of HM Customs - mentioned in Samuel of Long Island's will

There is one clause in the 1760 will of Samuel of Long Island which indicates that he maintained contact with his family back in England all through his life:

> I leave to Samuel Clowes, eldest son of my cousin, Samuel Clowes, who now does, or lately did, belong to the Custom House in London, £25 Stirling.[52]

The records of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers provide the connection between this Customs man and the Wirksworth family:

> 18 April 1732
> (Apprenticeship in the Clothworker's Company)
>
> Samuel Clowes son of Peter Clowes of the parish of St George, Southwark, in the county of Surry, Framework Knitter to Samuel Smith (Shagreen Case maker of Rosemary Lane) for 7 years.[53]
>
> 11 November 1740
> (Freedom of the Clothworker's Company)
>
> Freedom by servitude of Samuel Clowes, office in the Custom House, Seething Lane, London. Master - Samuel Smith, Clothworker's Company.

Establishing that the Custom House Samuel mentioned in American Samuel's will is descended (through his father, Peter the Framework Knitter) from the Clowes of Wirksworth is the final piece of the jigsaw and completes the proof of Samuel of Long Island's origins.

What about the date of 16 March 1674?

I have a strong feeling that Samuel himself viewed this date as an important anniversary. It must be remembered that he died in 1760, nine years after the American colonies and Britain had moved from the old Julian calendar to the Gregorian. The change involved the deletion of the days between 2 and 14 September 1751. Given Samuel's training as a mathematician and astronomer, he almost certainly took a keen interest in chronology.

We have seen that he kept in touch with family in England and would have been in a position to check the parish register, even if he did not at first have a note of his date of baptism.

He was baptised on 4 March 1673 in the old calendar. If the 11 intervening days are allowed for, the true anniversary of his baptism (not his birth as Thompson surmised) would, after 1751, have been 16 March 1674.[56]

Samuel Clowes of Long Island knew when he was born and where he came from and now so do we.

Notes

1. See C. J. Werner, 'The Clowes Family of Long Island: a genealogy of the descendants of Samuel Clowes', *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 50 (1919), pp.157-159.
2. All internet-based pedigrees including WikiTree and Ancestry ©.
3. *The Ancestor* ran a column called 'What is believed' which, from 1902-1905, sought to correct mistakes in published genealogy.
4. B.F. Thompson, *History of Long Island* (New York, 1843), Vol II, p.106.
5. Rudyard is a hamlet on the road between Leek and Macclesfield. There were 17 dwellings in 1666 according to the Hearth Tax list including Rudyard Hall which still survives. Samuel lived at Willgate Farm at the southern end of the township. The parish church was St Edward's, Leek.
6. Staffordshire Record Office, Leek Parish Registers, D1040/5/2.
7. Staffordshire Record Office: Will of Samuel Clowes of Rudyard, Leek, Proved 27 October 1709, Diocese of Lichfield Episcopal Consistory Court.
8. Margaret's nephew.
9. Staffordshire Record Office, Leek Parish Registers D1040/5/1. (Entries in English during the Protectorate).

10. *Ibid*., D1040/5/1 and 2.
11. Staffordshire Record Office: Will of William Crumpton of Blackwood Hill, Horton, Proved 13 April 1671, Diocese of Lichfield Episcopal Consistory Court.
12. Given the will had been edited, he would have been deleted had he died in his grandfather's lifetime.
13. *Abstracts of Wills on file in the Surrogate's Office* (New York, 1897), p.423. The year is printed as 1750 but lack of mention of sons Samuel (d.1759), Joseph (d.1755) and mention of Gerardus (d.1752) as deceased prove that this is a mis-transcription of the true date in 1760, about a month before Samuel's death.
14. Derbyshire Record Office D3105/A/PI/1/1. Some online sites list these as 'Middleton by Wirksworth.' I am grateful to Adrian Bruce for drawing my attention to this error. They are in fact for Wirksworth St Mary.
15. For sources, see fn1 and fn 4 above.
16. E.G. Forbes, L. Murdin and F. Willmoth (eds), *The Correspondence of John Flamsteed, the First Astonomer Royal*, vol. II, 1682-1703 (Bristol: Institute of Physics Publishing, 1997), *passim*.
17. *Ibid.,* p.693.
18. *Ibid*., p.572.
19. The Royal Yacht - Fubbs was the nickname Charles II gave to his mistress the Duchess of Portsmouth.
20. ' "Of known integrity, honesty and fortune": the social background and education of the astronomer John Flamsteed'.
21. Barmote Court was a local Court of the Duchy of Lancaster dealing with the rights of lead mine owners and miners.
22. Groves are a lead mine workings.
23. *Ibid.*, p.83.
24. See fn 20.
25. E.G. Forbes, L. Murdin and F. Willmoth, (eds), *The Correspondence of John Flamsteed, the First Astonomer Royal*, Vol. II, p.696.
26. Ref O2.32 (National Register of Archives Ref 4101 Meynell) inspected by kind permission of the owner, Mr Godfrey Meynell MBE (hereafter CP Book).
27. CP Book, p.15
28. *Ibid.*
29. CP book, p.77.
30. *Ibid.*
31. Mower held the benefice of Kirk Ireton as Rector for 50 years until his death in 1709.
32. Elizabeth (1610-1689) daughter of Gilbert Heathcote of Chesterfield. She married Peter Watkinson in 1630.
33. 25 miles (from Edlington). The distance from Wirksworth to Kirk Ireton is only 4 miles.
34. Staffordshire Record Office: Will of Elizabeth Watkinson of Chesterfield, Proved 4 June 1690, Diocese of Lichfield Episcopal Consistory Court.
35. Millicent's own parents were also long lived, her father living to 82 and her mother to 79.
36. CP Book, p.50. Samuel Mower is often referred to as Samuel More.
37. See R. Slack, *Lead Miner's Heyday: The great days of lead mining in Wirksworth and the Low Peak of Derbyshire* (Peak District Mines Historical Society, 2000).
38. Derbyshire Record Office, D5852.
39. Lord Willoughby of Parham & others v William Milne & others, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, Duchy of Lancaster, Court of Duchy Chamber, DL 4/112/12.
40. Derbyshire Record Office, D258/58/20, 46/6. Steere kept an inn with 4 hearths in 1670.
41. CP Book, p.16.
42. The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, Court of Chancery, William Sudbury v Peter Watkinson C6/184/112 - money matters, Middlesex (1668). Sudbury was of St Michael, Wood St, City of London.
43. CP Book, p.59
44. Bonsall Register: 'Mr Thomas Harding' buried 20 March 1671/2. Mr Thomas Harding had 3 hearths in 1670.
45. 18 December 1662 at St Helen's, Darley.
46. CP Book*,* p.92
47. Sir Thomas Wharton KB (c.1615-1684), younger brother of Philip Lord Wharton. Watkinson preached the funeral sermon for Lady Wharton in June 1672 and it was published in February 1674.
48. His fortune was built on slavery. We know that Samuel of Long Island himself owned two slaves.
49. R. Burt, 'Lead Production in England and Wales 1700-1770', *The Economic History Review*, Aug.,1969, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Aug., 1969), pp.249-268.
50. Youlgreave Settlement Examinations, Derbyshire Record Office, D3644/43/1.
51. J .C. Cox, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire* (Derby, 1877), p.342.
52. See fn 13.
53. London Metropolitan Archive; Reference Number: COL/CHD/FR/02/0627-0-632.
54. I have not found Peter's baptism in Wirksworth register. However he lived in St George's, Southwark like Peter Sr, Samuel and Dorothy and then moved after his 1732 marriage to St Katharine by the Tower where Samuel and Dorothy appear after 1739. The name, Peter, and link with the Custom House make the identification almost certain. Samuel and William Trustram described themselves as Gentlemen.
55. Shagreen is an expensive leather product, usually made from shark skin.
56. Allowing for the change in start of year from 25 March to 1 January which took place at the same time.

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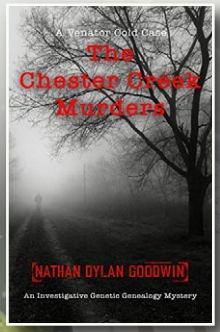

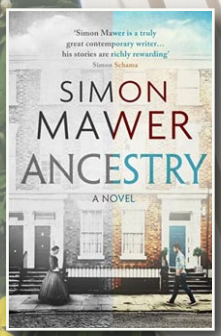

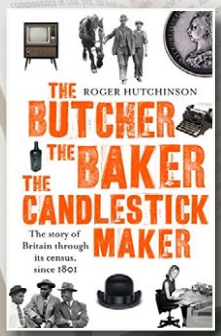

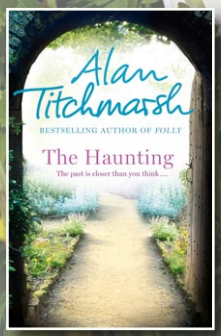

Our free bookclub meets on Zoom on Monday evenings for a lively discussion about books with a family history or genealogy theme. All SoG members are welcome to join by signing up to any of the meetings at www.sog.org.uk/events. Once you have joined you will receive invitations to all future meetings.

In May we were delighted to again welcome author Nathan Dylan Goodwin to discuss his novel, ***The Chester Creek Murders***.

Over the summer we will be reading Roger Hutchinson's ***The Butcher, The Baker and The Candlestick Maker***, (https://amzn.to/41JqtFK*) a story about the British Censuses and Simon Mawer's ***Ancestry - A Novel*** (https://amzn.to/3Ngd4R3*) with both authors invited to join us to discuss their books.

We are delighted to be welcoming National Treasure Alan Titchmarsh to our meeting on 25 September when we will discuss ***The Haunting*** (https://amzn.to/3LsUbJm*) in which protagonist Harry begins to research his ancestors. The deeper he digs, the more he realises that the past is closer than he had ever imagined.

* Please note this is an affiliate link. Other book sellers are available.

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STEPHEN DUCK, CHARLTON, THE FOWLE FAMILY, AND THE DUCK FEAST

Michael Fowle

I first heard of Stephen Duck in the church of St Peter, Charlton, near Pewsey, at the 1969 funeral of my late father's friend and first cousin Brigadier Frank (Francis Ernlé) Fowle. I remember a strangely muddled funeral sermon, the Vicar being more interested in an avian confusion between Ducks and Fowles than he was in the Brigadier's contribution to developing wartime Bailey Bridges or, indeed, in Stephen's poetry.

Stephen Duck's family

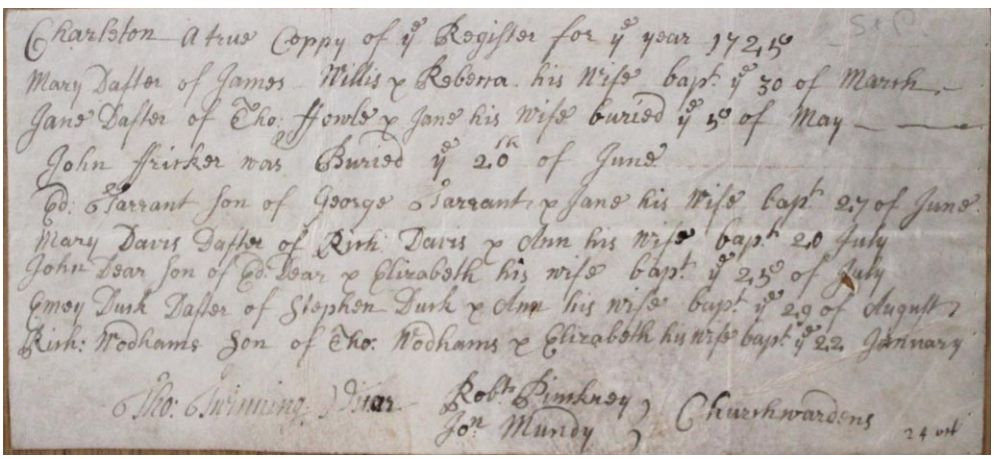
Stephen Duck, the celebrated 18th century Thresher Poet, has always been said to have been born in 1705 in Charlton[1] (now called Charlton St Peter). His baptism is not recorded in the Charlton Parish Register and has not been found elsewhere. But his marriages are recorded, as are his family baptisms and burials (shown on the diagram).

Stephen's first marriage to Ann was on 22 June 1724 at Charlton (Ann's family name is not recorded). Their three children were baptised at Charlton. Sadly on 10 October 1730, Ann was buried at Charlton, at the cusp of Stephen's fame.

We know nothing of Stephen's family except that they were poor farmworkers[2]: 'my abject Birth, Born in a Cot, and bred to till the Earth; On rigid Worldlings always doom'd to wait, ...'[3]. He went to the village charity school, where the schoolmaster complained that he learned too quickly. At 13 he started work as an agricultural labourer, initially for his father, then for others. At age 19 he married Ann. With a friend who had some books he started to read and study. Important to him in particular were Milton's *Paradise Lost* and many numbers of Addison's *Spectator*.

The Thresher Poet

Stephen began to write verse, with encouragement, and probably financial support, from the Rector of Pewsey, Mr Stanley. Another early supporter was



Charlston A true Coppy of ye Register for ye year 1725
Mary Daſter of James Willis & Rebeca his Wife bapt: ye 30 of March
Jane Daſter of Tho: Fowls & Jane his Wife buried ye 30 of May
John Fritker was Buried ye 20th of June
Ed: Sarrant Son of Georg Sarrant & Jane his Wife bapt 27 of June
Mary Davis Daſter of Rich Davis & Ann his Wife bapt 20 July
John Isar Son of Ed: Isar & Elizabeth his Wife bapt ye 25th of July
Emey Duk Daſter of Stephen Duk & Ann his Wife bapt ye 29 of August
Rich: Wodhams Son of Tho: Wodhams & Elizabeth his Wife bapt ye 22 January
Tho: Twining Vicar Robt Pinkney Churchwardens
Jon Muney

A page of the 1725 Bishop's transcript of the Charlton PR, showing the baptism of Amy (Emey) Duck 1725.

Dr Alured Clarke, a Winchester Prebendary. Stephen took up a suggestion apparently made by Mr Stanley that 'The Thresher's Labour' was an appropriate topic for a poem. This poem (reproduced in the March 2023 *Genealogists' Magazine* under the title 'The Thresher's Lament') was remarkably popular. That and other poems became known in aristocratic circles and rapidly built Stephen's reputation as the 'Thresher Poet'. A number of distinguished society people became (and remained) his supporters, including Lady Hartford, Lord Palmerston, Lord Tankerville, Lord Macclesfield, and Mrs Clayton (Lady Sundon). Joseph Spence, Professor of Poetry at Oxford, was Stephen's main promoter, mentor and adviser, remaining a friend until Stephen's death.

The royal protégé

In 1730, the year his wife died, Stephen's work came to the attention of Caroline, George II's Queen. The Queen wanted to meet Stephen. He therefore went to Kew. The visit was a success. The Queen's bounty was considerable - she settled on Stephen an annual salary of £30 (some sources say £50) and a small house at Richmond, near her own favourite home, Richmond Lodge.

The Thresher Poet had become a royal protégé. His work was vastly popular and continuously pirated. He was the most talked about poet in England, seriously mentioned as a potential Poet Laureate.[4] More orthodox, better educated, and better-known Augustan poets like Alexander Pope and John Gay were generally welcoming, even if there were suspicions that they contributed to anonymous adverse polemics. Dean Swift though was openly condemning: 'not worth a straw'[5].

In 1733 Stephen was appointed a Yeoman of the Guard and 'Governor of Duck Island in St James Park' (which 300 years later sounds like a cruel joke). More important though, on 17 July 1733 at St Bartholomew-the-Great, Stephen ('of Charlton in the County of Wilts') married by licence Sarah Biggs ('of Kew Green'), the Queen's housekeeper. Stephen and Sarah had three daughters before Sarah died in 1741. Now a courtier, though a peripheral courtier, Stephen remained a poet, continuing to write and publish, though his style had moved away from the 'rustic' which had built his reputation, to the Augustan fashion of the age, full of classical allusions and extravagant similes - not an improvement.

Stephen, born a rustic but now at Court, was more than a highly intelligent man. Clearly he also had an attractive, good-natured, warm personality. He was a man who impressed others, a man who made friends easily - a man who kept his friends.

Lord Palmerston and the origin of the Duck Feast

Lord Palmerston, a principal landowner in Stephen's home village, Charlton (then, as now, a place of perhaps only one hundred people), had been one of Stephen's earliest supporters. In 1734 Palmerston settled an acre of land on the threshers of Charlton to provide them with an annual dinner to celebrate the fame of their fellow thresher, Stephen Duck.[6]

Stephen kept in touch with his Charlton origins. On 30 June 1735, the *London Magazine* records, Lord Palmerston gave a handsome entertainment to the threshers of Charlton. Stephen was there, making his most famous return visit to his home village, to attend the first Threshers' Feast, today called the Duck Feast:

> ... to *Charlton* take my Way
> ....
> Your bounty soon provokes the Bells to ring;
> ...
> None can your gen'rous Treat with Want reproach;
> All eat enough, and many drank too much:
> Full twenty Threshers quaff around the board;
> All name their Toast, and ev'ry one, my Lord.[7]

And a few lines later:

> Thus shall Tradition keep my fame alive:
> The bard may die, the Thresher still survive.

1735 was a year of further generous patronage from Queen Caroline. Stephen was appointed keeper and librarian of the Queen's private library in Merlin's Cave, one of the Queen's fanciful buildings in the garden of Richmond Lodge.

Even after Queen Caroline died in 1737, Stephen retained his preferments and informally remained a Court poet, though even more peripheral.

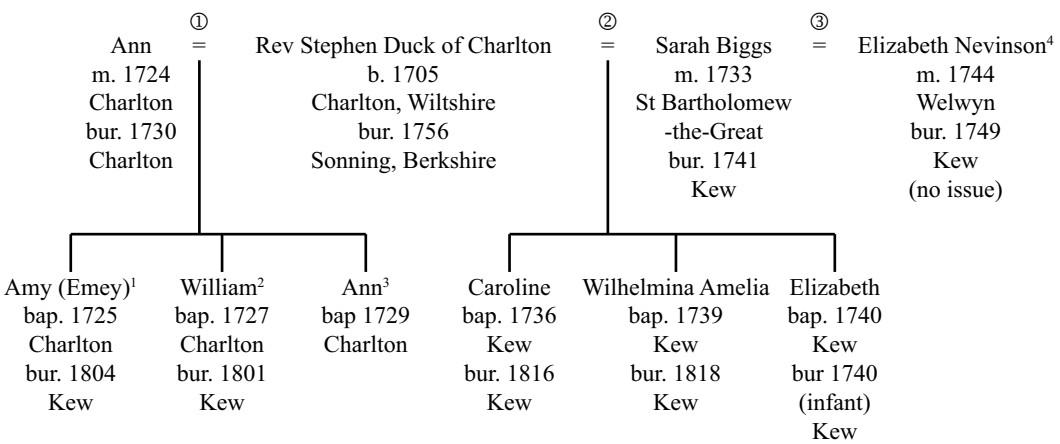
Stephen's last years

On 15 September 1744 at Welwyn, Stephen was married a third time, to Elizabeth Nevinson, eleven years his senior. Two years later, Stephen was ordained 'as a literate' by the Bishop of Salisbury. He was publishing less poetry. In 1749 Elizabeth died at Kew, after a long illness.

In 1750 Stephen received (from the King) his first formal clerical appointment, as Chaplain to a regiment of dragoons. Shortly thereafter he was for about eight months Preacher to Kew Chapel where he attracted vast congregations. Then in 1752 he was inducted as Rector of Byfleet (a living of £130 per year).

By reputation, Stephen was a popular preacher and a good, conscientious pastor at Byfleet. Sadly though, in 1756 Stephen drowned, at Reading, his body being found in the Thames three miles downstream. He was buried at Sonning on 21 April. Some said he was returning to Byfleet from a visit to Charlton. Ever since, there has been a story, without evidence, that he made away with himself in a fit of depression. He left one son (William, educated at Eton) and three daughters, all long lived and buried at Kew. William has apparent Duck descendants - occasionally they attend the Duck Feast, but I have no record of a marriage or children.

The family of the Reverend Stephen Duck of Charlton



Stephen Duck is thought to have been born at Charlton, Wiltshire 1705, but no record has been traced. Having been found in the Thames, drowned, Revd Stephen Duck was buried at Sonning, Berkshire (downstream of Reading), on 17 April 1756 (Sonning PR) . The Revd Stephen Duck was married three times and had six children, of whom five survived, four to old age.

Notes:

All the entries above are supported by Parish Registers except:

1. The child is a daughter whose name is written in the PR in a clear hand as 'Emey'. I take this to be Amy, which fits with Amy's age on burial at Kew in 1804.
2. Stephen's son William is thought to have descendants, but I have no relevant information.
3. I have not traced Ann's burial.
4. Davis (p.68) records the Vicar of Welwyn writing on 16 Sep 1744, 'I blessed Mr Stephen Duck yesterday with a third wife; they were pleased to come to Welwyn for that benediction.' A licence for the marriage had been issued on 10 September. However, the relevant period is amongst those missing from the original PR at the Hertfordshire Archives. 1744 is also missing from the Bishop's transcripts.

I am grateful for the skilled help of Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre and of Hertfordshire Archives.

The Fowle family at Charlton

What has this to do with the Fowle family? Simply this. We have had property in Charlton since about 1697 and have lived there for most of the subsequent years, continuously since the 1890s. No doubt, Stephen would have regarded us as 'rigid Worldlings' upon whom people like him were doom'd to wait!

However, we (to be more precise, my cousins) have for 50 years been the 'keepers of the flame' for Stephen Duck, organising the annual Duck Feast in his memory. A Fowle family tree from about 1600 is shown, focused on Charlton, with those who have owned land or lived in Charlton emphasised in bold or bold italic.

In 1692, our ancestor (my 6x grandfather), Thomas Fowle of Lockeridge (1665-1740), was bequeathed the manors of Lockeridge and Fifield in Wiltshire under the generous will of his uncle, Wiltshire-born City banker and goldsmith Sir Thomas Fowle[8]. On September 17, 1694, Thomas Fowle of Lockeridge married Jane Smith of Charlton[9]. However, the will of Sir Thomas was too generous (or perhaps the estate simply was asset rich and cash poor), causing much chancery litigation. In 1697 Thomas agreed with the executor (his cousin Robert) that in exchange for £700 he would surrender the manor of Lockeridge (where, presumably, he lived) back to the estate, but keep the manor of Fifield[10].

The eldest son of Thomas and Jane (another Thomas) was born on 18 October 1697 and christened on 22 October at Overton[11]. I have a family note saying that this Thomas was born at Lockeridge Manor. Thereafter Thomas and Jane apparently moved to Charlton, Jane's home village, where eight more children were born to them and where they lived until they died in 1740 and 1747 respectively[12]. Thomas (of Charleton [*sic*], it says in his 1747 will) left his land to his son Thomas born 1697.

My family note says that Thomas born 1697 matriculated as a member of Hart Hall, Oxford, on 8 March 1714 and graduated MA in 1721. He married Christiana Budworth in 1721, took Holy Orders in 1723 and became Vicar of Kintbury in 1739. He died in 1783, being the first of five successive Parson Fowles, Vicars of Kintbury, until 1840, living in Kintbury Vicarage, then of Amesbury. The family of the second Parson Fowle of Kintbury (also Thomas, 1726-1806) were close friends of Jane Austen's family. Indeed a younger son (yet again the Reverend Tom Fowle, 1765-1797) was engaged to Jane's sister Cassandra until he died of fever in the West Indies[13].

We know nothing of the many siblings of Reverend Thomas (1697-1783) except for John (23 January 1706/7-26 August 1776)[14], the fifth surviving brother. In 1731 John, at All Cannings, married his cousin Jane Fowle of All Cannings[15], sister of the unmarried Vicar, the Reverend William Fowle. John and Jane's sons John, Thomas and Henry were baptised in Charlton between 1732 and 1737.

The Reverend William was relatively wealthy, with descent from a niece of Sir Thomas and separately from an uncle of Sir Thomas. He generously funded his sister's family. It is thought that John, living in Charlton, bought property at Charlton from his elder brother the Reverend Thomas (1697-1783), probably after their father's 1740 death, as by then Thomas would have been living at Kintbury Vicarage. Both Jane and John were buried at Charlton, in 1747 and 1776 respectively.

We cannot find a will for John (buried 1776), but we know that he was succeeded at Charlton by his fourth son Henry (christened at Charlton 18 March 1735/6). The Devizes St John parish register records the marriage by licence on 9 February 1762 of Henry Fowle (of Charlton) and Jane Springbatt (sojourner). Jane Springbatt was born in Wilsford.

In the meantime, by around 1760, the third son of John and Jane, William (we do not know where he was baptised), had qualified with an Oxford degree and emigrated to Jamaica, to practise as a Montego Bay physician and surgeon and to acquire a sugar estate in St James' parish. By the time William made a 1767 will he had sent enough money home to acquire a small, long-leasehold estate around Durrington Manor, near Amesbury, where his brother, second son Thomas, lived. Eldest son John died in 1772 and Thomas in 1783, both unmarried.

Henry and Jane lived mostly at Charlton and are buried there, with a memorial by Westmacott in

Tree of the Fowle family of Charlton St Peter, near Pewsey, north Wiltshire

William Fowle of Stanton St Bernard
Will 16 Jun 1584. Married Grace, miw husband
Will 18 Apr 1602; buried 23 Apr 1602

- Edward Fowle [1st] of Stanton St Bernard
  Miw father, mother, brother. Nuncupative will
  3 Jun 1628. Married Anne
- 1 other son, 3 daughters
  Probable living descendants

Edward Fowle [2nd] of Stanton St Bernard
Bap 1598. Died before 1659. Miw father.
Married Barbara Dyke, miw brother.

- Henry Fowle of Stanton St Bernard
  miw bro Sir Thomas
  Will 30 May 1709, buried 15 Nov 1710
  Married Anne
- Sir Thomas Fowle of Fleet Street
  1636/7-1692. Alderman & Sheriff.
  Will 30 Jul 1692.
  Married Jane Norton 1666, 1 daughter
- 2 other sons, 3 daughters
  Probable living descendants
- 3 other sons, 2 daughters
  (1 s & 2 d miw Sir Thomas)
  Probable living descendants

Thomas Fowle of Lockeridge, then from 1697 of Charlton
1665-1740, miw father & uncle Sir Thomas
Married Jane Smith of Charlton

- ***John Fowle of Charlton***
  1706/7-1776. Married Jane Fowle of
  All Cannings
- ***Revd Thomas Fowle of Kintbury***
  1697-1783. Married Christiana Budworth
  Many descendants, Kintbury, Amesbury,
  & now living in British Columbia and Ohio
- 2 other sons, 3 daughters
  (several miw Sir Thomas)
  Probable living descendants
- 5 other sons, 3 daughters
  Probable living descendants

- ***Henry Fowle of Charlton***
  1736-1803. Married Jane Springbatt
  - **William Fowle of Chute Lodge**
    1770-1840. Married Harriet Everett
- William Fowle of Jamaica
  1735-1796, will 3 Jan 1796
  Died unmarried.
- 3 other sons, 3 daughters
  Living descendants

- **Thomas Everett Fowle of Chute Lodge**
  1807-1877
  Married Sarah Price
- ***William Thomas Fowle of Charlton***
  1801-1837. Died unmarried
- ***Fred Fowle of Charlton***
  1809-1863
  Died unmarried
- **Revd Henry Fowle of Chute Lodge**
  1802-1865
  Married Mary Amelia Everett
  3 daughters,
  living descendants

- ***Col Thomas Ernlé Fowle of Charlton***
  1864-1932
  Married Emmeline Slade-Gully
  - ***Brig Frank Fowle of Charlton***
    1893-1969
    Married Mona Beaufort Spillane
    - ***Bill Fowle of Charlton***
      1932-. Married Jill Baldwin
      Chief Duck 1970s-2017
      - ***Tim Fowle of Charlton***
        1960-
        Married Alma Stubbington
        Chief Duck 2018-
        - ***Luke Fowle of Charlton***
          2001-
        - 1 daughter, ***Cassandra***
      - 1 daughter, ***Sarah***, living descendants
- **William Hugh Fowle of Chute**
  1853-1942
  Married Isabel Curtis
  Living descendants
- 1 brother, 1 sister
  Living descendants

[miw = mentioned in the will of]

Note:
Those living in Charlton are in bold italic. Those owning land but not living in Charlton are in bold. Male line only. Siblings not in age order - Charlton connections take priority.

St Peter's church. They had one son who lived to maturity, William (1770-1840). When uncle William died in Jamaica in 1796, after generous family legacies his fortune went to his brother Henry[16], on whose 1803 death it went to young William. William, already owner by inheritance of land at Charlton and at Durrington, in 1804 acquired for £27,000 the Chute Lodge Estate near Andover[17], a substantial property centred on a 400-acre park and a Robert Taylor villa. Chute Lodge was particularly attractive, being in big house terms, 'next door' to Biddestone, the home of Mr & Mrs Thomas Everett, the parents of William's wife Harriet. Everett land and Fowle land marched with each other within the former Chute Forest.

Group of C18 Fowle tombs - churchyard of Charlton St Peter

Charlton Manor

William Fowle of Chute Lodge having inherited land at Charlton, in the 1830s his eldest son William Thomas (1801-1837), bought more, to make Charlton his home. This purchase was probably Munday's Farm, later called Manor House Farm and in the 20th century called Charlton Manor, where my cousins have lived since 1893 - an attractive William & Mary home which wears a 1625 datestone, no doubt from a predecessor on the site.

When William Thomas died intestate in 1837, his Charlton property reverted to his father, William of Chute Lodge. On William's 1840 death, Chute Lodge was entailed on his eldest living son the Reverend Henry and male heirs, Durrington on the next son Thomas Everett (Tom) and male heirs, and Charlton on the youngest son Fred. Fred, we believe, followed the much-mourned eldest brother William Thomas by making Charlton his home. Certainly Fred and Tom together funded the 1858 re-building of Charlton St Peter Church by John Loughborough Pearson.

On the deaths without male heirs of Fred in 1863 and Henry in 1865, my great-grandfather Tom, then of Durrington, scooped the pool, inheriting the Chute Lodge estate and all the Charlton property. When Tom died in 1877, all went to my grandfather, Willy. In 1893 Willy sold his Charlton property to his younger brother Col Thomas Ernlé Fowle (1864-1932). Col Fowle bought more Charlton property, and his small estate has passed by descent and gift to Brigadier Frank (1893-1969), to his son Bill (1932-) and to Bill's son Tim (1960-), who lives there now.

As for Chute Lodge, William and Harriet, their sons the Reverend Henry and Tom, and Tom's son Willy, lived there with their families in turn (and in declining state) for 102 years until 1906, when Willy sold the house and most of the property. Willy and his wife Isabel then lived in comfort in neighbouring Chute Forest House until Isabel died and the money ran out (1949).

The Duck Feast

The Victoria County History tells us that the acre given by Lord Palmerston by his 1734 deed was then worth a guinea a year, to support in perpetuity a dinner for Charlton's agricultural workers, in honour of Stephen Duck. The 1735 Feast is described in Stephen's poem *A Journey to Marlborough, Bath and Portsmouth* quoted above. The County History goes on to say:

> The land, known as Duck's Acre' apparently lay in Rushall Field. In 1834 it yielded £2.9s.9d yearly for the dinner, held on 1 June. It was later agreed that Duck's Acre should be represented by land in a certain quarter of Rushall Field. In 1901, Duck's feast, still held on 1 June, was then paid for with a £2 rent supplemented by voluntary contributions and was attended by all the agricultural labourers of Charlton except carters and shepherds. In 1972 the income of about £5 from the land at Rushall, then owned by Mr CB Wookey, was augmented by small payments from those who attended. The feast at the Charlton Cat on 1 June 1972 was attended by some 22 men, a total which represented both agricultural workers and their guests.

Which takes us back to the Fowle family - because cousin Tim has since 2018 been Chief Duck, succeeding his father Bill who had undertaken the role since the 1970s. Probably the Brigadier, in retirement from the army a commercial beekeeper, was the first in the family to qualify as 'working on the land', but though he supported the Duck Feast and attended as a regular guest, the Brigadier probably did not feel himself to be a Charlton Duck. Bill and Tim though are working farmers, not mere landowners, and each has been a Charlton Duck since marriage.

The Charlton Cat

For well over 100 years, whenever possible the Duck Feast has been held at what was the village pub, The Charlton Cat - though all who attend now pay their full share. There has been no sign of subsidy from Duck's Acre rental for 40 years at least. The Cat stands outside the village, on the Devizes Upavon Road. The County History says that it is on the probable site of the Red Lion alehouse kept by Richard Davis in the 1750s, which burned down and was rebuilt in 1821. For many years its official name was The Poores' Arms, after the former Lords of the Manor - their shield was a leopard, perhaps the Red Lion, the Cat in question? Or was it the Charlton *Cut*, being a posting house inn built on the fast road cut through the chalk?

Chief Duck and the Feast

The Feast is chaired by Chief Duck wearing the Chief Duck's Hat, a somewhat embarrassing 18th century ceremonial hat bearing a picture of a thresher, threshing - the President of The Society of Antiquaries has a similar hat (without the thresher), but in better state. Chief Duck reads an extract from the poems of the Reverend Stephen Duck and leads the toasts. Those present, Ducks and guests, drink the toast from the Duck Goblet, a repaired 18th century glass containing three quarters of a pint of beer.

This century, the Cat has been through a number of owners, with several closures and consequential vicissitudes. In cousin Bill's time as Chief Duck, a cupboard at the Cat contained a considerable archive of Threshers' Feast material including attendance records back to 18th century. Sadly, during one vicissitude more than a decade ago, the contents of the cupboard went into a skip - Hat and Goblet were saved. Nowadays the Cat is an excellent Tea Shop and Restaurant - a great site for a good Feast. Currently the Chief Duck looks after the remaining assets.

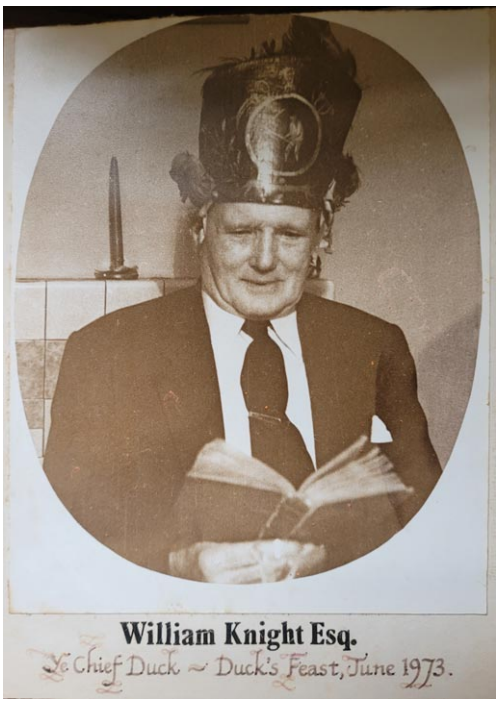
The 18th century rules of the Duck Feast, now recorded only in the memory of Cousin Tim, are not merely arcane, but antediluvian. A Charlton Duck is a married, widowed or divorced male adult

Chief Duck's Hat and Duck Goblet

inhabitant or former inhabitant of the parish who works or has worked on the land. Today, there are not many working Ducks (threshers were made obsolete by machinery 200 years ago), but once a Charlton Duck, always a Duck. Chief Duck is the oldest Duck who is prepared to serve.

Cousin Tim as Chief Duck, convenes and organises the Feast. His son Luke, a 22-year-old working farmer, helps with the Feast, but (being unmarried) is not a Duck. Therefore, while always there, he is merely 'in attendance' as a guest.

Only men may attend, as Ducks or guests.



William Knight Chief Duck 1973 - photograph was taken 49 years ago. For many years it hung in the village pub, part of the Duck Feast memorabilia.

Charlton Ducks claim that the Feast has been held annually since 1735 without break, though I am told that there may be doubts about 1944 and 1945. In the first year of Covid lockdown, the Feast was just Chief Duck Tim, retired Chief Duck Bill, and Luke, socially distanced in the garden at Charlton Manor (with food sent down from the Cat). But normally a dozen or more meet and feast at the Cat, to remember Stephen Duck, keeping his 'fame alive'.

The toast is to be downed in one without spillage, choking, or pausing for breath - reminiscent of a tiresome undergraduate challenge. I fail. I contribute my fine to the Cat's staff fund.

The toast is:

> 'In remembrance of Lord Palmerston, and the Reverend Stephen Duck'.

Notes

1. This is no doubt based on information from Stephen, having often been repeated in his lifetime. It appears to have no independent source.
2. Most general information regarding the poet's life until he was taken up by Queen Caroline is from *A Full and Authentick Account of Stephen Duck, the Wiltshire Poet* by Joseph Spence, Poetry Professor for the University of Oxford (1731). Another important source, especially for his later career, is *Stephen Duck, The Thresher Poet* by Rose Mary Davis, University of Maine Studies (1926); this does contain material contradicted by subsequent research.
3. *Gratitude, a Pastoral*, from *Poems on Several Occasions*
4. Colley Cibber was appointed Poet Laureate. Perhaps Stephen Duck was the more deserving.
5. Victoria County History of Wiltshire vol 10, article on the parish of Charlton, www.british-history.ac.uk/vch.
6. *Op cit* Victoria County History, which also records much of the information herein about the Duck Feast's history, the Charlton Cat and the Fowle family's ownership and purchases of land in Charlton.
7. *A Description of a Journey to Marlborough, Bath, Portsmouth etc.*, from *Poems on Several Occasions.*
8. Will 30 Jul 1691 (National Archives PROB 11/413/20), buried St. Dunstan-in-the-West 11 Nov 1692.
9. Rushall, Upavon PR.
10. National Archives C104/ 112-125.
11. Overton PR.
12. Charlton PR.
13. *The Death of Tom Fowle*, Michael Fowle, Jane Austen Society Report 2021 p.49-51.
14. Charlton PR.
15. All Cannings PR.
16. Will probated in London 4 May 1797.
17. Fowle v Freeman, (1804) 9 Vesey Junior 351 32 E.R. 638 Ct.

Credit: title painting - *Stephen Duck*, c1740, attributed to Christian Richter. Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Ref: NPG 4493.

Michael Fowle
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THOMAS HARRIS (c.1738-1820)

DEBTS AND OWNERSHIP OF BELMONT HOUSE, HILLINGDON

Terry Jenkins

It was common knowledge in London in 1817 that Covent Garden Theatre was in a very poor financial state and consistently losing money. The actor W. C. Macready, who had joined the Company in September 1816, wrote in his *Reminiscences* -

> The condition of our lately flourishing and popular theatre had now become almost desperate. Indeed there seemed scarcely a chance of keeping it open. The original building debt, with its weight of interest, was still a heavy pressure on the concern, requiring extraordinary receipts to meet the frequent incoming bills, and buoy up the credit of the establishment; … Ruin seemed inevitable, and was so near a culminating point, that, as Mr. Harris some time afterwards told my friend Sheil, he 'did not know in the morning when he rose whether he should not shoot himself before the night!'[1]

Thomas Harris by John Opie. University of Reading Special Collections. Courtesy: Wikimedia commons.

The debt stemmed from the rebuilding after the disastrous fire in 1808 that destroyed the original theatre built by John Rich in 1732. That theatre, and the patents that allowed it to operate, had been bought after Rich's death by a consortium that included the erstwhile soapmaker, Thomas Harris. Over the succeeding years, Harris had acquired portions of his partners' holdings as they became available, until at one time he held over 75% of the total. However, later sales and adjustments meant that, by the time of the 1808 fire, his personal holding had been reduced to 50%, and this remained the situation until his death in 1820.

In his biography of Thomas Harris, Warren Oakley describes him as being insolvent in 1817,[2] and as evidence cites correspondence between Harris and the theatre's landlord, the Duke of Bedford, now to be found in a scrapbook at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C.[3] Oakley writes that, in order to clear his debts, Harris put his property in Hillingdon, Belmont (Bellemont) House, up for sale in 1819. It was not quite as simple as that. For a start, Harris did not actually own Belmont.

It is clear from her will that Charlotte Newton, generally assumed to be his wife, considered that *she* owned Belmont House, and a picture of the house painted by John Oldfield around 1820 is entitled 'Mrs Newton's Hillingdon'.[4] Oakley and everyone else have always assumed that the house belonged to Harris. It was not so.

At this time, married women could not own property in their own right. It *was* possible for an unmarried woman, but when she married any property automatically became the property of her husband. First indications therefore that Charlotte and Harris were not actually married. This contradicts the generally held assumption, first published in an obituary a couple of years after Harris's death,

which bluntly states: 'Mr. Harris married, early in life, a Miss Newton, by whom he had several children'.[5] Most subsequent writers have been content to quote this as fact. It proves to be untrue.

Charlotte Newton died on 7 July 1816,[6] and was buried as 'Charlotte the beloved wife of Thomas Harris Esq.' in Hillingdon on 13 July. Despite the inscription on the tomb, Charlotte's will confirms that she and Harris were not married. The PCC transcript is ambivalent,[7] but the original will shows that she called herself Charlotte Newton in the text, but signed it Charlotte Newton Harris.[8] I assume the second word of her signature is Newton - it is difficult to read! She seems to be barely literate. A note in the original will, added at the foot of the second page by officials in the probate office reads: 'Testatrix Charlotte Newton, otherwise Charlotte Newton Harris Spinster was late as described and died last year'. Spinster is underlined in the original. The Death Duty ledger also describes her as 'spinster', and the assessment shows that her estate was 'sworn under £200'.[9] It cannot therefore have included the value of the property she owned. This was probably an error. Only bequests to a spouse were exempt from the duties and, as Charlotte left everything to her

Belmont House, Hillingdon, by John Oldfield c.1820.
Courtesy of London Picture Archive, London Metropolitan Archives, collage record no. 32439.

children, a proper interpretation of the rules would have meant that Death Duties were charged on all her property. There was clearly correspondence on the matter at a later date, as shown by notes written in the margin of the ledger.

Charlotte bought the Belmont estate in 1795. We are fortunate that the details can be found in the Deeds Registers for Middlesex held at the London Metropolitan Archives.[10] These show that Charlotte Newton of Putney, spinster, paid £2,940 for the estate on 25 July 1795.[11] She purchased it from the executors of the previous owner Samuel Marsh who died on 18 March 1795.[12] This was not just the house and the immediate gardens, but included a long list of associated fields, as well as two pews at St Margaret's, Uxbridge, and one at St John the Baptist, Hillingdon. Although ownership of Belmont was placed in Charlotte's name, Thomas Harris undoubtedly paid for it, and it appears he borrowed the money to do so. The Covent Garden account book shows that on 21 July 1795 £3,175 was received from John Palmer of Bath. Palmer was the theatre owner in Bath and Bristol, Member of Parliament and postal innovator, and someone who Harris frequently turned to as a source of funds. On the same day, the account book shows a payment of £2,400 to a Mr Baker. There are no further details for these entries, but the date implies Palmer's money was used for the purchase. Six months later, on 27 January 1796, the account book shows that the theatre received 'of Mr Baker Ballance of Cash after settling for the Belmont Estate, £20.1s.0d'.[13] I infer that John Richard Baker of Bedford Square was the family and Company solicitor. He was a witness to the wills of both Thomas and Charlotte. The Hillingdon Land Tax records show that Charlotte is listed at Belmont 1796-98.[14] Thereafter, Thomas Harris's name appears in the records. I imagine he always paid the tax - I don't think Charlotte had any independent income.

Charlotte stated in her will that she had also bought another house on Uxbridge Common from 'Lascelles Iremonger, clerk' called Mount Pleasant. The Rev. Lascelles Iremonger was vicar of Wherwell in Hampshire and inherited the property in 1796 from a relative, Benjamin Lethieullier. He sold it to Charlotte on 4 June 1798 for £505.[15] Once again the money came from the coffers of Covent Garden theatre, and the 1798-99 account book shows that Thomas Harris withdrew the precise amount of £505 on 5 September 1798.[16]

The Lethieullier family were originally Huguenot immigrants to the U.K. and had become major landowners in the area around Uxbridge. It was Benjamin Lethieullier who sold the Belmont estate to the previous owner, Samuel Marsh, around 1790. The names 'Bellemont' and 'Mount Pleasant' are, of course, very similar in meaning - indeed, Mount Pleasant is a perfectly acceptable translation of Bellemont, and I imagine the two properties were originally both part of the same estate. Mount Pleasant was later re-named The Hermitage, and stood opposite Belmont on the other side of the road.[17]

Harris, in his own name, then bought another property in Hillingdon in 1801.[18] This was called the Cake House, and included three associated cottages and fields totalling around five acres. The property stood about 500 yards north of Belmont House and cost him £850. I assume this is the purchase reported in the *The Star* newspaper in October 1801 which stated that he had bought 'a field adjoining his house at Uxbridge, with the profits of the last season, which he has named *Cooke's Field*, in compliment to the gentleman who performs Richard III'.[19] The name does not appear to have stuck, and the site continued to be known as the Cake House.

Putting ownership of the Belmont estate and Mount Pleasant in Charlotte's name therefore caused a problem for Harris if he ever wished to sell the properties. It certainly stopped creditors getting at them, but meant that Harris was not in a position to sell if he needed to raise money. This has not been appreciated by Oakley or other writers. Charlotte's will passed ownership of the entire estate to their three children, Henry (b. c1783), Frances (b.c1785) and George (b.1786), jointly in equal shares. She granted Thomas the right to live at Belmont for the rest of his life, but my understanding of the will is that she did *not* intend him to inherit it, or to receive any money from a future sale. However, the children must have agreed to allow the estate to be sold. Indeed they may have decided that, as their father's debts would devolve on them when he died, it was preferable to take action and pay them off

immediately. Joint ownership is not necessarily a satisfactory situation, and a common option is to sell the property and divide the proceeds. Accordingly, before Charlotte's will was actually proved on 20 March 1817, we find an indenture of 'Lease and Release' between Thomas, the three children, and John Palmer of Bath dated 27 February 1817.[20] 'Lease and Release' was a device commonly used at the time. It was a way of raising some immediate money from a property by making a provisional sale - the Lease - and gaining a year's breathing space. The Lease expired at the end of a year, after which the Release completed the sale to the buyer. If the seller did not want to lose possession, he was able to buy the property back before the Release was enacted. John Palmer, of course, was the same man who had provided the money for the original purchase. Curiously, no money was mentioned in this indenture, which, I suggest, may be significant (*see later*).

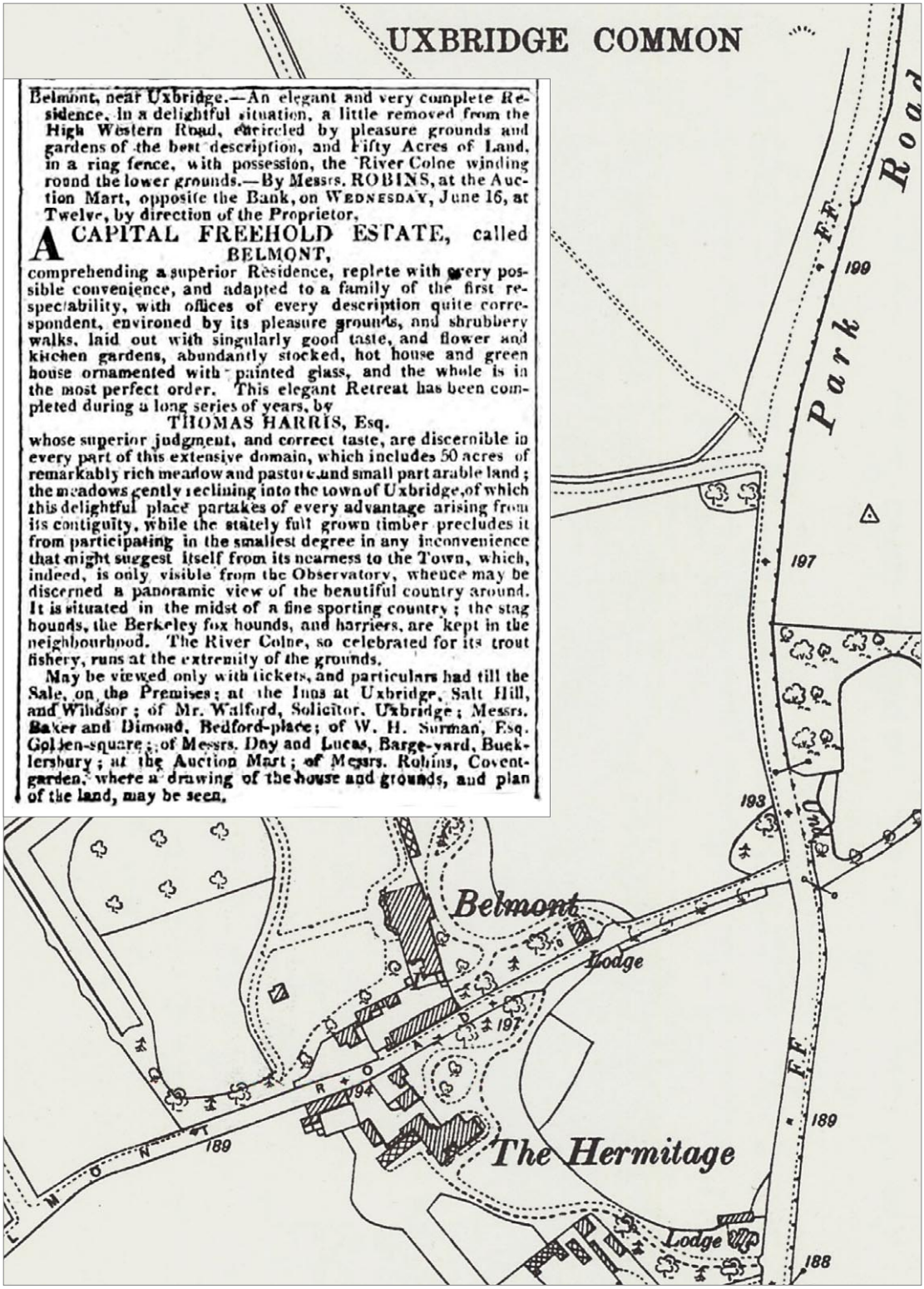
All the land and property involved is itemised piece by piece. It starts with the lands belonging to Charlotte Newton (*sic* no 'Mrs') over which she had 'powers of disposal', and then itemises all the remaining land independently owned by Harris. This includes several parcels of agricultural land that he had just acquired through the Hillingdon Enclosure Act of 1812. A whole swathe of common land in Uxbridge was released for private ownership by this Act, and Harris had bought a substantial collection of fields close to Belmont. On 24 March 1817, in preparation for enacting the Lease & Release arrangement with John Palmer, and four days after probate on Charlotte's will was granted, Harris tidied up the legal status of these purchases and registered them all in his name in the Middlesex Deeds Register. Although it made sense to take advantage of the opportunities to acquire this land, we can appreciate that Harris cannot have been overly concerned with insolvency before 1817 if he was spending money on these purchases. If anything, he was increasing his debts and, according to the records, his total expenditure on new acquisitions during these years came to just over £2,100. There seems little point in spending this money if he was already in financial difficulties, and planning to sell the estate.

John Palmer of Bath died on 16 August 1818 aged 76. At that age his death was probably to be expected, but ownership of the entire estate had already been transferred to John Charles de Boffe.[21] On 12 May 1818 Harris agreed a simple conditional sale by mortgage to de Boffe, and with the money thus raised was able to redeem ownership of the estate from Palmer. De Boffe was probably known to him socially - he was a bookseller, like Harris's brother-in-law Thomas Longman.

Although Harris's children now legally owned all their mother's property, nonetheless the whole 50-acre estate was put up for sale at the Auction Mart in the City of London on 16 June 1819.[22] However it failed to meet the reserve price at the sale and was withdrawn. Newspapers report that it was 'bought in' for 9,500 guineas (£9,975 - nearly £200 an acre).[23] Many early reports of the sale put the figure at 10,400 guineas (£10,940), but I shall be cautious and use the lower figure. De Boffe's mortgage documents show the estate had been sold to him for £8,000, and so the price offered would have yielded a profit of around £2,000 - but apparently this was not acceptable.

And so the family decided to sell off the estate in smaller packages. A second auction was announced for 29 July 1819 at the White Horse Inn in Uxbridge (which locals could easily attend),[24] and the *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* announced on 1 October that sales had achieved double the price previously offered, and that one paddock had sold for £850 per acre! I suggest this was wishful thinking. The later indentures in the Middlesex Deeds Register show that none of the land was sold at anywhere near this price. Nonetheless, on the very day the *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* made the announcement, Harris and the children paid off the complete mortgage of £8,000 to de Boffe.[25] This is most surprising, as I don't imagine any money actually changed hands at the sale. The only explanation must be that the prices pledged allowed them to raise the money from some other, as yet unknown, source.

The earliest indentures in the Deeds Register for sales of the fragmented parts of the estate are dated 28 April 1820, nine months after the auction, and I assume that this was when money actually changed hands. One of these concerns a 'pightle' of about ½ acre stretching from the back of the George Inn



Belmont, near Uxbridge.—An elegant and very complete Residence, in a delightful situation, a little removed from the High Western Road, encircled by pleasure grounds and gardens of the best description, and Fifty Acres of Land, in a ring fence, with possession, the River Colne winding round the lower grounds.—By Messrs. ROBINS, at the Auction Mart, opposite the Bank, on WEDNESDAY, June 16, at Twelve, by direction of the Proprietor,

A CAPITAL FREEHOLD ESTATE, called BELMONT,

comprehending a superior Residence, replete with every possible convenience, and adapted to a family of the first respectability, with offices of every description quite correspondent, environed by its pleasure grounds, and shrubbery walks, laid out with singularly good taste, and flower and kitchen gardens, abundantly stocked, hot house and green house ornamented with painted glass, and the whole is in the most perfect order. This elegant Retreat has been completed during a long series of years, by

THOMAS HARRIS, Esq.

whose superior judgment, and correct taste, are discernible in every part of this extensive domain, which includes 50 acres of remarkably rich meadow and pasture and small part arable land; the meadows gently reclining into the town of Uxbridge, of which this delightful place partakes of every advantage arising from its contiguity, while the stately full grown timber precludes it from participating in the smallest degree in any inconvenience that might suggest itself from its nearness to the Town, which, indeed, is only visible from the Observatory, whence may be discerned a panoramic view of the beautiful country around. It is situated in the midst of a fine sporting country; the stag hounds, the Berkeley fox hounds, and harriers, are kept in the neighbourhood. The River Colne, so celebrated for its trout fishery, runs at the extremity of the grounds.

May be viewed only with tickets, and particulars had till the Sale, on the Premises; at the Inns at Uxbridge, Salt Hill, and Windsor; of Mr. Walford, Solicitor, Uxbridge; Messrs. Baker and Dimond, Bedford-place; of W. H. Surman, Esq. Golden-square; of Messrs. Day and Lucas, Barge-yard, Bucklersbury; at the Auction Mart; of Messrs. Robins, Covent-garden, where a drawing of the house and grounds, and plan of the land, may be seen.

Inset: Advertisement for the abortive sale in 1819, Morning Post, 9 June 1819. Courtesy of the British Library's Newspaper Archive.
Background: Ordnance Survey map of Uxbridge, revised 1897, on Buckinghamshire Sheet LIV.NW.

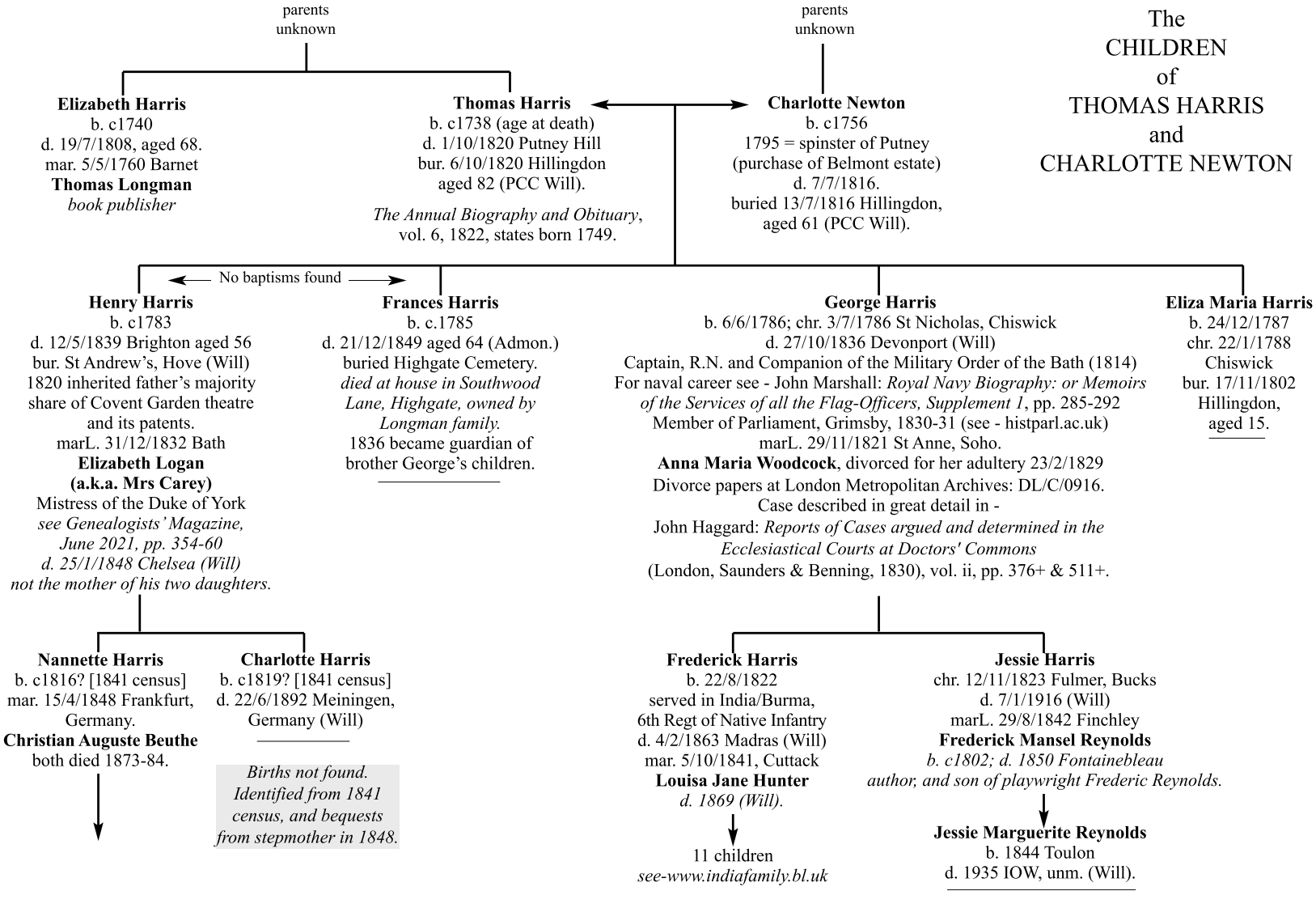
in Uxbridge High Street up to the Friends' Meeting House. The plan in the Register shows that this was basically a private pathway leading up the hill towards Belmont House, and the land was sold to John Smith, banker of Uxbridge for £300 (around £600 per acre).[26] Smith's will shows that he was a Quaker,[27] and I presume he worshipped at the Meeting House that lay at the far end of the path. He was a 'mealman' by trade, but in January 1806 he had formed a banking partnership in Uxbridge with his brother-in-law, fellow-mealman and Quaker, William Hull.[28] I suggest it was this bank that was prepared to grant Harris and the children an overdraft, until money from the sales was received, and they were able to pay off the mortgage to de Boffe straightaway. However, all the indentures of sale had not been completed when Thomas Harris died on 1st October 1820, and it was his children alone who officially sold Belmont House in November 1820.[29] The purchaser was William Hull and, according to an article in the *Uxbridge Record*, it was specifically bought for his widowed sister-in-law, Anna Hull.[30] The house remained closely associated with the Hull family and members of the Quaker faith thereafter, until it was sold in 1867.

It is difficult to judge straightaway whether the decision to withdraw the estate from the first auction in 1819 at 9,500 guineas was a wise one. Confusingly, the land was sold in different packages from those in which it was acquired. For example, the advertisement for the 29 July sale particularly stated that 'The Mansion, with its beautiful Grounds, Gardens, &c, occupying a space of about 10 acres' would be sold as one lot; and William Hull paid £900 for it. But the house and estate, as it was in 1795, had originally cost £2,940 - seemingly a very large loss. On the other hand, Mount Pleasant was bought for £505 in 1798, and sold for £850 - which appears to be a substantial profit. But the sale price included an extra field of around 4½ acres adjoining the garden. It is therefore necessary to look at the wider picture, and an analysis of all the sales recorded in the Middlesex Deeds Register indicates that the total receipts came to £7,868. This is well short of the 9,500 guineas offered at the auction, and we have to conclude that the decision to buy-in the property was misguided. If we then consider the overall period between the purchase of Belmont in 1795 and the completion of all the sales in 1822, we find the total expenditure on purchasing the lands was £6,404 and, with receipts of £7,868, this yielded a profit of just £1,464. I suggest it was unrealistic for the family to believe that people would pay more for the land than its current market value. The 1812 Enclosure Act meant that a large amount of agricultural land was changing hands, and its value would have been well-known to prospective buyers.

Although it is generally assumed that Harris's debts were incurred on theatre business, none of the money from these sales was passed back through the Covent Garden theatre accounts. Harris used the theatre's income very much as his own private fiefdom. He did not pay himself a salary, and was accustomed to withdraw money for his own purposes whenever it suited him. Indeed, on 18 July 1820, three months before his death and at a time when he was busy completing the sales of the properties at Belmont, Harris paid himself £1,000 out of the accounts 'for management this season'.[31] This payment is the final entry for him in the Covent Garden account books - and it is not the action of someone who is overly concerned with shoring up the theatre's finances with his own money.

As we have seen from evidence in this article, Harris borrowed money from John Palmer of Bath in order to purchase Belmont in 1795, and the Covent Garden account books show many other transactions between the pair. I suggest that, in 1817, it was debts with Palmer that Harris was seeking to pay off. As we have seen, Palmer was then an old man, and possibly requested that Harris settle these debts before he died. The first Lease & Release was therefore a provisional pledge to settle his debt to Palmer. As the indenture implies, no money changed hands, and Harris simply transferred ownership of the entire estate to him until he could raise the necessary money. This he did by way of a mortgage with John Charles de Boffe, which set in motion the subsequent dealings that I have described.

Covent Garden theatre continued to struggle after Harris's death. Son Henry inherited his father's holdings, giving him a small overall majority amongst the proprietors. But squabbles with his partners did nothing to stabilise the financial



position, and the downward spiral continued. The theatre narrowly avoided bankruptcy in 1829, but the end came with another fire in 1856. The passing years had further fragmented ownership of the theatre, and the current generation of proprietors declared it was 'utterly out of their power' to rebuild it. The Duke of Bedford, as ground landlord, took possession of the site. A new theatre *was* built, and is the core of the theatre that exists to this day, but it opened under totally new management.

* * *

There is a necessary postscript to this narrative. There was another Thomas Harris living in Hillingdon in the early 1800s, and he too had a wife called Charlotte. It is a tedious complication, and the two do not appear to be related in any way. This second Thomas Harris was an illiterate widower from Marylebone who married Charlotte Nutting, otherwise Nash, in Hillingdon by Faculty Office licence on 8 April 1808. He can be found listed in Uxbridge land tax records 1806-13 in a house rated at £9.[32] He died in 1836 aged sixty, and was buried on 10 July in Hillingdon. His wife died in 1823, and they had a son called Edwin who was deported for house-breaking in 1829.

Notes

1. Pollock, Sir Frederick (ed.): *Macready's Reminiscences and Selections from his Diaries and Letters* (Harper & Bros., New York, 1875), vol. 1, p.139.
2. Oakley, Warren L.: *Thomas 'Jupiter' Harris: spinning dark intrigue at Covent Garden Theatre, 1767-1820* (Manchester: Manchester U.P., 2018), p.171.
3. Folger Library: Scrapbook A.4.14, *London. Covent Garden, 1817-1820.* The letters are dated 27 and 30 May 1817 and 4 and 10 June 1817, but are inaccessible at the time of writing because of rebuilding work at the Library.
4. See www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk. This is catalogued as 'View of Belmont House', but the artist's original caption, 'Mrs Newton's Hillingdon', is visible on the picture.
5. *The Annual biography and obituary*, Vol. 6, 1822, p.389.
6. Obituary: *The Gentleman's Magazine*, July 1816, p.94.
7. TNA: PROB 11/1590/351, 20 March 1817.
8. TNA: unsorted bundle in PROB 10/4313.
9. TNA: IR 26/718, f. 216.
10. The Middlesex Deeds Registry was established by an Act of Parliament in 1708. The annual registers contain details of all land and property transactions within the ancient County of Middlesex. This includes all those parts of London north of the Thames, except the City of London.
11. LMA: MDR/1795/005/0533.
12. Obituary: *The Gentleman's Magazine*, March 1795, p.262.
13. BL: Egerton MS 2294 f. 3r, 4 & 76r.
14. LMA: MR/PLT/0718-20.
15. LMA: MDR/1798/003/0790.
16. BL: Egerton MS 2297.
17. see plan in LMA: MDR/1820/004/0265.
18. LMA: MDR/1801/006/0308. This property was always itemised separately in the Land Tax records and Harris is first recorded there in 1803.
19. *The Star*: 8 October 1801. p.3.
20. LMA: MDR/1817/002/0445.
21. LMA: MDR/1818/004/0162, dated 12 May 1818. This is actually a couple of months after the calendar year allowed by the conditions of Lease & Release.
22. *The Times*, 27 May 1819 (and others) described the estate as 'near 90 acres'. *The Morning Post*, 9 June 1819, (and others) described it as 50 acres.
23. *British Press*, Thursday 17 June 1819: *The Sun*, Thursday 23 September 1819. Earlier reports in *The Windsor & Eton Express*, Sunday 13 June 1819, et al, put the price at 10,400 guineas (£10,920).
24. *The Windsor & Eton Express*, Sunday 18 July 1819; *The Times*, Monday 19 July 1819; etc..
25. LMA: MDR/1818/004/0162 carries a note that the mortgage was discharged 1st October 1819, also see reconveyance in MDR/1819/007/0803.
26. LMA: MDR/1820/004/0261. This is the highest price paid per acre, but was nowhere near as high as £850.
27. TNA: PROB 11/1785/473, 27 May 1831.
28. see - https://banking-history.org.uk/record/hull-smith-co-uxbridge/.
29. LMA: MDR/1821/001/0634 & 0635, dated 1/2 Nov. 1820, registered 3 Feb. 1821. Worryingly, the copy of the indenture in the MDR lists all the peripherals associated with the property but does not include the house itself. I have to assume this is simply an omission. If the house itself was bought separately, this would alter the profit/loss figures.
30. L B Sutherland: 'Among the Uxbridge Quakers', *The Uxbridge Record*, Vol. 21 (1974). pp.3-10.
31. BL: Egerton MS 2317.
32. The entry for 1813 can be found in LMA: MR/PLT/0735.

Terry Jenkins
Email: bctjenkins@gmail.com

We hope to publish an article about Thomas Harris's children with the actress Jane Lessingham in a future issue.

MORE DETECTIVE WORK ON DAGUERREOTYPES, AMBROTYPES

AND OF COURSE, OUR ANCESTORS...

Helen Dawkins LRPS

These last few months have certainly brought out the detective in both myself and the clients who presented their challenges. But before I talk about our 'investigations' I wanted to share with you a moment of history captured on the streets of New York, believed to be in the financial district of Wall Street. This was part of the continuing work on the John Terleph archive. Such a historical moment captured in a snapshot.

Figure 1 - 'Follow me to Victory: Buy WAR BONDS', courtesy of Mr John Terleph

The last time the United States issued war bonds was during World War II, when full employment coincided with rationing, and war bonds were seen as a way to remove money from circulation as well as reduce inflation. Issued by the U.S. Government, they were first called Defence Bonds. The name was changed to War Bonds after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941. Known as 'debt securities' for the purpose of financing military operations during wartime, the bonds yielded a mere 2.9% return after a 10-year maturity.

And now to some more examples of mistaken identity...

Following email correspondence with member, John Bennett, a framed photograph was sent through to my studio, originally believed by John to be a daguerreotype. As you can see from Figure 2, it was incredibly difficult to deduce a) the style of photograph and b) details of the person.

The photograph was in its original frame, and with John's permission, I dismantled this to confirm my suspicions that the photograph was in fact an ambrotype. The ambrotype had significantly deteriorated to the point where, to the eye, identification was difficult, and in order to establish further information I would need to scan and improve the clarity.

John's father had originally suggested that the photograph was of John's great grandfather, John Rowe, but once further clarity was achieved from the scan, it became apparent that this was in fact a lady, identified by John as John Rowe's wife, Henrietta Knapman, born 1833.

The scan shows considerable deterioration of a chemical nature which actually obliterates part of the image, rather than it being faded. However many important features are clearer, including the face, from which it was possible to confirm that this photograph depicted a female. The hair centrally parted and worn wide over the ears, possibly drawn into a chignon at the back, is classic of the early part of the 1850s. The neckline shows a garment trimmed with Broderie Anglaise and finished with a large bow - often silk - which is decorated with a round brooch. From what I can see of other aspects of the clothing - predominantly

the sleeve area, we are looking at a cloak over a full sleeve. An important feature now evident was that the hand displays a ring on the wedding finger. Henrietta Knapman married in 1860 and from this very careful display of the wedding ring, we may confidently suggest that this photograph was to commemorate her wedding.

Sadly Henrietta died in the Devon County Lunatic Asylum in 1910 at the age of 77.

Figure 2 - Original photograph in frame, courtesy of John

Figure 3 - Reverse of photograph showing painted backing

Figure 4 - Original out of frame

Figure 5 - Henrietta Knapman restored

Copy photographs even in the Victorian era? ... It seems I am doing nothing new in restoring and reproducing old photographs...

Robert Bennett emailed an extremely faded image which had stood on the mantlepiece at his father's home for many years. The cabinet card was always referred to as 'grandpa', but which 'grandpa' was never quite established.

The photograph includes a surround as part of the image which matches the type of surround used in daguerreotypes and ambrotypes. The quality of the image was poor and as original cabinet cards were printed the same size as the negative and usually of very good clarity, this further suggested this may be a reproduction. It was deduced that this was most likely a copy of an ambrotype - a negative image turned into a positive by painting the reverse with either shellac or placing the negative over black fabric, generally velvet. The original also displayed an area in the top right hand corner which was undoubtedly processing marks on the original ambrotype.

Whenever identification is in doubt, we turn to a certain amount of detective work and this includes dating the image based on a) the style of photograph, b) the clothing and c) any known information about the family - aristocracy, working family etc.. Having ruled out the possibility of this being a daguerreotype which were predominantly only in reach of the aristocracy in view of their cost, we were looking at a date early in the 1850s - ambrotypes were introduced c.1854. I was further guided to this date in view of the style of clothing, which depicted a high collar with broad black cravat and deep fronted waistcoat, which I believe is single breasted. The hairstyle would appear to be full over the ears which also suited this era.

With all this information to hand, Robert Bennett has deduced that the 'grandpa' in question is in fact his father's great grandfather via grandpa Edward's wife née Jane Norris who lived with his father's family, and his father knew her well as a child which would account for the use of the term 'grandpa'. He was Henry Norris, b.1782, d.1866.

Figure 6 - Original faded cabinet card, courtesy of Robert Bennett and Figure 7 - Final image improved as far as possible

During the Victorian era, photographs were always taken for a reason in view of their cost so we looked to the usual wedding or birthdays. Henry Norris would have been 70 in 1852 so we wondered if this could have been taken to commemorate this important milestone. We can only wonder and try and put the facts together to create a 'best guess' and I did recommend that Mr Bennett include all this information in his archive text in case further information arose in the future which might clarify.

For the purposes of finding any possible links within the SoG readership: Henry Norris was born in 1782 in Compton (Hants), married (1) Mary Peckford 1806 at (New) Milton, with a second marriage to Margaret Fenton in1821 at Eling, by whom there were 16 surviving children in all; living at Marchwood near Southampton in 1841-61 censuses; Henry Norris died 1866 in Marchwood aged 84.

The final image after all possible restoration provided a much clearer image, but sadly, no further 'information' could be achieved around the eyes. I will never add any detail here as I would not wish to alter the appearance of a person - my principle is, better to have a slightly soft image than a contrived one.

I think these two examples certainly demonstrate the challenges we are up against when trying to untangle the family tree; and highlight the difficulties of determining the process and person recognition. This is the reason I would rarely wish to commit to carrying out a full report solely from a scan. I feel it is only with the item in hand that the complete story can be truly deduced.

... And back to the wonderful invention of the Autochrome

Member, John Cobb emailed referring to my article in the March 2023 issue, regarding Autochromes. John told of his great uncle Raymond Bush who took and developed "many hundreds of 'Lumière' plates before the first World War". Sadly the majority were destroyed after he died but I thought I would show

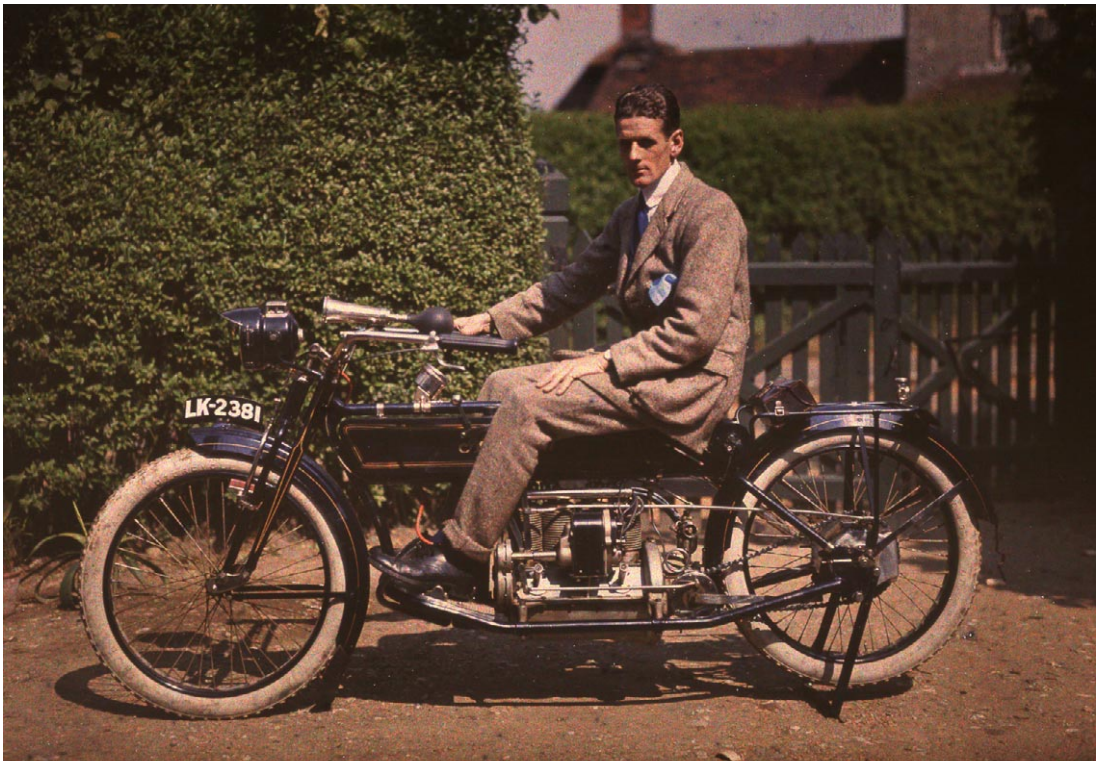


Figure 8 - Paul Bush on Indian inline-four circa 1910. Autochrome courtesy of John Cobb

you one that survived which is not only an excellent portrait of Raymond's brother, Paul, but also a very interesting historical piece depicting an Indian 'inline-four motorcycle' circa 1910. Hopefully motorcycle buffs out there will enjoy this one!

Returning to the subject of Autochromes, I realised that in last month's article I omitted to detail how best to archivally store these wonderful historic pieces.

Figure 9 - Four Flap enclosure

The preferred system is a four-flap enclosure made of acid-free Silversafe paper. As there are so many sizes I order or make up enclosures according to the work in hand. I would recommend writing the detail in pencil on the top cover, before wrapping the Autochrome. Then store the wrapped autochromes vertically in a suitably sized acid free box. Obviously before storing, I would recommend scanning the images so that you have an easily accessible record.

I look forward to hearing from members with any more intriguing challenges and thank you for your many emails over the last few months.

Helen Dawkins LRPS
Email: helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk

Established in 1992, Black and White Revival carries out traditional restoration and conservation of photographs. Helen Dawkins is now one of the few traditional processors for black and white photography continuing to produce archival quality photographs in the darkroom. For further advice: email helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk, visit **www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk** or tel: 01234 782265.

IN LOVE AND WAR

by Roger Taber (1945 - 2023)

Clearing out the attic
after a maiden aunt's funeral,
found a cardboard box,
tied with string, under a pile
of old newspapers,
a bunch of letters inside,
a war diary of sorts, glanced
at one, soon reading on more attentively,
reworking my family history

Love letters, exchanged
between a dour, but near relation
and Joe, an army private;
outpourings of passion and desire
addressing such fears
as have accompanied wars
for centuries, all the tenderness
and poetry of lovers among war's horrors,
dreaming of kinder tomorrows

One letter revealed
a pregnancy, the language of love
excelling, shared hopes
shining through every war-torn page,
littered with crossings-out,
and underlines highly charged
with mixed feelings,
every heartbeat, a near-miss bomb exploding,
love's defences notwithstanding

Later letters voiced
a birth and death, victims of war,
messengers of love, hope
and peace, meaningless to a mother
made to give up her daughter
to a better life than she could offer,
give mind-body-spirit
a fighting chance to discover Happy-Ever-After
amongst the aftermath of war

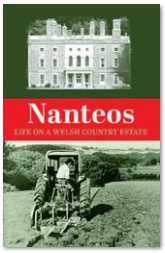
Finally, a faded photo
of a woman to whom her family
only rarely referred,
a family of which both she and I share
a past-present-future
beyond a dusty death among archives
testifying to the lives
of ill-fated lovers this mad, mad, world over,
Family of Man, deserving better

The poem relates to a friend's complaining about an elderly maiden aunt's dour disposition. 'She has as much sensibility as a cadaver,' he would say. A few days after the same maiden aunt's funeral some years ago, my friend visited me to share the contents of a bundle of letters found tucked away at the bottom of a trunk in the old lady's attic. They inspired an insatiable interest in genealogy that led my friend, several years later, to track down and surrender the letters to the very love child to which they refer.

Now, I loved my maternal grandparents, but never thought of them as extraordinary in any way until my mother told me how her father had deserted the Royal Navy during the war and joined the army under another name. A family secret, indeed, only revealed when my parents decided to marry. Only then were they told that they were not only the offspring of old family friends, but also first cousins...

Roger Taber: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._N._Taber

BOOK REVIEWS



Nanteos, Life on a Welsh Country Estate, by Janet Joel. Printed by Carreg Gwalch, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-84524-310-4. Paperback, 350pp, illustrations, appendices, maps, index. £17.50.

Opening this book is like opening a door and walking into another world - you are in the 18th century, on a great estate. Nanteos is a Georgian country manor house in Cardiganshire. The house was built by the Powell family, who lived there from 1699 to 1951. Their land holdings covered 31,000 acres and the estate thrived through the 18th and 19th centuries.

The book tells the story of Nanteos: the grand house; the extensive gardens; the wider estate with tenant farmers, woods and wheat fields; its influence on the whole geographical area.

But it is far more the story of people. There are the servants who lived and worked in the house or lived and worked in the stables and the gardens. There are the villagers who worked at Nanteos seasonally or during social occasions. There are the small business owners in the surrounding villages who served the estate. And, of course, there are the members of the Powell family who owned it all.

Obviously, *Nanteos* will be of great interest to anyone with family ties to this part of Cardiganshire and to anyone interested in Welsh history. However, for anyone who wants to explore what life like was for the workforce on an estate in the 18th and 19th centuries, this book gives a wonderfully full picture. In particular, the details included, especially from ledgers and accounts, offer a background and a context to 18th century life.

The author, Janet Joel, has personal connections with the house on both sides of her family and lived on one of the estate's tenant farms for a time. During her stay she would often 'unearth tantalising evidence from the past' (Introduction, p16) that would help bring that past to life for her. Janet has clearly combed through the archives in great detail to bring us all kinds of information. Plus she has interviewed many local people, encouraging them to recall their memories. It's their memories and the local detail that bring the people to life for us.

The story of *Nanteos* focuses on those who worked there between the 1770s and the 1950s and on their relationships with the Powell family - the lords of the manor.

The early chapters describe the Nanteos great house, including exactly where it is in Cardiganshire. There are also brief biographies of the members of the Powell family who ran the estate. To bring it all to life are portraits and photos, maps, charts and many plans, showing the layout inside the house and the stables, coach houses, the carpenter's shed and living quarters for outdoor staff.

It is the chapters describing the workforce, however, that are extremely interesting. There are excerpts from local papers advertising positions at Nanteos, such as 'WANTED, a good strong Girl as Kitchen maid; must be able to milk' from the *Evening Express*, 1892 (p.88).

Of course, the position of housekeeper was advertised in magazines, like *The Lady*. A very early photo of the servants at Nanteos, taken in 1891 (p.88) shows a group of smiling, confident, well dressed men and women.

Stories of badly behaved butlers are interesting but it is the stories of long-serving servants that are the most remarkable. Butlers, gardeners, housekeepers and maids, they often remained working for the Powell family for years. It is their loyalty, their commitment to the place and the family, and the pride they took in their work that remain with you after you've finished the book. Of course, many of them were professionals and skilled at what they did. Running a large, grand house, and the staff working in it, is no mean feat. Managing the horses, the grooms and the hunting dogs requires experience and skill. The author has gathered a large number of very old photos, showing the workers and the buildings. She gives us their names, tells us which village they came from, and frequently who their descendants are. Each person is given a paragraph or two. You really do begin to feel that you know this place and these people.

The land agent was essential to the running of a huge estate and there is a chapter devoted to what they did and how successful they were. For the most successful agents, we have photos and biographies.

The tenant farmers on Nanteos land and the village people who supplied services to the Powell family are especially interesting. The relationships are two-way. The village of Capel Seion is a perfect example. It had a blacksmith, a cart builder, a brickworks, and a post office - all services used by the estate. From 1872, it also had a school, founded and built by the Powell family.

Travelling gypsies provided extra labour on the estate and on the tenant farms. They were generally welcomed in the area and apparently were allowed to stay providing they helped with the harvest and entertained with their music in the evenings. They called Nanteos 'I Kaseki Filisin' - the Hay Mansion. They expected a

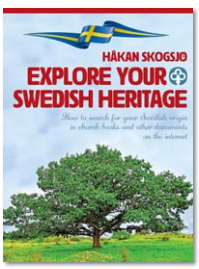
bundle of hay each year from the great house. And each year, out of respect for the travellers, the Powell family presented it.

Throughout the book, there are lists of payments made or goods ordered, that the author has found in the archived ledgers. In most cases, they include the names of the people involved and the prices paid. Appendix 1 provides lists of the workforce, their names, their dates of employment and sometimes their wages. There are all the butlers from 1786 to 1921 and all the housekeepers up to the 1940s. There are cooks, the gardeners and the stable and kennel staff. Appendix 2 gives really detailed information on the wages paid, from casual staff, to weekly, monthly and annual payments. There is an Appendix that lists all the marriages between workers and tenants in the local church. For anyone who might have ancestors who worked at Nanteos, this is a wonderful, name-rich resource.

After World War 1, Nanteos ceased to thrive. The heir was killed in World War 1 in 1918 and his father, the owner at the time, died in 1930. Eventually the estate and the house were sold and Nanteos changed hands a few times. Whatever their hopes were at the outset, the different owners had limited success. However, the current owners have dedicated themselves to restoring the house to its former glory and it is now a luxury hotel. Descendants of those workers from earlier centuries now visit Nanteos to discover the place where their families lived and worked.

The issues surrounding the lives of the landed gentry are outside the scope of this book. It is not that those issues are unimportant. They just do not form part of the story. This is about a community which supported Nanteos and was supported in return by the Powell family.

Janet Joel, at the end of book, says she hopes that the book has brought Nanteos to life and 'shone a light on the lives of some of the people who lived and worked there'. She has certainly achieved that goal. It forms a fascinating social history of the whole area.



Explore Your Swedish Heritage, by Håkan Skogsjö, translated by Kathy Meade, Christopher Olsson and Ann-Louise Paulsson. ArkivDigital AD AB, 2020. ISBN: 978-91-981-999-2-5. Hardback, 190pp, illustrations, photos, maps, bibliography, appendices and an index. £27.50.

Many people who do not live in Sweden are discovering that they have Swedish ancestors who emigrated during the late 19th century or the early 20th century. For most, finding those ancestors and exploring the lives they led before they left Sweden has felt quite challenging.

Explore Your Swedish Heritage aims to help you. It is the English translation of the book 'Släktforskning på riktigh', by the Swedish genealogist Håkan Skogsjö. It covers all aspects of Swedish research, including how to use the app *ArkivDigital*, the types of sources available in Sweden, and how to understand and use the records you find.

The early chapters of the book are aimed at those new to Swedish genealogy and/or new to *ArkivDigital*. The author suggests a process for researching your family, similar to the process a family historian might use in any other country. Once you have mastered the initial stages, have learnt how to use *ArkivDigital*, and gained a basic understanding of Swedish records, you can move to the later chapters that are aimed at more advanced researchers. These later chapters describe a number of sources, how to search through them and what they hold.

The author of both the Swedish and English versions is Håkan Skogsjö, one of Sweden's most experienced genealogists. He has been editor of The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies' magazine, *Släkthistoriskt forum*, and the Federation's yearbook for many years. He is a member of the board of ArkivDigital AV AB and brings all his experience and knowledge to this book.

ArkivDigital (app.arkivdigital.se) is Sweden's leading provider of online historical source material. Parts of this book describe how to use the app. It is subscription based and it holds a remarkable range of records and indexes. To help you navigate the screens and search for records, the book includes chapters with screen shots and field descriptions. You can choose the English version so that the main tabs, screens and indexes are in English. The app is structured to give three main search options. An archive search takes you straight to archived documents, for example the birth books. An index search enables you to quickly see what might be available, for example your ancestor's name in a census. A map search can take you from a location to a parish book.

To get started, Håkan recommends that you begin with a digital, searchable name index on *ArkivDigital* called BiS (Population of Sweden). It is an index to the names held in the Household and Congregation records, spanning from 1800 to 1947. It contains approximately 165.8 million entries. Following the guidance, you can enter ancestors' names, consider the matches that appear, and select links to records.

This book is not a user guide for an app. From the first chapter, it continually offers the type of help most family historians need, whether they are searching online or through paper-based materials. Typically, using your ancestors' names in a search requires you to be as

accurate as possible. The author immediately addresses the obvious challenges: the Swedish alphabet; surname spelling; evolution of names.

The first challenge, especially for non-Swedish speakers, is clearly explained. Basically, the Swedish alphabet has three extra letters: å, ä and ö. You must know the correct spelling of a name to effectively use the name index. There is some extra advice on this and a small case study to illustrate what you might do. The other two challenges may already be familiar to a family historian. Names frequently evolve when people migrate. Carl Johansson, in Sweden, may become Charles Johnson in the USA. The Swedish version is required for the index. Included in the book are useful sections on patronymic names, very common in earlier centuries, and the development of family names.

Now that you have found a potential ancestor, you can follow the links on *ArkivDigital* and explore the 'church books'. They were called household records up to 1895, then they became known as congregation records. At first glance, they seem part-census and part-parish record. Each book contains the people in a parish, village by village, recorded by the minister. But unlike a census, they are a continuous record. Each book spans a period of years, usually five or ten. At the end of a set span of years, the minister started a new book. You can imagine how much information is available. You can follow the simple steps set out in the book to track an ancestor from their birth to their migration or their death. Notably, if your ancestors migrated, you learn that the congregation record has a column called 'bortflyttad' (moving out). This column is only completed when a resident in the parish moves to another village, another part of Sweden, or another country. It usually shows the destination, the year, and a reference number to another source, the 'utflyttningslängden' (moving out record). The congregation books are an awesome set of records by any standard. We learn that researching family who lived in Stockholm is different and the book devotes a section to helping us understand the records we might use.

The next few chapters in the book introduce three sets of records that most family historians are familiar with. They are referred to as the birth, marriage and death books. Each set of records is described, including information on the wider family that you might expect to find. All three sets of records began in the 1600s, although some have been lost. Each record provides the name of the parish where the event occurred. This allows you to go back to the congregation records and maybe find out more about your ancestor's wider family.

For anyone with access to the Ancestry website, you can view digitised images of the congregation, baptism, marriage and burial records, although they are not indexed.

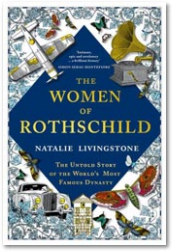
To help you navigate the app and maintain some clarity about what you are discovering, Håkan has included some very helpful process diagrams. They show how you can move from one set of records to another, including options and choices you can make, depending on what you want to find. For example, if you find your great-grandmother in the birth book, then you can look for her next in the household records. Once you are sure you have the correct names for your great-great-grandparents, you could move to the marriage book to find their marriage, or you could return to the birth book to look for their births.

The information in this book has cleverly blended the use of an online app and guidelines and advice on genealogy. Most pages are carefully designed to give instructions and suggestions, using text, illustrations and diagrams. You can move as quickly or as slowly as you wish. With excellent sub headings, it's easy to navigate the structure of the book, including going back to earlier pages to check your learning. There are also many interesting old photos throughout the book. You might not pay attention to them initially as you focus on getting to grips with Swedish terminology and the app. But in fact they form a running mini-tutorial on how to care for your old photos and how to present them in a family history.

ArkivDigital holds parish maps which link to the documents in the archive. Instead of starting with a name, you could use the map search. Navigate to the area where your ancestor lived, find the location and see other villages nearby. When you select a parish name, the volume list in the archive appears.

The app also holds a very large library of images. There are several million aerial photos of buildings in all parts of Sweden, rural and urban, taken between the 1960s and the 1990s. There is also a searchable name index of personal portraits. These photos come from three Stockholm studios and date from the 1920s to the 1970s. In later chapters, a range of other sources and records are introduced, with instructions on how to find them. These include court records and trials, land and tax records, and military records. Remarkably, *ArkivDigital* holds court records of spy cases from 1939 to 1946. The records are written in formal Swedish police language but it has to be worth trying to understand them. Finally, there are helpful chapters on other sources in Sweden, tips on reading old handwriting, a vocabulary list, a bibliography and an index.

This is a carefully written and well structured book that would be immensely helpful for anyone searching for Swedish ancestors. It is especially valuable in giving a context and a basic understanding of Swedish lives in earlier centuries.



The Women of Rothschild,
by Natalie Livingstone.
John Murray, 2021.
ISBN: 978-1-529-36671-6.
Hardback, 461pp, illustrated.
£25.00

Apparently, the Rothschild family is so much a part of European history that it has been described as the 'first European Economic Community' (Introduction, p1). There have been biographies, histories and articles. It's possible that this family is one of the most chronicled and well-known in Europe. But Natalie Livingstone, the author, discovered that half the family are virtually unknown. Very little has been written about the women in the Rothschild family.

It would be difficult and unwieldy to include all the Rothschild women in one book. So Natalie Livingstone tells the stories of one line of Rothschild women, within the English branch of the family. It covers a timespan from the 19th century to the early 21st. Locations include Frankfurt, London, Paris, the Lake District and Manhattan. They are stories of society, art, politics and business.

We start with Gutle who married into the Rothschild family in the 18th century. In the second generation, we meet two young women. Hannah married into the family and moved with her husband Nathan, Gutle's third son, to London. Henriette, Gutle's fifth daughter, moved to London on her own and then got married. And so we progress through Victorian London, watching as these women and their daughters, daughters-in-law and granddaughters carve out roles for themselves. They founded art galleries, developed political influence, and took on social reform. Yet they are not at all well known, their stories are untold. This book is about women 'who were in the room but who themselves went unseen'. (Introduction p.7).

The author, Natalie Livingstone, was a feature writer at the Daily Express. She now contributes to a wide range of magazines and papers. She has also published *The Mistresses of Cliveden*. Her interest in the females in the Rothschild family began when she found an essay written by Miriam Rothschild - one of the women featured in this book. It was written in 1994 for an exhibition at Frankfurt's Jewish Museum. Really interested, Natalie began researching more of the family. She discovered diaries, letters, private journals and short stories. The Rothschild women had their own archives, their own culture and their own community. They were prevented from taking part in the decision-making processes at the Rothschild Bank or having any share in its wealth. They made their own way and created their own opportunities.

The first Rothschild woman in this story is Gutle Schnapper who married Mayer Amschel Rothschild in Frankfurt in 1770. She brought with her a good dowry and Mayer used it to help with his expanding business. They had 19 children although only ten survived to adulthood. Apart from having and raising children, Gutle managed the household budget ruthlessly, oversaw all the business accounts and made sure that the business grew. In 1808, Frankfurt's Director of Police raided their home and office. The Rothschild men could truthfully say that they did not know very much about the accounts. Gutle was not surprised by the raid. All the important information that might be needed had been well hidden in a secret cellar. When questioned, Gutle claimed that, as a woman, she only dealt with the household and knew nothing. The raiders gave up.

Like other Jewish women in Frankfurt at that time, Gutle was both bound by tradition within her family and excluded from the wider Christian society. Her daughters' experiences were totally different to her sons'. As the sons moved out of Frankfurt to live and do business in Europe's capitals, the daughters married and often moved around Europe too.

This book tells us how Gutle's female descendants in England became influential. While supporting their husbands and never rebelling against the social norms, they built lives for themselves and their daughters. They conformed, they compromised, but they also lived fulfilling lives. Excluded from the male banking world, they created their own world. As the author describes it:

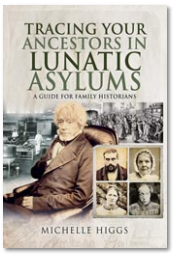
'Quietly, cautiously, across the generations, they managed to build new paths, expanding for their daughters and granddaughters the range of pursuits, attitudes and life choices available to a Rothschild woman.' (Introduction, p.5)

Some of the women we read about did outstanding things. There was one whose invitations to dinner were more prized than Queen Victoria's. Another was friends with a prime minister and advocated for social reform. Another worked at Bletchley Park in WW2, played an important role in the early environmental movement, and became the first female trustee of the National History Museum. But many of the woman quietly worked in the background, using their wealth and positions to pursue their own interests.

As family historians, we can probably all agree that tracing the women on our family tree is more difficult than tracing the men. We may know more about what our male ancestors did than our female. This book could act as an inspiration to anyone who would like to tell more stories about their own female ancestors. Of course, unless you have wealthy, influential ancestors who owned banks, the women may not be doing quite what the Rothschild women were doing.

This is a fascinating book on many levels. Because so much of the source material is from letters and diaries, we get a glimpse of societies, in different parts of Europe, at different times throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. We hear their personal, back seat views on politicians, artists, royalty, diplomats and business leaders. We read about women who made massive contributions to their husbands' businesses but were never acknowledged. They are silent women, yet when we see what they did and how they influenced the people around them, their voices grow loud. And, hopefully, it will encourage us to pause and reconsider the lives our own female ancestors lived.

Sherryl Abrahart



Tracing Your Ancestors In Lunatic Asylums A Guide for Family Historians,
by Michelle Higgs. Pen & Sword Family History, 2019.
ISBN: 978-1-52674-485-2.
Paperback, 208pp, appendices, bibliography and index. £11.76.

Don't be deterred by any possible preconceptions about the title of this book. Michelle Higgs' exploration of lunatic asylums is sympathetic, moving and fascinating. Michelle explains in the Introduction (p.ix):

> 'The mind is a fragile thing. It can be broken by the grief of losing a loved one, the breakdown of a marriage or relationship, or the stress and worry of making ends meet in tough economic times. It can be damaged by witnessing, or being involved in, a traumatic accident or act of war, the inability to find employment or to provide for one's family, or an addiction to alcohol or drugs. These often universal human experiences were as common for our ancestors as they are in modern times, but the treatment of their mental illnesses was very different.'

Michelle Higgs is a freelance writer and author based in the West Midlands. Her books relate specifically to local history, genealogy and social history, offering little details about how people lived and worked which really help to bring the past to life. She has already published books on workhouses, prisons and Victorian hospitals.

The book is split into ten chapters which quickly allows you to zone in on topics which may be of most interest to you. However, I would recommend that you don't miss any as there are little gems of information dotted everywhere!

In the first three chapters, Michelle considers how care for the mentally ill differed over time. Before the 1800s there was more care within the home environment, compared to the 19th and 20th centuries when care within the community developed. This ultimately led to state run asylums and treatment within the NHS, after its founding in 1948.

Next follows an informative and illuminating chapter on 'mental illnesses'. I had heard of syphilis but not appreciated that it was also known as 'general paralysis of the insane (GPI)'. Michelle describes it as a crippling disorder which started with mumbling and stammering, then a tottering gait, ending in no power of movement together with a monomania disorder of the mind (p.65). It was not treatable or curable until the advent of penicillin in the 1940s. Before then sufferers scarcely lived longer than two or three years.

Throughout the book, Michelle has included various case studies, which she has made all the more real and personal by including a note of thanks to living descendants of the case study subject. This is an inspiring addition, which further removes any possible associated stigma around mental health conditions and can make us proud of our past lunatic ancestors. Through these case studies, often with accompanying pictures of the relevant institutions, Michelle really helps the reader to paint a picture of what life was like inside the asylums and, in some cases, the workhouses.

The case studies also show how challenging and difficult some of the patients were and so if your ancestor worked in an asylum this book is also a rich source describing what their daily job may have entailed. The reader learns of 'goings on' that you may not expect in an asylum like regular dances and balls - dancing was considered a good form of exercise! One case study, about Sarah Delves, shows how religion and family members may have impacted the quality and level of care afforded. Sarah's mother was a prominent figure in the Quakers and the Coalbrookdale Quakers paid for Sarah's treatment at the 'York Retreat'. Contrast this with later examples of care for idiots, imbeciles and epileptics who were often kept in workhouses as it was cheaper, about one third the cost of housing these patients in a county asylum. And yes, initially epileptics were treated in the same manner as mentally ill patients.

It is an interesting journey to see how initially care was often for long periods of time, sometimes for life. However, by the mid-1800s, Michelle shows how lunacy commissioners stressed that the objective of county asylums 'is or ought to be, the cure of insanity' (p.28) and that they were not designed to simply incarcerate patients.

Michelle dedicates a whole chapter to criminal lunatics. We learn that it wasn't until early 1800s, when James Hadfield an ex-soldier, attempted to shoot King George III that the first state Criminal Lunatic Asylum was established.

In a subsequent chapter on idiots and imbeciles, we learn that there was no distinction made between congenital idiots who were born with impaired intellectual faculties that had never developed and those that had experienced some kind of defect or trauma after birth or later in life that had made them feebleminded. They were all were housed together and it wasn't until the 19th century that a more complex classification of patients and their associated treatments developed. These later treatment methods included housing patients in 'quiet convalescent sections', separate 'recreation rooms', and dedicated rooms for 'watched cases'. (p75)

The chapter dedicated to mental illness in the armed forces has a special section discussing shell shock. This chapter will be of particular interest to those with British Army or Royal Navy ancestors, whose service may have later led to a breakdown in their mental health.

Much of the book also includes references and comparisons as to how treatment differed in Scotland and Ireland from the care offered in England and Wales. The final chapter on sources gives excellent, illustrative examples of the kinds of genealogical gems awaiting you when you track one of your ancestors in an asylum. It shows what you might find in the asylum records, admission registers, case books, case files and discharge registers.

The book concludes with helpful and educational appendices incorporating useful relevant terminology for lunatic asylum records. It also lists websites which may be consulted and places to visit.

Whether you want to find an ancestor from your family in an asylum, have a general interest in mental health, or you are a genealogist or a student, this book is a very enjoyable read, filled to the brim with facts, personal dramas and reference resources.

Sonja Sarantis

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church & State Records**,** by Chris Paton. Pen & Sword Family History, 2019. ISBN: 978 1 52676 842 1. Paperback, 162pp, illustrated, glossary, bibliography, index. £14.99.

Clear, concise and full of suggestions and help, this is an ideal book for anyone beginning to explore the Scots in their family tree. For those who have done the basics and are looking for less well-known records, this book also offers a wide range of ideas and links to sources.

Chris Paton is the author of a number of family history books, many of them relating to Scottish ancestry, and he understands what researchers need to know. For example, Scottish records often use the same terms as those used in other parts of the British Isles, but their meanings can be very different. These, and many other terms specific to Scotland, are clearly defined here, with case studies.

The book includes where to find record sources online and physically in Scotland's archives and institutions.

Geoff Nixon Man of the Land, by Robert Nixon. Published by R. Nixon, 2019. Paperback, 607pp, with maps, pedigrees, extensive appendices giving details of family tree branches, a bibliography, and an index.

This is a wonderful family history book, setting a high set of standards for what to include in a story about one's family.

At the centre of the book is, obviously, Geoff Nixon. The story begins with the Nixon family living in Birmingham in the 19th century, where Geoff's paternal great-grandfather was a gunmaker. The family left England for Australia in 1854 and settled in Adelaide, South Australia.

The book contains stories and contributions from many members of the family. The main surname featured is Nixon. Geoff's parents both had the surname Nixon before they were married, although they do not seem to be related in any known way.

Whether you are chasing ancestors with the Nixon surname or not, the collection of photos, beautifully presented, are just marvellous. Geoff's father worked as a photographer in the late 1800s so there are more photos, well preserved, than most of us are lucky enough to have.

For anyone with ancestors who lived in early South Australia or Victoria, many of the photos show the landscapes, the towns, the clothes and the conventions of colonial Australian life.

Their Story, by Peter Frank Salmon. Self-published, 2020. Hardback, 180pp, photos, pedigrees and tables.

Peter Salmon has compiled a very readable account of his parents, their ancestral lines, and the times they lived in. The book is divided into Parts that cover the lives of his parents. His mother, with the surname Munford, grew up in Kent although her family came from Somerset. His father grew up in the West Ham area and records of earlier generations show them being baptised in a French Huguenot church in Spitalfields.

Peter has included some very useful sections giving background on the life and times of his ancestors. This includes descriptions of the Royal Navy in the late

1800s, Germany's African colonies during WW1, a farmworker's day in Somerset and a textile factory. Photos and scans of documents are included, often at full page, so they are easy to view. There are well-presented tables listing the ancestry of the main families.

Surnames include Salmon, Munford, Groves, Selous, Duvall and Greaves.

Banbury's People in the Eighteenth Century from Records and Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor 1708-1797 supported by other Lists and Sources, by Jeremy Gibson. Banbury Historical Society, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-900129-35-3. Hardback 380pp, separate indexes of names, places and subjects, and a bibliography.

This is Volume 36 in a set of transcriptions of records for Banbury. It includes a lot of detail about the efforts made in Banbury to help the very poor. There are lists of the names of people who received help, what the help was for, and the amount given. This is far more information than we might expect to be available.

It also contains details of the overseers of the poor, individual members of the vestry, taxpayers, including the Land Tax, wealthy owners of church pews, and shopkeepers.

One story line to follow through the book is extremely interesting information on the finance and plans for building the Coventry to Oxford Canal, as far as Banbury. There are entries from diaries of the time as well as a list of subscribers.

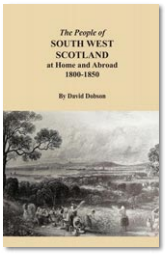
Introducing Manorial Records, by Ian H. Waller. Family History Partnership, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-906280-59-8. Paperback 120pp, glossary of terms, including more common Latin terms, bibliography and useful websites, and an index.

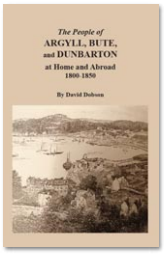
Here is a book that can help you to start exploring the world of the English manor. These records can offer a range of information on your ancestors, as well as an insight into their day to day lives.

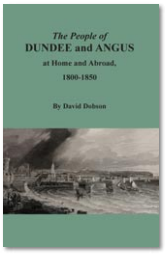
But to use those records productively, you need to have to hand some explanations and definitions about manorial life and the records generated. Ian Waller's book sets out to tell you what you need to know, when you need to know it, and where you can find the records.

You are more likely to find manorial records in archives or other physical collections than online. So this book aims to help you track down where the records relevant to your family are held. It also helps with common words and phrases found in the records, both English and Latin.

The People of ... at Home and Abroad 1800-1850, by David Dobson. Genealogical Publishing Co, 2022. Paperback.







Newly published in this collection are:

The People of South West Scotland at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5946-5. 172pp.

The People of Perth and Kinross at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5935-9. 139pp.

The People of North East Scotland at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5945-8. 155pp.

The People of Inverness at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5941-0. 163pp.

The People of Dundee and Angus at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5939-7. 166pp.

The People of Argyll, Bute, and Dunbarton at Home and Abroad 1800-1850 ISBN: 978-0-8063-5942-7. 155pp.

The People of Aberdeen at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5943-4. 165pp.

The People of the Northern Highlands and Isles at Home and Abroad 1800-1850. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5932-8. 173pp.

These amazing books are for anyone searching for ancestors from Scotland. The latest set of listings compiled by David Dobson covers eight areas of Scotland. Each book lists all references found to the residents in the specific area. Each individual entry may show occupation, date of death, parents or children's names, public offices held, wills left.

If a resident emigrated, the entry may include ship's name, migration date and destination. This may offer a chance to link family members between Scotland and another country.

All the entries have been sourced from court records, newspapers and journals, monumental inscriptions, and other documents in archives.

Sherryl Abrahart

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Annette Sparrowhawk
Email: annette.sparrowhawk@yahoo.com

Re: 'No Whinging Poms Here!',
***Genealogists' Magazine,* March 2023**

In the article about the poem 'Darby Day', Michael Gandy suggests that the word 'priggin' is the author's pronunciation of prison. However, according to author, Stephen Hart (www.pascalbonenfant.com), to 'prig' is to steal; to go out a-prigging, is to go a-thieving.

For further reading, see: *Cant - A Gentleman's Guide: The Language of Rogues in Georgian London*, by Stephen Hart. Improbable Fictions, 2014. ISBN 978-0-99249-220-5.

ROSALIND (ROZ) McCUTCHEON FSG

1947 – 2023

The Society is sad to learn of the death of Roz McCutcheon, who was named a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists at our AGM in July 2022. She died quite suddenly on Tuesday, 21st March, a day short of her 76th birthday. Roz was a well-respected genealogist, contributing greatly to Irish genealogy, particularly as part of the Irish Genealogical Research Society and creating their free Early Irish Marriages Index. Having joined the IGRS in May 1988, she soon became a stalwart, serving on its Council, eventually taking on the role of a vice-president, regularly giving informal genealogy talks and formal lectures, both in person and in later years online.

Roz's greatest interest in Irish genealogy was the records of the Registry of Deeds, founded in 1708. She was such an expert... she could skim read the Registry's arcane memorials and without hesitation authoritatively state the facts of the transaction. This stood her in great stead when she began contributing to the Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland, and she was by and far the most prolific contributor to the project. Her friend and close colleague Jill Williams recalls that amongst so many other things Roz was a key person in the running of the Irish Genealogical Research Society London library for many years. She was a powerhouse of Irish genealogy but shared her knowledge generously and never treated any question as a foolish one. She was a stalwart of the team who volunteered at the Society of Genealogists on Saturdays providing help and advice on all aspects of Irish genealogy. She was always a regular on the SoG genealogy experts teams at various family history events and shows and taught many courses for the Society of Genealogists both in person and latterly online.

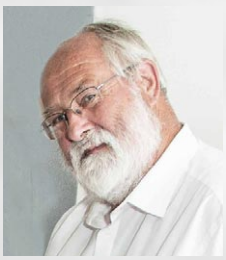
Roz was born in Bandon, Co. Cork, in March 1947. At the time, her father was the headmaster of Bandon Grammar School. After graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, she moved to England and lived there for the rest of her life. Her interest in genealogy began in 1962 at the age of 15. What started out as a teenage pastime soon blossomed into a lifelong obsession. She was undoubtedly one of the foremost genealogists of her generation, but beyond that she was, by her own description, an actress and a trained singer. She came into a career in acting and singing quite by chance, and immediately realised she not only loved it, but excelled at it. She appeared on stage, in films, and in commercial advertisements. She sang at weddings and although Church of Ireland herself, she was a cantor at the synagogue. Some years ago when she travelling she used order microfilm in ahead to the local LDS center. Then whilst her fellow thespians were still in bed she would be up and working away on genealogy by day before returning for a show in the evening.

Those who knew her would tell you she was a larger than life character and an exceptional raconteur who was often to be found surrounded a crowd crying with laughter.

Else Churchill
with contribution from Jill Williams and the Irish Genealogical Research Society

DUNCAN WILSON HARRINGTON FSA, FSG, LHG

1945 – 2023



Duncan Harrington studied at Nottingham University and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Licentiate of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (Dip. Gen.) and was elected Fellow of the Society of Genealogists 2007. He worked in Kent as a freelance research historian and archaeologist since 1969 and went on to become one of the most respected of Kentish genealogists and antiquaries, his palaeographical skills almost certainly being second to none.

His research projects and many publications over several decades bore eloquent testimony to his wide-ranging interests and skills in diverse fields. The Society of Genealogists' library catalogue alone lists some fifty items he either edited or transcribed ranging from probate documents, hearth tax records, feet of fines and musters, along with medieval borough records.

He served as secretary to the Council for Kentish Archaeology, and became one of their honorary members and an honorary member of the Kent Archaeological Society. He was Chairman of the Association of Genealogists and Record Agents.

Duncan was a member of Kent Family History Society for 49 years being one of the founding members and serving as Programme Secretary on the Society's inaugural Committee. He became President of the Society in 2004 assisting in their record series. He contributed to the Kent Archaeological Society Kent Records, New Series publications; to the New Dictionary of National Biography and to the revision of the Oxford English Dictionary.

He also taught extensively in adult education and part-time for the School of History at the University of Kent. Latterly he worked at the National Archives as an editor with the British Record Society.

He leaves his widow Rhona and his children James and Rachel.

Else Churchill
with contribution from the IHGS and Kent FHS

DECEASED MEMBERS

Austin Barradell	1986 - 2023	Melvyn Jeremiah	1988 - 2023
Christopher Borland	2020 - 2023	Marian Limb	1994 - 2023
Malcolm Bye	1997 - 2023	Barbara Little	1982 - 2023
Merilyn Catty	1974 - 2023	Cornelius Maxey	1966 - 2023
Pamela Cook	1984 - 2023	Margaret Maynard	2007 - 2023
Peter Coshan	2013 - 2023	Rosalind McCutcheon FSG	2011 - 2023
Patricia Davies	1992 - 2023	Richard Moore	1990 - 2023
Josephine De Goris	1995 - 2023	Michael Noble	1993 - 2023
Ian Dodds	1993 - 2023	Apsley Pellatt	1996 - 2023
Marion Fielding	1986 - 2023	Neville Skinner	1996 - 2023
Margaret Goodgame	2000 - 2023	Joan Storkey	1981 - 2023
Verne Hardingham	2014 - 2023	David Wason	1981 - 2023
Duncan Harrington FSG	1969 - 2023	David Witt	2001 - 2023

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE
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	Full page	1/2 page	1/4 page	1/8 page
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All copy, correspondence & remittances to:
Graham Collett, email to publishing@sog.org.uk

*prices per quarter

GENEALOGY ADVICE LINE

Got a genealogy problem? Every Thursday evening from 6-9 pm we open up our advice line, giving you direct access to expert genealogists and SoG library staff. So whether you're baffled by an ancestor's actions, struggling to track down an elusive great-grandfather or simply unsure where to investigate next, give us a call. We're here to help and we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please call: (020) 7251 8799 and press option 5

WE'RE OPEN TO ALL

We're delighted to be able to welcome visitors to our temporary premises on Holloway Road on Wednesdays (10.30am - 4.00pm). You can book a computer or space to view Library materials from our collections (please pre-order at least one week in advance to allow for retrieval).

For ordering, please email Christine: christine.worthington@sog.org.uk.

Members who are able to visit can book online via: https://www.sog.org.uk/visit-us.

Non-members can book by email: hello@sog.org.uk or phone (020) 7251 8799. A daily search fee applies: £10 half-day / £20 full-day and please bring a form of ID.

For queries, email Catherine: eventsoffice@sog.org.uk.

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SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

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SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS'
NEWS...
JUN 2023
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FROM THE LIBRARY

Planning continues towards the new library, including gauging interest on resuming volunteering onsite at the new library, thinking about workflows in our new space, revising counter service volunteer resources and considering opening hours.

We continue to receive kind donations of family and local histories for our library collections.If you've been holding on to any library items in anticipation of the establishment of the new library, then please note we can now process these. You can post to *The Librarian, Society of Genealogists, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA*.

Two further collection guides, *Sources for Jewish Genealogy* and *Sources for Huguenot Genealogy* are in the works and will soon be added to our library page.

These new guides are updated and reformatted versions taken from the old library. If you have a guide you'd like to see re-visited or any suggestions for collection guides, please let me know by emailing librarian@sog.org.uk

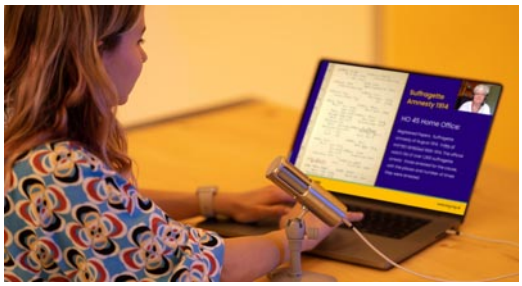
Our Friday collections volunteers at Holloway Road continue to make good progress in library and archives processing. Scanning of old admin files and extraction of duplicate microfilms continue to reduce the number of boxes in storage.

Our cataloguers have been working on adding barcode numbers to the records of many boxes of unbound library tracts (small and thin publications that would be vulnerable on ordinary library shelves), making these items retrievable. Most of the topical subject tracts have now been done, and work on the English county tracts has begun. Our library inventory volunteers continue to work on assigning barcodes from our library packing sheets to collection items in the catalogue, and three tranches of barcodes have been uploaded to the library catalogue this year. In the library inventory work we've noticed that a significant number of items previously noted in the catalogue as missing have been identified in the packing process and assigned barcodes, which is good news. Where it appears items are still missing inventory volunteers are working on having these documented uniformly with the status 'missing' so that we can get a better picture of how many items are in this category.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH THE EVENTS TEAM

Hosted via the Zoom conferencing app, our Events Team runs a busy and interesting calendar of online events for our members all over the world.

As a volunteer for the Events Team you would have the opportunity to co-host online events, admit attendees, and generally support speakers and attendees to ensure events run smoothly. Some experience with using Zoom and attending our online events would be an advantage. While you are learning the ropes you'll be paired with experienced hosts. You'll also get to see a whole range of interesting and educational talks.



Some further information and thoughts from those contributing to the work of the Events Team can be found in this article https://www.sog.org.uk/news/our-volunteers-events-team

If you are interested, visit our volunteer page https://www.sog.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering and complete our Home Volunteering Expression of Interest form (the link is in the brown section two-thirds of the way down the page). Select 'Events Team' in the home volunteering activity list.

VISITING OUR TEMPORARY OFFICE

With our move to the new building later in the year, there will be a period of closure to enable us to pack, unpack and set up the library. Keep an eye on our newsletter and the library page of our website to find out when this is likely to be. In the meantime, if you've been thinking about visiting to use our digital resources and view collection items, it may be wise to avoid the closure and pre-closure rush and arrange this soon.

If you only need to access digital resources then you can complete your booking online via the events page. Please remember that if you wish to order collection items to view when you visit this is a *separate form*. A link to the collections order form can be found on the booking page and on our library page https://www.sog.org.uk/visit-us

Christine Worthington
Library Coordinator

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE
Jan - Mar 2023

FAMILY HISTORIES & BIOGRAPHIES

Boyle My family history: a history of the Boyle family / Terence Boyle [2023?]

Butler Butler of Olton: the birth of a parish / Neil S. Dodds [2005]

Corfield The Corfield papers in West Sussex Record Office: an illustrated catalogue and family history / edited and compiled by Kim Leslie (2020)

Fleming Thomas Brown Fleming 1829-1902: illiterate Manx butcher to gentleman of means / Miles Green (2023)

Francis, Adams Some reminiscences of Thomas Francis and Mary Adams and their family of Halstead, Essex / compiled by the Rev. W.Q. Warren (1894)

Lawrence Lawrence of Arabia: the simple facts / compiled by Harry Broughton [date of publication unknown]

Metham The Metham family cartulary: reconstructed from antiquarian transcripts / edited by David Crouch (2022)

Morant Breaker Morant and the Bushveldt Carbineers / edited, with commentary by Arthur Davey (1987)

Nixon Geoff Nixon, man of the land: a history of Gunniguldrie and the Nixon family / Robert Nixon (2019)

Piercy, Wannop For the love of China: the story of women missionaries in 19th century China / Jane Ashby (2021)

Pinot de Moira History of the Pinot de Moira family, 1598-2022 / Geoffrey Audcent (2022)

Rothschild The women of Rothschild: the untold story of the world's most famous dynasty / Natalie Livingstone (2021)

Taylor The family pen: memorials, biographical and literary, of the Taylor family, of Ongar / edited by the Rev. Isaac Taylor, M.A. (1867)

Whistler Rex Whistler: a talent cut short [2013]

Maiden voyages: women and the golden age of transatlantic travel / Sian Evans (2020)

GENERAL HISTORY & GUIDES

The book of family crests: comprising nearly every family bearing, properly blazoned and explained accompanied by upwards of four thousand engravings (Fifth edition) (1847)

Teach yourself palaeography: a guide for genealogists and local historians / Claire Jarvis (2022)

Tracing your family history through the census: a guide for family historians / Emma Jolly (2020)

ENGLAND

English villages and hamlets / by Humphrey Pakington (Fouth edition, revised) (1945)

CORNWALL

Old Cornwall: life in the county about a century ago / S. Daniell [196?]

DEVON

Devon parish taxpayers, 1500-1650. Volume 3, Churchstow to Dunkeswell / edited by Todd Gray (2023)

Picturesque south Devonshire / by W.H.K. Wright [1905?]

Erme, River River Erme: a journey through time / Alec Rogers (1999)

ESSEX

Leigh-on-Sea Joscelyne's beach: a memoir of Leigh-on-Sea / Arthur Joscelyne (2004)

Southend-on-Sea Roll of men from Southend-on-Sea and district who fell for their country in the Great War, 1914-1919 [1925]

HERTFORDSHIRE

Berkhamsted The churchwardens' accounts of Berkhamsted St Peter c.1584-1660 / edited with an introduction by Nick Brown assisted by Christine Whittingham (2022)

KENT

Chislehurst Chislehurst caves: a short history / by Dr Eric Inman (1996)

Romney (Old) The Church of Saint Clement Old Romney / Anne Roper (6th edition) (1990)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Forest of Dean The Wye Valley and Royal Forest of Dean: the green heart of Britain, official guide [1936]

LANCASHIRE

Portrait of Lancashire / Jessica Lofthouse (1977)

Bolton le Moors Worktown people: photographs from northern England 1937-8 / by Humphrey Spender; edited by Jeremy Mulford (1982)

Lancaster Lancaster's maritime heritage: a souvenir guide of Lancaster Maritime Museum / by April Wincop & Andrew White (c1986)

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicester The town halls of Leicester / Jonathan Wilshere [1976?]

MIDDLESEX

The face of the home counties: portrayed in a series of eighteen week-end drives from London / by Harold P. Clunn (New and revised edition) [1936?]

Islington The parish of St Mary Islington: a portrait in old picture postcards / by Jim O'Connell and Dick Whetstone (1990)

London Life in Victorian London / L.C.B. Seaman (1973)

London London: the story of the city / by Ernest Rhys (1909)

London London 1900: the imperial metropolis / Jonathan Schneer (1990)
London London echoing / James Bone; with pictures by Muirhead Bone (1948)
London The romance of London / Alan Ivimey [1931?]
London London Topographical Record, Volume 32 / edited by Sheila O'Connell (2021)

OXFORDSHIRE

Exploring Oxfordshire surnames: people, places and lives / Richard Merry, Sue Honoré, Simon Draper, Charles Eldridge, Christopher Farrand, Tony Hadland, Simon Townley, Jessica Feinstein (2022)
Oxford From country house Catholicism to city church: the registers of the Oxford Catholic Mission, 1700-1875 / edited by Tony Hadland (2023)

SOMERSET

Somerset's loyalties on the eve of civil war: bishop's, Ireland and parliamentary petitions, 1641-1642 / Adrian James Webb and Sue Berry (2023)

SURREY

Camberwell Camberwell: the official guide [1963]
Egham A guide to Staines and Egham: containing a map of the district, 15 illustrations, and descriptive letterpress [?1910]

SUSSEX

Russell's guide to the South Downs [195?]
Shere, Gomshall & Peaslake: a short history (1981)
Chichester Calendar of wills in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester 1482-1800 / edited by Edward Alexander Fry (1915)
Winchelsea The story of Winchelsea Church: with complete key to the window and description of the Cinque Ports Memorial Altar and Windows installed in the year 1933 / by Gertrude Leigh; enlarged and revised by the Rev. R. A. Cochrane [1963?]

WARWICKSHIRE

Birmingham The industrious child worker: child labour and childhood in Birmingham and the West Midlands, 1750-1900 / Mary Nejedly (2021)

WILTSHIRE

Salisbury Salisbury Domesday books, 1317-1413 / edited by John Chandler and Douglas Crowley (2022)

WALES

Flintshire A history of Ysceifiog / by Hazel Formby (c2002)
Monmouthshire St Bridget's Church, Skenfrith / Rev A.W. McAdam; foreword by Emeritus Professor E.G. Bowen [200-]

INTERNATIONAL

South Africa Travels into the interior of Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. Volume 1 / Francois le Vaillant; translated and edited by Ian Glenn, with the assistance of Catherine Luaga du Plessis and Ian Farlam (2007)
South Africa The Van Riebeeck Society, 1918-1978: a lecture delivered at the 3rd Conference of Bibliophiles, Johannesburg, 1978 / by Frank R. Bradlow (1978)
Sweden Explore your Swedish heritage / Hakan Skogsjo (2020)
United States The Hessians: journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association (Volume 10, 2007 - Volume 22, 2019)

PROFESSIONS

Architecture The churches of S.S. Teulon / by Matthew Saunders (1982)
Authors Isaac Williams Wauchope: selected writings, 1874-1916 / edited and translated by Jeff \Opland and Abner Nyamende, with an introduction and notes by Jeff Opland (2008)
Brewing Cidermaking / Michael B. Quinion (1982)
Engineering Thornycroft: shipbuilding and motor works in Chiswick / Humphrey Arthure (1983)
Medical Profession The letters of Jane Elizabeth Waterson, 1866-1905 / edited by Lucy Bean and Elizabeth van Heyningen, with an introduction by Elizabeth van Heyningen (1983)
Mining Welsh coal mines / written by W. Gerwyn Thomas (1979)
Missionaries Words of Batswana: letters to Mahoko a Becwana, 1883-1896 / translated and edited by Part T. Mgadla and Stephen C. Volz (2006)

EDUCATION

Equality for some: the story of girls education / Barry Turner (1974)
Cambridge Admissions to Peterhouse in the University of Cambridge, October 1911 - December 1930: a register containing abstracts from the College Historical Registers, supplemented by information from other sources / compiled by E. Ansell (1939)
University College University College Annual Report, 1976-1977 [1977]
University College University College London: calendar 1991-92 (1991)

GO DIGITAL WITH GEN MAG

Members who wish to switch to a digital copy of *Genealogists' Magazine* can do so by notifying the membership team on: membership@sog.org.uk. This not only offers the convenience of reading it on your preferred device, but also saves the Society vital funds. Members who prefer a printed copy can find subscription rates for 2023 on the back page. The usual 10% Members' discount applies.

EVENTS NEWS

We're excited to launch our new events booking platform, which integrates with our membership system, making it easier for you to search across our extensive offering of courses, talks and walks. A video in the members area illustrates the highlights of the new system and some hints and tips for using it.

We mark LGBTQ+ Pride month in June with a talk from Stefan Dickers on the collections of Bishopsgate Institute and later in the month Stewart Blandón Traiman joins us from California for a factual and emotional exploration of LGBTQ+ people in the past.

Also in June we begin a five week Palaeography course taught by Caroline Adams, which promises to be fun and educational.

Free events for members continue with a Midsummer Members' Social on 23rd June and two new member welcome sessions in July, as well as a diverse programme of lunchtime chats.

We're also excited to announce some themed learning days coming up. On 24th June you can learn all about the retail experience of your ancestors, both as shoppers and shopworkers, and on 8th July we focus on railways and consider how likely it really was that Grandad drove the Flying Scotsman! On Saturday 19th August we will be learning about the Postcards, Piers and Promenades that featured in our ancestors holidays.

For those who have taken their research further back in time Else Churchill is offering a 5 day summer school, 'Sourcing Your Ancestors in the Long 18th Century' from the 3rd to 7th July, and a 2 day weekend school 'Researching 17th Century Ancestors' on 16th and 17th September. Antony attended in 2022 and told us:

> *'Really all very interesting and provided a lot of useful resources and reference material that definitely inspire me to tackle the challenges of researching my ancestors in this period. Before the course the lack of detail in the existing Parish records always made it seem like there was not much chance of success in researching this period, but the course has changed all that for me now and I am now looking forward to making further progress. Thank you!'*

In April we began a brand new style of online session with our Wednesday Workshops. These are in the evenings so you can join in after putting the kids to bed, or after breakfast depending on where you are in the world. These sessions are highly interactive, and not recorded so you can feel comfortable joining in relaxed discussions. We have covered creating timelines and using graphic design software, Canva. On 12th July Mia Bennett leads a 'Brickwall' workshop, and then on 16th August Fiona Mitchell will show you how even the least confident artist can create a calligraphic family tree. Other planned Wednesday Workshops include oral history, heirlooms, family photographs and the maternal line.

Looking ahead to the Autumn we are excited to have a range of courses on offer, including a 3 week 'Introduction to DNA' course, a 6-week 'Photo-genealogy' course, and our 12 week Stage 3 Family History Skills course. We are also collaborating with the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy on a day of talks, so watch this space for further news!

If you have not yet joined us for a Zoom talk, and the technology aspect is causing you to hesitate, please note that we are happy to help you and even provide one-to-one training sessions on using Zoom, just email us at events@sog.org.uk to make arrangements.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

My Cousin Sophia
with Karen de Bruyne, Thu 1 June, 2pm

Policing in London
with Vicki Pipe and Clare Smith, Sat 10 June, 10:30am

Using Reunion: The Fundamentals
with Graham Walter, Sat 10 June, 2pm

Walk: Crouch End with Paul Baker, Thu 15 June, 2pm

Choosing a PC Family History Package
with John Hanson, Thu 29 June, 2pm

Wharf Road, the history of the SoG's new home!
With Emma Jolly, Sat 1 July, 10:30am

I Know Who You Are
with Barbara Rae-Venter, Sat 1 July, 3pm

Visit: Lincoln's Inn, Thu 6 July, 11am

Walk: Up and Down the City Road with Rob Smith Thu 13 July, 2pm

A Freemason In The Family
with Susan Snell, Thu 20 July 2023, 2pm

A Morning With The Victorians
with Kathryn Ferry, Fiona Kay and Paul Couchman, Sat 22 July, 10:30am

Mariners and Monarchs Historic Greenwich
with Diane Burstein, Thu 3 August, 2pm

The World of Your Edwardian Ancestors
with Cynthia Brown, Sat 5 August, 2pm

Tour of Brompton Cemetery, Thu17 August, 2pm

Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches
with John Vigar, Sat 2 September, 10:30am

Getting the Most from the Findmypast Website
with Paul Nixon, Thu 7 September, 2pm

English Genealogy from Afar
with Else Churchill, Thu 7 September, 7:30pm

See www.sog.org.uk/events for the full events list.

Society of Genealogists

Online learning from Pharos and the SoG

Discover more about your ancestors by following a structured programme of online assessed courses. The two Family History Skills & Strategies certificate programmes (Intermediate and Advanced) were developed and are taught by Pharos Tutors and the Society of Genealogists in partnership. Build upon your knowledge of census and civil registration records with a journey through a variety of genealogical sources and improve your research techniques in the hands of the professionals and experts.

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