

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists



Volume 34 Number 11 Sep 2024

118 SPEAKERS | 140 TALKS | 10 DAYS

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#AATP24

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Themes

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- Health and Medicine
- Military and War
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Society of Genealogists

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

My first month as CEO has certainly been busy with, in quick succession, a Board Meeting, AGM and the first meeting of Fellows since 2019 - but it has also been a period of reflection.

I first joined the Society in the 1990s with my mother when we started our genealogical journey. We used the Library at Charterhouse, the LDS microfiches, the National Archives and the records office in Northallerton, amongst other resources.

When I compare these memories with the Society's new home at Wharf Road, I am struck by two things. First, how genealogical research has developed over such a relatively short period. I am thrilled to now find myself in the position of having digital collections alongside a physical archive, not to mention the expertise of specialist genealogy staff and volunteers, to be able to call on. An enviable resource for anyone passionate about genealogy.

Second I am also struck by what a wonderful space Wharf Road is for members. It was lovely to see it full of members at the AGM, and our plan is for it to become a hub not just for research but as a space where genealogists can come together to discuss, explore and learn.

I am delighted to add that it is also up for an award from the Architect's Journal, having been shortlisted for the best low cost fit-out. Congratulations to Guarniere Architects for all their hard work on this.

Of course we understand that not everyone can visit Wharf Road in person and one of the Society's current successes is its online events programme. Coming up we have the Stage 3 Family History Skills Course, which takes place on Saturday mornings over 12 weeks, along with courses including an introduction to Latin for genealogists, Wills and probate records and how to write up your family history. Between 27th September and 6th October, we will also be celebrating family and local history, as All About That Place returns online for its second year.

We are proud to be collaborating with the Family History Federation on a wonderful project featuring young genealogy speakers from around the world. Next Generation will run on Saturday, 5th October, online from 09:30.

In terms of the collection, we are delighted our digitisation room is finally set up, including a brand new digital film/fiche reader, and have nearly finished our work making microfiche resources available to visitors. We are also making good inroads on processing and cataloguing backlogs and we have received the Eyre Roll back from the conservators; newly restored, it is looking magnificent in its custom made box.

So much of this work would not be possible without our astonishing team of volunteers, from those who come to Wharf Road on Tuesdays (making the building a buzz of activity) to those working remotely from as far afield as New Zealand. We offer our continued thanks to them all.

Finally, as I said at the AGM, a word of thanks has to go to those who have so kindly made a financial contribution towards the work of the society. Such support has a huge impact. It enables specific projects to happen - the work on the Eyre Roll was only possible because of grants from the Leche Trust, National Manuscript Conservation Trust and Radcliffe Trust - but crucially it has enabled the Society to plan for the future with confidence. From donations to bequests, the Society is hugely grateful to all those who believe, like us, that genealogical study will remain important for the generations to come.

Philip Spedding, Chief Executive

Annual General Meeting



Photographs (left to right): Treasurer, Ray O'Connell reports on finances following 2023 overview from Chairman, Graham Walter | Eyre roll pedigree unfurled, foreground | Votes counted both on-site and online | Philip Spedding, CEO, addresses members and fields questions | Paul Blake presents Diane Swinfield with an SoG Fellowship Award | Diane Swinfield FSG shows Fellowship certificate while attendees enjoy refreshments | In all, 44 members attended in person and 57 joined online.

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CONTENTS

- 530 Highlights from the SoG Annual General Meeting, 2024
- 532 Making Playing Cards: a family history informed by records of the family business
Linda Green
- 546 The Cufleys, Ratcatchers of Enfield, Middlesex: Henry Mayhew - Fact or Fiction?
David Cufley
- 554 Some Delights from the Society of Genealogists Special Collections
Else Churchill
- 557 Identifying Frances (wife of John Sawrey, then Arthur Benson)
John Humphreys
- 563 The Glissons of Bristol & North Somerset: a family in decline
Peter Wynn
- 574 Keeping History Alive...
Helen Dawkins LRPS
- 578 Book Reviews and Bookshop News
- 583 Deceased Members
- 583 *Genealogists' Magazine* - Advertising Rates

Centre Pull-out Section

- 1-8 Society of Genealogists' News

Cover picture, main illustration: A Card Maker's Workshop from *L'Encyclopedie* by Diderot, d'Alembert, Paris, 1751. At the left-hand side we can see pasting operations and polishing by means of flints fixed to apparatus suspended from the ceiling. In the back room freshly pasted sheets are being pressed and the excess water squeezed out into the bucket. On the right-hand side, sheets of cards are being cut using a cutting machine. Finished cards are then inspected and sorted into complete packs. *Foreground images:* playing cards from 'Hardy Old Frizzle' packs, c.1800-25. Images courtesy of The World of Playing Cards, www.wopc.co.uk. See also 'The History of Playing Cards' by Simon Wintle. <https://www.wopc.co.uk/the-history-of-playing-cards/>.

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MAKING PLAYING CARDS:

A FAMILY HISTORY INFORMED BY RECORDS OF THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Linda Green

Way back in 1980 I decided to research the history of my father's family, the Hardys, who were from the City of London. I went to see my aunt, who had a box of old documents which gave me information to start with. The earliest record (a torn-out page from a family bible, below), named my ancestor Henry Hardy as born on 11 December 1735 to Samuel and Abigail Hardy. Most, or possibly all, of the names listed in the bible were written by Sarah Hardy, Henry's wife, and she passed on the bible to her son James 'in the 66th year of her age'. In the forty odd years that have expired since then I have not got one single generation further back on the Hardy line, but I have found out a great deal about the family, using parish

records, guild records, newspapers and records relating to their business, which was the manufacture of playing cards. This has revealed them for me as real people with interesting lives and a legacy which is important to both my family and to those who have an interest in the history of playing-card-making.

There were three family stories:

- That the Hardys had made playing cards
- That one of them was 'disinherited for marrying the maid'
- That one of them was elected as Mayor of London, but died three days before he was due to take office.



Page pulled out of family bible, owned by Sarah Jones [Hardy] documenting dates and times of birth of family members.

The first is true, the second nearly true and the third not true at all, but I understand where the story may have come from.

Samuel Hardy

The earliest known family member, Samuel Hardy, married Abigail Cowdell at St Andrews, Holborn, London, on 21 January 1730/1. As well as a son, Henry, they had two daughters: Anne, baptized on 3 December 1732 at St Michael, Cornhill, and Elizabeth, baptized on 11 April 1737 at St Anne, Blackfriars. Little is known of Abigail. She was possibly the daughter of Joseph Cowdell, a widower from Worcester, who married Abigail Webster of Whitechapel in 1709. Samuel was probably the resident listed as a tailor in a 1749 Poll Book for St Martin LeGrand, London, and who paid Land Tax at Dean's Court, St Martin Le Grand, from 1754 until 1771. He was buried at St. Martin Ludgate church, in the City of London, on 12 March 1783.

Henry Hardy

Apart from the note of his birth in the bible of his mother, Sarah [no matching baptism ever found], the first records to be found of Henry are as follows:

- An undated trade card advertising his services as a printer, with the address given as Dean's Court, St Martin LeGrand. [A virtually identical card exists with the address of No. 7 Old Bailey, which was his home from 1770-1789.] This makes it likely that Samuel Hardy, tailor of Dean's Court, was his father.
- On 29 July 1766 Henry purchased the Freedom of the City of London from the Goldsmiths' company for the sum of 46s.8d. Records at the Corporation of London state that he was one of fifty people admitted to raise funds to assist the City to discharge its public debts.
- On 7 January 1766/7 Henry Hardy married Sarah Jones of Christchurch, London, at the parish church of St Olave Silver Street, London, describing himself on the marriage bond as a printer, but signing only with the letter H. Sarah described herself in her bible [previous page] as baptised on 25 February 1743 to 'Charles Jones of Bailey Street and Sarah'. This was initially confusing, since the couple later lived in the Old Bailey,

London, but there is no Bailey Street in London. She was born to Charles Jones, a corvisor of Bailey Street, Oswestry, and his wife Sarah Howell.

At that time Henry lived at 8 St Olave Silver Street, London, their first daughter Sarah Elizabeth being born there in 1768. In that year he was running a business: 'Henry Hardy, Citizen and Goldsmith of London, took on George Whitfield as an apprentice' [Public Record Office IR 1/25 26 May 1768].



By around 1769 the family had moved to the parish of St Martin, Ludgate, paying rent and rates at Old Bailey, East Side, in 1770 as well as £5.8s. in Land Tax. However, in April 1770 the *Gentleman's Magazine* carried an announcement 'Henry Hardy, Sam Axtell & Jos Cooke, printers, of Old Bailey, bankrupt'.

January 1773 saw the birth of James Hardy [1] to Henry and Sarah. He was baptised at the church of St Martin, Ludgate, on 7 February of that year.

Apparently Henry embarked on another business partnership. On the 20 February 1773 Henry Hardy and James Rowley, Cardmakers, placed an advertisement in *The London Gazette*:

'The Co-partnership, which lately subsisted between James Rowley and Henry Hardy, of the Parish of St. Martin Ludgate, Cardmakers and Copperplate-Printers, is this Day dissolved; and the Business of Copperplate-Printing in future will be continued by Henry Hardy only; but all Accounts relative to the Partnership will be adjusted and paid by the said James Rowley.'

This is the first evidence of the Hardy family making playing cards.

The making of playing cards was a laborious business at that time. First it was necessary to make the pasteboard, by pasting layers of paper together to make a stiff even card with a polished white surface on the front and back. The boards made had to be hung to dry in a heated room, then put through rollers to make the surfaces absolutely smooth. Then, using woodblocks, the boards were printed with the outlines of the designs for the cards, some containing court cards and some the pips cards. The printing used an ink made from lamp black. After this, stencils were used to add the colours, one at a time. [Templates for Aces of Spades were supplied separately, by the Government's stamp duty office.] All of this was done by hand. Finally, the boards would be cut up and the cards sorted into packs. Also needed were appropriate wrappers, which showed the duty paid on the packs.

In 1775 Henry Hardy [2] was born to Henry and Sarah, baptised at St Martin, Ludgate, on 9 July.



Playing card wrapper from Dondorf.co.uk: https://bit.ly/D_PCW

In 1781 Henry Hardy paid Land Tax for Old Bailey, East Side, and possibly also for 'tenements 1-6, New Court, Old Bailey, payable to Mr. Bishop', suggesting he now had more substantial premises available for his business. A playing card wrapper shows him as being at The Kings Arms, No 7, Old Bailey [see above].

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards was formed in 1628 to regulate the craft within the City of London. Although the Hardys were members of the Goldsmiths' company, they also joined and became active in this company. The first mention of a Hardy that I have found in their minute books dates from 1782, stating: 'Thos King summonsed for not being free, but being a pasteboard maker for action against following persons', includes 'Hardy, card maker, Old Bailey - [from Guild Minute Books Vol. 3 Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, held at the London Metropolitan Archives].

In 1778 Henry Hardy, 'Citizen & Goldsmith of London', had paid duty for Joseph Holloway as apprentice. By 1784 the business was apparently big enough to have three apprentices. Henry Hardy may not have been the best employer however, as they absconded from his service. He was sufficiently incensed to advertise a reward for their capture: 'Eloped from their master's service on Monday last [16 February] Charles M'Donald, Joseph Holloway, John Dancock ... whoever will bring them to their master, H. Hardy, card-maker and printer, No. 7, Old Bailey, shall be rewarded' (*Daily Advertiser* 18

February 1784). It is not known whether they were caught, but Joseph Holloway was in the sixth year of the normal seven years of apprenticeship, so his dissatisfaction must have been extreme to throw all his work away within a year's reach of getting his Freedom of the City.

When a business goes bankrupt, notices are published in *The London Gazette*, a government publication. Notices will initially invite creditors of the business to submit claims, then there will be meetings to assess the position of the bankrupt business and allot dividends between the various people owed money. In 1786 the Hardy business was recorded there as bankrupt.

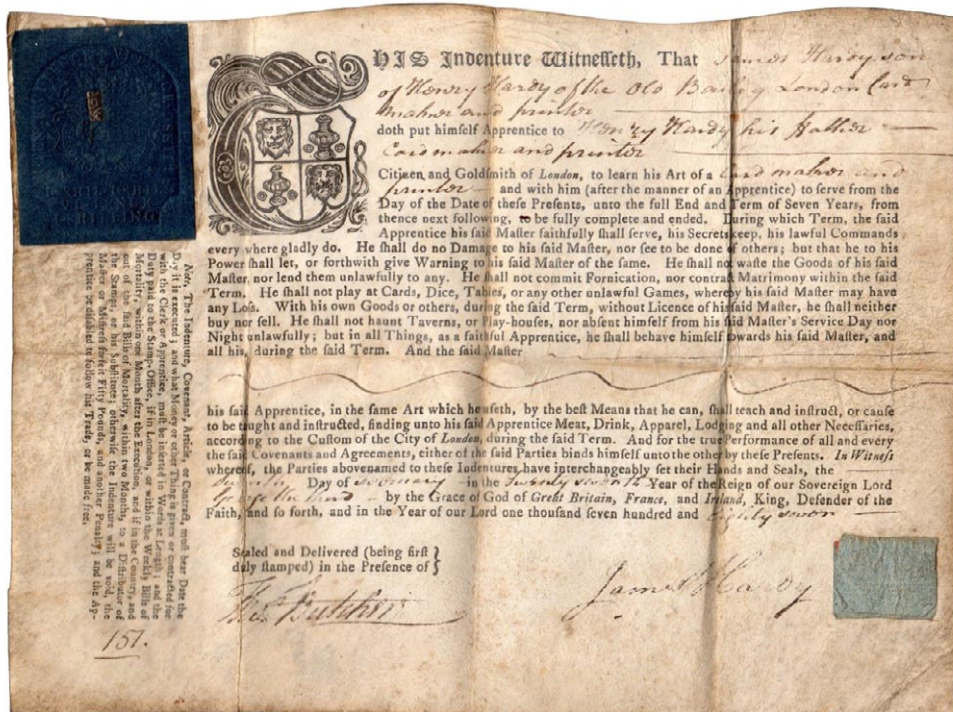
However, the family soon started up again, and the following year James Hardy[1] was apprenticed to his father Henry Hardy of Old Bailey, Cardmaker & Printer, Goldsmiths' Company, for a period of seven years*:

During the 1770s and 1780s Henry Hardy remained at the Old Bailey, paying his rates and Land Taxes,

becoming a church warden in the nearby St Martin, Ludgate, and producing eight children, only three of whom survived longer than twenty-one years. He was again bankrupt in 1787, being described as 'card maker and copperplate printer, dealer and chapman'. A chapman is someone who sells wares on the street. He probably would have sold his cards in person at the coffee houses around St Paul's Churchyard, quite possibly including at the London Coffee House round the corner in Ludgate Hill, run by his former partner James Rowley.

Back in business yet again he took on another apprentice, Jos Hitchen, in 1789 and in the same year his second oldest son, Henry Hardy [2] was also indentured with the Goldsmiths' company as his apprentice for seven years.

However, that was the year that Henry died. Being 'weak in body but of sound and disposing mind' he left everything to his wife Sarah, asking that the business be continued for the benefit of their children. This time he wrote his name in full, albeit with a shaky hand.



Apprenticeship Indenture showing James Hardy apprenticed to his father Henry Hardy 'Citizen and Goldsmith' of London, 'Cardmaker and Printer', dated 27th February 1787

Sarah Hardy

Times must have been hard for Sarah Hardy. Her oldest daughter died weeks after her husband, and she had two under-age sons to look after, as well as a business to run. However she was fortunate enough to be awarded a pension of £8 per year 'plus a share of dividends from the poore box', by the Goldsmiths' Company. On 11 December 1789 their Court Minutes state that they had 'viewed and examined' nineteen widows, and Sarah was one of the five who were successful.

In 1791 the backs of the apprenticeship papers are stamped and noted to the effect that Sarah will take over supervision of the apprenticeships. In 1793 she and her eighteen-year-old younger son Henry [2] are recorded as land-tax payers in the Old Bailey.

Sarah appears paying rates and Land Tax through from 1789 until 1803, at the Old Bailey, sometimes on her own and sometimes 'and sons' [1796] or as 'Sarah and Henry Hardy' [1798 and 1799], then alone. She appears as a cardmaker at No. 7, The Old Bailey, in a street directory published in 1805. In 1797 'Sarah Hardy of the Old Bailey, citizen, card & pasteboard maker & chapwoman' had been bankrupt [National Archives]. She clearly was working again as she insured the business with Sun Life Insurance in July 1800 [records at London Metropolitan Archives, ref MS11936/418/704080]. She might have been the Sarah Hardy, widow, committed to the Fleet debtors' prison for money owed to a Thomas Tilbury in 1800. In 1803 she took on a John Bass, son of a cordwainer of St Martin, Ludgate, as an apprentice.

The insurance policy, written in ledgers held at London Metropolitan Archives, gives an interesting insight into the business situation at the time. Her 'now dwelling house situate as aforesaid on that part of it only which is her own voluntary erecting in the site of the yard belonging to the No. 7 and which said No. 7 is insured in policy No. 68489'. [Unfortunately this other policy is missing.] This dwelling was insured for £200, her goods, wearing apparel, books and plate 'In the above-described building all adjoining and communicating' £400, and 'Stock, utensils & goods in trust therein' £399, total £999, which cost her £1.10s to insure, plus

Duty of £1. The 'all brick' dwelling may well have been the Hardy residence all along, since the Land Tax payable throughout their tenure there was broadly the same in relation to the other dwellings.

It is not clear what involvement Sarah had after 1803. On 24 June 1812 Goldsmiths' records show her as resident in their new alms-houses in Acton - where there was a warden and matron to look after the infirm and sacks of coal delivered for residents each week. She died in 1821, aged 78, being 'of East Acton', and was buried in the family church of St Martin, Ludgate, London.

James Hardy

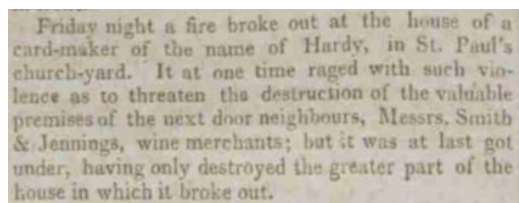
In 1794 James, the eldest son, reached the age of twenty-one and completed his apprenticeship, being granted the Freedom of the City of London of the Goldsmiths' company by service. He was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards in October of that year. He paid duty on his first apprentice, a William Thompson, in 1795 [Public Record Office IR 1/36]. The first registration of a J Hardy Ace is 1801. [This refers to the requirement for Card-makers to register with the Stamp Duty Office and pay duty on their cards.] He was still at the Old Bailey at that time according to the electoral register and was described as a cardmaker there.

In 1796 James married Hannah Houghton at St. John's Church, Clerkenwell, then set up home in Little Tower Hill, Minories. Over the next thirteen years the couple produced eleven children, by 1804 moving to No. 4 St Paul's Churchyard. Of the five who survived, the relevant children here are Henry, born 1801, and Edmund, born 1803, who both went on later to run the playing card business. Another son, James, 'a stationer' [2], may have been involved. There were also two sisters, Alice and Hannah.

James was an active member of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, soon becoming a warden. He was elected Master of the company in 1803 and served into 1804. [Wardenship and Mastership seem to have rotated within the Company.] His business seems to have done well, he apparently being the only member of the family managing to avoid bankruptcy. He continued his involvement with the Worshipful

Company for the rest of his life, being elected master for the second time in 1831. This may well be the origin of the family rumour that he was elected Lord Mayor of London.

In January 1809 a catastrophic event occurred. The *Gentleman's Magazine* reported that there had been an extensive fire at the Hardy premises at No. 4 St Paul's Churchyard, which burned for three hours before it was subdued. The inside of the premises was almost entirely destroyed. There were various newspaper reports of the incident: one described six children being brought out of the building. The family was recorded as sharing the building with a straw-hat maker. Another described a shortage of water and difficulty in spraying it high enough, the fire fighters having to throw water down from the roof of the next house. The fire apparently started in a bedroom on the third floor and spread rapidly to the card-making workshop above - which was 'full of pasteboard and card' and burned rapidly. James's wife Hannah was pregnant with their son James, who was born three months later, in April 1809, but he and two younger siblings were not baptised until July 1813, perhaps because the family was too engaged dealing with after-effects of the fire.



Friday night a fire broke out at the house of a card-maker of the name of Hardy, in St. Paul's church-yard. It at one time raged with such violence as to threaten the destruction of the valuable premises of the next door neighbours, Messrs. Smith & Jennings, wine merchants; but it was at last got under, having only destroyed the greater part of the house in which it broke out.

I don't know if the Hardys were insured against this event, but they did take out insurance with the Royal Sun Alliance insurance company soon afterwards. On 13 April 1809 James insured his card manufactory premises round the corner at 6 Little Carter Lane, which contained stock, utensils and a 'Cannade Stove' for £800. No. 4 St Paul's Churchyard was insured for £200 only, it presumably being still in a damaged condition.

On 31 May of that year James insured stock and utensils for his business which were in the dwelling house of a Mr Rodden at No 2 St Paul's Churchyard with No. 4 St Paul's Churchyard still only insured for £200. This suggests that he had found a temporary home for his family.

On 28 August 1809 the family were clearly back home, with household goods and his 'main dwelling house' being insured for £900, with 'no manufactory therein'. Little Carter Lane was still insured'. By March 2010 everything seems to have been back at No. 4 St Paul's Churchyard.

By 1812 information in trades directories indicates that the household had moved to number 27 St Paul's Churchyard.

James took on two of his sons as apprentices: Henry[3] in 1814 and Edmund in 1817, both with the Goldsmiths' Company for seven years. They acquired their Freedoms in 1821 and 1824 respectively.*

James Hardy was producing cards both for the home market and for export: In 1826 James Hardy & Sons placed an advertisement in *Cores General Advertiser*, Liverpool, 18 May, the *Public Leisure & Daily Advertiser* 19 Apr 1826 and other newspapers:

'Spanish Playing Cards for the South American Market, James Hardy & Son, Playing Card Makers, 27 St Paul's Churchyard, London, respectively inform Merchants and others, exporting to South America, that they have ready for Shipping a quantity of Playing Cards from an approved Spanish Pattern, which they have been in the habit of supplying for the Spanish market, upwards of twenty years. The prices are greatly reduced.

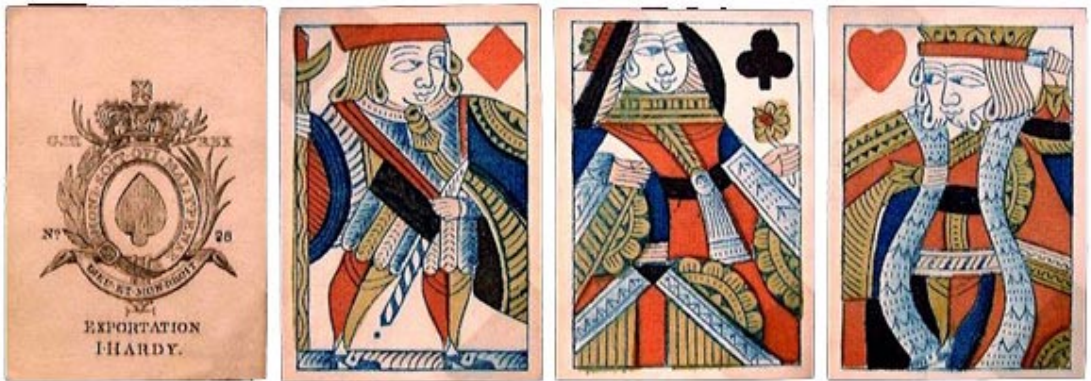
English cards, plain and coloured backs of the best quality, for home consumption and exportation.'

The insurance records from 1828 reveal the now value and some details of the contents of the property. The house and contents were valued at c. £6,000 ['No cards made nor stove therein, Brick']. Possessions listed included household goods and wearing apparel £1200, jewels £300, musical instruments therein £150, china & glass therein £100, Stock and utensils and goods in trust therein £2,500. A second policy was taken out for their 'dwelling house & manufactory' at 3 Little Trinity Lane, with building & contents £3,500. The business was clearly successful at that time and the amounts insured contrast with the £999 insured for by Sarah in 1800. The family remained at number 27 until the early 1850s when the building was demolished as part of a traffic scheme.

Henry Hardy, Son and late App^{ty} of Jas Hardy, City and Golden
 was admitted into the Freedom aforesaid and sworn in the Mayorality of Christopher Maitland Esq^r Mayor
 and Richard Park Esq^r Chamberlain and is entered in the book signed with the Letter E relating
 to the purchasing of Freedoms and the Admissions of Freeman (to wit) the 5th day of Decem^r
 in the 7th Year of the reign of King GEORGE the Fourth And in the Year of our Lord 1827 In
 Witness whereof the Seal of the Office of Chamberlain of the said City is hereunto affixed Dated in the Chamber
 of the Guildhall of the same City the day and Year above said.

Edmund Hardy, Son of Jas Hardy late App^{ty} of his said father City
 was admitted into the Freedom aforesaid and sworn in the Mayorality of John Garrett Esq^r Mayor
 and Richard Park Esq^r Chamberlain and is entered in the book signed with the Letter E relating
 to the purchasing of Freedoms and the Admissions of Freeman (to wit) the 14th day of Decem^r
 in the 3rd Year of the reign of King GEORGE the Fourth And in the Year of our Lord 1824 In
 Witness whereof the Seal of the Office of Chamberlain of the said City is hereunto affixed Dated in the Chamber
 of the Guildhall of the same City the day and Year above said.

Indentures for Henry and Edmund



Hardy playing cards

Between 1838 and 1840 John Tallis produced a series of pictorial guides to the City of London. The Hardys subscribed to the series, which meant that their premises could be named in the publications. This gives us an idea of what the building in St Paul's Churchyard looked like [image right].

In December 1837 James Hardy died and the business was taken over by his sons Henry and Edmund Hardy. James was buried at St Martin, Ludgate, London, on 6 January 1838.



Henry Hardy [2]

Henry Hardy [2] was the second son of Henry and Sarah, and James's brother, born in 1775 and baptised on 9 July of that year at St Martin, Ludgate. After serving his apprenticeship he obtained the Freedom of the City through the Goldsmiths' Company in 1796. He apparently worked with his mother for a while but by 1800 is noted as 'of Long Lane, Smithfield' in the minute books of the Worshipful Company.

However, unlike his successful brother, Henry soon got himself into trouble. By August 1801 he was bankrupt and in September of that year he was committed to the Fleet Debtor's prison. In 1804 he 'ran away out of the rules.' owing £21.12s. to 'The King', most likely for unpaid duty on his playing cards. He owed approximately £140 to a list of other creditors, which is outlined in the bundles of committal papers in the National Archives. [Note that 'within the rules' means that debtor was allowed to live within and remain within a set distance from the Fleet prison in return for a payment. As the family came from the Old Bailey and the prison was round the corner, remaining near the prison is unlikely to have been difficult.] It wasn't normal to be discharged from prison unless the debts were paid off.

Four years later, in 1805, a notice was published in *The London Gazette*, by the Public Office, Bow Street: Henry Hardy, 'lately of Fleet Debtor's Prison & Prujean Square, Old Bailey, where he conducted business as a playing card maker', £200

reward, request information sent to solicitor for His Majesty's Commissioner for Stamp Duties. Henry described as: 'about thirty-two years of age, five feet three or four inches high, dark visage, dark eyes, rather snub nose, short dark hair and much pitted with the small-pox, walks stooping in the shoulders, and very quick; generally wears black clothes, is very much knock kneed, particularly in one knee, and talks fast [or 'soft'].'

<https://bit.ly/LG-Hardy>

Public Office, Bow-Street, April 3, 1805.
TWO HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD.
Whereas Henry Hardy, late a Prisoner for Debt in the Fleet Prison, but who lately lived in Prujean-Square, in the Old Bailey, London, and carried on the Business of a Card-Maker there, stands charged upon Oath with FELONY. Whoever will apprehend the said Henry Hardy, or give such Information to Edmund Estcourt, Esq; Solicitor to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Stamp Duties, at the Stamp-Office, Somerset-Place, or at his Chambers, No. 2, Stone-Buildings, Lincoln's-Inn, as may be the Means of apprehending him, shall receive TWO HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD.
The said Henry Hardy is about Thirty-two Years of Age, Five Feet Three or Four Inches high, dark Visage, dark Eyes, rather snub Nose, short dark Hair, and much pitted with the Small-Pox, walks stooping in the Shoulders, and very quick; generally wears black Clothes, is very much knock kneed, particularly in one Knee, and talks fast.

It is not known whether he was apprehended. He reappears in Mile End Old Town seven years later, where his son **Charles Henry Hardy** was baptised in 1812, having been born in 1801, the child of Henry, card-maker, and Elizabeth. Possibly it was too risky to baptise him in the family church at the time of his birth.

Hardy, Henry	9 th Septem ^r 1801	The King	21. 12.
Humphreys, Morris	8 th Decem ^r 1801	James Edward Ford	200
		John Wansley and John Jeffries	200
		George Simson	10

Record of the Fleet Prison, showing that Henry Hardy owed 'The King' £21.12s. and that he 'Ran away out of the Rules'

Little else is known of Henry until his death aged 47 in the district of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, in 1820. He was buried in St Martin, Ludgate.

His son, **Charles Henry Hardy** obtained the Freedom of London from the Goldsmiths' Company in 1833 by patrimony. Their records state that he was 'born in Dorset Street, Fleet Street'. In various records he appears as a copperplate printer or coffee-house keeper. It is not clear if he worked in the card making business. He married Elizabeth King on 26 September 1832 at St John Evangelist, Lambeth, Surrey. They had two children, Elizabeth, baptised at St Andrew, Holborn, on 11 October 1833, and Emma, baptised on 9 August, 1837 at St Mary, Lambeth, [She died in 1839]. He too had a stint in a debtors' prison, and died of consumption in 1840.

The card making business after the death of James Hardy

In 1839 a document called 'Bond to be given by Card Makers on taking out Licence' was signed by Henry [3] & Edmund Hardy, of 27 St Paul's Churchyard, & 3 Little Trinity Lane, 'licensed card makers' and James Hardy [2], stationer of 27 St Paul's Churchyard, and Carter Draper, Solicitor, to pay all duties and taxes demanded, the sum of £500, and one shilling for every Ace of Spades issued by the stamp office. The document apparently follows a licence application. The document indicates that Henry [3] & Edmund will be carrying out the card making business. [Family papers]. James Hardy junior died in 1841 of 'decline'.

On the 1841 census of population Henry, Edmund and other family members were shown as resident at St Paul's Churchyard, Henry [3] as 'Cardmaker'.

In December 1847 Henry Hardy [3], 'Gentleman of St Paul's Churchyard', who according to family tradition 'was disinherited for marrying the maid' tied the knot with 24-year-old Susan Morling, their first child, Susan, being born seven months later in July 1848. The marriage certificate gives her address as the same as Henry's. It is not clear whether or not she was 'the maid', but as a

mariner's daughter who had come to London from the rural town of Wisbech, apparently pregnant by a man 23 years her senior, it seems very possible.

By the time of the 1851 census Henry's family were living in Newgate Street, with Susan's younger brother Robert working as an assistant. Henry's brother Edmund had moved to Islington with his aunt and sister, although Land Tax was still paid on the St Paul's Churchyard premises in 1852. Both were still listed as card makers. There is no more record of them operating from St Paul's Churchyard after this. In 1853 they were listed in the Watkin's Directory, as being in Upper Thames Street and Little Trinity Lane.

The business was clearly winding down, although there are Hardy cards [showing double ended courts] from 1850 [wopc.co.uk]: <https://bit.ly/Hardy-DEC>

In January 1854 Henry died. There was little left of the apparent wealth accumulated by his father James. On 13 May of that year the couple's three children were admitted to the Central London School, Hanwell, which was the residential workhouse school for the City of London. His widow Susan Hardy petitioned the Goldsmiths' Company for financial assistance and their Committee Book states that she was awarded £10. In 1861 the children were still resident in the workhouse school and Susan was working as a bootbinder in St Andrew's Road, Newington, Southwark. [St Andrew's Road later became part of Rockingham Street, Southwark.]

Henry's brother **Edmund** lasted until 1859. Their sister **Hannah Hardy** told the Goldsmiths' company that she had been left well provided for by her father James, but that her brother had borrowed most of her money to support the ailing business and had been too unwell to pay her back. She had apparently sold furniture and possessions to buy food and pay her rent. She petitioned the Company for assistance nine times between 1867 and 1873, three times unsuccessfully, got several grants of £20, and was eventually awarded a Goldsmiths' pension of £20 per annum in 1873. The Goldsmith Company's records from 1867 describe her as follows:

‘Daughter of the late James Hardy, Cardmaker of St Paul’s Churchyard, member of the Court of the Card Makers company and Freeman of the Goldsmiths, died about thirty years ago leaving the petitioner in affluence - her brother requiring assistance in his business she was persuaded to advance him money from time to time, through illness he was never able to restore her the money lent and he died about eight years ago since which Petitioner has been obliged to sell her furniture and plate, and now resides in furnished lodgings for 7/- a week. - in a most destitute state and in arrears of rent. Only obtains support by the occasional assistance of friends.’

She was recommended by a Mrs Price of Bayswater who had known her for many years as well as a Miss Brundell of Kensington.

Hannah died intestate in 1887, her nephew Henry Albert Hardy was granted probate of her estate, worth £106.7s.9d. [about £11,000 in today’s money - www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator] It seems possible that she had more resources than had been revealed to the Goldsmiths’.

Henry’s children went on to make completely different lives, not related to the manufacture of playing cards. The card-making industry as a whole was experiencing difficulties by the middle of the nineteenth century, and many businesses closed down or sold to bigger firms.

Susan Morling Hardy

Susan Morling had a difficult life. The child of William Ward Morling, a mariner, her mother Susan had died by the time she was five. She had five older siblings. Her father remarried and had three more children, two of whom, Georgiana and Caroline, she stayed close to throughout her life. She came to London, presumably for work, then ended up pregnant by Henry Hardy. They married in 1847 and produced four children, but she was widowed by 1854. There was no money left from the playing card business and she faced destitution. Her youngest child, Ellen Louisa, born a few days before the death of her husband, died aged four in 1858. She had to place her other three children in the workhouse where they stayed until they reached 16 years.

Susan stayed in Newington working as a bootbinder, her daughter Susan eventually returning to live with her. However, in May 1878 things got even worse; she had to arrange the admittance of her daughter to Newington Infirmary. Susan junior was having delusions of persecution, had smashed a window and threatened to cut her own throat. The records at London Metropolitan Archives contain a statement by a surgeon stating that she was of unsound mind, suicidal and dangerous, and should be committed to a lunatic asylum. She was admitted to Bethnal Green Asylum on 20 July 1878, charged to the parish of St George’s; [both mother and daughter were described as from 65 Rockingham Street, Southwark]. She died at Bethnal Asylum less than a year later, having suddenly developed a heart problem.

Somewhat mysteriously, just a few weeks later than her daughter, in August 1878, Susan senior was also admitted to the Newington Infirmary, also on the grounds of insanity. A lunatic order for the reception of a pauper patient describes her as having delusions, of imagining that her legs were black and swollen, that she had been out in the park or out cooking when she had not. She is described as a widow, needlewoman, of Newington infirmary, not suicidal, causes of her condition unknown. The surgeon’s statement commits her to Brookwood Lunatic Asylum in Surrey. [Records held at London Metropolitan Archives.]

In 1881 staff at the Brookwood Lunatic Asylum decided to hold a fancy-dress party for their patients. The event was attended by various dignitaries, as well as a journalist from the *Illustrated London News*, who produced drawings of the dressed-up inmates to be printed in the newspaper.

Amongst the drawings of inmates ‘The reader will observe such amusing devices as The Queen of Hearts, an old lady covered in playing cards’*, she is on the illustrations depicted overleaf, at the top near-right. [*From the *Illustrated London News*, 22 January 1881, quoted in *From Asylum to Community Care, A History of Brookwood Hospital told by those who worked and lived there* by Alison Craze, 2014]. Sewing playing cards to your dress seems an unlikely choice for anyone unless cards were important to the wearer in some way. Susan



FANCY DRESS BALL AT THE BROOKWOOD SURREY LUNATIC ASYLUM—SEE NEXT PAGE.

Illustrated London News, 22 Jan 1881, depicting fancy dress party at Brookwood Asylum, with woman decked in playing cards 2nd from right at top

was a resident at the time the party was held. I like to think that the old lady decked in cards was my great-great grandmother Susan Hardy, although of course that can never be certain.

When Brookwood Asylum became overcrowded, Susan who was 'not improved', plus many other inmates in the now overcrowded hospital, were moved to Cane Hill Asylum, in Coulsdon, Surrey, and she stayed there until her death in 1895.

Henry Albert Hardy [1]

Henry Albert was the third child of Henry and Susan Hardy. He was born at 32 Newgate Street, London, on 9 July 1851, and baptised at Christchurch, Newgate, London on 29 February 1852, by which time the family had moved back to 27 St Paul's Churchyard. He had two older sisters, Susan [July 1848-26 March 1879] and Hannah [b. July 1859], plus a younger sister, Ellen Louisa, [b. 4 Dec 1853, -- 23 Jan 1858]. [It is not known what became of Hannah.]

Henry was admitted to the Central London School, Hanwell, on 13 May 1854, along with his two older sisters, their former address being the parish of St Gregory, where St Paul's Churchyard is located. This was the workhouse school operated by the City of London, which specialised in training children for trades.

As an adult, Henry Albert Hardy became a painter and decorator. He married Harriet Priscilla Skinner, the daughter of an artist, comedian and dance teacher, on 18 July 1874, giving his residence as Rockingham Street, Newington. He set up his own business and eventually became a respected citizen in the locality. However, from time to time the business got into difficulties, and like his forebears, he turned for help to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Henry Albert had not served as an apprentice cardmaker like his father. After the death of his mother he apparently thought it would be beneficial to become a member of the Goldsmiths' company. There are three ways to become a member of a London Guild: service [apprenticeship], redemption [buying your way in] or patrimony [if you were the

son of a member]. Henry Albert therefore made a statutory declaration of his descent from his father Henry Hardy. His mother's sisters Caroline Webb and Georgiana Ludbrook signed that they had had been acquainted with his father Henry Hardy, since his marriage to Susan in 1847, that they had known Henry Albert since birth and that he was the person named in the declaration. Copies of his baptismal certificate, his parents' marriage certificate and documents concerning the grant to his father of Freedom of the City of London as a member of the Goldsmiths' company were appended. As a result, Henry became a Freeman of the City of London on the 2 of April 1895.

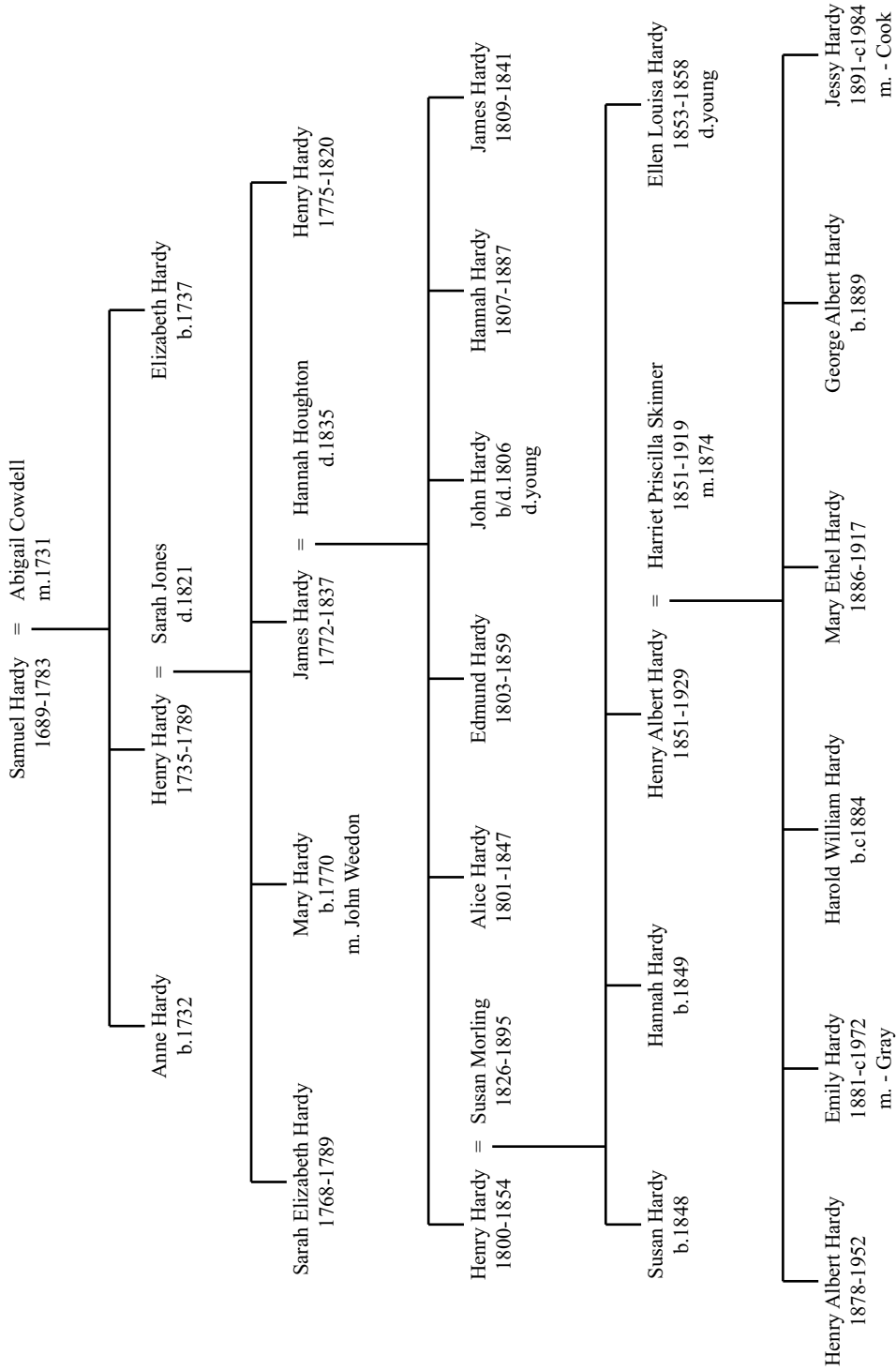
In 1903 Henry Albert petitioned the Goldsmiths' Company for help and was awarded £20. The Petition books of the company record the evidence he provided in support of his application as follows:

'Henry Albert Hardy, aged 52, wife 51, 17 Great Dover Street, Borough, SE
First application, Free 2 April 1895. £20.

'Rent 22/- a week, letting off part at 10/- a week. Petitioner is a jobbing painter and paper hanger in business for himself. Formerly he did pretty well and three years ago he had saved £60, but for the last two years he has had very little to do, and that only of the cheapest character, his earnings have not averaged above £1 a week. He was laid up for several weeks with diabetes and muscular rheumatism, from which he still suffers. He has exhausted his savings. He is insured in the prudential for £14 and a like sum in the Sons of the Phoenix for life only, he receives no sick pay. He has been an abstainer for 16 years. He owes £8 to Messrs Chapman, Paper Hanging Dealers, £1.2s to Mr Foster for cartage, 17s to Mr Crownden, Brushmaker, 12s to Mr Lock, Colour maker, £2 to the Doctor and £7.5s. goods pledged [to support home].'

'Has had 13 children including three sets of twins, six surviving:

Henry, 26, a painter in casual employment, earns about 30/- a week, gives 14/- to his mother;
Emily, 24, married to a Borough Market porter;
Harold, 20, painter earns 22/- a week, pays his mother 10/-;



Descendants of Samuel Hardy and Abigail Cowdell

Ethel, 17, a machinist, earns 6/- or 8/- a week, gives all to her mother [*This is Mary Ethel, see below*]
 Albert, 14, went to his first situation last Monday at 6/- a week
 Jessie, 12, attends school.
 None of the children born Free.'

He is described as 'a respectable man, and well recommended as hard working, would do better if his health allowed'.

He made another petition for help ten years later, in 1913, and was again awarded £20. The information given was broadly the same, but added that he had been employed by Messrs Croaker, builders, for twenty years, who had gone bankrupt eighteen years previously. He was still suffering from lumbago, diabetes and rheumatism. Of his six children, three were married but not in a position to assist him. His youngest daughter who was 'a typewriter' aged 22 lived at home and contributed 14s. a week for board and lodging. Henry 'regrets that he owes £24 to a builders' merchants for stores supplied and he prays that the Company will assist him to pay this debt'.

Henry's wife Harriet died in 1919. In 1921 he remarried a Mrs Lucy Cook who ran a sweetshop in Tabard Street, Southwark. By the time of his death of a heart attack in 1929 he was remembered by family members as a well to do and prosperous businessman who was well known and respected in his local community.

He and Harriet left behind six children. The most important from my point of view being Mary Ethel Hardy, my grandmother, who married Sidney Victor Emanuel Green in 1910, and Henry Albert Hardy Junior, who fostered my father, William Henry Green after Mary Ethel's early death in 1918.

During my research into the history of the Hardy family I have consulted the usual sources such as parish registers, Land Tax and civil registration. However, the records kept by the London guilds and hospitals, plus records of notices in *The London Gazette* and newspapers of the time have brought the history of the family to life, with descriptions of their appearance, knowledge of their finances and hardships and progress of their business.

Featured members of the Hardy family:

Henry Hardy 1 - 1735-1789 Card Maker
 Sarah Hardy [nee Jones], [wife of Henry 1], 1743-1821 [married 1766/7] Card Maker
 James Hardy 1 - 1773-1837 [Master of Worshipful Company 1803-4 & 1831-2] Card Maker [son of Henry 1]
 Henry Hardy 2 - 1775-1820 Card maker, & felon [Son of Henry 1]
 Charles Henry Hardy - 1801-1840 Copper Plate Printer, coffee-house-keeper [son of Henry 2]
 Henry Hardy 3 - 1800-1854 Card Maker [Son of James 1]
 Hannah Hardy 1807-1887 [daughter of James Hardy 1], pensioner of the Goldsmiths' Company
 Susan Hardy [nee Morling], mariner's daughter, wife of Henry 3. 1826-1895
 Edmund Hardy - 1803 - 1859 Card maker [Son of James 1]
 James Hardy 2 - 1813-1841 Stationer, [son of James 1]
 Henry Albert Hardy 1 - 1851-1929 Painter and Decorator [son of Henry Hardy 2]
 Susan Henrietta Hardy, 1848-1879 [daughter of Henry Hardy 2 and Susan]
 Henry Albert Hardy 2 - 1878-1952 Painter and Decorator [son of Henry Albert Hardy 1, foster parent of William Henry Green, below]
 Mary Ethel Hardy - 1886-1917 - daughter of Henry Albert 1, wife of Sydney VE Green, mother of William Henry Green and grandmother of Linda Rosemary Green, author of this article.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the Goldsmiths' Company for their assistance in finding my family records, and also for the assistance they gave to my family over a period of over one hundred years.

Note

* Apprenticeship and Freedom papers courtesy of Prof. N Staines.

Linda Green

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THE CUFLEYS, RATCATCHERS OF ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX: HENRY MAYHEW - FACT OR FICTION?

David Cufley

Between 1851 and 1862 Henry Mayhew wrote and published 'London Labour and the London Poor' in four volumes. The frontispiece says 'Cyclopaedia of the condition and earnings of those that will work, those that cannot work and those that will not work'. Henry Mayhew, with assistants¹ who helped him, compiled the volumes by interviewing people in London about their lives, work and conditions. As family historians this gives us the social history background of our London ancestors. It is more interesting as they record the lives of the people in the dialect and words they used. This does not always fit with the modern ear.

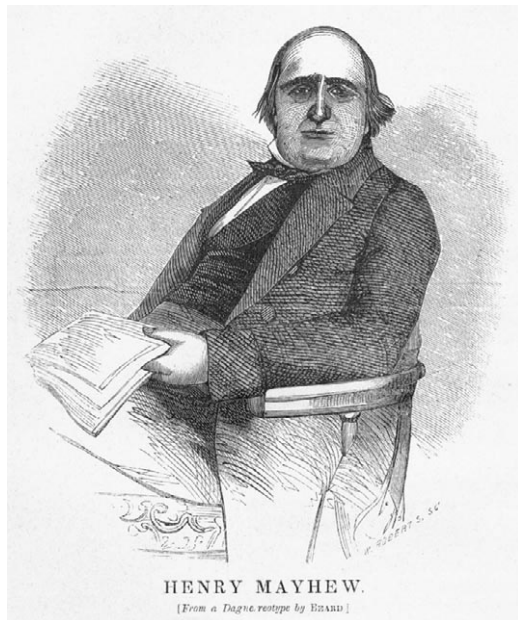


Fig. 1 - Henry Mayhew from page 2 of Vol 1, edition dated 1851 in David Cufley's collection.

I was introduced to these volumes by the late Graham Dalling who was then the archivist at Enfield Local History Library. It was after a research session, when I had some spare time to kill, that in conversation with Graham and his knowledge of my ancestors' history

in Enfield, as ratcatchers, he asked me if I had read Henry Mayhew's 'London Labour, London Poor'. I admitted I had not, and taking a volume of Mayhew's extracts entitled 'Mayhew's Characters'² by Peter Quennell from a bookshelf he suggested I read it. In particular he said to read the chapter on Jimmy Shaw, an ex-pugilist, the proprietor of one of the largest sporting public houses in London. Mayhew explains that Shaw 'holds rat-matches weekly at his establishment' and he gives the details of the animals that are killed in the pit and of the people that supply him with the rats.

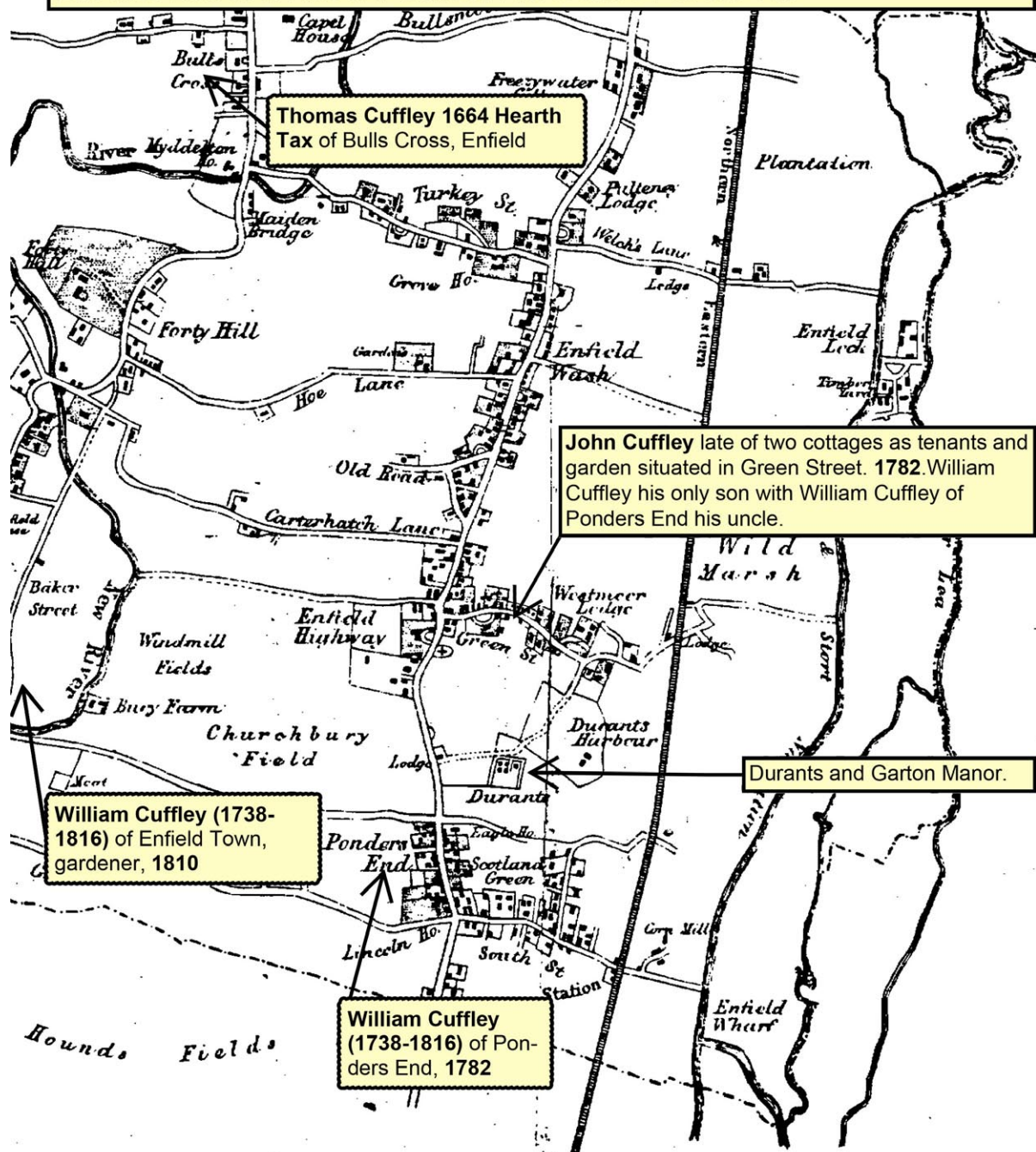
Rat matches were a gambling competition where a number of rats were put into a pit and a dog was put in among them and was timed as to how long it took to kill all of them. In some matches dogs were compared and a prize given for the fastest to kill a set number of rats³. The pits were either square or round in plan with sides about four foot high. There would be a referee to see fair play and seconds to time how long the dog took to dispatch the rats.

In Mayhew's report he records Jimmy Shaw⁴ saying he has twenty families supplying him from Clavering, Essex, where he has hundreds of rats sent to him in wire cages fitted into baskets. From Enfield he says he gets a great quantity but the ketchers (sic) don't get them just from there but travel around the country. "Enfield is a kind of headquarters for rat-ketchers". He continues by saying:

'The poor people who supply me with rats are what you may call barn door labouring poor for they are the most ignorant people I ever come near. Really you would not believe people could live in such ignorance.'

My Enfield ancestors are recorded in the census and on various certificates as ratcatchers. Are these then 'the most ignorant people' that Jimmy Shaw met? Was Jimmy Shaw real? We all have our doubts about the accuracy of some newspaper

1850 Part Map of Enfield eastern area showing Durants and Garton Manor. See Court Rolls 1689-1905. Greater London Record Office. Reference ACC/0133



1850 Part Map of Enfield eastern area showing Durants and Garton Manor. See Court Rolls 1689-1905. Greater London Record Office. Reference ACC/0133

reports, so has Henry Mayhew exaggerated some of his interviews to make them more spicy? Have the interviewees exaggerated their stories to make their lives more glamorous, or made them more pitiful, to gain sympathy from their audience?

Jimmy Shaw

My first search was to discover where his public house was located and what it was called. The directories for the pre-1851 period were my first port of call. The 1846 PO London directory had two pubs run by James Shaws, the *Jacobs Well* in the Barbican and *Queens Arms* in Bermondsey but neither was definitely our man. The 1839 Pigot's London directory had three candidates one at the *Bag of Nails* in Pimlico, the *Queens Arms* and *The George* in Old Street, St Luke's, but again no confirmation this was our Jimmy Shaw.

The newspapers were the next search and in the ERA of Sunday 28 October 1848 it reported on the recent ratting matches. Under the heading 'Terrier, Spaniel and small toy dog fancy' it says:

'A grand show will take place this evening. The club for these beautiful and useful little animals hold their weekly meeting at Mr J Shaw's, Blue Anchor Bunhill Row, St Lukes.'

Having got a name and location a picture was discovered to be in the London Museum. This was featured in 'The Victorian Underworld' by Kellow Chesney and showed the rat pit at the Blue Anchor with the minute dog 'Tiny the Wonder' who twice killed 200 rats in less than an hour.

In the 1851 census⁵ 'John James' Shaw age 35 a publican 'blind of one eye' was at 102 Bunhill Row with his wife Eliza age 33, and sons Robert age 14 and William age 10.

Jimmy Shaw mentioned his rat suppliers from Clavering, Essex, so I looked at the census. The Clavering 1851 census⁶ has William Law age 48 and his son George Law age 20 both ratcatchers. By the 1881 census there was Peter Law age 66 a ratcatcher at Clavering, Essex, and in Arkesden John Law age 45 born at Clavering. So, there was a dynasty of ratcatchers in Clavering.

The next check was to confirm if Enfield was also a centre of ratcatchers and if my ancestors were part of this group that travelled around the country for scores of miles to provide Jimmy Shaw with his rats. Checking the Enfield census the ratcatchers listed were William Collins of the *Windmill PH*, Windmill Hill, John Cufley (1793-1843), James Cufley (1808-1886), John's cousin, and John Cufley (1817-1878) the son of John Cufley. So, these are 'the most ignorant people Jimmy Shaw ever came near'.

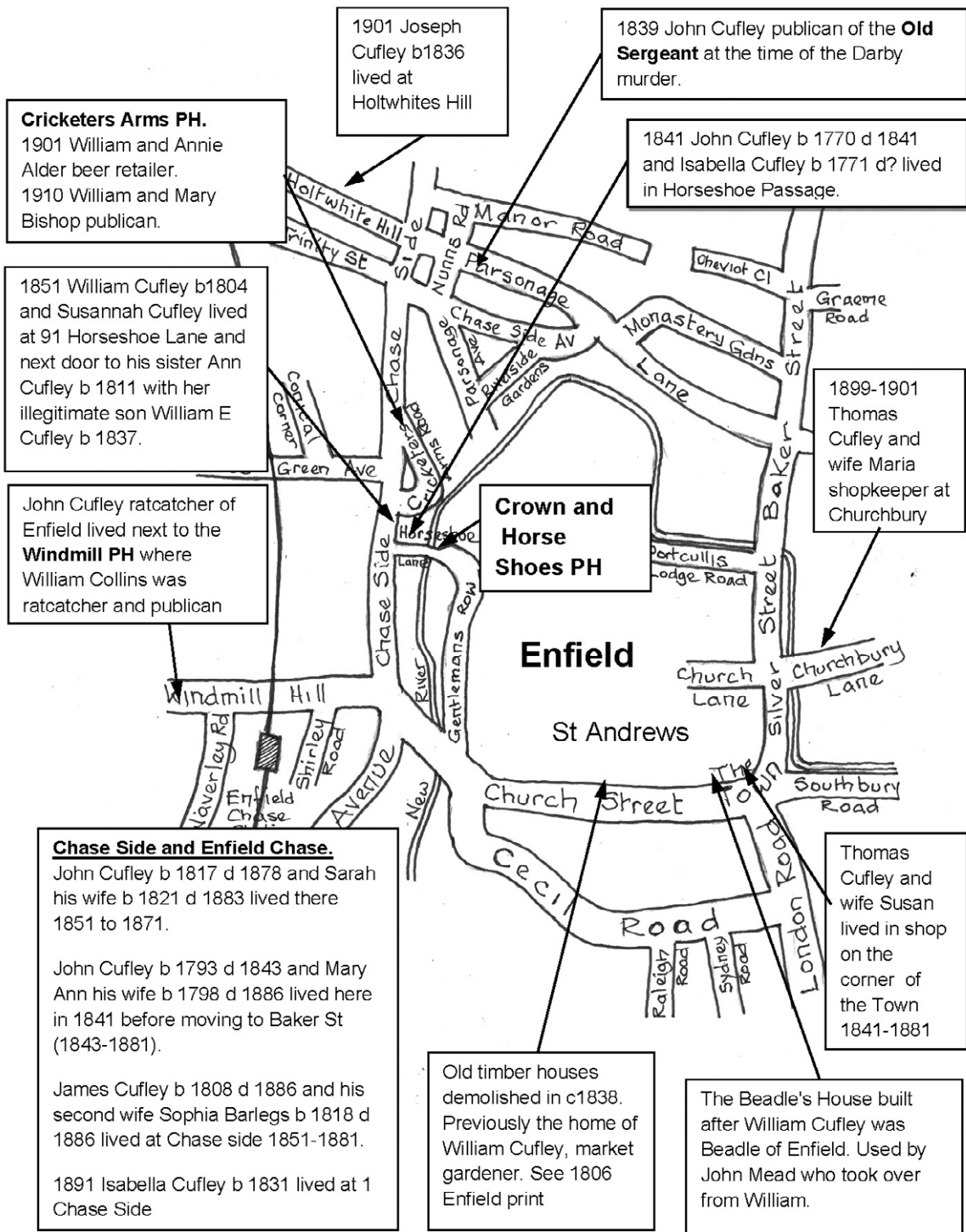


Fig. 2 - John Cufley 1817-1878 had various occupations listed as Sawyer, Rat catcher, Rat destroyer, Labourer and Game Keeper. Tin-type photograph in possession of Eric Cufley (1984) copied with permission as part of the authors ONS family history collection.

The 1842 rate book of Enfield showed John Cufley, the son, lived next door to the *Windmill PH*. Emily Collins née Thorne married the son of James Cufley in 1866, linking the two families.

Jack Black

Henry Mayhew had obviously warmed to his ratcatcher's tales as he sought out Jack Black⁷ styled as 'ratcatcher to her majesty' and found him



Enfield Town and Chase Cuf(f)ley locations and time set against a modern Enfield map

living in Battersea. It is clear Jack knew Jimmy Shaw and also his son Bob Shaw⁸ because he mentions them handling rats at a rat match. Jack Black tells Mayhew he had been ratcatching for 35 years and that at the age of 9 years caught rats at Mr Strickland's, the cow keeper, in Little Albany Street, Regents Park. There was a Michael Strickland with a dairy at Cumberland Market, Regents Park, according to the 1846 PO directory. In 1839 he was listed at this address as well as at 61 Clarence St, Regents Park.

'Jack' and 'John' are often used as alternative forenames so it was not surprising to find John Black age 70 born in Scotland at 4 Market Street, St Ann Soho, in the 1881 census 'Rat Destroyer to her Majesty'⁹. His costume he describes as white leather breeches, green coat, scarlet waistkit (sic) and gold band around his hat with a belt across his shoulders. The belt has two rat symbols and Queen Victoria's initials about a crown. It is obvious that Jack uses this outfit as a marketing ploy.



Fig. 3 - The picture of Jack Black featured in Henry Mayhew's *Vol3 p.9* that has been used in many publications about ratcatchers and Victorian life.

The seller of poison¹⁰ for rats says the dress of the ratcatchers is usually a velveteen jacket, strong corduroy trousers and laced boots. Round his shoulder he wears an oilskin belt on which are painted the figures of huge rats. He continues that his hat is glazed and sometimes painted with the manner of his belt. Surely, he has Jack Black in mind. Jack records how he cast in metal the rat symbols on his shoulder belt, which took him some time to get right, much to the annoyance of his wife whose saucepans he used.

The seller of sporting dogs¹¹ says the use of sporting or fighting dogs is not what it was. He names many sports that had become extinct; bear-baiting, bull-baiting and dogfighting. The only sporting dogs he now supplies apart from hunting and shooting dogs are terriers, the main sport now is rat-hunting but as they are put in a pit it is 'more like killing'. 'An average dog can kill 50 rats in under 8 minutes'.¹² The seller goes on to say the passion for rat hunting is on the increase and that he reckons there are 70 regular rat pits in London¹³

Jack is quite eloquent about his life and admits to having owned a public house in Regent Street, his daughter serving behind the bar dressed as the 'Ratcatchers Daughter' a song well-known in the public houses and music halls. It is the tale of the ratcatcher's daughter drowning in the Thames at Westminster. Her boyfriend who sold lily white sand was so distraught that he committed suicide by cutting his throat and that of his donkey. Jack's daughter is described as wearing a red bodice embroidered with silver lace and a muslin skirt. While the pub is not named, he admits to going bankrupt due to the brewery.

The 1838 picture and description from the *Penny Magazine* show a ratcatcher with laced boots, corduroy trousers and what could be a velveteen jacket. While not quite as Jack Black is wearing in the illustration from Mayhew, the picture of John Cufley (fig. 2) taken from a tin-type with the silver coating having darkened, you can still see that the trousers are corduroy and his jacket looks as if it could be velveteen. A pity the photograph does not show John's boots and if he has gaiters or bowyangs¹⁵ to stop the rats running up his trouser legs.

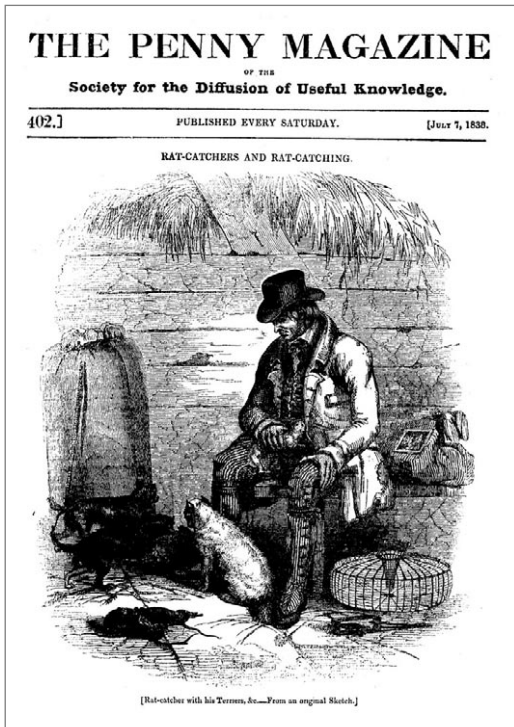


Fig. 4 - The cover of the Penny Magazine for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge published 7 July 1838. Original copy in the authors collection¹⁴.

Mayhew admitted that later in the day of his interview with Jack Black he became very communicative. Jack mentions some customers and acquaintances by name. Whether he or Mayhew redacted the surnames in the manner “Mr P ... from Birmingham” or “Mrs H ... the banker’s lady” we do not know. Jack does mention other people sufficiently that we can trace them in the directories and other documents of the period.

As an example, the following mini-biographies are my research into some of the names found in Jack’s statements.

Jemmy Massey (Vol 3 p.15, 1861) purchased a black and tan terrier from Jack “for a monkey¹⁶, a bottle of wine and three pounds”. Mayhew has reproduced one of Jemmy Massey’s hand bills for a night of ridding at his public house the *King’s Head*, Compton St, Soho, (Vol 1 p.487, 1851). In the newspaper of 1849 Jemmy gains a mention as the pugilist who assaulted police constable 57 C striking him in the head with a life preserver.¹⁷ He

pleaded drunkenness for his excuse and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment.¹⁸ In addition to the rat matches he also staged boxing matches such as in 1849 between Hayes and Madden¹⁹ for 10 sovs²⁰ a side. It’s not only Jemmy that was a pugilist but also Jimmy Shaw, both probably needing this skill to control their public houses and the sporting events they held.

William Herring (Vol 3 p.18, 1861) was mentioned as Jack had seen an escaped South African cat from his menagerie on New Road, which he caught and returned to him. The menagerie is mentioned in the directories and newspapers: Brooks’s menagerie, New Road: lease was sold by auction in 1820.²¹ Herring is then mentioned as owning it, in newspapers in 1834, for selling live animals and birds. At the end of the article it says N.B. Birds and animals preserved to imitate life.²² This final comment ties up with Jack Black who was also known for stuffing birds and animals (Vol 3 p.12, 1861). ‘The Exeter Grand Match’ in the *Western Times* mentions Mr Hex had purchased 500 best blue Rocks²³ from Mr W Herring of the menagerie, New Road, London. The 1839 Pigot directory notes the menagerie at 21 Quickset Row, Pancras, but in the 1846 PO directory it’s listed as 21 Quickset Row, New Road.

There are other names mentioned throughout Henry Mayhew’s volumes: some, like those in Jack Black’s tale, are lost in the text. Elsewhere in the volumes they are in tables, such as the table showing the number of men and carts employed in collecting dust (Vol 2 p.244, 1851).

Both Jimmy Shaw and Jack Black mention the need for keeping sewer rats in a cage and feeding them so the diseases of the sewer are cleaned from both their coats and systems. For they say they are dangerous to both ratcatcher, pit owner’s handler and the ridding dogs.

The Sewerman

Mayhew interviewed a sewerman, who is not named. He states that he started working as a navy to help make the shores (*sic* = sewers) and then went on to working in the sewers to keep them clean and flowing. He recounts that he has caught

rats for 6 or 7 years. He goes into the economics of keeping and selling them. He can sell the rats from 3d, 2½d or 2d each according to who buys them. He sells them by going to beershops and sells to the Landlords who have their own pit but also to dealers of rats. He mentions Jack Black to whom he sold a good many. He admitted he gets 2s a dozen if sold to a dealer or 3s a dozen to a pit owner. One problem he recognised was that by keeping and feeding the rats with barley and bread the cost could be greater than the earnings and there 'ain't no profit'. He knew the pit owners would get 6s a dozen from their clients for their dogs to kill them.

There were three questions asked at the beginning of this article: 'was Jimmy Shaw real?', 'has Henry Mayhew exaggerated some of his interviews to make them more spicey?' and 'have the interviewees exaggerated their stories to make their lives more glamourous, or made them more pitiful, to gain sympathy from their audience?'

Firstly, I believe I have proved Jimmy Shaw was a real person. Secondly, I believe there is a lot of truth in the tales Mayhew recorded and by choosing the way he told them he was trying to entertain the readers and so he may have spiced up the tales or added a little gore to the scenes he described. Thirdly, I believe the interviewees did exaggerate their stories but only in the sense that they knew Mayhew would be aware of most of their conditions either by hearsay or his own observations. What they did was to include names and places into the stories to give authenticity to what they were saying.

If you suspect your family history is connected to Mayhew's London, then I urge you to investigate their lives and tell your family about Henry Mayhew, who has provided us with a wonderful London social history.

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- The National Archive 'Discovery' search engine
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> (accessed 11 April 2021).

Newspapers

- The Era* for Sunday 29 October 1848 had a report on the recent Ratting matches. Edition Sunday 29 October 1848.
- The Penny Magazine* of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, 1838. Edition 7 June 1838.
- Times Newspaper* 19 February 1824, p.3 Col a, 'A Human Rival to Billy'.

Notes

1. Volume 1 of 1851 the assistants were Mr Henry Wood and Mr Richard Knight (late of the City Mission).
2. Quennell, Peter (Editor), 'Mayhew's Characters' selected from 'London Labour and the London Poor' by Henry Mayhew published by Spring Books - London. Sister volumes 'Mayhew's London' and 'London's Underworld', both edited by Peter Quennell and published by Spring Books. The facsimile full unabridged version of all four volumes of Mayhew's 'London Labour and the London Poor' are available from Dover Publications Inc., New York and published in the UK by Constable and Company Ltd of London.
3. A good description of a ratting match is given in Bernard Cornwell's novel 'Sharpe's Prey, Chapter 2, pp.33-38. Published by Harper Collins Publishers in paperback form 2001. While it is fiction it does describe the building, its pit and the smell and sights of an evening event.
4. Jimmy Shaw's story is told in the original vol 3 p.9 published in 1861.
5. HO 107/1523.
6. HO 107/1766.
7. Jack Black tells about his life in vol 3 from p.11. This volume was published in 1861.
8. While Jimmy Shaw only refers to his son also involved in the rat matches but here Jack Black confirms the son's name as Bob (Robert), see Mayhew Vol 3 p.14 and the 1851 census.
9. RG11/131f93 p.47.
10. Mayhew's vol 1 p.485 published in 1851.
11. Mayhew's Vol 2 p.63 published in 1851.
12. Mayhew's Vol 2 p.64 published in 1851.
13. To date I have only found 26 pits in my researches most are north of the river Thames but a few are south of the river.
14. Also available on Google digitized books [Online https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/The_Penny_Magazine/E1oFAAAAQAAJ?hl=en (accessed 13 December 2023).
15. Bowyangs are string or leather ties around the wearer's lower legs. They are known by other local names in country farming areas.
16. Jack Black says monkeys are hard to train.
17. *Oxford English Dictionary on Historic Principles* (OEDHP) 'Life Preserver' is a stick or bludgeon loaded with lead for self-defence (1837)
18. *Bell's New Weekly Messenger* Sunday 5th August 1849.
19. *The Era* Sunday 3rd June 1849.
20. Sovereign is a coin worth 20 shillings, in today's currency £1.
21. *Johnson's Sunday Monitor*, Sunday 9th July 1820.
22. *Morning Herald* (London) Thursday 17th March 1831.
23. OEDHP 'blue Rocks' are either rock-doves or rock-pigeon usually blue (1863).

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Helen Dawkins LRPS

SOME DELIGHTS FROM THE SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Else Churchill

The D'Arcy Hart Collection is one of three important collections of research notes and pedigrees relating to Jewish Families that came to the Society of Genealogists in 1989. Ronald James D'Arcy Hart was Honorary Genealogist at the Jewish Museum from 1930 to 1970 and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. Boxes 1-7 contain his correspondence and notes with clients. Boxes 8-14 are mainly pedigrees and family files. The Collection, which can be quite complicated to use, is held at our offsite store and can be ordered to view at the Society's Library at Wharf Road.

Recently I was helping a reader use the boxes and came across something I found rather fascinating in the D'Arcy Hart Collection Box 1 folder C18 - Cohen file.

This file comprises 31 letters to Louis Cohen and family of South Street, Finsbury, from Matilda Hyman née Godfrey written from Kingston, Jamaica, between 1840 and 1848 - approximately two to three a year.

Matilda seems to have been a governess or companion to the Cohen family who provided her with letters of testimonial prior to her coming to Jamaica where she appears to have found a similar position. The first letter in the file is actually from Matilda's uncle Mr Hyman thanking Mr Cohen for the testimonials.

Matilda writes regularly about her life in Jamaica, especially about the Jewish community there, the ease or otherwise of worship and her various relatives also on the island. The letters would be an excellent genealogical source and the springboard

for a project to identify her uncle and aunt and various cousins whom she names. They provide an interesting insight into the Jewish community of the 1840s and its networks before Kingston became the capital of the island.

In her first letter (see figs. 1 to 3) to Mrs Cohen, Matilda writes:

You told me previous to my departure I should soon get a husband. I assure you I see plenty of gentlemen but am sorry to say the generality are so **depraved**. I should be afraid to trust my happiness to their keeping – tis true in England there is depravity enough but not so glaring as here.

Matilda finds herself a husband within a year (a Mr Hyman who is possibly one of her cousins) one of two young brothers within the Jewish community. In her final letter of 1848 (fig. 4) she reflects she has been nigh on seven years in Jamaica and married for six and how her life has turned out. The letters are charming, informative and very much of their time. They, Matilda and the Hyam and Cohen families deserve to be better known.

A short history of the Jewish community in Jamaica can be found from the Museum of the Jewish People online here: <https://tinyurl.com/yckvum7b> - Jewish community of Jamaica, databases - ANU Museum of the Jewish People.

Else Churchill

Email: else.churchill@sog.org.uk

Kingston, Jamaica - Sept 16th 1840

Mrs Cohen,

My Dear Madam,

with much pleasure I received your kind letter, for I feared - as I had not received any answer to the one sent from Salmouth - I had offended you, by addressing you too freely - I was much grieved at the time - Believe me dear Madam I shed tears of joy on the perusal of it & cannot express my gratitude for your kind & valuable advice - which it will be my study to follow as yet, I have been able thank God to keep my religion strictly - for tis the greatest consolation I have in this world - now that I am separated from all my nearest & dearest friends - amongst strangers - entirely - My Uncle & 3 Cousins are not strict at all, but my Aunt is very particular - My Uncle is pleased that I keep my religion & will let me do as I like in that respect. both my dear Uncle & Aunt do all in their power, that I may be comfortable - & not miss my parents - they have given me several valuable presents & I have only to say what I wish - I have it immediately - I am mistress entirely of the Establishment - which is very large & with the assistance of a Housekeeper, have the management of every thing - My Uncle & Aunt are at present quite pleased with me - I endeavour to imitate you Dr Madam in the management of every thing as near as possible, but I fear shall never be so good & kind as you was to me when living ~~with~~ with you - I shall never forget it Dear Madam, I wish I could only have the pleasure of seeing you & my Dear Children who I trust with Mr Cohen & yourself are quite well - I am afraid you will think me troublesome in writing so soon again - but being a great pleasure to me I trust you will excuse it - you told me previous to my departure, I should soon get a husband, I assure you I see plenty of gentlemen, but am sorry to ^{see} the generality of them are so depraved - I should be afraid to trust my happiness

Fig. 1 - D'Arcy Hart Jamaica Letter 1840 (page 1)

Fig. 2 - Extract from D'Arcy Hart Jamaica Letter 1840 (page 1): '... I assure you I see plenty of gentlemen but am sorry to say the generality of them are so depraved. I should be afraid to trust my happiness ...'

Fig. 3 - Extract from D'Arcy Hart Jamaica Letter 1840 (page 2): '... To their keeping - tis true in England there is depravity enough - but not so glaring as here. If I was with you Dear Madam I could tell that, that you would scarcely credit ...'

Fig. 4 - Extract from D'Arcy Hart Jamaica Letter 1841 (page 4): '... Your Friendly Attached and Affectionate Matilda Godfrey for the last time ...'

IDENTIFYING FRANCES

(WIFE OF JOHN SAWREY, THEN ARTHUR BENSON)

John Humphreys

Note: Places in this article are now in Westmorland and Furness, Cumbria; historically they were in Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland.

My great grandmother Harriett's family tree tells me I'm descended from a fascinating mix: house carpenters, clockmakers, merchants, physicians, and many people who farmed or otherwise depended on the land.

A double-page spread charts her husband's Benson ancestors, plotting their descent from the 1500s to 1800. She must have started this manuscript book around 1890; she was still adding information twenty years later.

Near the top of this sub-tree she places two of my '8th great grandparents': **Arthur Benson** (son of Barnard, grandson of Thomas) married **Frances**, the widow of John Sawrey. The wedding date is not given (it must have been about 1600, ±15 years); Frances' birth family was also unknown.

Harriett pasted in an article about the Sawrey family and Plumpton Hall. At the bottom she stuck in her own little watercolour sketches of the Hall. Another article was added later; it told her Frances Sawrey had been born Frances Briggs of Cowmire Hall.

Researching family history was not easy in Harriett's day, but she had one advantage: her house had belonged to the Benson family centuries before. Her own home held a private collection, hundreds of documents, some going back to the 16th century. They are now at Barrow Archives.

Genealogy still has its challenges. We now share numerous public trees, instantly accessible, a marvellous resource; but I found they didn't agree with Harriett. Those trees that include Frances Sawrey now assert that she had been born Frances Hutton, of Hutton Hall in Penrith. (In fact, most

call her Dorothy Hutton or Dorothy Frances Hutton, and a few even say 'Dorothy Frances Hutton Briggs'.)

So was my great grandmother wrong? Where did 'Dorothy' come from?

To attempt answers, let's first outline the history.

Viewed from Ulverston in the reign of Queen Mary (1553-8), events down south in London must have seemed remote. They loomed closer when the new Queen executed Lady Jane Grey and her father, Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk. In 1554 he was *attainted traitor*, so his lands were forfeit to the Crown.

An estate centred on Plumpton Hall, near Ulverston, suddenly became Crown property. And the Crown didn't keep it.

John Sawrey, third son of Myles Sawrey ('gentleman of Low Graythwaite') acquired the estate; John's descendants would live at Plumpton for two centuries and more. John was buried at Ulverston in 1580, and his son, also John Sawrey, inherited the Hall.²

John Sawrey junior was baptised in 1558/9^{1,2}. His marriage is disputed, at least by Harriett. His death is not recorded, though the College of Arms think it was 'about 1600'. The birth of his heir, Anthony Sawrey, is not recorded - or at least the records haven't survived, though Anthony was married (to Alice Farrington of Werdon) at Cartmel in 1607.

John Sawrey junior married **Frances**. Many people - 491 public trees on Ancestry alone - tell the same story: that Frances (or Dorothy) Sawrey died in Somerset in 1589.

This is wrong, and I can prove it.

Frances survived her first husband, and remarried 'Arthur Benson of Skellwith, gentleman'. I can't trace this wedding in parish registers. But in 1617 Anthony Sawrey sold Arthur Benson a farm estate called Blackbeck; an 'Indenture'³ (deed) was drawn up on parchment, recording the agreement. And the text includes a key fragment:

[Fig. 1]: Edited image from the 1617 indenture:

'excepting only the joynture of ffrancies Benson, Mother unto the said Anthony Sawrey & now wife unto the said Arthure Benson'.

This document (indeed, this sentence) may be the only surviving record of the marriage of the widow Frances to Arthur Benson. Arthur's will (1643)⁴ identifies her ('Fraunces my wife'), their children and some grandchildren, but neither will nor indenture can tell us Frances' birth name.

Arthur Benson was buried at Hawkshead, as his will directed. The parish register, in its odd mixture of Latin and English, under a heading 'sepulture anno predicto' [1643] has an entry for 4 December: 'Arthure Benson in the Chancell'.

Frances Benson was presumably buried on 8 February 1652/3, when the Hawkshead register says 'uxor Arthure Benson in the Chancell'.

Blackbeck, where Arthur and Frances lived after 1617, was located in the hamlet of 'Boweth in Furneis Fells' which we spell 'Bouth, in Furness Fells'. This is now in Colton parish; their local church (Holy Trinity) was consecrated in 1578, but it was a chapel within Hawkshead parish until 1676. Baptisms, marriages and burials must have been conducted at Colton while they lived there, but the surviving parish register only begins in the 1620s. Arthur and Frances' son Edwin was married there in 1638.

Arthur Benson's will left to his wife:

'all the Landes wooddes houses and groundes att Skellwith afforesaid which I am in present possession of', also 'those Landes and Tenementes att Blackebecke', and 'Leade hall at Kendall'.⁴

Lead Hall, Kendal was to be his son Adam's after his widow died; Blackbeck was to be Edwin's. Daughters Agnes and Elizabeth are mentioned, as is:

'my grand Child William Dawson' and 'my grand Child Arthure Benson son of my son Bernard'.

The Benson family clearly saw themselves as landed gentry by Arthur's time, but his father and uncles had been fullers, damming Lakeland streams to create ponds for washing wool. Wool production was one of the most significant industries in England at this time. They managed to make enough money to purchase significant property⁵. Wills of Arthur's descendants generally identify their status as gentry.

Analysis: evidence for Frances Briggs

Out of family loyalty, I started this search with the Briggs family.

Thomas Briggs of Cowmire Hall, Crosthwaite is recorded in the *Visitation of Westmorland* (1615)^{6,7} which offers a brief family tree, listing his two daughters Agnes and Ann. Two sons died without issue.

This tree is expanded in a 1901 article⁸, which I believe is the primary source for my great grandmother's choice of the Briggs family, though it refers to other (less scholarly) sources published a few years earlier. It would have seemed authoritative, written by a respected antiquary of the day. An appendix (with explanatory footnote) extends the Briggs tree to include two more daughters, Frances

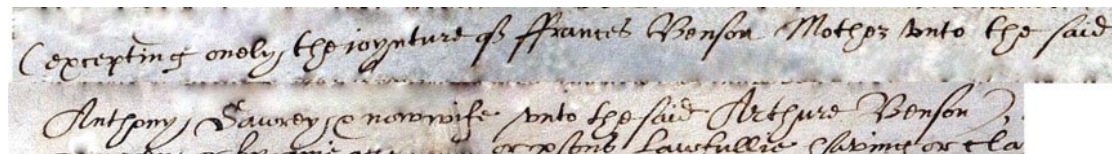


Fig. 1

and Amy. Frances is stated to have married first John Sawrey and then Arthur Benson. The article admits they are excluded from the *Visitation*, but adds them 'on the authority of Nicolson and Burn'.

This is *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland, volume 2 (1777)*⁹, a work that unfortunately does not name its sources. It also makes an obvious mistake: it claims that Thomas Briggs christened two daughters Anne, though both survived to marry:

[Anthony Hutton, of Penrith] 'had issue, 1. William. 2. Richard. This Richard married Agnes one of the four daughters and coheirs of Thomas Briggs of Caumire ... (The other three coheiresses of Briggs were, Anne married to John Skelton of Appletreethwayte, Frances married to John Sawrey of Plumpton, and Anne married to Edward Stanley of Dalegarth.)'⁹

The 1901 article⁸, evidently detecting this problem, changes one daughter from Anne to Amy (stated to have married John Skelton) and amends Frances (stated to have married first John Sawrey of Plumpton and second Arthur Benson of Skelwith), though it fails to explain or offer sources for these amendments.

Comparing this entry from *Nicolson and Burn* with Richard Hutton's family tree (1612)¹⁰, it looks possible that Frances and Anne have strayed from being Anthony Hutton's sisters in the *Visitation of Yorkshire* and been incorrectly copied by Nicolson and Burn, where they become extra daughters of Thomas Briggs - sisters of Anthony's son Richard Hutton's wife. The *Visitation of Yorkshire* says that Anthony Hutton had two sisters: Frances married '... Sayer' and Anne married '... Skelton'.

(The parish register of St Andrew's Penrith begins in 1556, excellent for its time but probably still too late; the marriages of this Frances and this Anne are not included. They may be recorded elsewhere. My great grandmother's tree says John Skelton of 'Applethwaite' married 'Anne or Alice Briggs'. There was a John Skelton of 'Appletreethways' recorded in the *Visitation of Westmorland*, under 'Skelton of High-House' - John was first son of William, of 'Appletreethwaite', but the entry doesn't say who John married, still less when.)

The Crosthwaite parish register records two Briggs baptisms in 1571: Agnes and Ann, daughters of Thomas Briggs. The year then began on Lady Day (25 March); the pages for the years March 1573 - March 1579 are missing from the transcription of the 'Crosthwaite-cum-Lyth' parish register, with the comment that 'several pages seem to have been cut out'.

This is unhelpful, but it offers a window of opportunity for Frances and Amy Briggs to have been baptised but then cut out of history. Their existence remains unproved.

Agnes and Ann Briggs re-enter the record in 1591, when both married at Crosthwaite: Agnes married Richard (future Sir Richard) Hutton, then Ann married Edward Stanley. Their father Thomas had been buried in 1588 ('Thomas Briggs, Cawmyres'); their mother died ten years later ('Issabell Bryggs, widow, of Cawmyer, wyff of Thomas Bryggs'). No marriages are recorded at Crosthwaite for the two extra daughters reported in *Nicolson and Burn*.

Although Frances Briggs/Sawrey/Benson has been included in Benson family trees other than Harriett's, it has so far been impossible to find contemporary records confirming her existence.

Analysis: evidence for Frances Hutton

If there are too few records for the Briggs family in Crosthwaite, the Penrith parish register has ample Huttons: only some of them are the family I'm looking for. Various other sources (heraldic *Visitations*, published histories, Findagrave, even Wikipedia) agree that Anthony Hutton of Hutton Hall had at least two sons, William (the elder, evidently born before the Penrith parish register got started) and Richard. Sir Richard became a noted judge, gaining that Wikipedia entry.

Unfortunately these collective sources are less unanimous about Anthony Hutton's daughters (if they list any, they disagree). There is also Anthony's wife - everyone calls her Elizabeth Musgrave, but her son Richard (who must have known) says she was 'Ellinor, daughter of Thomas Musgrave'. The Penrith burial register lists her as Elizabeth.

However my purpose is not to disentangle Elizabeths, least of all Elizabeth Romnaye (who married an 'Anthonie Hutton' at Penrith in 1559, very probably not the right man). I'm looking for Frances.

And here she is, baptised at Penrith on 5th October 1562:

'Frances d. of Mr. Anthonie Hutton'.

Very few of the early Penrith register entries use the title 'Mr', so this was evidently a person of local importance. Frances' mother died only two years later, in childbirth.

Frances Hutton (or someone else of the same name) married 'John Soraye' at Penrith on 24th February 1583/4. 'The 24 daye John Soraye & ffrances hutton married' is what the actual register says, as opposed to the transcription.

So, was this the same John Sawrey of Plumpton Hall?

The *Visitation of Lancaster* (1664)¹² includes a Sawrey family tree. This says 'John Saurey of Plumpton' married 'Dorothy Hutton'; but Dorothy is cited as daughter of Sir William Hutton, and sister of Sir Richard Hutton. (It was submitted by a great grandson of John and 'Dorothy', another Anthony Sawrey, in 1664.)

Sawrey's disagrees with the Hutton trees^{10,11}, which state William and Richard were brothers, both sons of Anthony Hutton. This *Visitation* is presumably the source of her name in many family trees which identify John Sawrey's wife as Dorothy Hutton, or Dorothy Frances Hutton. At least she is mentioned.

Again, was 'John Soraye' who married Frances Hutton in 1583/4 the same John Sawrey of Plumpton Hall? Was Frances really Dorothy?

Two wills help to provide answers.

Anthony Hutton left a will dated 1589/90¹³, which mentions his daughter Frances. This confusing document suggests she then had two children, but no mention is made of their (or her) surname:

'Item I gyve to my dawhter Fraunces her childrenen either of them foure shillings'.

Sir Richard Hutton's will (1639)¹⁴ leaves 'tenn poundes' to his sister 'ffrancies Ben/8': 'Item I give to my sifter ffrancies Ben/8 if fhe fhall be lyving att my death tenn poundes'. In this the symbol that looks like an 8 is a standard manuscript abbreviation mark and the oblique stroke is probably an old-fashioned (medial or long) 's', exactly as in 'sister' in the same line, so I assume this identifies Frances Benson as his sister.

The evidence for Frances Hutton looks strong - a lot stronger than Frances Briggs. But I can't see that anyone called her Dorothy, at least in her own time.

Comment

What would Harriett think of all this?

She would be surprised but hardly amazed, I imagine, to find that Frances had not been a Briggs at all, but a Hutton. She was well accustomed to correcting errors where she found them.

The records offered on Ancestry and the other family history sites would have raised an eyebrow, at least. I visualise her objecting that multiple forenames were vanishingly rare at the times they were proposed.

The reason lies in uncertainty: our software does not allow for potential entries, only definite ones. So where else is a user to put the various competing names different records offer?

I am not sure Harriett would have been appeased by this argument.

Conclusion

The balance of evidence greatly favours the Hutton family of Penrith as Frances' antecedents. My great grandmother accepted statements by reputable authorities, but I have not found support for these in the detailed documentation.

More generally, I conclude that all sources, however authoritative, must be subject to sceptical

analysis. This is well known, even obvious, but I have been surprised repeatedly in this research by mistakes faithfully copied, from centuries ago right up to the present.

For my own family tree, clearly work is needed. *Out* go my presumed Briggs and Braithwaite ancestors (including William Sandys of Esthwaite). *In* come a whole line of Huttons and their wives and families (who include Thomas, Lord Dacre).

Nicolson and Burn gleefully tell me that Anthony Hutton ‘married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Musgrave of Comcach by his wife Elizabeth bastard daughter of Thomas Lord Dacre of Gilsland.’

I’m sure there must be a story there.

But then, genealogy is a collection of many stories, woven together to make us all.

Acknowledgements

Sarah Lee (Genealogy Cumbria) for researching the Briggs family, and also the Huttons.
 Emma Bromley (Historical Document Transcription) for transcribing the 1617 indenture and other documents.
 Thomas Johnson (Rouge Croix Pursuivant, College of Arms) for a report on the College holdings related to Frances.
 Cumbria Archives, Barrow-in-Furness - now under Westmorland & Furness County Council - for kindly supplying archival images.

Notes

1. ‘John Sowraie’ baptised at Ulverston 24 Feb 1559 – see https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_22085420973.
2. Bardsley, Charles Wareing Endell: *Chronicles of the Town & Church of Ulverston*. See online archive: <https://archive.org/details/chroniclestownc00bardgoog/page/n70/mode/2up>. [pp. 47-48 describe the Sawrey family, including the baptism of John Sawrey in ‘1558’, i.e. 1558/9.]
3. Cumbria Archives catalogue [CASCAT] ref. BDHJ/400/1/35: Bargain and sale ... Indenture dated 30 Jan 1617: Anthony Sawrey of Plumpton, Lancaster, Gentleman and Alice his Wife [sell Blackbeck] to Arthur Benson of Skellwith, Lancaster, Gentleman.
4. Lancashire Archives: Archdeaconry of Richmond Probate Records, Furness Deanery - LANCAT document ref. WRW/E/ R316B/10: Arthur Benson of Skelwith, Hawkshead - will dated 30 Dec 1643.
5. Oxford Archaeology North: Windermere reflections [https://eprints.oxfordarchaeology.com/1264/1/L10453_Windermere_mills_report.pdf] Windermere fulling mills: see sections 3.1.10 - 3.1.12 for mentions of the Benson family.

- Barnard Benson of Loughrigg was named by Harriett as the father of Arthur Benson, and is apparently referenced in this article section 3.1.10.
6. British History Online: www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol18/pp281-285 Cartmel Fell ... see footnote 29 which includes a reference to ‘Trans. Cumb. and Westmld. Antiq. Soc. (new ser.), i, 119’ – [note 8 below].
 7. Saint-George, Richard: *Visitation of Westmoreland, 1615* [available in various reprints, including pedigrees {<https://archive.org/details/pedigreesrecorde00sainrich> }], which includes the brief tree ‘Briggs, of Calmire’, elsewhere spelt Caumire etc.]
 8. Cowper, H.S., FSA: ‘Cawmire or Comer Hall’ in *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, series 2 volume 1: 1901, pp.119-128. Also available online [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-2055-1/dissemination/pdf/Article_Level_Pdf/tcwaas/002/1901/vol1/tcwaas_002_1901_vol1_0012.pdf]. See appendix, p.126, and footnote, for the modified tree of Briggs.
 9. Nicolson, Joseph and Burn, Richard: *The history and antiquities of the counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*. London, W. Strahan, 1777. Volume 2. [p.401 deals with the Hutton family of Penrith, and therefore mentions the Briggs family.]
 10. Saint-George, Richard: *Visitation of Yorkshire, 1612* [various reprints, including online archive of 1875 reprint: https://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-hssl_visitation-yorkshire_CS437Y4A2-19990/page/n559/mode/2up] [contains tree by Richard Hutton dated 1612; 1875 reprint includes a footnote correction.]
 11. St. George, Sir Richard: *Pedigrees recorded at the heralds’ visitations of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, 1615* ... [online archive of 1891 reprint: <https://archive.org/details/pedigreesrecorde00sainrich/page/66/mode/2up> - see p. 67 for Hutton family of Penrith]
 12. Dugdale, Sir William: *Visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1664/5* [online archive of 1872-3 reprint: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015004033075&view=1up&seq=91>] [contains tree by Anthony Sawrey dated 1664, naming his great grandmother as Dorothy daughter of Sir William Hutton and yet sister of Sir Richard Hutton.]
 13. Will and inventory of Anthony Hutton, gentleman, of Penrith, Cumberland [dated ‘January 1589’, so 1589/90]. Cumbria Archives catalogue (CASCAT) ref. PROB/1590/WIN VX109 [very confusing will, though it must have been clear to his executors. Frances’ surname is unfortunately not given.]
 14. Will of Sir Richard Hutton of Goldsborough [1639] [available online via Ancestry: <https://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=5111&h=875495&indiv=try>]* [5 pages: at top of p.4, ‘Item I give to my sifter frances Benf8 if she shall be lyvinge att my death tenn poundes’ which definitely states he had a sister called Frances, very probably Frances Benson.]

* Subscription required to access Findmypast.co.uk and Ancestry.co.uk

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THE GLISSONS OF BRISTOL & NORTH SOMERSET: A FAMILY IN DECLINE

Peter Wynn

Introduction

In an earlier article I described in some detail early Glissons of Bristol and the Dorset descendants of William Glisson I with particular emphasis on their roles in the church and in medicine.¹ In the current article I will concentrate on the descendants of William's brother, Israel Glisson I.

My numbering (I, II, III etc.) is independent of that used in my previous article. Unlike the Dorset branch who were early adopters of the spelling *Glisson*, the use of *Gleson* remained normal in Bristol until about the end of the 17th century. I have however generally used the spelling *Glisson*, except in the notes and direct quotations where I have used the form that appears in the catalogues of archive material.

I start with a brief summary of the early family before moving on to Israel I's descendants. The study shows how the status of the family declined with time.

The Early Family

Walter Glisson, the father of William I and Israel I, was a notary public who was recorded as Chapter Clerk of the relatively new diocese of Bristol in 1556, and its Registrar from 1557-1569.² He had previously been recorded as a Cantator in 1551 and in the same year was awarded the Office of Master of the Choristers.³ His father, Thomas Glisson I was stated as being from Suffolk.⁴ He married Joanne Cooke whose mother was a member of the Gournay family. The likely relationships of the earliest Glissons in the city are shown in Figure 1.

The Burgess Books showed Walter as patron for his sons Israel I on 11 March 1584 and William I on 15 July 1594.⁵

Israel Glisson I

No record of the baptism of Israel Glisson I has been found. Although his matriculation was dated 1572 at Oxford's Hart Hall, he apparently did not graduate with a law degree from St. John's College until 1591.⁶ There is a record of a disputation with a fellow student, Thomas Hemerford.⁷ When Israel Glisson obtained a lease in 1586 on houses built on the site of the former nave, he was described as the Chapter Clerk of the Cathedral.⁸ He was still recorded as such in 1602.²

There was clearly ill feeling towards Israel from his brother, Thomas. The latter's will written in 1592 included 'I give and bequeath unto my brother Israell Gleson in token of forgettingte and foregiveing all unkindnes to me by him one Goblet of Sylver.'⁹

Israel I was responsible for the pedigree of the family contained in the 1623 Somerset Visitation which listed his first marriage as being to Marian, daughter of George Gough of Hewelsfield, Gloucestershire.⁴ Only one son, William, was recorded from this marriage. His second marriage at Winterbourne, Gloucestershire on 29 October 1604 was to Alice Buck, daughter of James Buck. There appear to have been no children of this marriage.

Israel I paid for his freedom of the Spanish and Portugal Company on 10 March 1583/4 and in 1619 was signing as *Registrarium Curiae Admiralitatis Bristoll*.¹⁰

In 1609 he was paying rent on 58-64 The Quay extending back from Marsh Street, the same property as had been rented by his father, Walter I.¹¹

In his will proved in 1629 Israel I asked to be buried in the south aisle of the cathedral, as near as

possible to his first wife and his father. He mentioned that his son, William II, had lately pre-deceased him and made mention of his grandsons, Israel, William and Henry, as well as his daughter-in-law, Eleanor, and his brother, William of Dorset, who at one point in the PCC transcription of the will is mistakenly referred to as ‘my said loving brother

Walter Glisson’. Israel stated that there was an ongoing dispute over his property at Brislington which he had leased to his late son.¹²

Israel’s will showed he had a collection of books which he left to his brother, William I, and that brother’s children. Notable amongst these bequests

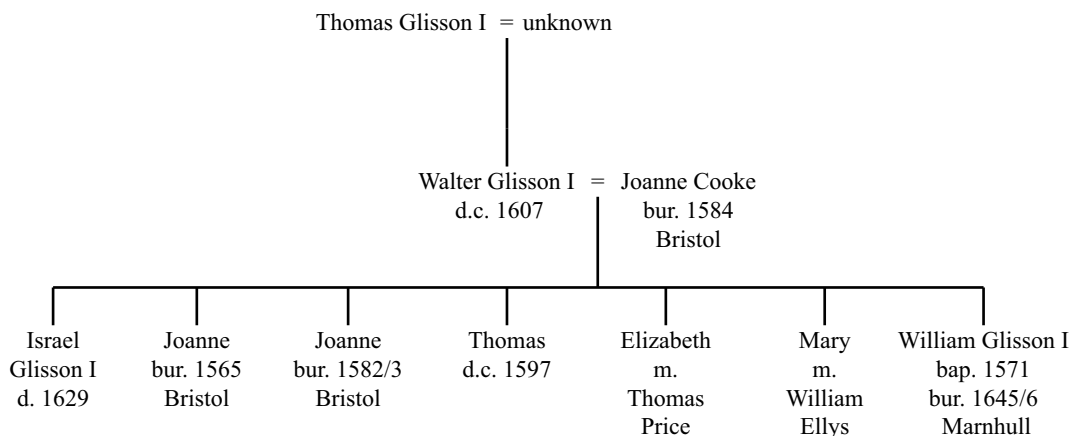


Fig. 1 - The Early Glissons of Bristol

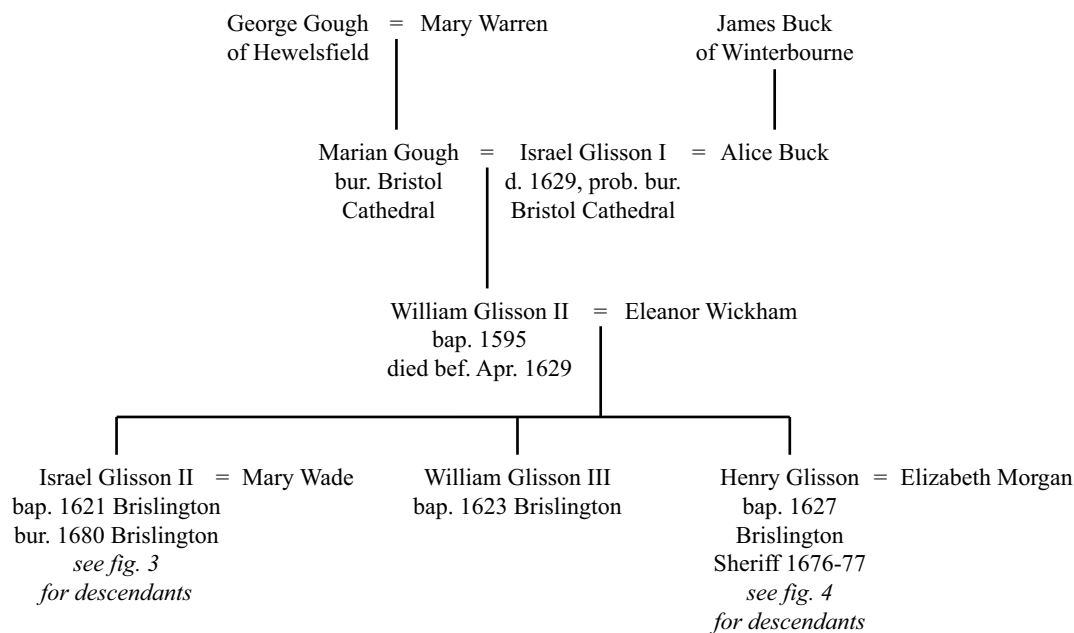


Fig. 2 - The Family of Israel Glisson I

is the gift of seven volumes of Paracelsus' works to his nephew, Francis Glisson.¹³ He also appears to have borrowed books from others: the will of Alexander Woodsonne referred to some of his books that were in Israel's hands.¹⁴

Alice, the second wife and widow of Israel, made her will in 1653 when she was living at Bathford. The will was proved on 26 May 1655.¹⁵ It was unwitnessed but on her deathbed she pointed to a box and said that it contained her will. The statements of those present at her death confirmed that the will was indeed found in the box.

As far as can be ascertained William II, baptised on 25 May 1595 at St. Augustine the Less, was the only child of Israel and Marian (née Gough) Glisson.¹⁶ According to the 1623 Visitation he married Eleanor Wickham of Pucklechurch but I have not found a record of the marriage. William had died before his father made his will in April 1629.

William II and Eleanor had three sons, all baptised at Brislington, at that time a village to the south of Bristol, now part of the city conurbation:

Israel II baptised 14 June 1621;

William III baptised 25 July 1623;

and Henry I baptised August 1627.¹⁷

Little is known about William III other than his baptism at Brislington in July 1623. The register of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London recorded the burial of a William Gleison, aged 12, on 29 September 1636 but, although dates support it, it would be extremely speculative to assume that this is our William. The other sons did however raise families in Brislington which will be described in the following sections.

Israel II, Gentlemen of Brislington, and his descendants

Israel II married Marye Wade at St. Augustine the Less on 21 May 1646. It is the only marriage recorded in the parish register for that year.¹⁶ Children of the marriage were baptised at Brislington as follows:

Mary baptised 14 October 1647 and died 18 November 1705

Israel III baptised 16 October 1649 and buried 17 June 1689

William IV baptised 24 February 1660/1 and buried 4 April 1661.¹⁷

A further two children of the marriage, Thomas III and John I, were named by Israel II in his will.¹⁸ The will of Israel III also recorded that his sister Mary married John Hall of Brislington.¹⁹

The burial of Israel II's wife was recorded at Brislington, but without giving her forename, on 25 November 1664 and Israel himself was buried there on 8 June 1680.²⁰ It is apparent from his will that Israel II had borrowed money on mortgages and left sums of money to Israel III and John to settle his debts. In the case of John I the money was also to cover legacies to Thomas III and Mary I.¹⁸

Israel III married Magdalene Tibbott in 1683.²¹ Magdalene's father, Benjamin, had succeeded to the Barrow Gurney estate just south of Bristol by his marriage to Magdalen Hazle.²²

Israel III was buried at Brislington on 17 June 1689. Magdalene entered a second marriage on 11 February 1691 with William Webb.²⁰

Israel III's will referred to a dispute with Thomas Day, soapmaker, and Nathaniel Friend over the inheritance of his wife, Magdalene, from her father.¹⁹ There are no references to any children of Israel and Magdalene in Israel III's will and none have been found in parish registers.

John I was churchwarden of St Lukes, Brislington between March 1685 and October 1688. The register of the parish recorded that Mary and John, children of John and Ann Glisson were baptised on 12 April 1691 and 18 February 1693-4 respectively. The register also showed the burial of Elizabeth Glisson, daughter of John on 24 January 1686-7.²⁰ A further child, Israel IV, was named as a seven year defendant, along with his mother Ann (the widow of John Glisson I, who had been buried on 11 January 1694/5) in a Chancery case concerning John I's handling of the legacies referred to above.²³

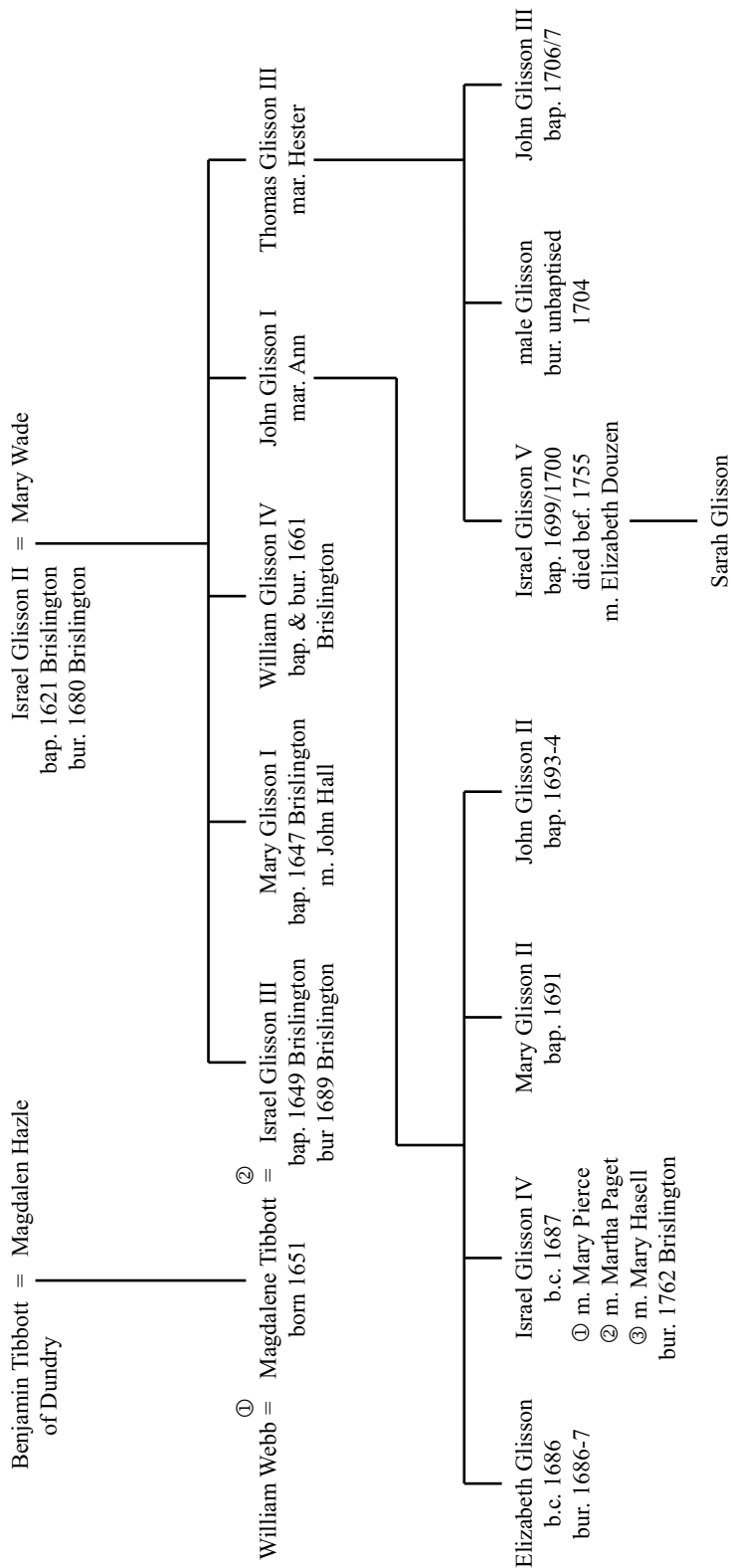


Fig. 3 - Identified Family of Israel Glisson II

The plaintiffs were Thomas Glisson III, John Hall and Mary Hall (née Glisson).

Israel IV married firstly Mary Pierce at Whitechurch in December 1714, secondly Martha Paget at Bristol Cathedral in November 1730 and finally Mary Hasell at Clifton in 1743. He had periods of office as churchwarden and as an overseer of the poor of the parish of Brislington. He was buried there on 21 October 1762. No children of any of the marriages were mentioned in Israel's will.²⁴ The principal beneficiary of the will was the infant son of Dr. Edward Lyne of the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

I have found little about Thomas Glisson III. Israel V, his son, married Elizabeth Dozen at Quedgley in Gloucestershire on 1 April 1736. He died before 1755 as there is a removal order for Elizabeth, widow of Israel Glisson, labourer, and Sarah, her daughter, to return from St. Mary Redcliff, Bristol to Brislington.²⁵

Henry Glisson I: linen draper and his soapmaker descendants

Henry Glisson I, son of William II and Elinor, married Elizabeth Morgan at St. Thomas Church, Bristol on 27 June 1653.²⁶

Henry and Elizabeth had many children. With the exception of Edward, where records have been found they were baptised at St. Thomas Church. Many died in infancy, perhaps not surprising as this was the period of the plague epidemics:

Edward Glisson born 7 July 1659 and baptised St Nicholas Church 10 July 1659; buried at St. Thomas 11 March 1665/66.²⁷

Elizabeth Glisson baptised 27 February 1661/62 and buried 26 June 1664; William Glisson baptised 18 October 1663 and buried 11 March 1665/66; Mary Glisson baptism not found, buried 5 June 1671.

Elizabeth Glisson baptised 1 November 1666 and buried 25 May 1668; Israel Glisson baptised 3 April 1668 and buried 2 February 1668/69; Eleanor Glisson baptised 26 April 1670.

Sarah Glisson baptised 29 June 1671; and buried 16 October 1671; Walter Glisson III baptised 7 January 1674/75.

I have not found a baptism record for Henry Glisson II, who was identified as the eldest son in his father's will, nor for his daughter Anne who was under 18 when the will was written in 1683.²⁸

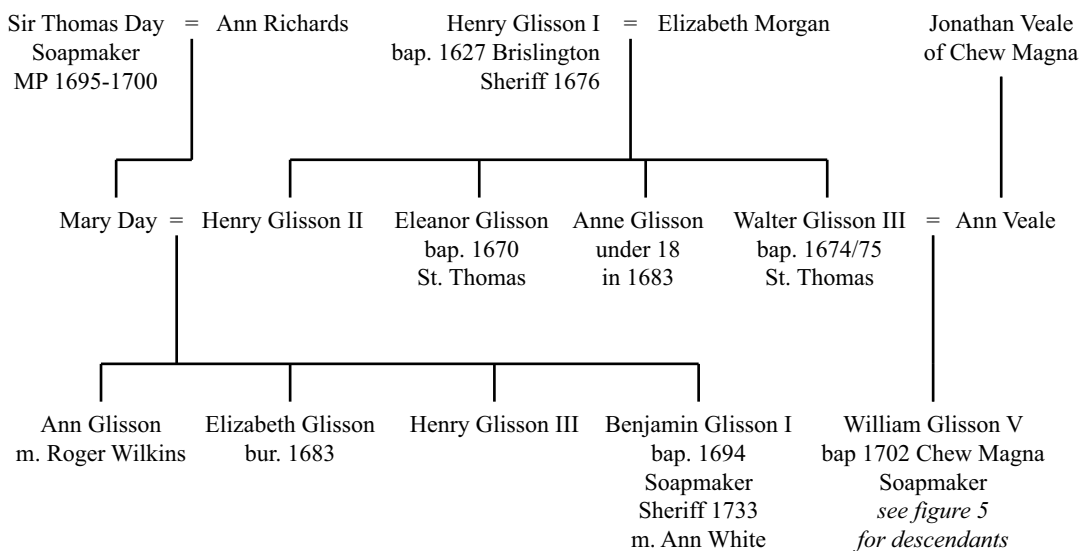


Fig. 4 - Soapmaking Glissons (omitting offspring known to have died in childhood)

In the will Henry I left a life interest in his Brislington property to his wife, after which it was to go to Walter III. Henry II was to receive a house and garden in Magdalen Lane and a messuage on Bristol Bridge.

Rents from properties held of the Foeffes of St. Thomas were to be used for the support of Henry's daughter Anne and son Walter including the support of the latter either in studies at the University of Oxford or during an Apprenticeship. The will made no mention of Henry's daughter Eleanor.

Henry I was elected Master of the Mercers' and Linen Drapers' Company of Bristol in 1663.²⁹ He was one of the two sheriffs who attended the queen (Catherine of Braganza) on her visit to the city on 20 July 1677.³⁰

On 13 Oct 1676 at St Thomas church, his elder son, Henry II, married Mary Day, daughter of Thomas Day, a soapmaker.²⁶ They had the following children:

Elizabeth Glisson buried Christ Church 18 July 1683

Ann Glisson who married Roger Wilkins St Mary Redcliffe 23 May 1699

Henry Glisson III

Benjamin Glisson I baptised St Thomas 24 October 1694

In 1696 Henry Glisson II and Mary his wife were living in Redcliff Street along with Henry III and Benjamin I.³¹

In the context of the power struggle between the king and the Duke of Monmouth, the government sought to replace the council in Bristol with one sympathetic to its cause. In opposition to this was Thomas Day who had been one of the sheriffs in 1670. In 1682 Henry Glisson II was one of the supporters of Thomas Day, by then his father-in-law, in the latter's unsuccessful attempt to be elected mayor.³² In 1684 Henry was one of those described as a *dangerous & disaffected person* from whom arms were seized following the Rye House Plot.³³ Thomas Day was subsequently elected as mayor in 1688 and served as MP from 1695, having been knighted in 1694.³⁴

Benjamin Glisson I was apprenticed as a soapmaker to his grandfather, Sir Thomas Day, and was himself elected as one of the sheriffs in 1733.³⁵ In 1737 he was appointed as one of the first nine *House Visitors*, effectively trustees, of the new Bristol Royal Infirmary.³⁶ He married Ann White at St. Michael's on 14 July 1737 and their son Benjamin II was baptised at St Thomas Church on 4 July 1739.³⁷

Benjamin Glisson I was listed in the 1739 Poll Book as one of the Gentleman of the Corporation.³⁸ The 1754 Poll Book listed him as a soapboiler.³⁹

Walter Glisson III, the youngest son of Henry Glisson I, married Ann Veale at Chew Magna on 22 May 1701.⁴⁰ They apparently had only one child, William Glisson V, who was baptised in the same place on 8 March 1702.

Caves and China: William Glisson V and his descendants

William Glisson V was apprenticed as a soapmaker to Betty Skuce of Bristol in 1716 with his father being described as a clothier.⁴¹ William completed his apprenticeship and was appointed as a burgess on 26 February 1726/7.⁴² He married Silvestra Hebden at Kewstoke on 28 July 1729. He was recorded as being of St Mary, Redcliff.⁴³ Silvestra was the grand-daughter of Richard Hebdon and Silvestra Wykes, née Baynham, and great grand-daughter of Sir John Hebdon and Theophilus Baynham, a merchant who provided support to the Royalist cause from the Netherlands.⁴⁴ William and Silvestra are known to have had nine children as follows:

Silvia Glisson baptised 2 September 1731 Kewstoke, buried 12 September 1731 Bleadon.

Bernice Glisson baptised 19 August 1733 Uphill⁴⁵

Benjamin Glisson born 7 March 1735/6 and baptised 6 April 1736.

Silvia Glisson baptised 3 October 1738, buried 24 February 1757 Bleadon.⁴⁶

Henry Hebdon Glisson born and baptised 10 May 1742, buried 22 November 1816, Loxton; Ann Glisson

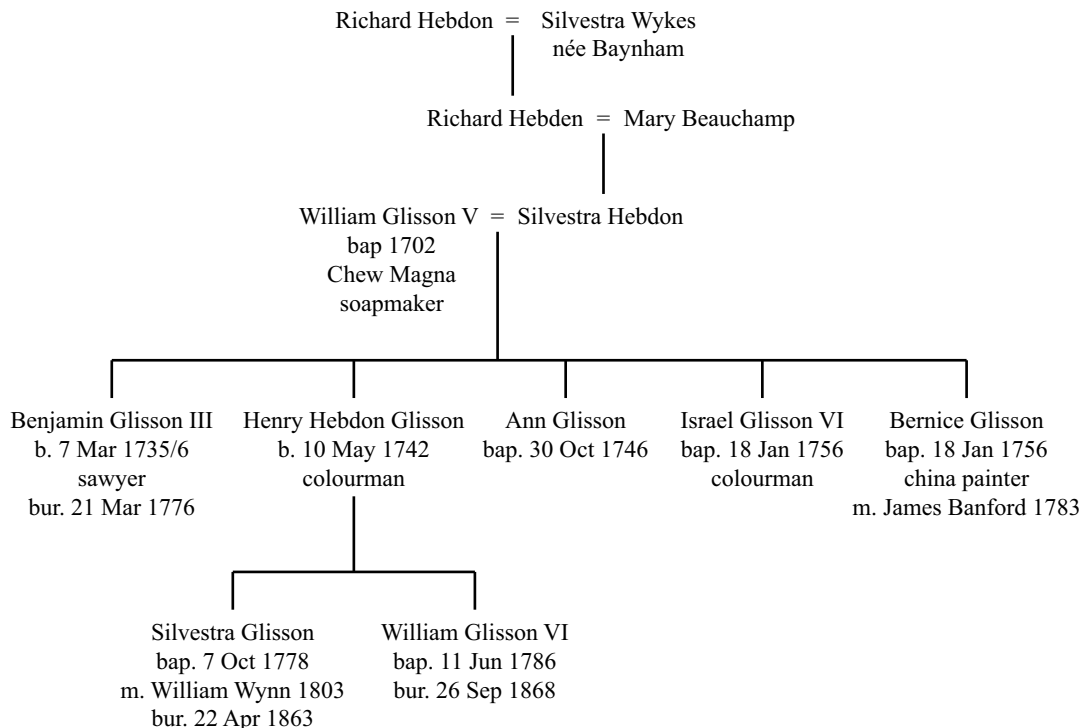


Fig. 5 - Family of William Glisson V & Silvestra Hebdon (omitting offspring known to have died in childhood)

baptised 30 October 1746

Bernice Glisson baptised 8 April 1748

Israel Glisson VI baptised 18 January 1756, buried 18 November 1830 Clifton

Bernice Glisson baptised 18 January 1756, buried 11 November 1812 St. Peter, Bristol

All of the children, except the first two, were baptised at Loxton.⁴⁷

In 1740 William leased a property known as *Rushcroft* in Loxton from George Dodington MP.⁴⁸ This may have been the same property as had been the home of his late father in law, Richard Hebdon.⁴⁹

William Glisson V carried out mining activities in Loxton and Hutton to obtain ochre and lead ore. In the course of this mining, Glisson encountered a cave containing, *inter alia*, hippopotamus bones. This cave was visited by Alexander Catcott and the presence of the bones were used to support his arguments for a universal deluge.⁵⁰ Catcott reported

that William styled himself as *Lord Royal of the Hill*. William Glisson V's father in law, Richard Hebdon, had from c. 1710 become involved in a legal dispute over his claim to entitlement of a moiety of the manor of Elborough which he claimed on the basis of his wife's Baynham ancestry.⁵¹ Unfortunately the other party was Thomas Lyte, an attorney, and Hebdon lost the case. William's continuing mining activities, in spite of the lost case, resulted in a further series of Chancery cases over a period of decades.⁵² A late 18th century account of these cases was contained in a document probably written by Richard Locke.⁵³

Two of William Glisson's sons, Henry Hebdon and Israel VI were recorded as colourmen and would therefore have made good use of the ochre. The third son Benjamin II was recorded as a sawyer.⁵⁴ Recent explorations have been made of the caves in the area.⁵⁵ In the course of these explorations a rock face was found inscribed with the initials HG 1764 and BG 1764 which have been interpreted as those of Henry [Hebdon] Glisson and Benjamin Glisson.⁵⁶

William V was in debt to Israel IV, his second cousin, but the latter forgave the debt in his will as well as giving a legacy to each of William's children.²⁴

In 1774 Benjamin, Henry Hebdon and Israel VI were still at Loxton when they were admitted as Burgesses of Bristol.⁵⁴ Benjamin was buried at Bleadon in 1776. By 1781 Israel, still a colourman, was at St. Mary Redcliffe.⁵⁷ He was buried at Clifton in 1830.⁵⁸

Although in 1781 Henry Hebdon Glisson was registered as a voter in Loxton, he was renting a house in Banwell but had fallen on hard times for in that year and the next he was the subject of Settlement Examinations.⁵⁹

Two of Henry Hebdon Glisson's children, Sylvestra and William, survived until adulthood. Sylvestra was baptised at Loxton on 7 October 1778 and married William Wynn there on 31 March 1803.⁶⁰ William Wynn was described as an agricultural labourer at Christon, Somerset in the 1841 census⁶¹ and as a pauper in 1851.⁶² Sylvestra was buried at Burnham on Sea on 22 April 1863.⁶³ William was baptised at Banwell on 11 June 1786⁶⁴ and was buried at Loxton on 26 September 1868.⁶⁵ He was recorded as a widower on the 1851 and 1861 censuses but I have not been able to locate any record of a marriage or of any children.⁶⁶

Bernice Glisson became a china painter. An account of the production of the *Frog dinner service* for Catherine the Great of Russia in the 1770s stated that the excellent team responsible for it at Wedgwood's Chelsea decorating studios was 'led by three women landscape painters - Mrs Wilcox, Miss Glisson and Miss Pars'⁶⁷. Bernice was paid 12 shillings a week which Meteyard commented as reflecting her superior ability.⁶⁸ She interpreted the use of 'Miss' to describe Miss Glisson and Miss Parr in Wedgwood's correspondence as indicating they 'belonged to a superior situation in life.'⁶⁹ Bernice married James Banford, another porcelain worker originally from Bristol, at St. Pancras in 1783.⁶⁹ In 1790 the Banfords moved to work for Royal Crown Derby. James was described as a clever painter. However the family had financial problems, largely it seems as a result of James' addiction to drink.⁷⁰

Commentary

In the 16th and 17th centuries the family were influential in the church, civic and commercial life of Bristol including marriages to Members of Parliament and knights. By the end of the 17th century some members of the family still had substantial land holdings but their involvement with legal disputes over inheritances may have been the cause for moves down the social scale. There is the situation where Israel Glisson IV is an overseer of the poor, but the widow of his cousin, Israel Glisson V, finds herself the subject of a removal order.

William Glisson V continued with the legal disputes started by Richard Hebdon, his father-in-law, that continued for about half a century. This must have been another drain on family resources and we find William's son, Henry Hebdon Glisson, seeking poor relief and later the husband of Henry Hebdon's daughter, Sylvestra, recorded as a pauper in the 1851 census.

Loose ends

Inevitably a study such as this cannot be complete. Here I list names I have been unable to confidently incorporate into the story.

In 1567/8 a Walter Gleson, son of Thomas, was baptised at All Saints Church Bristol. Dates make it improbable that this Walter was the one who married Joanne Cooke. One possibility is that Thomas, the father of Walter, was another son of Thomas Glisson I.

I have not been able to place John Glisson, a baker, who made his will in 1722, naming his wife, Elizabeth, as executrix.⁷¹ He had taken on an apprentice in 1716 and his widow had done so in 1723.⁷² Presumably John and Elizabeth (née Edgley) were the couple who married in Bristol Cathedral on 2 July 1716.⁷³

Mystery concerns Thomas Glisson who married Mary Bowers at Bedminster on 10 December 1724. Was he the Thomas who was father of Esther baptised at St Philip & St. Jacob on 23 January 1725/6, Thomas at the same place on 13 August

1727 or Ann at Bristol Temple Church on 21 July 1730?⁷⁴ Was he the son of Thomas *Gilson* who married Eleanor Morberidge at Temple Church on 26 November 1682? A daughter Eleanor of the marriage was also baptised there on 21 October 1686. It is not clear whether the subsequent burial of an Eleanor *Gilson* on 8 October 1687 was of the child or mother.

It is likely that Daniel Glisson who married Catherine Murphy at Clifton on 3 December 1804⁷⁵ and Amelia Glisson (née Mais) who was buried at the same place on 12 September 1844⁷⁶ were associated with Israel Glisson VI who was living there in the early 19th century, but I have been unable to establish the relationship.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my appreciation to Pat Lindegaard (www.bristolhistory.co.uk) whose *Brislington Bulletins* and Phil Glisson (www.plglisson.net) whose *References for Glissons in England* were both extremely helpful in my initial studies of the Glisson family.

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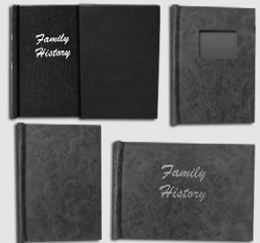
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KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE...

Helen Dawkins LRPS

After 32 years in business it seems impossible to continue to be presented with new challenges and yet more wonderful photographs created by our ancestors but I am grateful for the opportunities to keep the grey matter working. Our archives really do contain some magical, nostalgic and intriguing photographs and it continues to be an absolute pleasure to be involved in creating the archives of the future. Very often the first words I hear are “oh it’s not a very good photograph but it means a lot to me”, and that sums up our photographs. They don’t have to be professional photographs to matter, they just have to matter and all photographs are important whether a ‘60s Polaroid snap or a top professional photographer’s work of art. Never believe “it perhaps isn’t worth doing” because it undoubtedly most certainly is.

One of my tasks this quarter was to rescue a heavily stained photograph which had been on display and enjoyed but sadly not protected by framing. This Cabinet Card from the Williams archive was dated c1905 proving how we must treat date ranges with a large pinch of salt. Cabinet cards were at their height of popularity from the late 1860s to 1900 but they were still being produced up to about 1914 even though more simple styles of photograph had been available since early 1900, particularly since the introduction of the Box Brownie at the beginning of the century which certainly brought photography to the masses.

This cabinet card had been propped up on a shelf without the protection of a frame, although it would appear to have been framed at some point as there is damage from an overlaid oval mount. The photograph had suffered from being damaged with an excessive amount of fly specks (excrement in other words). The top raised surface of the mark would appear to have been removed leaving behind a nasty stain. It is sometimes possible to carefully clean an old photograph of the grime of years gone

by although this should only be attempted by a professional Photographer Restorer/Conservator. In previous years it was considered safe good practice to apply a special purpose diluted bleach to work on the stain but years of experience have now proved that it is not possible to completely remove all traces of the bleach, particularly as this style of photograph is printed on thin paper and backed onto board and the bleach residue may continue to work over the coming years and cause further damage. It must also be remembered that the paper used to print photographs for Cabinet Cards was very often albumen paper which had a coating of egg white (albumen). This surface could, by its very nature, present with crazing over the years which can be seen under magnification and, if excessive cleaning is carried out, the surface, and therefore the photograph, may be damaged. The only safe cleaning for albumen paper is to use a soft squirrel hair brush applied in a gentle circular motion to carefully remove surface dust.

With these cautions in mind, the safest way to proceed was to scan the photograph and carry out restoration on the digital file to remove all evidence of the stain - a time consuming process in this case as the flies had been very busy over the years!! Once all stain marks had been removed, a negative was produced to enable a silver halide darkroom print to be made. Printed in black and white the print was then washed, bleached, washed again and immersed in authentic sepia toning chemicals to replicate the original and provide a print to once again give 100+ years of life if stored in archival conditions whether that be in a frame or acid free archival storage.

It is often believed to be unwise to have our photographs on display but we should and must enjoy them; the only criteria is that the framing is carried out to archival standards using an acid free mount or spacer to keep the photograph away from the glass, the back sealed and the framed piece hung away from



Figures 1 & 2 - Cabinet Card - before and after. Courtesy of the Williams archive

direct heat, sunlight or humidity - including standing on a window sill as the heat alone either from the sun behind or perhaps a radiator beneath the window can cause the photograph to dry out and deteriorate. I have my own 'Rogue's Gallery' on a north facing wall and I genuinely do enjoy seeing photographs of four generations on a daily basis. Bear in mind also that there are excellent alternatives to standard glass and old style non reflective glass and these will reduce the reflective problem and also give protection against UV light. This is more expensive than standard glass but if the budget allows, well worth the extra cost.

Archiving of documents etc.

As well as photographs, I am often called upon to archivally store documents etc. and an RAF log book arrived in the studio for just such treatment. This was an RAF Flight Engineer's complete hour by hour flying record over the years 1943-44 in aircraft including various Halifax, Lancaster models.

The log book was in very good condition but the advantages of having the book scanned include being able to share the detail with other family members and also military archives as well as protecting it for future generations. Once scanned, I sourced a suitably-sized acid free box in which to store the book which also provided safe storage for Flight Engineer, R Page's World War II war medals and other personal items such as his pipe and of course, his photograph. This is a work in progress so I will include an image of the finished storage in the next magazine. A small item in the grand scale of the war but such an insightful and interesting record of one man's huge contribution to the war. I so often hear the lament that no descendants in the family show interest in becoming a future custodian of such an historical piece but I also hear of interest being shown once the current custodian passes away. The younger generation then often have an awakening moment as to how 'valuable' such an item is in preserving our family history. As a back up you might also want to add to your storage box, details of a military archive that the item could be forwarded to in the event of no further family members being interested in taking on the responsibility. This will at least ensure that the history can be enjoyed by others in future years.

And now to another baptism of fire into the history of motorbikes ...

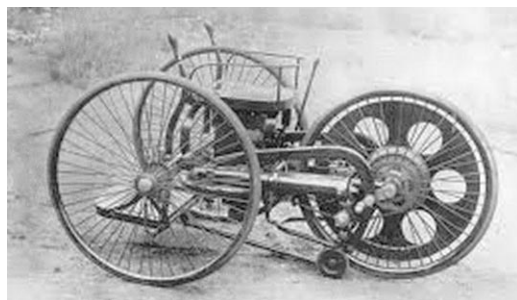


Figure 3 - The Butler Petrol Cycle

The history of British motorcycling began back in 1884 when the first commercial design for a self-propelled bicycle was invented by Englishman, Edward Butler. The Butler Petrol Cycle was a three-wheeled contraption, powered by a 600cc engine. The history of motorbikes is certainly a huge subject and not one I profess to be overly acquainted with but I hope those amongst you who have an interest in this subject will enjoy these images. It certainly is a fascinating subject once you begin to delve into the history.



Figure 4 - A piece of history (Aunt Gert & friends).
Courtesy of the Walters Archive.

Walters motorbike photograph : this photograph was part of a large archive and I just had to share it with you - so full of character and historical interest. There is no other information other than we believe it was taken in the 1930s. It would appear to be taken on a pebbly beach but the location and also detail of the motorbike/sidecar are unknown. Any ideas anyone?



Figures 5 & 6 - Motorbikes of the 1940s. Above: a honeymoon couple. Below: Father and son out for the day. Courtesy of the Crisp Archive.

Two further motorbike photographs of the 1940s came under scrutiny recently, bringing with them such wonderful stories. The first shows a couple being waved off on their honeymoon and the second with father and son obviously ready for an outing. It is these kind of photographs that really tell a story and are a wonderful addition to an archive.

The passing of a legend

July 2024 saw the passing of Sir Kenneth Grange at the age of 95; perhaps not a name we all know but he was an industrial design legend and amongst his many achievements was that of the Kodak Instamatic camera in 1963. This design with its drop-in film cassette revolutionised the world of photography and in the first 7 years sold approximately 50 million models worldwide. The original film was a square format, 28mm x 28mm so it really was very easy to use - drop in the film cassette and press the button, no need to even turn

the camera on its side to adjust the view from landscape to portrait. The cameras came with flash capability for indoor and night photography and could be loaded with colour and black & white print film as well as colour slide film. This certainly was a time photography for the masses really took another giant leap forward and we undoubtedly all have in our collections, photographs from the 60s/70s produced with these Instamatic cameras. In 2022 Sir Kenneth gifted his archive to the V&A Museum, London - I think this would be a visit well worth making.



Figure 7 - The Kodak Instamatic

Sir Kenneth Grange produced many other well-known designs including the UK's first parking meters, Wilkinson Sword razors, Kenwood food mixers, Morphy Richards irons, Imperial typewriters, Parker pens, Ronson cigarette lighters, angle poise lamps and the design and livery for the new highspeed trains, the Intercity 125, for which he was probably best known. What an amazing lifetime's achievements.

As ever I look forward to your thoughts and challenges.

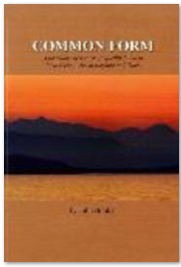
Helen Dawkins LRPS

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.



BOOK REVIEWS



Common Form: A Formulary of Records Frequently Found in Local Repositories in England and Wales, by John Booker. John Booker, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-3999-2625-6. Paperback, 81pp. £10.00 plus £2.80 post and packing within the UK.

A defining moment for many aspiring family historians comes when they seek to tackle a document which is written in an unfamiliar hand, maybe in Latin, heavily abbreviated, and packed with unfamiliar legal terminology. Do you quit or dig in?

Embarking on a palaeography course, many of us learn that wills usually begin with 'In the name of God' or 'in nomine Dei, Amen'. Some standard phrases follow, with luck allowing us to get to grips with the handwriting before sifting out the details we want.

John Booker's manual is based on an analysis of similar patterns. The type of document can often be identified by the preamble and if you understand its intended purpose and are aware of the standard formats and terms used (the common form), you are in a much better position to extract from it the information you need. Knowing that there is some kind of template, even if it includes variables, means that enormous and anxious effort does not have to be put into deciphering every word but that the main effort can be directed to the parts which are relevant to the researcher.

The work is a distillation of John Booker's 60 years of poring over documents and passing on his expertise to other archivists. All that experience is brought to bear on analysing and classifying a huge range of documents spanning many centuries and many different administrations. He concentrates on the formulaic documents produced for the Crown and by central and local courts, particularly in regard to the transmission or management of real estate. Documents of the Church of England are not covered.

After the prologue, the methodology is explained, then the main divisions are laid out. The first detailed section is on deeds, which are dealt with on two levels. Level 1 explains what is common to all deeds while Level 2 shows how to distinguish one type of deed from another. This sets the pattern for other sections as the author explains the purpose of each type of deed, notes what language it will be written in, identifies the format and then gets down to examining the formulae we may expect to encounter in all of the ten types of deed identified.

Court records make up Section B, starting with

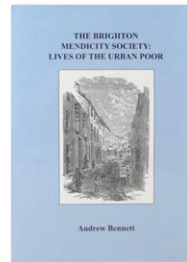
Quarter Sessions (Recognizances and Presentments) before moving on to central courts and then documents linked to the Crown.

Manorial documents and wills form Sections C and D.

The prologue contains the huge understatement 'This has not been an easy work to compile'. It is not an easy work to read either. In order to reduce it to the essential subject matter, chunks of Latin are quoted without translation. But in return we have an affordable and portable book. In less than 90 A4 pages, John Booker has created an indispensable manual and trusty *vade mecum* for any family historian determined enough to rise to the challenge posed by legal documents.

It is perhaps fitting that a guide for those willing to rise to challenges is not easy to track down. To buy a copy, contact the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service at the Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter, Devon EX2 7NL. Note that John Booker's other book *Devon Deciphered*, also available from Devon Heritage Centre, provides reproductions of many different types of document held at Devon Archives with transcriptions and (where necessary) translations.

Gwyneth Wilkie



The Brighton Mendicity Society: Lives of the Urban Poor, by Andrew Bennett. Sussex Record Society, 2022. ISBN: 978-0-85445-084-8. Hardback, illustrations, 349pp. £30.00.

Browsing through this book is like opening a window and peeking into a different world in a different time, of charities, local administration and the poorer people living in Brighton. The book contains transcripts of the earliest surviving reports made by the Brighton Mendicity Society, from January to June, 1872.

The Society was re-established in 1872 and, as its name suggests, it aimed to address the problem of begging and beggars in Brighton. In an attempt to remove the need for people to beg, the Society checked that claims were genuine, and either gave relief immediately or referred the person on to another agency or charity that would help.

The author, Andrew Bennett, is the Brighton and Hove Archivist at the East Sussex Record Office. Within the six months covered, he has researched 200 people and covers the contact they had with the Mendicity Society. For each person, there is a brief biography, usually including their

birth, marriage and burial dates, and any information on previous court appearances or applications for help. The author has sourced these details from the Ancestry website, the census records and newspaper reports. If the person has a longer connection with the Society, there is a brief account of what has happened. Then there is a transcription of the Society's record relating to the period January to June.

Of course, this book is of great interest to anyone searching for ancestors in the Brighton area in the late 1800s. Anyone researching the local history of Brighton, and the area around it, will find it offers a lot of background information. In a more general way, just browsing the accounts of the people who were applying for relief in that time is fascinating.

There is a very full Introduction, giving background to the Society and poor relief in the area. The Mendicity Society was formed in late 1871. It changed its name later in 1872 to the Charity Organisation Society.

People applying for financial relief were usually referred by another organisation or person. The person referring them gave the applicant an investigation ticket, which acted as an introduction to the Society. Note that many applicants were asking for sustenance and were simply given bread. There were no enquiries made about these people and they are not included in this book. The Society gave each applicant for financial relief a unique reference number which remained attached to that person's record in the Society's books. Each application triggered an enquiry into the person's circumstances. Because the relief offered was usually a small grant, the Society felt a need to check the person's background.

We meet the Society's agent for this period, William Collingham. He had been a local policeman so he was familiar with many of the people and with the local area. Each report concludes with a phrase to show the outcome of the enquiry, such as 'Ineligible' or 'Dismissed as undeserving'. Those who were trying to help themselves were generally favoured: 'Allowed 3s for an old pair of shoes to enable him to get to work' (p.56). Frequently, the outcome shows that the Society has referred the applicant to the parish authorities.

Francis Healey, aged 19, is a labourer who wants to be a tailor. The Society awards him funds to pay for his apprenticeship. Within a few months, Francis applies again for help to pay for his new artificial leg. Being able to stand will enable him to be a cutter in the workshop. Again the Society contributes to the costs. Each time Francis receives help, he writes a thank you letter (p 32).

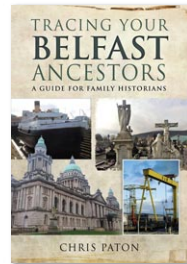
However, Charles Linstead, aged 27, is a servant from London who has moved to Brighton. His new employer has died and Charles is out of work and owes rent. He applies for money to pay his fare back to London. This is dismissed: 'Ineligible. A strong able man able to walk to London' (p.34).

We also meet the people who were issuing the

investigation tickets to the poor. Most seem to be the wealthier citizens of Brighton or ministers from various churches. In many cases, they have also written to the Society asking for a background check on the person to be made.

This book makes for fascinating reading. There are the stories of people whose lives were tipped over the edge by one unfortunate incident, such as an accident, and who then lost their housing and their jobs. There are also the people who cared and the efforts they made to help. For readers who are hoping to find ancestors, it is very well structured and name-rich, with an index of names at the end of the book to help.

Please note: the above two titles were published in 2022.



Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors, by Chris Paton. Pen & Sword Family History, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-52678-033-1. Paperback, illustrated, indexes, bibliography, 138pp. £14.99.

If you have ancestors from Belfast, then you probably already know that there's a lot to discover

about the city's history and its records. This book offers to help. It specifically covers how to research the people who lived and worked in Northern Ireland's capital city.

The author, Chris Paton, has primarily aimed this book at those starting to look for their Belfast ancestors. But there is plenty of information and detail for those who have 'already stuck their toe in the Lagan' (Introduction p.13).

Chris Paton is a well-known genealogist and has written a number of books on Scottish and Irish history. For him, writing this book was almost like coming home. Born in Northern Ireland, his family moved to Scotland and then England in his early years. When they returned, he was a teenager. He tells us '...it's hard to describe the city of Belfast of my youth without experiencing a variety of deep emotions' (Introduction p8). His exploration of the city, its people and its history makes for a very interesting read.

Throughout the book, there is lots of detail explaining and describing the records you can use for research. Shaded boxes, appearing from time to time, give a wide range of hints and tips, as the author shares discoveries he has made during many years of studying the collections. Some of these tips are absolute gems, especially references to old books or related documents. Plus, there are case studies, usually relating to his own family tree, to offer examples - and, often, a little inspiration.

The brief history of Belfast in chapter 1 is an excellent place to start for most people. It includes descriptions of charter towns, the development of trade and industry, the 'Famine', the 'Troubles' and the Good Friday Agreement.

'Out for a Dander' (chapter 2) explains Belfast's administrative boundaries, which aren't clear cut, to say the least. There's a map to help you begin to locate where your ancestors lived. Most valuable of all, is an excellent table (starting on p.32) which lists the hierarchy of counties, baronies, parishes, townlands, all the way down to registration districts.

There's an essential section in chapter 2 (starting on p.35) covering the three main languages spoken historically within the city: English; Ulster Scots, often referred to as 'Lallans' or 'Ullans'; and Irish, referred to as 'Gaeilge'. This is helpful when researching place names, some newspaper articles and media items.

As you would expect, the author provides information on all the archives, libraries and museums in Belfast, in a great amount of detail. For each one, there is an address, a link to their website, an email address and a phone number. For some, there is advice on how to book a visit. Included is what each organisation offers and where they are located in the city. Some on the list are less well known, such as the Linen Hall Library (p.47) and the McClay Library and Archive at Queen's University (p.48).

For the basic records, the author usefully covers what the main commercial family history websites hold and how to explore and interpret the censuses of 1901 and 1911. 'From the Cradle to the Grave' (chapter 5) offers a very detailed and helpful way to find records of birth, marriage and death. Civil registration started in Ireland in 1845 for non-Roman Catholic marriages only. It was expanded in 1864 to cover all births and deaths, and all marriages for all denominations. There is a careful explanation of registration districts. Then separate sections for births, marriages and deaths describe what the records can hold and how to access them. For records before civil registration began, the religions of Belfast people are covered, including where to find church records and what is now available online. Finally, there is a section on where to find the city's burial grounds with physical and web addresses.

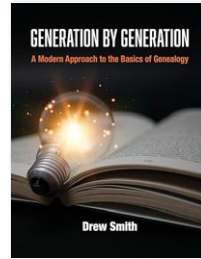
Later chapters expand horizons, to help you build a more complete picture of the lives your Belfast ancestors led. There are detailed sections on education, workhouses, hospitals, the courts, theatres, jobs and those who joined the British military.

The book is hugely readable. The text is clear and informative and there are wonderful snippets of the unexpected or the unusual. For example, the free-to-use Eddie's Extracts (chapter 4, p.60) is a website offering a database of newspaper extracts, announcements, a guide to streets, plus many other lists, such as a roll for the Civil Defence Service in the Belfast Blitz of 1941. This is worth a browse even if you don't have any Belfast ancestors.

There are clear descriptions of other record sets, such as the valuation records (p.107), Griffith's Valuation (p.109) and the Registry of Deeds (p.111). As part of the description, the author has included examples and case studies to demonstrate how useful these records can be.

It is now usual to research our ancestors in newspapers and broadcast media. Newsreels and the main broadcasting channels are discussed (p.131), including how to find the information. An especially interesting section encourages the family historian to consider the sport their ancestors might have played. This is a less familiar pathway for many, but the author includes a range of sports, including Gaelic football, hurling and rugby. A great tip for tracing sports is a newspaper called 'Ireland's Saturday Night' and there are details on where to find it.

This book is an excellent resource to help you find your Belfast ancestors and tell their stories. Chris Paton writes in the Introduction that he wanted to show, concerning the survival of records in Belfast, that 'the glass is most definitely half full and not half empty' (p.13). He has certainly achieved that.



Generation by Generation - A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy, by

Drew Smith. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2023. ISBN: 978-0-8063-2127-1. Paperback, illustrated, 170pp. £25.20. Also an eBook.

This book aims to provide people new to family history with a structured way to research their family, one generation at a time. It contrasts with books that introduce beginners to one set of records at a time. The records discussed and the sources listed throughout the book focus on finding ancestors in the United States. However, the process and the approach to research can be applied to almost any country or region, making it a really useful reference for anyone new to genealogy.

The author, Drew Smith, hosts the Genealogy Connection podcast and is a co-host on The Genealogy Guys podcast. He is the Genealogy Librarian at the University of South Florida Libraries and founded The Genealogy Squad Facebook group.

The book is in two Parts. Part I covers the basic information that one needs to *know*. Part II covers what one needs to *do*. Both parts are well illustrated with web page images and example records.

Part I introduces a number of elements of genealogy that beginners may not be familiar with. This includes: descriptions and examples of pedigrees and family group sheets; a clear description of the issues relating to

the Julian and Gregorian calendars; and the importance of applying the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The chapter on how to organise files, both on paper and online, is useful for anyone. The chapter giving an overview of DNA testing covers the basics, including brief explanations of common terms.

Drew spends time describing each of the main genealogical websites, including Cyndi's List. There are clear explanations, with images of web pages, descriptions of the records each website holds, and explanations of how to search them effectively. Most family historians, of varying expertise, would find useful information in this chapter, especially the less well-known records and books. For example, there is an excellent description of how to search through the vast number of books in the online 'FamilySearch Catalog' (p.46).

Part II suggests the beginner moves back, from one generation in the family to the next. The chapters in this Part, therefore, cover specific time periods, helping a beginner to research their grandparents, then great-grandparents, and so on, as far back as possible.

The first time period covers the years after 1950. The second half of the 20th century is not always easy to research but Drew's suggestions include paper records, like old phone books, and online sources, such as digitised newspapers.

The period 1950 back to 1880 includes detail on how to find and how to understand census records and military papers. Moving from 1880 back to 1850, Drew covers US Civil War records and pension records, in addition to the censuses. There is also the Freedmen's Bureau records which were created and maintained from 1865 to 1872. They hold details of formerly enslaved persons and enable a genealogist to link a person to a plantation, then possibly to a will or property records.

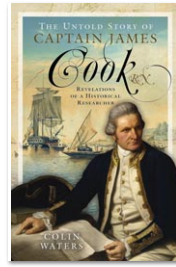
The period from 1850 back to 1776 offers fewer sources and records. Suggestions include censuses, although incomplete, and military records for the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and the War of 1812 (between the USA and Britain). Helpfully, there is a list of gaps in the records. Finally, to explore the years before 1776, there is a chapter covering how to research in the State Archives of the original 13 colonies.

The last chapter covers very briefly what is available outside of the USA, to take a family tree back to Europe. There is information on most European countries, showing contacts and web addresses.

This book would be extremely helpful for anyone who has members of their family tree that migrated to the USA. The earlier chapters offer useful information to beginners and refreshers.

Sherryl Abraham

BOOKS IN BRIEF



The Untold Story of Captain James Cook RN, by Colin Waters. Pen & Sword History, 2023. Hardback, photos, appendix, bibliography, 198pp. £22.00.

The 'untold story' refers to Captain James Cook (1763-1794), the son of the famous explorer, Captain James Cook. James Cook the younger was Captain of *HMS Spitfire*, a 16-gun sloop in the British Navy. The official records show that he rowed out to his ship from Poole Harbour after dinner and drowned in a storm. However, there are speculations that he deserted his post, was declared dead, then secretly joined his young son and the boy's mother in North Yorkshire. The author shows, in great detail, that there is no agreement on exactly what happened. He uses a full transcript of the Surveyors General of Customs' official inquiry, witness statements from mariners, and newspaper accounts.

For anyone with links to the Cook family or anyone who just loves a good genealogy mystery, this is a fascinating read, including suggestions about potential descendants from this famous family.

From the Old Country to the New, by Cheryl Fitzsimmons Jensen. Self-published, 2022. Hardback, pedigrees, photos, index of surnames, 356pp.

This book focuses on the Abbott family, in particular Edwin William Abbott (1855-1943). Edwin was born in Yeovil, moved to Worcester, then migrated to the USA, where he settled in Gloversville, New York. For anyone researching the Abbott family, the author has included well-constructed pedigree charts, with details of Edwin's ancestors and his descendants, including photos, stories and newspaper articles. Three chapters cover female ancestors, which round off an interesting full family history.

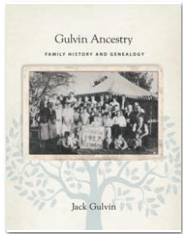
This book is also for anyone who has ancestors with skills related to the leather glove industry. Most of the Abbott family were involved in this trade: preparing the leather, cutting the patterns, or sewing the pieces together. A final chapter describes the history of glove making in England and in the USA, including how gloves were made and the skills required.

Other family names include: Bicknell from Somerset, Wilks from Gloucestershire, and Link from Herefordshire.

The Nixon Family of Bateman's Green, by Robert Nixon with Les Nixon. Self-published, 2022. Paperback, large pull-out pedigree, end notes to text and images, bibliography, index, 188pp.

The central part of this book is a large pedigree, partly typed and partly handwritten, with insertions showing photos, sketches, and a coat of arms. It was compiled in the late 1950s and some parts are incomplete, sketchy or uneven. However, the author uses it as an organising tool to tell the story of Joseph Nixon (c1788-1839) and his wife, Hannah née Millington (c1795-1864). The book includes their children's lives plus all the branches of descendants. At all times, referencing the people back to the pedigree helps to place everyone in context.

Other names featured include: Millington, Rostill, Tunnicliff, Allsop, Bedington, and Wakeman.



Gulvin Ancestry, by Jack Gulvin. Self-published, 2022. Paperback, pedigrees, index of names, 123pp.

This is a clearly organised family history that aims to tell the stories of people with the surname Gulvin, from the earliest records to the present. The author believes that only about 800 people have ever

been born a Gulvin, and he manages a One Name Study for them. There are some interesting images, for example an inventory created in 1689, presented with a transcription. For older British parish records, the author has given dates, place names and details of sources. Two chapters tell the stories of notable Gulvins, such as writers and the founder of a nudist colony, and mysterious Gulvins, where there are still brick walls.

There is a long, useful index of other surnames, mostly those who have married Gulvins. The surname is found in New York, Australia and Portugal.

Sherryl Abraham

BOOK OF THE MONTH



My Ancestors were Thames Watermen, by James Legon. Published: Second Edition 2008. ISBN: 978-1-903462-95-9. Paperback, 168pp., illustrated, index.

A family historian's guide to ancestors who worked as Thames Watermen or Lightermen in the

City of London. James Legon describes in detail the typical working lives of those who toiled on the Thames, from the 16th century to the present day. He includes a thorough history of the Company of Watermen and the so-called 'Dock Age'.

Find guidance on sources for your family history research, including archives, genealogical organisations and heritage institutions.

The usual cost of *My Ancestors were Thames Watermen* is £9.99 and it is currently available to SoG members at the discounted price of £8.00 (£9.00 to non-members). Go to <https://tinyurl.com/bddfhwek>. SoG Members don't forget to use your discount code at checkout.

A £2.75 postal charge applies within the UK, check our website for postal rates outside the UK. This book plus the full range of titles published by the Society is available from our bookshop through our website. Offer valid until 30 September 2024.

Catherine Hopkins
eventsoffice@sog.org.uk

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Correction: June 2024 issue (vol. 34, no. 10) middle names omitted in error. See full names included below:

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EVENTS NEWS

Our **Researching 17th Century Ancestors Summer School** was enjoyed by over 60 people who hoped to learn more about sources in this challenging period. Susan said, "The whole course was useful not only for myself but for helping others." And Michael "I enjoyed the breadth of coverage, from commonly used to less appreciated sources. Making course resources available to participants enabled me to concentrate on what was being said." And Nickie told us "because it is recorded I know I can go back and watch it all properly. The course content and detailed handouts are excellent and very much appreciated. I am so glad I did the course and cannot wait to get started again with my fascinating 17th century Londoners."

On Thursday 4th July a group of SoG members and friends assembled just behind St Pancras station at the peaceful oasis of **St Pancras Old Church**. Our first stop was inside the Anglo-Catholic church where we took seats to listen to tour guide Lester Hillman as he showed us Roman tiles, used in the construction and other discoveries made during the recent restoration work. We then went out into the graveyard where we learned about a handful of the 100,000 burials. We heard about the so-called Hardy Tree, and the grave of Mary Wollestoncraft and the worn down area around this much visited memorial. We learned about the development of the iconic red telephone box and the Coutts banking family. It was a very enjoyable morning. If you are in London do consider joining us for a walk or visit.



We have two online courses beginning this September - Introduction to Latin for Genealogists and Family History Skills Stage 3.

Introduction to Latin for Genealogists will cover the basics of Latin and is suitable for both complete beginners and refreshers. The further back you get with family history research, the more Latin becomes necessary to tackle sources such as manorial records, Catholic church records, court records or deeds. Genealogical sources will

be used as examples throughout the course. If you have ever thought about learning or wanted to increase your confidence in Latin, but needed a helping hand, then this course is for you. This course will take place on Wednesdays at 6.00-8.00pm over six weeks beginning on 4 September. See: <https://tinyurl.com/27fyefhk>

Widen your knowledge of some of the more complex records used by genealogists on the **Family History Skills Course Stage 3**. We will cover 17th century records, court records, records of land and property ownership, manorial records, plus practical sessions on Latin, publishing your family history, tracing living relatives and careers in genealogy. Classes take place on Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm over twelve weeks beginning 28 September. As one SoG Family History Skills Course attendee said, "If only I had taken the courses 20+ years ago at the outset, I would have saved so much time and achieved so much more!" See: <https://tinyurl.com/y3y24wvf>



The NextGeneration: Discoveries conference, jointly hosted by the Family History Federation and the Society of Genealogists, is an exciting full-day online event spotlighting genealogists under the age of 35. Taking place on 5 October 2024, the conference features fifteen speakers from around the world who will present their unique research, the day will culminate in a panel discussion. Transitioning from Passion to Profession will feature prominent experts in genealogy and family history who will share insights on carving out a successful career in this field, everything from academic pathways to researching and speaking.

Join us for an exciting lineup of speakers who will share their innovative work, much of which reflects diverse cultures and national traditions. For more information and to support the future of genealogy, see events page: <https://tinyurl.com/37pjs5nb>.

Ruth Willmore, Events and Education Manager
ruth.willmore@sog.org.uk

COLLECTIONS NEWS

We continue our work to fill the remainder of the new **library shelves** and the library catalogue now shows nearly 18,500 records for items on open access. We've recently finished working through more than 80 boxes of books processed at the Holloway Road office - extracting items in open access categories, assigning shelf numbers to them and adding them to the shelves. We have also started adding the volumes of the Scottish Record Society and Scottish History Society to be kept onsite.

We now have **microfiche** cabinets installed in the library next to the enquiry desk, and we're in the process of unpacking fiche resources into them. We are now very close to making fiche items available so if you have been patiently waiting to consult resources in this format, keep an eye on the update section of our library page www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library#update for news on when these resources will be ready.

We're preparing our **Reprographics Room** (next to the library office) so that we can resume inhouse scanning activities using our specialist book and roller scanners. We have all the necessary equipment and we're scheduling a day for them to be set up and networked. When this is complete, we'll be offering training in the use of this equipment to volunteers interested in helping us increase our online digital content. If you were a scanning volunteer at Clerkenwell or have some scanning experience please contact Volunteer Coordinator Marisa: volunteering@sog.org.uk We have taken delivery of a brand-new digital fiche/film reader/printer/scanner which, along with the existing ScanPro fiche/film reader, will be set up in the library.

We now have audiovisual equipment installed in the library which is increasingly being used for hosting **group visits**. The library has recently been the venue of the Annual General Meeting and we have hosted groups from Strathclyde University and Barnado's children's charity, for which we created a small, themed display of collection items. If a group you belong to would be interested in visiting please contact our Events Team events@sog.org.uk

We were recently joined by a **work experience student** from Clapton Girls Academy. Her week with us was made up of a day with the archives team, a day working on a collection with our genealogist, access to the gold membership video library, attendance at an online virtual cafe event and chat with our events coordinator, and an SoG Data Online indexing project. We hope to encourage more young people to take their work experience with us in future.

Our library **Featured Collection** for June-August was a selection of over 200 family histories and biographies added to the catalogue over the past three years. If you have any family history or biographical works that you think might be of use to the Society and are interested in donating them, do get in touch - collections@sog.org.uk.

Our next featured collection (September-November) will have a military theme, including over 400 regimental histories, and will coincide with Remembrance Day.

Your favourite collection item: Is there a particular item in our collections that had a positive impact on your research? Please tell us about it! It may be an item that you have used over and over, or that enabled a significant breakthrough in your research, or that you found special for some reason. See our library page for more information and a link to the form you can use to tell us about your favourite collection item. You can fill in the form more than once if you have several items you'd like to tell us about.

Information from completed forms may be used in our planning for collection indexing, cataloguing and digitisation projects.

Check our **Collections page** www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library to find out how to search for items in our library and archive, to see our growing range of collections guides and to keep up-to-date with collections news. Let us know if you have any questions at all about our collections and how to access them: collections@sog.org.uk

Christine Worthington

Research Collections Coordinator

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE April - June 2024

FAMILY HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

- Adams** John Adams / by David MacCullough. (2001)
- Birkbeck** The Birkbecks of Westmorland and their descendants / by Robert Birkbeck FSA. (2017)
- Blanche** A forest of Blanches: the story of the Blanch family 1838-1988 / by William Good. (1988)
- Budge** A look behind father: revealing some things - although not all - concerning my ancestors / by William Budge. (1987)
- Burgess** The Burgess family of Seaford Sussex / Brenda Joyce. (2001)
- The Burgess family Petworth 1715-1838 / [Brenda Joyce].
- Leaping the stepping stones: from the New Inn to the Wellington / [Brenda Joyce]. (2001)
- Butler** Butler (Maidenhall) & Butler (Mountgarret) of Kilkenny / by Art Kavanagh. (2013)
- Caldwell** Descendants of Charles and John Caldwell: brothers who came from Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland to New England, 1718 / by Edith I Caldwell. (1996)
- Chamberlain** Chamberlain: descendants of John Chamberlain & Ann Orford of Cornwood, Devon, England and allied family lines of Pope, Dafter & Horswill / Rae W Chamberlain. (2021)
- Coke** The history of the Coke family in the parishes of Mileham and Tittleshall-cum-Godwick.
- Cooke** Thomas Cooke of Rhode Island: a genealogy of Thomas Cooke alias Butcher of Netherbury, Dorsetshire, England, who came to Taunton, Massachusetts, in 1637

and settled in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1643 / By Jane Fletcher Fiske. (1987)

Dimon The Dimons of Fairfield Connecticut a family history / by John McKay Sheftall. (1983)

Franklin The autobiography & other writings, / by Benjamin Franklin; edited with an introduction by Peter Shaw. (1982)

Grewcock The Grewcock family trees / David Trevor Grewcock & Norman H. Groocock. (2009)

Hale Hale, House and related families: mainly of the Connecticut river valley / by Donald Lines Jacobus and Edgar Francis Waterman. (1978)

Honeyman The Honeyman family (Honeyman, Honyman, Hunneman, etc.) in Scotland and America 1548-1908 / by A. Van Doren Honeyman. (1909)

Ireland The last of the village basketmakers: basketmakers of Arkholme, the Irelands c.1712 - 1959 / Yvonne Masters. (2023)

Massey The Masseys: founding family / by Mollie Gillen. (1965)

Millingen The life and times of Joseph van Millingen (c1786-1871) of London, England / Brian J. Johnston. (2021)

Monsell A Catholic unionist: the life and times of William Monsell, First Baron Emly of Tervoe (1812-1894): (a centenary essay) / Matthew Potter.

Packard The Packards from Suffolk: a family history / by Giles Colchester. (2024)

Parker Past lives: notes on the Parkers of Canterbury, Waters of Darlington, Rookes of North Cerney, Chambers and Coggins of Raunds, Osentons of Hoo, Skinners of Braintree, Wrights of Terrington St Clement and the Corbets of Moreton Corbet / Alistair Parker. (2024)

Perryman The Perryman family & the Exeter Canal / by John Trott. (2000)

Rabett The Rabett family of Bramfield Hall, Co. Suffolk: a narrative history & genealogical databook / Howard Trillo. (2023)

Rochford Three Rochford brothers: a trio of travellers / by Monica M. Baldwin. (2019)

Sampson Masquerade: the life and times of Deborah Sampson, continental soldier / Alfred F. Young. (2004)

Smallwood A surveyor's lot / John Smallwood. (2000)

Smallwood An auctioneer's lot / by John Smallwood with Peggy Hewitt. (1990)

Spence Sawyer's story: Sawyer Spence plumber and gentleman 1749-1834 / by Pauline Fothergill. (2017)

Warren Founding martyr: the life and death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's lost hero / by Christian Di Spigna. (2018)

Washington George Washington: a biography / by Washington Irving. (1994)

Webster The forgotten Founding Father: Noah Webster's obsession and the creation of an American culture / by Joshua Kendall. (2010)

Wemyss Wemyss of Ireland / Theresa Cleaver (Weymes). (2021)

GENERAL HISTORY AND GUIDES

Army service records of the First World War / Simon Fowler, William Spencer and Stuart Tamblin. Public Records Office. (1996)

D.N.A. for family historians / Alan Savin. (2000)

The description of England: the classic contemporary account of Tudor social life / William Harrison. (1994)

Discover Kabristan Archives: old Irish and Indian graveyards / compiled by Eileen Hewson

Food & cooking in 16th century Britain: history & recipes / by Peter Brears. (1985)

Food & cooking in 17th century Britain: history & recipes / by Peter Brears. (1985)

Food & cooking in 18th century Britain: history & recipes / by Jennifer Stead. (1985)

Food & cooking in prehistoric Britain: history & recipes / by Jane Renfrew. (1985)

Food & cooking in Roman Britain: history & recipes / by Jane Renfrew. (1985)

Genealogy: glitches, gremlins & bugbears / Michael Southwick. (2024)

A Latin glossary for family & local historians: Small textbooks 4 / Janet Morris (2002)

Guild of One-Name Studies, Guild journal index, volume 9:2006-2008 (2012)

Palot's marriage & births indexes: guide to parishes / Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies. (1973?)

PLACES

BEDFORDSHIRE

Local people in London from the 1891 census: Series A The East End, Vol 1 Bedfordshire / Compiled by Link Line Ancestral Research Services. (1994)

Bedfordshire probate inventories before 1660 / edited by Barbara Tearle. (2024) (corrected from previous listing)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Quainton Baptisms of Quainton 1599-1812: an alphabetical index / transcribed from the Parish Registers by Stanley G. Cook.

Burials at Quainton 1599-1881 / transcribed from the Parish Registers held in the County Records Office, Aylesbury by Stanley G. Cook.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge The School of Pythagoras (Merton Hall), Cambridge / by J.M. Gray. (1932)

CHESHIRE

Birkenhead The Methodist Church Birkenhead circuit plan and directory, July 10th 1949 to Oct. 8th 1949.

Palm Grove Methodist Church, Birkenhead: a centenary reminiscence: and programme of centenary events. (1971)

Birtles St. Catherine's church, Birtles, Cheshire. (2005)

Nantwich Nantwich almanac and directory, 1968.

CORNWALL

Mullion A short account of Mullion Church, Cornwall / compiled by R. Denne Waterhouse.

Truro A short history and guide to the parish and church of St. Feock, near Truro / compiled by the Reverend E.J. Saunders, Vicar and Rural Dean. (1976)

Maker with Rame Two towers: a short history of the churches and parish of Maker with Rame.

Mawnan Some particulars of Mawnan Church and its rectors together with extracts from account books of the overseers of the poor and the churchwardens and from the old vestry minute book / Charles G. Henderson.

Towednack Towednack Church / C. Norman Hallow.

DEVON

Cockington The Parish Church of S. Mary and S. George Cockington / notes by Arthur C. Ellis M.A.

DORSET

Athelhampton Athelhampton.

Christchurch Pictorial guide, Christchurch Priory, Dorset, England.

DURHAM

Hurworth All Saints Church, Hurworth on Tees / Brian Johnson.

ESSEX

Audley End Audley End, Essex. (1958)

Benfleet Bygone Benfleet / Norman M. Chisman. (1991)
A history of Benfleet / by H E Priestley and Wyn T Phillips. (2 volumes) (2012)

South Benfleet: a history / by Robert Hallmann. (2005)

Canvey Island Canvey Island: a history / by Robert Hallmann. (2006)

Corringham The Corringham Chronicle / by J.K. Payne. (1987)

Fobbing Fobbing: life and landscape, essays on an Essex parish / Randal Bingley. (1997)

Stanford le Hope A short history of the church and village of Stanford le Hope / Aubrey Saunders with illustrations by R. Bingley. (1988)

Thurrock Thurrock's past: Echoes from a place / by Alan Leyin. (1997)

Wanstead Kelly's Directory of Wanstead & Woodford, 1952.

HAMPSHIRE

Bonchurch Bonchurch / Peter Brett.

Hurst Castle Hurst Castle, Hampshire, / by O.E. Craster. (1976)

Titchfield Titchfield parish register 1789-1812:
: transcribed from the original documents / editor Keith Hayward. (2024)

HEREFORDSHIRE

Byford Hereford, Byford: monumental inscription survey. (2019)

Downton-on-the-Rock Herefordshire, Downton-on-the-Rock: monumental inscription survey. (2018)

Hoarwithy Hereford, Hoarwithy: monumental inscription survey. (2018)

Herefordshire, Mansell Lacy nonconformist: monumental inscription survey. (2018)

Shorwell A short guide to St. Peter's Church (Shorwell) and its treasures / (based upon a paper written by) George Jeans).

HERTFORDSHIRE

Aldbury Aldbury people: 1885-1945 / compiled and designed by Jean Davis. (1988)

Aldbury the open village: a portrait of country life / by Jean Davis. (1987)

Kimpton A brief history of Kimpton / John Pollington. (1977)

Much Hadham A short history of Much Hadham / Bryan Smalley. (1995)

Shorwell A short guide to St. Peter's Church (Shorwell) and its treasures / based upon a paper written by George Jeans.

KENT

Catalogue of the archives of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. (1963)

Birchington The Waterloo Tower Quex Park: a brief description & history / researched and written by Hazel Basford. (2003)

Tenterden Ellen Terry's House: Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent / Audrey Lucas. (1977)

LONDON/MIDDLESEX

Streets east of Bloomsbury / compiled by Camden History Society, edited by Steven Denford and David A Hayes. (2008)

Chelsea Chelsea Old Church.

Holborn Streets of Old Holborn: a survey of streets, buildings & former residents in a part of Camden / compiled by Camden History Society, edited by Steven Denford and David Hayes. (2010)

London Complete list of L.C.C. street name changes. (1938)

History of the parish and ward church of St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate in the City of London EC2M 3TL. Saint Giles Cripplegate.

A short guide to the Temple Church, London / Walter H. Godfrey.

A short history of All Hallows-by-the-Tower.

St Benet Fink, London : burials 1538-1653 / transcribed in index form by Cliff Webb.

St Benet Gracechurch, London: burials 1558-1730 / transcribed in index form by Cliff Webb. (2016)

St. Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street.

Westminster The Westminster historical database: voters, social structure and electoral behaviour / Charles Harvey, Edmund M. Green and Penelope J. Corfield. (1998)

NORFOLK

Festival of vestments and flowers July 4th, 5th, 6th 1975: St Mary's Church Attleborough: All Saints Church Besthorpe. (1975)

Aylmerton The church of St John the Baptist, Aylmerton / by A B Whittingham and John Creasey.

Bathley The church of All Saints Bale, alias Bathley, Norfolk: a brief guide / written, drawing on earlier guides by R.M. Robertson Stone, by John Blatchly.

Beeston next Mileham St Mary's Church Beeston-next-Mileham / by C L S Linnell.

Binham Binham Priory: a guide to the Priory Church of St Mary and the Holy Cross / text by Leslie Marr; photographs by Ronald A Chapman.

Creake South Creake Church / by C L S Linnell. (1955)

Felmingham The Felmingham group of parishes: St Andrew Felmingham: St Botolph, Banningham: St Peter & St Paul, Tuttington: St Margaret of Antioch, Suffield: St Giles, Colby. (1977)

Happisburgh The Church of St. Mary, Happisburgh / author, C L S Linnell. (1976)

Harpley St. Lawrence Church Harpley.

Hemblington Notes on the parish church of Hemblington Norfolk / by J F Williams. (1970)

Hempnall The Hempnall group, Norfolk / Roy Tricker; David Hook. (1977)

Heydon Heydon church / C.L.S. Linnell, compiler. (1963)

Hilborough A guide to the churches and villages of the Hilborough group of parishes, Norfolk.

Holkham Holkham Hall / by James Laver. (1971)

Holkham Hall: Norfolk home of the Earls of Leicester, / photographs by Richard Tilbrook. (1969)

Houghton Houghton Hall: seat of the Marquess of Cholmondeley. (1976)

Ingworth A brief history of Saint Lawrence Church, Ingworth / compiled by Walter Scott and Catherine Welch. (1971)

King's Lynn Second medieval town: King's Lynn / J. R. Lambert. (1988)

Letheringsett Letheringsett with Bayfield: church and parish / by C.L.S. Linnell. (1956)

Ludham Guide To St. Catherine's Church Ludham / J M Snelling.

Newton-by-Castleacre A guide to the parish church of Newton-by-Castleacre, by the late Reverend C.L.S. Linnell. (1969)

Norwich The church of St. George Tombland, Norwich / text researched and compiled by D E M Coiley. (1974)

Norwich Cathedral / by Gilbert Thurlow.

St Peter Hungate Norwich: a history of the church / by Rachel M.R. Young and Geoffrey Goreham. (1969)

Paston Paston: Some notes on the Church of St. Margaret and the Paston family / by Herbert Loraine.

Salthouse Salthouse church / by C L S Linnell. (1953)

Snoring, Little The Church of St. Andrew: Little Snoring / by Ann and John Gurney. (1973)

Sparham St. Mary's, Sparham / by M J Sayer. (1976)

Thompson A short history of St. Martin's Church Thompson.

Thurning Thurning / by M J Sayer (1972)

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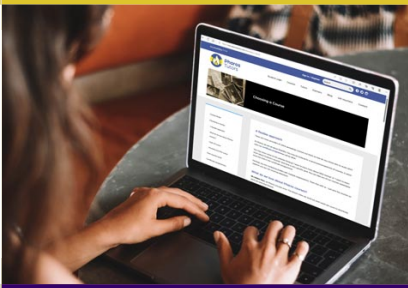


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