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Journal**

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At Great Barford Bridge

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**



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## CRANFIELD CRIMINALS 1840 - 1860 PT 2

Mark Tresidder

This article is taken from a project I undertook as part of my studies towards an MSc in Palaeographic, Heraldic and Genealogical studies with Strathclyde University in 2013. Part 1 was published in the June *Journal*. This Part 2 continues with the case studies of individuals and families.

### Eliza SOULSBURY

Emsley<sup>1</sup> stated that women were more likely to reoffend than men. There is little evidence of this in Cranfield with the exception of Eliza Soulsbury.

Eliza was the daughter of Joseph (a labourer) and Elizabeth PARTRIDGE. She was baptised at Thurleigh, Bedfordshire on 30 September 1821.<sup>2</sup> She marries her husband George SALISBURY (Soulsbury) in the Ampthill Registration District in the June quarter of 1839.<sup>3</sup> The BFHS index to baptisms in the parish registers for Cranfield record two baptisms where the parents are named George and Eliza Soulsbury:

Joseph, bp 24 April 1841

Joseph, bp 4 July 1841

Searching in the burial records for Cranfield does not find a burial for the first Joseph. Maybe the vicar incorrectly wrote the wrong name into the register. Later court records will confirm that Eliza had two children but the originals of the parish registers have not been consulted to confirm whether there is an error in the transcription.

It is George that first appears in the court records when on 22 January 1844 he appears before the magistrates at Ampthill Petty Sessions<sup>4</sup> on a charge of stealing wheat.<sup>5</sup> The *Hertford Mercury & Reformer* later reports that he was acquitted of this charge:<sup>6</sup>

*WHEAT STEALING.* – *George Soulsbury, was charged with stealing two bushels of wheat, the property of Mr SAVAGE, of Cranfield, on the 20 of January last.*

*Henry Savage said the prisoner had been in my employ, and, on the previous Monday, purchased some flour from my shop. On the 22nd, I went, accompanied by a policeman to the prisoner's house, where we found from two bushels to half-a-loaf of wheat, in a*

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<sup>1</sup> Emsley C.(1998) *Crime in Victorian England*. History Review. 30 pp 2-7.

<sup>2</sup> All baptismal, marriage and burial records are from Bedfordshire Family History Society, **BFHS.org.uk**, transcriptions of Bedfordshire Parish Registers unless otherwise stated.

<sup>3</sup> Marriage Index. England and Wales. RD: Ampthill, Bedfordshire. 2nd Q, 1839. Salisbury, George. Vol 6. p 5. All Marriage Index details are from **freebmd.org.uk** unless otherwise stated.

<sup>4</sup> Petty Sessions commenced in early nineteenth century to deal with administrative affairs of Quarter Sessions and also tried minor offences summarily. Justices of the Peace held trials four times a year at Quarter Sessions usually in the County town. They heard more serious offences and were tried with a jury present.

<sup>5</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Soulsbury, George. PSA1/2. p 33. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>6</sup> *Hertford Mercury & Reformer*. (1844) Bedfordshire Lent Assizes. The Reformer and Herts, Beds, Bucks, Essex, Cambridge and Middlesex Advertiser. 23 March. p 4d. All newspaper citations are from **findmypast.co.uk/search/newspapers** unless otherwise stated.

*bag standing by the side of his bed. I charged prisoner with stealing it, when he seemed much agitated. Took away the wheat and the prisoner was taken into custody. It was compared with some which had been thrashed by the prisoner, and it corresponded. The learned judge summed up and the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty.*

Not long after this George dies and his burial is recorded at Cranfield on 14 April 1844, aged 26.

Eliza then begins to appear in the court records. On 22 August she appears before the magistrates at Ampthill,<sup>7</sup> charged under the vagrant act. She is convicted and sentenced to one months hard labour in the House of Correction. The Gaol registers provide the following description for Eliza:

She is 5ft 1in in height with dark hair and hazel eyes. She has a fair complexion. She is stout, with a mole on the right side of the nose. The gaol register confirms that she is a widow and a lacemaker.<sup>8</sup>

Two months later she is back at Ampthill magistrates court on 22 October 1846 charged with being a rogue and vagrant.<sup>9</sup> This time she is sentenced to three months in the House of Correction. On 6 August 1849 Eliza appears before the magistrates at Ampthill again, this time charged with deserting her family. She is convicted and sentenced to one month hard labour in the House of Correction.<sup>10</sup> A year later on 26 December 1850 Eliza once again appears at Ampthill, charged with vagrancy and neglect to maintain child. The magistrates sentence her to 3 months hard labour in the House of Correction.<sup>11</sup> Eliza is not long released from the House of Correction before she is again at Ampthill. This time she is charged with vagrancy and running away leaving children chargeable to the parish.<sup>12</sup> She is sentenced to another three months hard labour. On 13 July 1850 the court records at Ampthill again report that Eliza is charged with vagrancy and deserting children. A warrant is issued to apprehend her.<sup>13</sup>

The final record found for Eliza is in the Gaol Register when she is committed on 28 December 1850. The charge against her is that on 1 December 1849 at Ampthill of deserting her children leaving them chargeable to the parish of Cranfield. She is

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<sup>7</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Soulsbury, Eliza. PSA1/2. p 78. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>8</sup> Gaol Records. England, Bedfordshire. 1846. SOULSBURY, Eliza. BLARS QGV11/2. Record Id: 16212.

<sup>9</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Soulsbury, Eliza. PSA1/2. p 80. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>10</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Salisbury, Eliza. PSA1/2. p 132. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>11</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1850-1854). Salisbury, Eliza. PSA1/3. p 21. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>12</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1850-1854). Salisbury, Eliza. PSA1/3. p 28. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>13</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1850-1854). Salisbury, Eliza. PSA1/3. p 33. BLARS, Bedford.

committed to the house of correction for 3 months hard labour.<sup>14</sup> The Gaol register records that she is 5ft tall with brown hair and eyes, has a fair complexion with a pleasant visage and a gathering on the right hand. It notes that she has been imprisoned five times for the same offence. No records are found for Eliza after this date. She does not appear in the 1851 Census.<sup>15</sup> Its possible that she may have remarried, hence why she is no longer found in the records.

While Eliza appears in the records as a persistent offender and would fit with Emsley's view that women were more likely to reoffend, her misfortunes appear to have resulted from the death of her husband George, leaving her unable to support her family.

### **The PANTER Family**

In 1841 the Panter family is found living in Cranfield. The head of the family is listed in the 1841 Census as James Panter, an agricultural labourer, aged 50, born outside of Bedfordshire. Living with him are his wife Hannah (55), daughter Elizabeth (25) a lace maker, son James (30) an agricultural labourer, son William (15) an agricultural labourer, and daughter Sarah (20) a lace maker. His son James' wife Alice (30) and children Mary (8) and James (2) are also present. All are born in Bedfordshire.

The Parish Registers at Cranfield confirm the following events for the Panter family.

Baptisms to James (a labourer) and Hannah

Susanna, bp 26 December 1813

Sarah, bp 17 August 1817

William, bp 30 June 1822.

Their daughter Sarah has an illegitimate child baptised on 12 September 1841. Sarah is recorded as being a lacemaker. James and Hannah's son James marries Alice BROWN at Cranfield on 18 February 1833 after banns. Witnesses to the wedding are Thomas LACK and Elizabeth Panter. They have the following children baptised at Cranfield.

Joel, bp 25 May 1834

James, bp 3 March 1839

William, bp 27 September 1841

Levi, bp 21 September 1849

Ebenezer, bp 24 November 1851 (private baptism<sup>16</sup>).

James is recorded as a labourer on all baptisms.

It is the two brothers of this family who commit the majority of crimes by this family that are found in the records. The first reference to them appears in the *Northampton*

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<sup>14</sup> Gaol Records. England, Bedfordshire. 1850. Salisbury, Eliza. BLARS QGV12/1. Record Id: 18564.

<sup>15</sup> All Census records are from Findmypast, **Findmypast.co.uk**, and Ancestry, **Ancestry.co.uk**, transcriptions unless otherwise stated.

<sup>16</sup> When looking through a baptism register sometimes there is a note saying that the child was privately baptised. This means the child was not baptised at Sunday service, usually because it was thought too weak to survive until then. It can mean the child was baptised by the priest visiting the family home or by the midwife attending the birth. According to Anglican practice, in an emergency, a baptism may be performed by anyone who is already themselves baptised. See for example **essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk/lawshall-of-private-baptisms-and-misgotten-infants**.

*Mercury* on 26 November 1840 when they are reported appearing before Woburn Petty Sessions:<sup>17</sup>

*An information was laid against James and Wm Panter of Cranfield, for trespassing in search of Game. George CAMPBELL, on being sworn, said: 'On the 9th of December instant I saw James and William Panter in a piece of inclosed land, in the occupation of James MORRIS of Ridgemont, in the county of Bedford. I, in company with James PARRY, searched them and found a hare and several snares upon them.' They did not appear, so each were fined £2 and 16s. 6d. costs or two months hard labour.*

*The Cambridge Independent Press* reports William being committed for an offence under the game laws in December 1853 when he is sentenced to three calendar months hard labour in the House of Correction. Not long after his release, both William<sup>18</sup> and James<sup>19</sup> are appearing before the magistrate Rev T B WHITEHURST at Ampthill Petty Sessions on 16 February 1843, again charged with trespass in search of game. They are fined £2 payable immediately or sentenced to 2 months in the House of Correction. They are unable to pay and committed to serve their sentence. Shortly after William marries Hannah JOHNSON. The marriage is recorded in the Ampthill registration district in the September quarter 1843.

James is next to appear in court. The *Northampton Mercury* reports on the Woburn Petty Sessions of 10 November:<sup>20</sup>

*Four noted poachers, from Cranfield, in the Ampthill division, were charged by James PERRY, gamekeeper to the Rev E O SMITH with trespassing in a field in the occupation of Mr Henry STURGESS, in search of game, on the 29 Oct. Their names were Benjamin WATTS, James Panter, Daniel Salisbury and John BLUNT. None of them appeared. Proof of the service of the summonses having been given by Mr BATES the Ampthill Superintendent, and the evidence being clear against them, they were convicted in the full penalty; Panter £5 as he had a gun; the others £2 and costs, as they were only trespassing. Panter and NULL threatening to take the life of Perry, if he dare summon them, the bench advised Perry, if the threat was repeated, to swear the peace against them.*

James does not appear in the records again until 7 September 1848 when he appears before Rev T B Whitehurst at Ampthill Petty Sessions, charged with vagrancy and neglect to maintain his family.<sup>21</sup> *The Cambridge Independent Press* reports that he was committed to the House of Correction for one month for leaving his family chargeable

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<sup>17</sup> Northampton Mercury. (1840) Bedfordshire Woburn Petty Sessions. Northampton Mercury. 26 December. p 3e

<sup>18</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Panter, William. PSA1/2. p 19. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>19</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Panter, James. PSA1/2. p 19. BLARS, Bedford.

<sup>20</sup> Northampton Mercury. (1843) Bedfordshire: Woburn Petty Sessions Nov 10. Northampton Mercury. 26 June. p 3f.

<sup>21</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1842-1850). Panter, James. PSA1/2. p 112. BLARS, Bedford.

to the Ampthill Union.<sup>22</sup> The Gaol registers provide the following description for James:

He is 5ft 4in tall with light hair and grey eyes, a fair complexion and an oval visage. His identifying features are a scar on the ball of the left thumb. He is further described as being uneducated, a married labourer with 5 children. He is recorded as having seven previous convictions.<sup>23</sup>

One month later the newspaper is reporting him being committed to the House of Correction again. On 28 October 1848 it states:

*Jas. Panter, labourer of Cranfield, for two months, for an offence under the game laws.*<sup>24</sup>

William is next to appear in court when he is charged with 'on 2 July 1849 at Salford trespassing in the day time upon land in the possession and occupation of Edward O'Smith in search of Game'. He is sentenced by Rev J V MOORE to 2 months hard labour or to pay a £2 fine and £1 11 shillings costs.<sup>25</sup> The gaol database confirms his committal and provides a description for him:

5ft 5in tall with brown hair, light hazel eyes, a pale complexion and an oval visage. His identifying features are described as one small mole on the back of the neck. He is recorded as a married labourer with 4 children who can read and write imperfectly. He is listed as having 6 previous convictions.

William appears again in court, when on 26 September 1850, he appears before the Magistrates at Ampthill Petty Sessions, charged with trespassing in search of game. He is fined £2 to be paid immediately, or sentenced to 2 months hard labour in the house of correction to which he is committed.

Neither James or William are at Cranfield in the 1851 census, but searching further afield, they are both found serving sentences at the Buckingham Hill County Gaol, Aylesbury. No report has been found to confirm what their sentences were for but following previous convictions it is most likely they were charged with game offences.

In 1853 the *Bucks Herald* is reporting James being committed to the Aylesbury House of Correction again, on the 20th January for two months for poaching.<sup>26</sup>

The last reported crime during the period 1840 to 1860 occurs when James's son James Panter junior appears before the Magistrates at Ampthill Petty Sessions. He is charged

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<sup>22</sup> Cambridge Independent Press. (1848). Bedford: Commitments to the House of Correction. The Cambridge Independent Press and Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette. 23 September. p 3g.

<sup>23</sup> Gaol Records. England, Bedfordshire. 1859. Panter, James. BLARS QGV12/1. Record Id: 23037.

<sup>24</sup> Cambridge Independent Press. (1848). Bedford: Commitments to the House of Correction. The Cambridge Independent Press and Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette. 28 October. p 3g.

<sup>25</sup> Gaol Records. England, Bedfordshire. 1850. Panter, William. BLARS QGV12/2. Record Id: 17970.

<sup>26</sup> Bucks Herald. (1853) Buckinghamshire, Aylesbury: Commitments to the House of Correction. The Bucks Herald. 22 January. p 4d



for trespassing in search of game and sentenced to two months hard labour in the house of correction or a £2 fine. Being unable to pay he is committed to serve his sentence.<sup>27</sup>

James and William are shown to be prolific poachers. It is possible that James was the main protagonist searching for a means to put food on the table for his family. It is also possible that he encouraged his younger brother to join him, starting him on a life of crime. Later encouraging his young son James to follow in the family trade of poaching. □

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<sup>27</sup> Court Records. Ampthill Petty Sessions Minute Book (1854-1860). Panter, James Jnr. PSA1/4. p 81. BLARS, Bedford.

## FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

*On the road again!*

Bedfordshire Family History Society is planning to have a stall at two forthcoming Family History Fairs as follows:

Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair, Saturday 1 October 2022, 10 am to 4 pm at Marlborough School, Woodstock, OX20 1LP. Free parking and entry, with refreshments available until 3.15 pm. For further details see [ofhs.uk/events/event/fair2022](https://ofhs.uk/events/event/fair2022), email [fair@ofhs.uk](mailto:fair@ofhs.uk) or phone OFHS Helpline: 01865 358151.

Suffolk FHS Family History Fair, Saturday 22 October 2022, 10 am to 4 pm at Suffolk Archives, The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich IP4 1LR. For further details see [suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/family-history-fairs](https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/family-history-fairs), or email [sfhsfairs@suffolkfhs.co.uk](mailto:sfhsfairs@suffolkfhs.co.uk)

Fairs provide you with an opportunity, particularly if you live outside Bedfordshire, to meet BFHS Committee Members, discuss your family history research, and explore some of the resources the Society has to assist your research.

More generally, you will find a variety of Family History and Local History Societies providing information and selling books and other goods related to their respective areas. There will also be some specialised stalls such as military history, old postcards of areas you may have a family link to, and specialised genealogy goods.

You can also come and meet us at Harlington Parish Hall, Church Road, Harlington LU5 6PL on 13 November (Remembrance Sunday), 11.30 am to 4.30 pm. We will join a local history exhibition, model railway, information about Harlington's other railway and a local produce sale. Refreshments will not be served until after the Church service at noon. □

## AN INDIAN ENIGMA

### *Jan Darts*

In the June *Journal* I explained that my DARTS family tree is full of ‘Williams’ and I was trying to make sure that timelines did not merge. I was matching Census returns to entries in my tree when I came across William Darts who was recorded by the 1911 Census as a Sergeant, aged 29, single, in the 66th Battery Royal Field Artillery (RFA) at Jhansi, India. No particular trade is listed and he was born in Basingstoke, Hants. Yes, he was in my family tree, one of the many sons of Jonathan (b 1852, Wrestlingworth, Beds) and Ann Gray PARRISH. I had already discovered that William was killed in action on 8 March 1917 as a Second Lieutenant in the 66<sup>th</sup> Battery in Iraq.<sup>1</sup> With many other ‘Williams’ and other strays in my tree to find, I might have left the research on this William there, but by chance I noticed that a further ‘Darts’ was also recorded in the 1911 Census for Jhansi.

A ‘Return of Wives and Children of Officers and Soldiers’ for the 1911 Census recorded Kathleen Mary Darts as a wife, aged 26, married for one year, with no children, born in Dublin, Ireland, and of Irish nationality. With only William and Kathleen Darts at Jahnsi, surely they must be married and perhaps the clerk who completed the return for William had not seen any paperwork to change his status? *FamilySearch*<sup>2</sup> proved very useful in identifying the marriage details:

Name	<b>William Darts</b>
Sex	<b>Male</b>
Possible Spouse's Name	<b>Kathleen M Imray</b>
Marriage Date	<b>1910</b>
Marriage Place	<b>Jhānsi, Uttar Pradesh, India</b>
Marriage Place (Original)	<b>JHANSI, INDIA</b>
Source Collection Title	<b>GRO Index Army Marriages (1881 to 1955)</b>
Line Number	<b>104</b>
Page	<b>209</b>
Reference	<b>ARM2</b>
Affiliate Publication Title	<b>British nationals armed forces marriages 1796-2005</b>

With an indication that there was some uncertainty regarding the spouse’s name I was keen to see the original record, preferably the marriage certificate itself. I have frequently used the General Register Office<sup>3</sup> (GRO) to obtain Birth, Marriage and

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<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission, [cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

<sup>2</sup> [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

<sup>3</sup> General Register Office, [gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/menu](http://gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/menu)

Death Certificates to resolve anomalies in my research, but these events have always been in England. I worked through the GRO website to order a Marriage Certificate registered outside the United Kingdom but was stumped by the request for the GRO reference, which I would normally get from for example GRO, but only GRO references for England and Wales can be found on the GRO website. Luckily, I found a website<sup>4</sup> that suggested that the information I had found through *FamilySearch* gave me the GRO Reference. On this basis, the application below was made to GRO:

## Application for an Overseas Marriage certificate

Below is an Overseas Marriage Certificate Application Form for a certificate quoting the GRO index reference number.

Required fields will be followed by the \* character.

Please complete the form and press the "Submit" button to add the application to your basket.

### Particulars of the couple for whom certificate is required

A minimum of one name and forename for the same party must be given

Year marriage was registered	1910
Party 1 Surname	Darts
Party 1 Forenames	William
Party 2 Surname	
Party 2 Forenames	Kathleen Mary
Year of marriage	1910

### Reference information from GRO Index

GRO reference \*

ARM2 Page 209 Line 104

I omitted the suggested surname IMRAY for Kathleen because I thought it might possibly be a transcription error. Just over a week later I received the following certificate through the post:

SAM 011936

CERTIFIED COPY OF  AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

Application Number 126281101

**Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957**

MARRIAGE out of the United Kingdom		Command: N° 12 Ammunition Column R.F.A. Pl: Jhansi						
No.	Date and Place of Marriage	Name, Surname and Nationality	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
1	Eighth October 1910 at Jhansi	William DARTS (English)	28	Bachelor	Sergeant R.F.A.	Jhansi	Jonathan DARTS (deceased)	Miller
		Kathleen IMRAY (Irish)	26	Widow	—	Jhansi	Patrick WELSH (deceased)	Labourer
Married in the <u>St. Martin's Church Jhansi</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Church of England</u> by <u>License</u> by me								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <u>S<sup>d</sup> William Darts</u> <u>S<sup>d</sup> Kathleen Mary Imray</u>		in the Presence of us { <u>S<sup>d</sup> Edward Walker</u> <u>S<sup>d</sup> Florence Annie Walker</u>		<u>S<sup>d</sup> Ben Cotton</u> Chaplain		

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of the certified copy of an entry made in a Service Departments Register.  
Given at the General Register Office, under the seal of the said Office, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> familytreeforum.com

Through *Ancestry*,<sup>5</sup> I discovered a family tree and 'Life Story'<sup>6</sup> for William that indicated William and Kathleen had two sons William J R and Ian. However, the Life Story gave the father's place of birth as Victoria, Victoria, Trinidad and Tobago with no source citation, Kathleen's maiden name as WALSH rather than WELSH as per the marriage certificate, and the surnames of the sons as D'ARTS with no citation linked to a registration of the birth! You can well imagine that I was highly suspicious of what I was seeing as the result of someone else's research. Again, *FamilySearch* came to my rescue by providing a GRO Reference for William J R as 'BARM Page 417 Line 42' and the birth certificate below was provided by GRO:

BIRTH occurring out of the United Kingdom										
Columns:--	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	Date and Place of Birth	Name, if any	Sex	Name, Surname and Nationality of Father	Rank, and if a Soldier or Airman Rgt. No.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	Date and Place of Registration	Signature of Officer registering the Birth	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
5	Third July 1911 Jhansi	William Jonathan Reginald	Boy	William Darts. (English)	Sergeant No 32360 66th Battery R.F.A.	Kathleen Darts formerly Inmay	Army form A42(a) from W. Halloran Major RAmc July 21st 1911	Twenty Second July 1911 Jhansi	(sd) A.W. Hewelson RFA	—

Unfortunately no details of a possible GRO Reference for Ian could be found so an order was made to GRO for a search involving GRO Reference unknown, something I had not previously attempted:

### Application for an Overseas Birth certificate

Below is an Overseas Birth Certificate Application Form where full information is required.

Required fields will be followed by the \* character.

Please complete the form and press the "Submit" button to add the application to your basket.

#### Particulars of the person whose certificate is required

Year birth was registered	1913
Surname at birth *	Darts
Forename(s) *	Ian
Nationality at birth	British
Date of birth * (dd/mm/yyyy) (at least the year must be specified)	1913
Place / Country of birth *	Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India
Father/Parent surname	Darts
Father/Parent forename(s)	William
Mother's maiden surname	
Mother's surname at time of the birth	Darts
Mother's forename(s)	Kathleen Mary
When filling in the box below: If serving in HM forces the unit should be entered.	
Parent's occupation at time of birth	Army 66th Battery RFA

<sup>5</sup> [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>6</sup> These are mostly contributed by subscribers to Ancestry.



The certificate below was provided by GRO:

BIRTH occurring out of the United Kingdom										
Command 66 <sup>th</sup> Battery R.F.A. at Dinapore										
Columns--	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	Date and Place of Birth	Name, if any	Sex	Name, Surname and Nationality of Father	Rank, and if a Soldier or Airman Rgt. No.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	Date and Place of Registration	Signature of Officer registering the Birth	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
8	13.3.1913 Station Family Hospital Dinapore	Ian Douglas	Male	William Darts English	Sergeant No 32360	Kathleen Darts formerly Ismay	A.F.A. (42.A) From H.G. Howley Major R.A.m.c. 14.3.1913	15 <sup>th</sup> March 1913 Dinapore	R.C. Williams Captain R.F.A. Commanding 66 <sup>th</sup> , Battery, R.F.A.	—

That seemed to be pretty conclusive that no surname change had occurred by, for example, clerical error or other mishap.

With the death of William in Iraq, I was keen to see what happened to Kathleen and her sons. I assumed that at some point the family would be repatriated to UK, but I have found no record of a departure from India or arrival in UK. The Census for 1921 also drew a blank. However, by chance, a search of the 1939 Register for England and Wales via *Ancestry* turns up William J R and Kathleen M **D'Arts** living in Colchester, Essex:

59	darts	259	1	D'Arts Kathleen M	-	F	23 Aug 99 W	Unpaid Domestic Duties	AKP Warden (Volunte)
			2	D'Arts William J R	-	M	3 July 11 S	Electrical Engineer	REP Warden (Full)
58	darts	260	1	Porter Army E	-	F	25 Feb 82 S	Shopkeeper (Special Army)	

D'Arts Kathleen M	-	F	23 Aug 99 W
D'Arts William J R	-	M	3 July 11 S

Ian is not in the 1939 Register but a list of British Army Officers 1939 to 1945<sup>7</sup> show him commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in December 1939 so at the time the Register was taken on 29 September 1939 he was probably undertaking military training. His military service is under the name **D'Arts**. Ian marries Joan A ASHFIELD<sup>8</sup> in 1940. Bizarrely the GRO Marriage Index records that Joan has married D'Arts whilst Ian D Darts has married Ashfield. Similarly, when William J R marries Irene M Warren in 1947, the GRO Marriage Index again has both Darts and D'Arts.

<sup>7</sup> [unithistories.com/officers/Army\\_officers\\_D01.html](http://unithistories.com/officers/Army_officers_D01.html)

<sup>8</sup> [freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk)

Further records, particular ship passenger lists, show that the name change to D'Arts had become a permanent affair for the children that follow from these marriages. How or why the transition from Darts to D'Arts in the move from India came about will most likely remain an enigma.

As an aside, records from GRO are normally an image of the original pasted onto a certificate template as shown by the marriage certificate above for William and Kathleen. However, I was surprised when I received the birth certificates for William and Ian, illustrated above, because these have handwritten entries. □

### **REMINDER**

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the  
December 2022 *Journal* is **31 October 2022.**  
(Articles submitted near the closing date may not  
be published until the following *Journal*)

### **BEDFORDSHIRE**

#### **Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire**

Family and Local History Research (including Probate Transcriptions)  
undertaken by

#### **COLIN DAVISON**

66 Sudeley Walk, BEDFORD  
Bedfordshire MK41 8JH  
England

Tel: (01234) 364956

Email: [colinndavison@gmail.com](mailto:colinndavison@gmail.com)

*Member of the  
Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives*

Professional Service Offered. All Enquiries Welcome

## BEDFORDSHIRE REGISTER OFFICE UPDATE

Following the amendments to the constitution accepted at our AGM in June 2022, we started to update the BFHS Members' handbook and found several other areas that needed updating. In the sixth edition, March 2021 issue of the handbook, page 19 states:

*All Registers for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough back to 1837 are held at The Register Office in Bedford. These include all registrations prior to 1 May 1999 recorded in the Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard Districts and all registrations in the Bedfordshire District (1 May 1999 - 31 March 2009).*

We have been advised that the above information is incorrect, so it has been deleted in the seventh edition of the handbook. Grateful thanks to the many contributors who have worked towards getting the seventh edition of the handbook as correct and up-to-date as possible. If you find any incorrect information in any of our publications or website, please let us know so that we may investigate and correct if necessary.

For your information, here is what we have been told about the current register status by the Register Office after they had sight of our March 2021 handbook:

*The information was no longer correct from when the Registration Service split in 2016. From 2016, Central Bedfordshire Registration Service hold the registers for Ampthill, Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. Bedford Borough Council's Civil Registration Service hold the Registers for the Borough of Bedford from 1837 to date, apart from a 10 year period. This 10 year period is from 1 May 1999 to 31 March 2009 when the registration service covered 'Bedfordshire'.*

*When the Registration Service split in 2016, Central Bedfordshire retained the registers for that 10 year period and the registers are held at Ampthill, so people wanting a copy of a birth or death certificate during that period who were born or died in Bedford will need to apply to Central Bedfordshire, not Bedford Borough - **but** there may be some circumstances when a birth during that period was re-registered, to either add the natural fathers details or following the marriage of the natural parents, in which case it is possible that the re-registration is held at Bedford Borough.*

*Any Church of England Churches, or non-conformist Churches, or other Religious premises in the Borough of Bedford which held their own registers are now held by Bedford Borough, even for that 10 year period, so certificates can be obtained from them. However, any person wishing to obtain a marriage certificate for a marriage in that 10 year period, which took place at an Approved Venue, the Register Office or a Church or other Religious premises which did **not** hold their own register will need to apply to Central Bedfordshire.*

*Anyone who would like a copy of a birth or marriage certificate for a birth or marriage during that 10 year period is advised to email first Bedford Borough ([civil.registration@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:civil.registration@bedford.gov.uk)) who can then advise whether Bedford Borough hold the record or whether they need to apply to Central Bedfordshire ([life.events@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:life.events@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)). □*



## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

This is a corner familiar to anglers and motorists who have found pleasure in the green meadows by the quiet river. Of the two inns, the ‘White Hart’ and the ‘Anchor’, which flank the church, the former (left) is the older, dating back over three centuries. Though many antiquities of the village have disappeared, including the old pound and the ‘cage’, there are still some picturesque houses left. But the commanding tower is the only ancient portion of the church, the original edifice, once the oldest piece of Norman ecclesiastical architecture in the County, having been mercilessly annihilated by the ‘restorers’ of 1849. Even the beautiful Norman channel arch fell to their vandalism.

This illustration and text are taken from ‘*Our Heritage: A Bedfordshire Sketch Book*’ drawings by G Alan Fortescue FRIBA, notes by ‘*Touchstone*’, published 1943. □

### THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

*Paul Woodcraft*



Still popular with anglers and motorists, also walkers and on the river pleasure boats. On a sunny weekend you can watch boats going through the Barford lock, have a nice walk by the river and end up at the ‘Anchor’ for lunch.

In the photo you can see the old ‘White Hart’ being the first building on the left, now a privately owned house. The chimney to the right of the church is on the ‘Anchor’.

You could try an Anchor Lunch Cruise which is a 3 hour cruise from Bedford Priory Marina on the ‘John Bunyan’ boat to The Anchor Inn, Great Barford, enjoy lunch and return by coach. Go to [www.bmkwaterway.org](http://www.bmkwaterway.org) for further details and other cruises. □



## OUR RETURN TO MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that the Friday night meetings of the BFHS have returned to Mark Rutherford School. The meetings offer members instructive, interesting and often amusing talks on subjects that fascinate all interested in history and genealogy in general, and are usually particularly relevant to those with a Bedfordshire heritage. We look forward to seeing you in person again.

Returning to the school is subject to whatever COVID restrictions may be in place at the time and, of course, the weather!

**Please do not attend the meeting if you have a cough, fever, or other COVID symptoms.**

When attending, please be mindful and respectful of others and occupy seats with plenty of spaces. On entering and leaving, please maintain some social distancing out of courtesy to others. Although it is not a legal requirement to wear a face covering, the government advice and encouragement is that we wear them in indoor spaces where we gather with others who are not in our own household. Hand sanitisers will be available. Additional ventilation of the venue may be required so wrap up warm!

Where possible, talks held at the school will be live streamed or made available later on the website in the members' portal, subject to approval by the speaker.

The address of the venue is Mark Rutherford School, Wentworth Drive, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK41 8PX. □



## WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page. You might feel more comfortable writing a letter or email on a topic and this would be included in a 'Letters' page in the *Journal*. No need to worry if you are not used to writing, we are here to help. Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort. Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward. If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to [journal@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bfhs.org.uk). □



## PROGRAMME

**All talks are scheduled to take place at Mark Rutherford School (see page 15 for details). Doors open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.**

**RAF Henlow  
Edward Martin  
Friday 9 September 2022 (note date)**



Edward (Ted) Martin is a retired Editorial and Production Manager for a major legal and academic publisher with over 60 years in the industry.

From its start at almost the end of the First World War until its possible closure in 2023, RAF Henlow was never in the front line and never had the glamorous status of Biggin Hill, Duxford or Hornchurch as a fighter station. However, it was essential to the survival of the RAF in the Second World War providing engineering and technical back-up. It also provided communications support in the Falklands conflict, trained many officers, had other essential roles and appeared in post-war films.

**Tracing your AG LAB ancestors  
Dr Nick Barratt  
Friday 7 October 2022**



In this talk, Nick will explore some of the sources and resources that will help you research your agricultural labourers - in many ways, the most populous group in society through history, but often the least understood. This is a shame, as we will all have agricultural labourers in our background, sooner or later - the trick is to identify them and step into their shoes, following their seasonal and often precarious way of life.

Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *'Who Do You Think You Are'*. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Learner and Discovery Services at the Open University, a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His latest publication, *'The Restless Kings'*, explores the reigns of Henry II, Richard I and John. He concluded his term of office as President of the Family History Federation in June 2021, but remains President of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, sits on the Executive Committee of the Community Archives and Heritage Group, works on the Historians Collaborate network and is part of the Midlands 4 Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Advisory Group.

## PROGRAMME (cont'd)

**Gypsy Bride**

**Martin Rose**

**Friday 4 November 2022**



I am delighted to speak about Sarah Anne Shaw, a gypsy from Stotfold. Hers is an extraordinary story, well worth the telling. I have recently published a small book about her marriage and its consequences called '*Nehemiah Perry & His Gypsy Bride*' which I launched recently at Saffron Waldon Historical Society. The story is interesting in itself, but also in demonstrating the use of sources. I was extraordinarily lucky in that there are several archival sources (including the complete divorce file with all its evidence verbatim), none of which had previously been used. Every time I thought 'There can't be any more to find', there was, so that makes for quite an interesting journey of discovery. Gypsy genealogy is itself interesting because I had no idea how much I could discover, but it turned out to be quite a lot. Sarah came from one of the most distinguished 'black-blooded' Gypsy families of Eastern England, fiddlers to a man and woman, who played at every village feast in the region, and I think I have managed to construct a pretty good family tree.

**Help, my ancestor has vanished!**

**Simon Fowler**

**Friday 2 December 2022**



One of the commonest problems faced by family historians is that ancestors suddenly vanish from the records often for no seeming reason. This thought-provoking presentation looks at why this might be so and discusses the three main reasons. The genealogist might have made a mistake in their research; there is a problem with the records with either the clerk making a mistake recording names or the records no longer exist; the ancestor may have genuinely gone missing, perhaps emigrating overseas or becoming a tramp.

There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and share experiences.

Simon Fowler is one of Britain's most experienced family history teachers, writers and researchers. He worked for The National Archives on and off for over thirty years. He also edited *Family History Monthly* and *Ancestors* magazines.

These days he makes his living from professional research mainly on military topics and the records of central government. He has also written for *Family Tree Magazine* and *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine and has authored well over a dozen books mainly genealogical help guides.

Simon sits on the council of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives. He is also an Associate Teaching Fellow at Dundee University a tutor for Pharos Tutors and regular lecturer at the Society of Genealogists.



## BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are now being sold to raise funds.

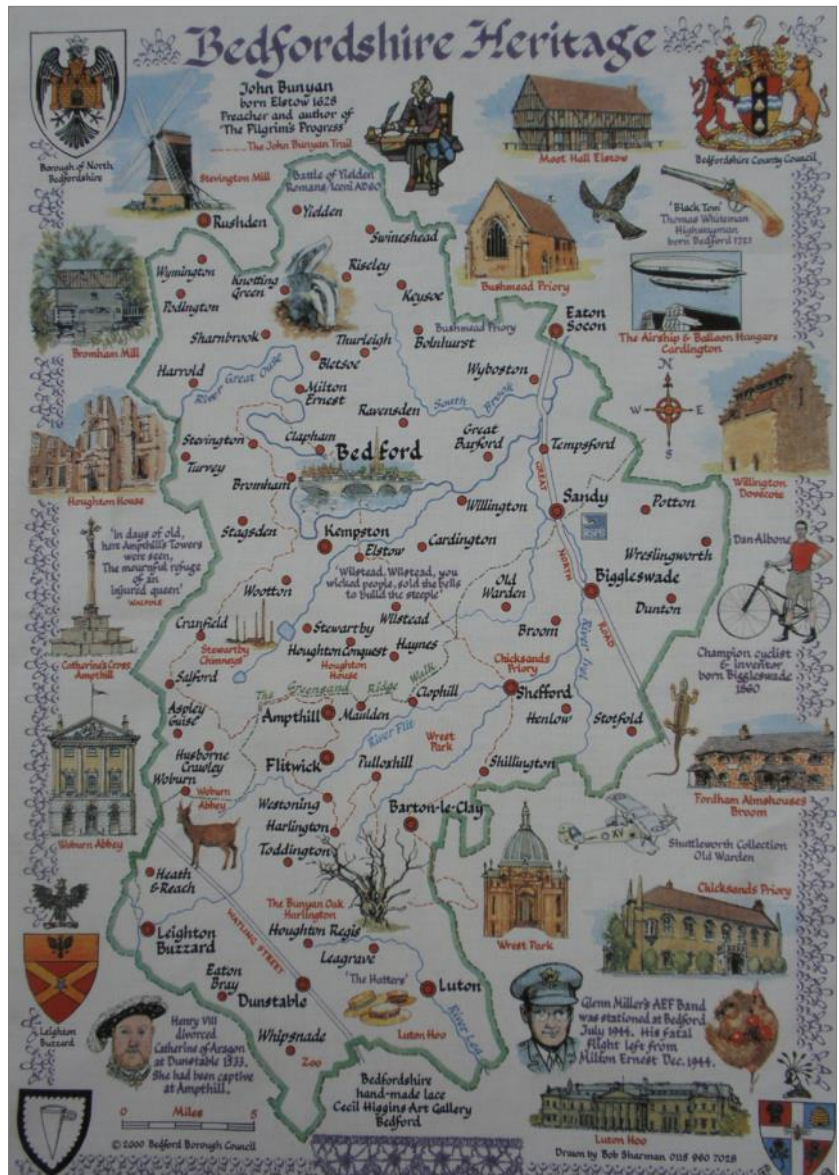
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to Lynn Manning at:

[secretary@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfhs.org.uk),

or by post to Lynn at:

38 Risborough Road, Bedford, MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.



For UK orders please add postage and packing as follows:

- Up to 2 tea towels add £2.00
- 3 to 6 tea towels add £3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering.

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.

## AUNT EMMA? Joanna Lang

I am lucky enough to have my parents, and a great-aunt and uncle still around and have been making the most of it asking questions. So far I have discovered lots about my great-grandfathers and their service in the war. But I had a mystery to solve.

My mum told me of 'Aunt Emma' - my grandmother's aunt, whose name was Emma HADDOW. But I could not find her anywhere. No birth record, no Census, nothing. But my mum had met her. My grandmother spent a lot of time with her. How did she not exist on paper? Her parents were Harry Haddow and Ada HAYNES of Palace Street, Biggleswade.

One Sunday I sat down and was determined to figure this one out. Emma Haddow did not exist.

After getting a bit frustrated, I had an epiphany. What if she had her mother's maiden name? So I searched for Emma Haynes, born between 1890 and 1910. And a few popped up. I then started searching around the name of Emma Haynes and I noticed in a 1901 Census return she appeared age 9, as 'niece' in relation to the head of the household alongside family that I recognised - the people that should be her mother and father. I have had a few other experiences of step-children being recorded as all sorts of relations so it felt like things were starting to drop into place.

The 1891 Census said Emma's mother was in service, in the same place that, according to the 1901 census return, Emma was born. I decided to send for Emma's birth certificate from the General Register Office.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Huntingdon</u>										
Registrar's Sub-District <u>Huntingdon</u>										
1891. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <u>Huntingdon</u> in the County of <u>Huntingdon</u>										
Columns:—										
No.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
	144 Second August 1891 Godmanchester U.S.F.	Emma	girl		Ada Haynes domestic servant		To the mark of Eliza Haynes Grandmother present at the Birth Godmanchester	Seventeenth October 1891	Thomas Ashton Registrar	

It confirmed her mother was who I thought it was (Ada Haynes), and a domestic servant - but no father named. The informant was Emma's grandmother (Eliza Haynes).

After telling my mum this she responded with 'Oh! We always wondered why Emma didn't look like a Haddow...'



## TIME

*Doug Slade*

In family history we identify our ancestors and situate them in time, yet we do not perhaps give much thought to the concept of time itself. However, time has been described as the most important force in the universe, carrying us all, including our ancestors, inexorably from birth to death.

All our forebears lived, loved, experienced the stresses of earning their livelihood, bringing up their children, coping with the pressures of their day. They have passed down to us, not only our family name, but other family names from every line of ascent, both female and male and our life blood itself.

Often when we start researching our ancestors, we identify and know each of them by their dates of baptism, marriage and burials, Census records and a few place names. Often this is followed by questions about their lives, what kind of people they had been, which in turn leads us to attempt to find evidence and explore the people they had been and the lives they had lived, all of which is located in what is called time.

Time is a fascinating and bewildering enigma, we live in it, our ancestors existed in it, but what exactly is it?

St Augustine, who died in AD 430, said 'If nobody asks me, I know what time is, but if I am asked then I am at a loss what to say.' All agree that time is associated with change, growth and decay, but is it more than this? Does time move forward, bringing about an ever changing present? What about the past, does it still exist?

When exploring the literature on time, it is evident that much has been written, right from the Greek philosophers Aristotle and Heraclitus to the physicists, Einstein, Hawker to Dirac, Barbour and Rovelli.

Modern physics is beginning to doubt the fusion of space time into space-time, with Barbour concluding that time is 'nothing but change and physics must recast on the new formation in which change is the measure of time, not time is the measure of change'. Time is nothing but change. He also suggest that time does exist at all, and is an illusion which has strong support in physics.

This, of course, raises the question 'how can history be, if there is no time?' Curiously, physicists have tended not to answer this question, but have left it to the philosophers. Barbour argues the reason is probably the dominating influence of Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein, who have shaped the way physics have constructed the representation of the world, and through their theories containing wonderful truths, but it is all taken as given.

Barbour says that 'many people will dismiss the suggestion that time may not exist as nonsense.' He does not deny the powerful phenomenon that is called time, but raises the question 'is it what it seems to be?' His new timeless principle explains why we 'do feel' that time flows.

Professor of theoretical physics Rovelli, raises the question 'do we exist in time or does time exist in us?' He offers an explanation divested of the trappings of previous theories; and proposes we see the world as made up of events, a network of happenings, not things. Happenings or events are diffuse, scattered, not orderly, but it

is not static and to think of the world not made up of things, substances, entities of something that is. Instead he offers an option of thinking of it as made up of events, instances of time, of happenings, of processes, of something that occurs that does not last but undergoes continual transformation. This is perhaps the same as Barbour's 'Nows.'

The world as a collection of events, identifies that things persist in time and events have a limited duration. Rovelli exemplifies this by the example of a stone being a thing; we can ask where it will be tomorrow. Conversely, he says 'a kiss is an "event" and it would make no sense to ask where the kiss will be tomorrow'. He goes on to say '...the world (and time) is made up of networks of kisses, not stones. A war is not a thing, it is a sequence of events. A storm is not a thing, it is a collection occurrences.'

A family is not a thing, it is a collection of relations, occurrences, feelings. 'Instances of time' are real things and identifying them with possible instantaneous arrangement, without having to suppose that they belong to something that flows relentlessly forward. 'Instances of time' are 'Nows', 'Moments'.

Nearly everyone in the world agrees that time is experienced as something linear. It seems to move forward relentlessly through instants strung out continuously in a line. Where we appear to ride on an every changing 'Now', like passengers on a train, each point on the line is a new 'instant'. But is time moving forward, or are we moving forward through time?

Rovelli concludes by suggesting that '...perhaps the emotion of time is precisely what time is for us' and goes on to say he 'doesn't think there is much more than this to be understood - we are time!'

It would seem to suggest that this explanation of time sits intuitively with what family historians would subscribe to when they write the narrative about their family, and we think of our past in terms of happenings, instants of time, processes, interactions, events, 'Nows'.

Rovelli and Barbour do not see this theory as a definitive way of looking at time, but offer it as an alternative explanation of our perception of time.

## **DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?**

We notify our members via email about any zoom/hybrid meetings; however, some get bounced back and for some members we do not have an email address. If you have not been receiving these emails from us it means that:

- 1) we do not have your email address or
- 2) the email address we have is incorrect or
- 3) your mailbox is full.

If you have an email address but are not getting our emails but would like to do so, please send your current email address to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk**

Many thanks,

Peter Sharp, Treasurer

**Bedfordshire Family History Society (BFHS)**  
**Draft Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Friday 10 June 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**at Mark Rutherford School, Bedford and online by Zoom Video Conference**

**Present**

Mark Tresidder - Chairman

Pamela Birch - President of the Society and County Archivist

Committee and Society Members: There were 45 members in attendance at the MRS and 39 observers online giving an approximate total of 84 members present including the above.

Mark Tresidder introduced the President of the BFHS, Pamela Birch, who then proceeded to chair the meeting and welcomed all members to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were given by Peter Sharp on behalf of Gerry Alan and Michael Barker.

**2. Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The President, Pamela Birch, asked if any member present had any corrections for the 2021 AGM minutes. None were received and the minutes were signed as a true copy. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cathy Friend and seconded by George Roscoe and agreed by members. Carried unanimously.

**3. Matters Arising**

None were raised.

**4. Chairman's Report**

4.1 The Chairman's Report has been posted on the BFHS website and can be accessed by any member. The report covers the period June 2021 to May 2022 and remains unchanged since issue.

4.2 **In Memoria.** Mark Tresidder informed the forum that with regret the society had lost several friends and members in the past year and a minute's silence was held in their memory. These were the only people that Mark had been made aware of: Mr Geoff Sewell, Mr David Valentine, Mr Jack Steemson, and Mrs Barbara Weston.

4.3 Chairman's Remarks. Summary: The details are in the above-mentioned Chairman's Report.

4.3.1 **Meetings at Mark Rutherford and by Zoom.** The Society has continued to operate against the backdrop of Covid restrictions over the last year. Our members' meetings were held online using Zoom up until January of this year. This technology along with recordings of the talks has allowed us to be more inclusive in providing our programme of talks to members living further afield in the UK and overseas. Recognizing this, since our return to Mark Rutherford School in February this year, the Committee has sought to provide a hybrid medium for delivery of our talks to members attending in person and online.



We have experienced some teething problems as we became familiar with the technology for the online presentation of the talks. Hopefully these have been resolved and the members are enjoying the talks and the new format.

Peter Sharp, assisted by Cathy and Kevin Friend, have looked after the technical aspects of Zoom and the technology for our hybrid meetings. The recordings, if we have the speaker's permission, are available in the members' portal area of our website for a limited period.

**4.3.2 Fairs.** Mark stated that during the past year we have attended two online family history fairs organised by The Family History Federation (FHF) and Oxford Family History Society. Due to the low number of visitors received at our 'booth' on each occasion we are considering whether attending these types of shows are of benefit in the future.

Mark stated that the society has booked to attend physical shows this year run by the Oxfordshire and the Suffolk Family History Societies.

#### **4.3.3 Projects.**

**4.3.3.1 People of Bedford Photograph Database.** Mark stated that due to a lack of interest and material from members this project has been put on hold.

**4.3.3.2 Parish Records.** With changes in technology all the society's Parish Record CDs have been updated and are available as downloads.

**4.3.3.3 Funeral Directors Records.** Work is ongoing with publishing these records with information being added on a regular basis to the members' website.

**4.3.3.4 Mary Phillips Records.** Work is also ongoing with publishing these records with information being added on a regular basis to the members' website.

**4.3.3.5 Future Projects.** Mark invited the members to speak to any committee member if they had any projects that they wished the society to undertake.

**4.3.3.6 Educational Workshops.** To extend our educational remit we have held a series of four beginners' workshops for those new to family history. These were run by Ian Waller from the Family History Federation and were well received by all attending.

**4.3.3.7 Coffee Mornings.** Mark informed the members that the society would be holding 'Coffee Mornings' over the coming year to assist members with their research. Members were asked to keep a check for further details in future journals.

#### **4.3.4 Committee Members.**

Mark Tresidder, as Chairman, proceeded to thank all the Committee Members for their contribution in running and maintaining the society. A fuller account of the commendation, including Pamela Birch, is in the Chairman's Report in the members' portal.

Mark welcomed new committee members Claire Sowah, as Programme Secretary, and she has been busily filling the talk programme for the remainder of the year, and Joanna Lang, as Social Media Coordinator.

Mark also addressed the members advising them that the Librarian position was vacant and that if anyone was interested in helping to approach either John Partridge or himself.

## **5. Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2021.**

5.1 The Treasurer's Report is available on the BFHS website, Members' Portal, and can be accessed by any Member.

5.2 **Summary.** The Treasurer, Peter Sharp, gave the following brief summary of the financial position. The full Report as mentioned above is available online on the BFHS website.

5.3 **Surplus.** The BFHS made a surplus of £3,796 in the Financial Year ending 31 December 2021.

The Treasurer thanked those members who had signed the Gift Aid Forms; this had given £505 of funding from 9 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2021. However, as we now understand that membership subscriptions do not meet the current Gift Aid guidelines, we will not be claiming Gift Aid in the future.

5.4 **Cash in Hand.** The Cash in Hand had increased to £67,904. Included within this amount is the £46,430 in the NatWest 95-day account. The interest paid was 0.05%.

5.5 **Membership.** The income from Membership Fees, including Gift Aid was slightly less this year at £5,198. This was against the direct costs of membership (journals, postage, meeting/storage rooms, speakers, and governance) amounting to £5,624.

5.6 **Number of Members.** The number of members in 2017 was 509, in 2018 was 502, in 2019 was 481, in 2020 was 470 and in 2021 was 468 full members including 49 new members.

5.7 **Income and Spend from Publications and Membership.** Income from publications increased from £5,082 to £7,350, mainly due to the introduction in May 2021 of download options of Parish and Nonconformist Registers and various other publications such as past journals, poor law papers and wills books.

Peter thanked Mark Tresidder who had made a great contribution in completing the downloads.

The total expenditure had reduced from £9,696 in 2019 to £7,810 in 2020 but increased to £10,075 in 2021.

5.8 **Members' Meetings.** The society continues to host well attended members' meetings, normally held on the first Friday of the month, and we have maintained our policy of inviting renowned speakers conducted via Zoom. The cost of the Speakers reduced to £616 in 2021.

5.9 **Family History Federation.** The BFHS is affiliated to the Federation. An Affiliation Fee of 38p per member is paid. This Fee includes insurance for Public Liability. The BFHS also insure our assets against all risks.

5.10 **Bedfordshire Archives (BA).** After each quarter of the year, we make royalty payments to the Archives (formerly BARS) in relation to our sales of Parish Register CDs/Downloads and Microfiche. Sales of microfiche are being phased out and

although sales of Parish Register CDs decreased to £2,495 from £4,030, the downloads value from zero was £4,361. Consequently, the total royalty paid to BARS for the 2021 sales increased to £566.

**5.11 Independent Examiner.** The Treasurer on behalf of himself and BFHS thanked Mr Alan Feasey for maintaining and preparing the BFHS accounts for this year.

**5.12 Adoption of the Treasurer's Report.** Peter Sharp recommended the 2021 Financial Accounts for adoption by the members. Acceptance was proposed by David Daniels. The Report was accepted unanimously by the members.

## **6. Election of BFHS Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.**

Officers Mark Tresidder, Peter Sharp, and Lynn Manning are all in their second year of a three-year period commencing from the 2021 AGM and as such are not required to be re-elected this year.

The following Executive Committee Members were willing to continue and were presented to the meeting:

Kerr Clement	Catherine Friend	Kevin Friend
Jackie Hinton	Christine Horsler	Joanna Lang
Brian Payne	Claire Sowah	Paul Woodcraft
Mary Wooldridge		

The election *en bloc* of the executive committee was proposed and was unanimously carried by those members present.

## **7. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner.**

7.1 Peter Sharp proposed that the BFHS again adopted Mr Alan Feasey as the Honorary Independent Examiner for the 2022 accounts. The proposal was seconded by Kerr Clement and agreed unanimously by the Members.

7.2 Peter thanked Alan for his work with the 2022 accounts.

## **8. Three Proposed Amendments to the BFHS Constitution 2003.**

Mark Tresidder stated that details of the proposed amendments had been included in the members' AGM pack, including a copy of the 2003 Constitution, to facilitate their consideration in voting on the changes. The amendments had been approved and seconded prior to this meeting in preparation for the members to vote on.

**8.1 Virtual and Hybrid Meetings.** This amendment to our 2003 Constitution is proposed to permit virtual and hybrid meetings.

**8.2 Membership.** This amendment to our 2003 Constitution is proposed to align membership categories with those currently in use and confirm voting rights for each category.

**8.3 Quorum Requirements.** This amendment to our 2003 Constitution is proposed to confirm the quorum for an Extraordinary General Meeting and also to clarify process for adjourning an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Each amendment was voted on by the members and all were carried unanimously.

## 9. Any Other Business

9.1 **Vote of Thanks.** Paul Woodcraft proposed a vote of thanks from himself and on behalf of the members to Mark Tresidder for all of his good work and success in his new role as Chairman of BFHS.

9.2 With no other business being raised the President, Pamela Birch, closed the 2022 AGM.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### New Librarian

After many years of service to the Society, John Partridge has stepped down from his role as BFHS Librarian because he is leaving the area to live by the coast in Suffolk. John's service to the Society is much appreciated.

The Society needs a new Librarian and if you have some interest in the role and want more information about what is involved then please contact Mark Tresidder, [chairman@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bfhs.org.uk), for further details. Until someone is appointed to this role the Library will be mothballed and unavailable at meetings, but if you have a specific item you need from the Library we will try and satisfy such a request.

### Recent Acquisitions

Class 10

*The Bedford Diary of Leah Aynsley 1943-1946*

Patricia & Robert Malcolmson (Boydell Press, 2020)

This is the latest BHRS Volume 96, and provides a fascinating insight into the daily life of a working class woman during the Second World War. Leah hoped that her diary, which she gave as a bequest to Bedfordshire Archives Service, would 'often be useful to settle arguments as to what happened on such and such occasions'. She also thought that 'being written by a working-class person among whom I suspect not many will keep such diaries - it may be interesting in future centuries'.

### Beds FHS Facebook page

In the June 2022 journal we reported that we had 1119 'likes' and 1286 followers as at 10 April. We have progressed very slightly and as at 13 June we have 1120 'likes' and 1287 followers. We now welcome Joanna Lang as the BFHS Social Media Coordinator who is going to be looking after the BFHS Facebook page.



## Annual Accounts for the Period

Period Start Date      Period End Date  
 From 1 January 2021    To 31 December 2021

### Statement of Financial Activities

	Current Year 2021 £	Prior Year 2020 £
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>		
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>		
Voluntary Income	5,198	5,498
Investment Income	80	271
<b>Income from Charitable Activities</b>	8,593	6,225
<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>	<b>13,871</b>	<b>11,994</b>
<b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>		
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>	9,229	6,849
<b>Governance Costs</b>	846	961
<b><u>Total Resources Expended</u></b>	<b>10,075</b>	<b>7,810</b>
<b><u>Net Movement in Funds</u></b>	<b>3,796</b>	<b>4,184</b>
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	80,400	76,216
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>84,196</b>	<b>80,400</b>

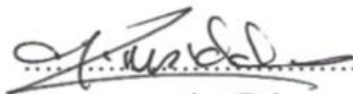
## Balance Sheet

	Current Year 2021 £	Prior Year 2020 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	15,168	15,168
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	15,168	15,168
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock of Books and Stamps	2,005	2,976
Debtors	0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand	67,905	62,915
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	69,910	65,891
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	882	659
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>	882	659
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	69,028	65,232
<b>Net Assets</b>	84,196	80,400
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted	84,196	80,400
Restricted		-
	84,196	80,400

Signed by

Date of Approval


Chairman



Mark Tresidder

... 25 Feb 2022

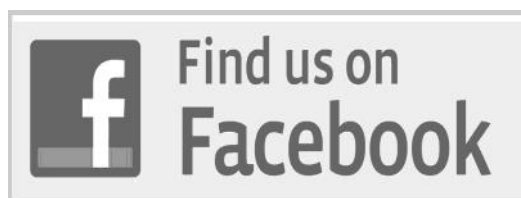
Treasurer



Peter Sharp

... 25 Feb 2022





Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit:

**[facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety](https://facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety)**

## **BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS**

Many new computers do not have CD drives so we are pleased to announce that all our CDs are now available for sale as downloads from Parish Chest and Genfair.

The available downloads include all 128 Bedfordshire Parish Registers, Bedfordshire Nonconformist Registers, Marriage Licences, Poor Law papers, BFHS back *Journals* Vol 1-19 with an index to surnames and subjects, and the four Bedfordshire Will books. BFHS *Journals* volumes 20-23 are available free in the Members' Portal of the BFHS website.

To access the stores directly please visit **[parishchest.com](http://parishchest.com)** or **[genfair.co.uk](http://genfair.co.uk)**, although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website **[bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk)** then select 'Online Stores'. If you then select Parish Chest the majority of the downloads are to be found in the 'Downloads' folder, but Poor Law, Journals and Wills book are listed under the appropriate folder located down the left hand side of the screen. If you select Genfair, the downloads are listed alongside the CDs in the relevant section. Both stores have a search feature and the content of each product is given. Downloads are the same price as the CDs.

BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers, then they will appear on our Surnames CD, available as a free download on the home page of **[bfhs.org.uk](http://bfhs.org.uk)**. Alternatively, the CD is available for only £10 including UK P&P, from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB, enquiries to **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**.

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes listed below are available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB,  
or **[bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)**

Each CD or download contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

Baptisms at least 1813-1851 (some parishes all up to 1851)

Marriages up to 1885; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire

CDs marked † also contain Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) from a graveyard in the

parish (church, chapel or cemetery). Those marked \* contain records from the registers or graveyards of Nonconformist chapels in the parish, photographs, and other records are included as available.

‡ Holwell: MIs and Burials only, not Registers (now in Herts).

Prices include UK or overseas post and packing. The cost of a full set of Parish CDs is £1,250.

Any recently revised CDs are indicated by the **issue number in bold**. Please note that **CDs will no longer be updated** whereas downloads will be updated when more indexes and any new MI listings become available.

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Amphill † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	4	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	2
Barton	£15	3	Elstow †	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	2
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Everton	£10	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Flitton *	£15	4
Biddenham †	£10	2	Flitwick	£10	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Goldington	£10	2
Billington †	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
Bletsoe	£10	2	Harlington †	£10	2
Blunham † *	£15	3	Harrod *	£10	2
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Haynes †	£20	2
Bromham †	£10	3	Henlow †	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Higham Gobion	£10	2
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Hockliffe † *	£10	3
Cardington † *	£15	2	Holwell † ‡	£5	1
Carlton † *	£10	2	Houghton Conquest † *	£15	2
Chalgrave	£15	2	Houghton Regis *	£15	2
Chellington	£15	2	Hulcote †	£10	2
Clapham †	£10	3	Husborne Crawley †	£20	2
Clifton	£20	3	Kempston	£15	3
Clophill †	£15	3	Kensworth †	£15	2
Cockayne Hatley	£10	2	Keysoe † *	£15	2
Colmworth †	£10	2	Knotting	£10	2
Cople †	£10	2	Langford	£15	2
Cranfield † *	£15	2	Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	6
Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1



Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Keysoe † *	£15	2	Shelton †	£10	2
Knotting	£10	2	Shillington †	£15	2
Langford	£15	2	Souldrop †	£10	2
Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	4	Southill † *	£20	2
Lidlington †	£10	2	Stagsden †	£15	2
Little Barford †	£10	1	Stanbridge *	£10	2
Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Steppingley †	£10	2
Lower Gravenhurst	£10	2	Stevington † *	£10	2
Luton † *	£30	3	Stotfold † *	£10	2
Marston Moretaine †	£15	3	Streatley †	£10	2
Maulden † *	£15	2	Studham	£15	2
Melchbourne †	£10	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Meppershall †	£10	1	Sutton	£15	2
Millbrook	£15	2	Swineshead †	£10	2
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Tempsford †	£10	2
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Thurleigh	£10	2
Northhill †	£15	2	Tilbrook	£10	2
Oakley †	£10	2	Tilsworth † *	£10	2
Odell †	£10	2	Tingrith †	£10	2
Old Warden †	£15	2	Toddington † *	£15	2
Pavenham	£10	3	Totternhoe *	£15	2
Pertenhall	£15	1	Turvey † *	£20	2
Podington	£15	1	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	2
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	2
Potton † *	£20	3	Westoning †	£10	3
Pulloxhill	£10	2	Whipsnade †	£10	2
Ravensden †	£10	2	Wilden †	£15	2
Renhold	£10	2	Willington †	£10	2
Ridgmont † *	£15	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Riseley	£10	2	Woburn † *	£20	2
Roxton † *	£10	2	Wootton	£15	2
Salford †	£10	2	Wrestlingworth †	£15	3
Sandy † *	£15	1	Wymington	£10	1
Sharnbrook	£10	2	Yelden †	£10	2

## SUGGESTION BOX



Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members and following the useful responses from the recent Members' Questionnaire, we thought how could we keep the ideas coming.

So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at [bfhs@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk).

Your committee appreciates any help, ideas or suggestions that you may have regarding any aspect of the BFHS organisation. □



## Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

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Specialists in genealogy, family and house history research in  
Bedfordshire.

Our lead researcher is Vicki Manners a qualified genealogist who is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of **AGRA**.

Her qualifications include:

- M.A. in Local History
- P.G. Cert. in Family and Local History
- P.G. Dip. in Archive Management

Vicki has worked for Bedfordshire Archives, The Panacea Museum, and several other heritage organisations in Bedfordshire thus giving her a unique and specialist knowledge of genealogy, family and house history records relating to Bedfordshire.

Vicki also specialises in genetic genealogy. She can therefore advise you on which tests are most suitable for your research aims, as well as help you interpret to your DNA results and matches.

We offer a free, no obligation initial consultation. To find out more telephone: 07976 718624

**[bedfordshireresearch.co.uk](http://bedfordshireresearch.co.uk)**

## WHERE TO FIND US

Correspondence for the Executive Committee should be addressed to the appropriate person and sent to:

### Bedfordshire Family History Society

<b>PO Box 214 BEDFORD MK41 8WB</b>	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://bfhs.org.uk">bfhs.org.uk</a> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk">bfhs@bfhs.org.uk</a>  <b>Web Sales:</b> <a href="http://parishchest.com">parishchest.com</a> <a href="http://genfair.co.uk">genfair.co.uk</a>
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The following email addresses are also available:

<b>chairman@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>secretary@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>treasurer@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>journal@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>librarian@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>membership@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>progsec@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>bookstall@bfhs.org.uk</b>  <b>publicity@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>research@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>searches@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>gdpr@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>social@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>webmaster@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>distribution@bfhs.org.uk</b>	Society Chairman & Information Manager Society Secretary Society Treasurer Journal Co-ordinator Society Librarian Membership Secretary Programme Secretary All BFHS Publications Sales Enquiries (CDs, Books) Publicity Officer Research Co-ordinator Search Co-ordinator Information Manager Social Events Organiser Society Webmaster Journal Distribution
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copy should be sent to:

The Journal Co-ordinator, PO Box 214, Bedford MK41 8WB

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society,  
and enclosed with the advertisement.

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(1 January - 31 December)

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<b>UK/Worldwide Membership taking the <i>Journal</i> by email in pdf format</b>	<b>£8.00 pa</b>
UK Membership with one copy per issue of the printed <i>Journal</i>	£10.00 pa
European Membership with one copy per issue of the printed <i>Journal</i>	£14.00 pa
Overseas Membership with one copy per issue of the printed <i>Journal</i>	£18.00 pa
Family Membership per each additional member at the same address, but no additional <i>Journal</i>	£1.00 pa

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1. Where it is needed by the independent examiner in his inspection of our financial records.
2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

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