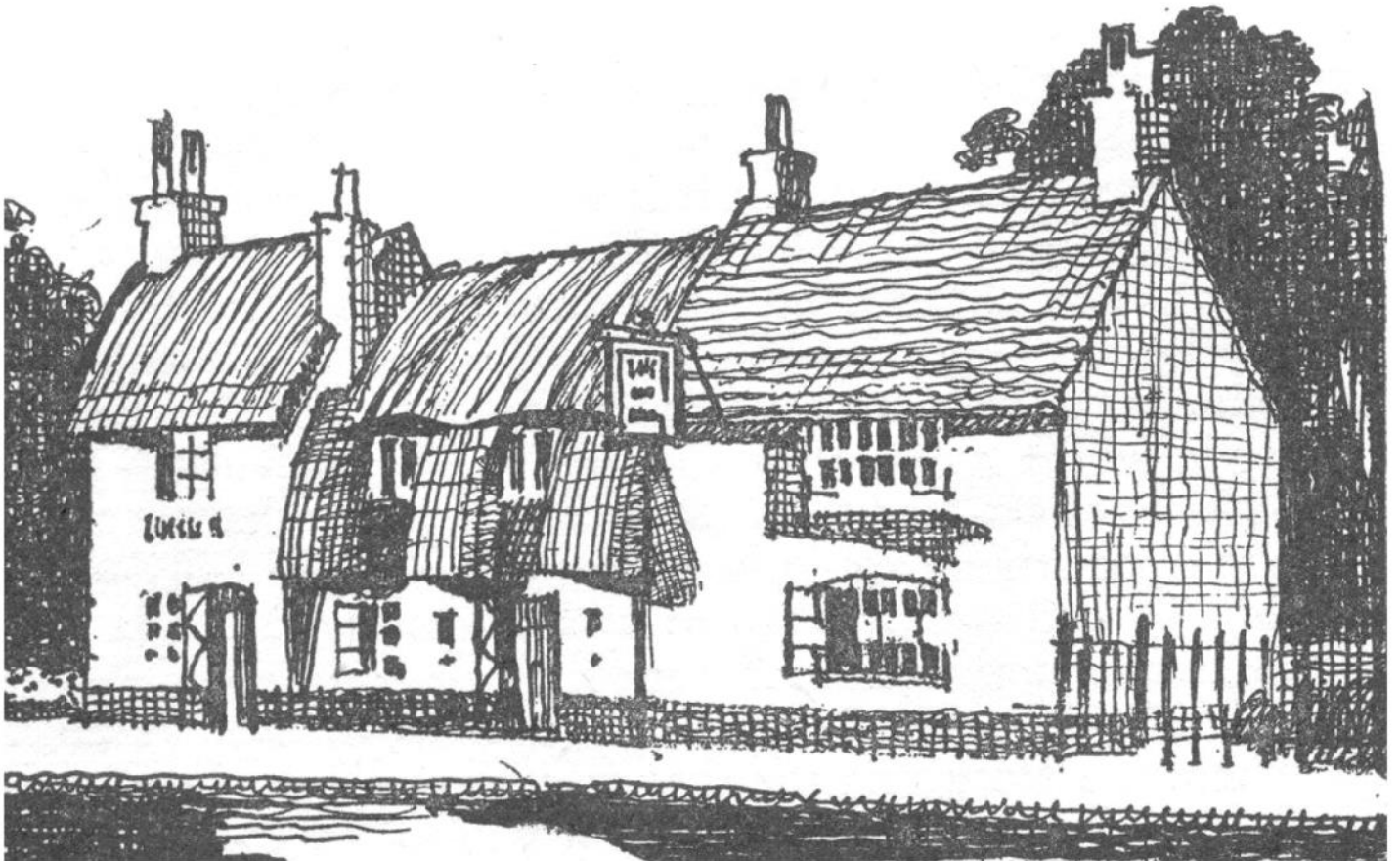


**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 23 No 8 Dec 2022



The Royal Oak, Woburn

**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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REMINDER

The **CLOSING DATE** for articles to be published in the
March 2023 *Journal* is **28 February 2023**.

(Articles submitted near the closing date may not
be published until the following *Journal*)

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WILLIAM RICKETT/RICKETTS - MY DEER DUFFER ANCESTOR

Cheryl Uren

My interest in family history research really did not become serious until I retired from 30-plus years as a senior school history teacher and then, rather serendipitously, won a 12-month World-Wide Ancestry subscription and DNA test at a Family History Show here in Adelaide. One of my areas of research would be my 4x great-grandfather William RICKETT or RICKETTS. Had he been transported to the Penal Colony of New South Wales and eventually returned home to his family in Hockliffe as family legends suggested?

What do we know about William Ricketts from the historical documents?

At Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire on 13 May 1799, William Rickett of Stoke Goldington, and Letice ALLARD of Stoke Hammond, were married by Banns in the presence of John FALL and Hannah HORN. Research suggests William was the son of a William RICKET and his wife Eleanor HENSWORTH and he was baptised at North Marston in Buckinghamshire on 5 August 1770.

Based on Baptism records William and Lettice had at least six children. At Stoke Hammond we see the baptism of Robert Rickett on 16 February 1800 and John Rickett on 19 April 1801. Evidence suggests William was an agricultural worker on the Estates of the Duke of Bedford - given later documents which describe him as a 'farming man' or farmer, it is interesting to speculate whether he was just an ordinary Ag Lab or someone with higher farming skills. At some point, he and Lettice moved the short distance from Stoke Hammond in Buckinghamshire to Hockliffe in Bedfordshire. At Hockliffe further children are baptised – William Ricketts on 14 August 1808, Letitia Ricket on 10 March 1811 and Ann Ricketts on 11 July 1813. Interestingly in 1806 another Robert Ricket is baptised in Hockliffe also with a baptismal date of 16 February - is this just a coincidence for the baptism of a second son named Robert or is it a rebaptism of the Robert from 1800? The 1851 UK Census and the burial of a Robert Rickett in Stoke Hammond on 4 June 1800, despite no age recorded on the online transcript, suggests the 1806 baptism was of a second Robert as the first Robert had died.

William Ricketts – Conviction and Transportation

A William Ricketts of Hockliffe in Bedfordshire, along with Thomas LUFFELL, was committed for trial at the Bedford Summer Assizes on 11 July 1816 by George CARDALE. On 1 August 1816, the men were found guilty of '*Wilfully Coursing and Hunting a fallow Deer without the consent of the owner*' - in other words, poaching. One must wonder if this was something they had done before, or were they unlucky enough to be caught the first time?

The 1816 Bedford Gaol transcript has the following information about William Ricketts: *Age: 34 years; Height: 5ft 9in; Hair: Brown; Complexion: Fresh; Residence: Hockliffe, Bedfordshire*. He is also described as '*Orderly and well-behaved*'. Thomas Luffell is recorded as aged 23 years. Thomas' age remained constant on all the sighted documents, but discrepancies in William's age were initially to cause a few issues. A book in the State Library of South Australia relating to transportees, gave William's age as 40 years when he was sentenced at the 1816 Assizes while the Bedford Goal transcript age was supported by the 19 September 1816 document that listed the

'received' transportees aboard the Prison Hulk '*Justitia*' at Woolwich. The similar ages for the Gaol and '*Justitia*' are not surprising.

William Ricketts and Thomas Luffell would spend nine months aboard the '*Justitia*'. While discrepancies existed regarding William's age as well as the spelling of both men's surnames, all the documents agreed William and Thomas were tried in August 1816, sentenced to 7 years for poaching, sent to the prison Hulk '*Justitia*' and transported aboard the '*Larkins*' in 1817 to serve their sentence of 7 years in New South Wales. My research revealed several William Rickett or Ricketts being transported prior to the 1840s end of transportation to NSW, so the dates and ship name would be essential to cross-referencing during the research.

In 2018 I was able to visit Sydney from my home in Adelaide. Apart from going there for a holiday, one of my objectives was a visit to the NSW State Archives so that I could look at the physical documents held there rather than struggle with often incomplete online transcripts or difficult to read scans of the documents found on *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*. While I was only able to spend four hours in the Archives, these hours proved invaluable to my research. In addition to the public domain digitised documents, there were documents that had not been digitised or which can only be viewed at the Archives as they were on microfiche. The first thing I looked at, a folio of the various Convict Indents for 1817, was an undigitized set of documents and it was a goldmine for information about William Ricketts.

William and Thomas were the first names on the Convict Indent for the transportees aboard the '*Larkins*' (see below)¹ so my research was off to a great start.² The Indent for William Ricketts gave his age as 40 years. His physical description more or less matched that of the Bedford Gaol transcript with his height recorded as 5ft 8½in; he was described as having hazel eyes and a dark pale complexion. His hair was now noted as silvery grey rather than brown, which after nine months in a Prison Hulk, is probably not surprising. Both William and Thomas are recorded as 'Farming Man', but most importantly the Indent recorded their 'Native Place' as Bucks.

Name	Where born	When	Where	Native place	Calling	Age	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Att.	C.P.	A.P.
1816 William Ricketts	Bedford	1 st August 1816	Seven Years	Bucks	farm ^r man	40	5ft 8 1/2	d ^k pale	silv ^y grey	hazel			
1816 Thomas Luffell				d:	d:	24	5ft 8	ruddy brown	d:				

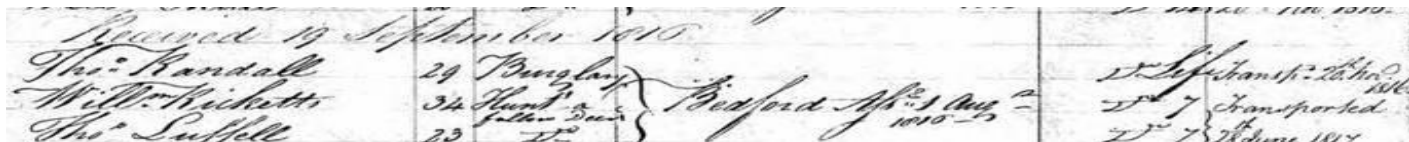
William Ricketts – Convict and Free Man

On 28 June 1817, William and Thomas were transferred from the Hulk '*Justitia*' to the Convict Transport '*Larkins*' to prepare for transportation. As you can see from the snippet below,³ another prisoner (Thomas RANDALL) was received from Bedford Gaol on the same date as William and Thomas, but his transportation date was in

¹ The Convict Indent for the transportees aboard the '*Larkins*', 1817; New South Wales Archives, State Records Authority of NSW.

² This is not the only example of William and Thomas being the first two names on a document – the record held in the Public Records Office, London showing the convicts assigned to the '*Larkins*' also has them as the first names.

³ Public Records Office, London



November 1816. Why William and Thomas remained incarcerated on the ‘*Justitia*’ for nine months is unknown.

The ‘*Larkins*’, carrying 250 male prisoners, began its voyage for Sydney Cove on 24 July 1817 and finally left England from Torbay on 1 August 1817, arriving in Sydney Cove on 22 November 1817. William MCDONALD, who was the Surgeon on the ‘*Larkins*’, records that two convicts had died on the voyage and that the ship’s journey from Torbay to its anchorage at Sydney Cove, had taken exactly 16 weeks.⁴ His entry for 2 December 1817 reveals ‘...*the whole of the convicts were disembarked clear and healthy, where his Excellency Governor Macquarrie inspected them in person. Signed William McDonald, Surgeon and Superintendent*’.⁵

A list of Convicts disembarked from Ship, Larkins and forwarded to Parramatta, Windsor Liverpool and Bringelly, 2 Dec 1817, reveals that William Ricketts and Thomas Luffell, along with William GOODENOUGH and William HOWLETT, were assigned to Mr Rowland HASSELL⁶ of Parramatta the owner of substantial farming lands in the Colony. William Ricketts was recorded as in ‘government employment’ on the Town Gang on the NSW Muster lists⁷ for 1818 and 1821 while the 1820 Muster states both he and Thomas Luffell were still assigned to a Mr Hassell.⁸ While no ages are given on any of these documents, they provide details such as date of arrival, name of ship, when and where convicted and sentence length. As I cannot find any evidence of a Ticket of Leave⁹ for either William or Thomas Luffell, it would appear they served their full 7-year sentence. Unfortunately, the 1822 Muster is incomplete, but as a Thomas LAFFALL remains assigned to a Mr Hassell, the assumption is William also remained assigned to Hassell. On the 1825 Muster, Thomas Luffell or LAVAL, was recorded as being in the ‘employ’ of Mr Hassell at Bringelly rather than being ‘assigned’, meaning he had remained with Hassell as a freed man; however, what happened to Thomas after this date is currently unknown.¹⁰

⁴ A diary and medical journal for 7 June to 2 December 1817 of the *Larkins* convict ship carrying 250 male prisoners from England to New South Wales by William McDonald, MD, Surgeon and Superintendent.

⁵ Op cit.

⁶ The various Musters spell the surname Hassell with an ‘e’ but HASSALL is the spelling for various places linked to the family such as Hassall Street in Parramatta or Hassall Park in Bathurst.

⁷ Until the first NSW Census was taken in 1828, the population - both free and convict - was recorded on the various annual General Musters.

⁸ After 1820, the ‘Mr Hassell’ referred to in the Musters would be one of Rowland Hassall’s sons as he died in 1820.

⁹ A Ticket of Leave was a document of parole issued to convicts who had shown they could be trusted with some level of freedom. While not being able to find evidence of such a document in the records does not mean William Ricketts and Thomas Luffell did not receive a Ticket of Leave.

¹⁰ In 1844, a Thomas Luffell is referred to in relation to acreage at Ben Lomond, Van Diemen’s Land.

Once he had completed his sentence, it is unknown why William Ricketts decided not to remain as an employee of the Hassell at Bringelly as, after 1822 the opening of the Central Tablelands region to wider colonization by settlers, he made the journey over the Blue Mountains as the Musters of 1823, 1824 and 1825 show William Ricketts remains in the Bathurst District, recorded as *FS* (Free by Servitude) and employed as a Labourer. Given James Hassell the son of Rowland Hassell had been granted 600 acres in the region, it is highly likely William travelled to this area to work for James Hassall as a Labourer. This Hassall property is in the general location of where the 1828 Census placed William so at some point between the 1825 Muster and the Census, William ceased being a labourer and became a tenant farmer.

The 1828 Census,¹¹ which is the first Census taken in New South Wales, reveals William Ricketts still in the Bathurst District and residing at Eight Mile Swamp, Wiseman's Creek, on land recorded as 'government owned', along with Peter DREW, age 36 years, and John BRENNAN, age 40 years. The Census provides the name of the ships all three men were transported on as well as their sentence. Peter Drew, whose sentence was 14 years, had a *TL* (Ticket of Leave) while John Brennan was a Lifer with a *CP* (Conditional Pardon). William Ricketts was the 'head' of the property as it is his name listed first on the Census as *FS*.

DISTRICT of *Bathurst*
No. *Ninety*

NEW SOUTH WALES.
Census for the Year 1828.

By Act of the GOVERNOR and Council of the 6th Geo. IV. No. 4 sec. 2, it is enacted, that if any Householder, Employer of Servants, or Proprietor or Occupier of Lands, shall refuse or neglect to answer, or shall answer falsely or untruly, any of the Questions authorised by the said Act to be put relative to the Population, Cattle, and Occupied Land in the Colony, the Person so offending shall be fined, at the discretion of two or more Magistrates, in a Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds.

HOUSEHOLDER'S NAME, *William Ricketts* RESIDENCE, *Eight Mile Swamp Wiseman's Creek*

Names of Family and Servants.	Age.	Class.	Arrival.		Sentence.	Employment.	Residence.	Religion.
			Ship.	Year.				
<i>William Ricketts</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>F. S.</i>	<i>Locking</i>	<i>1817</i>	<i>7 years</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Wiseman's Creek</i>	<i>Protestant</i>
<i>Peter Drew</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>F. S.</i>	<i>Same</i>		<i>14 years</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>
<i>John Brennan</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>F. S.</i>	<i>Priscus</i>	<i>1812</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>

Other documents viewed at the Archives that are linked to the Census stated that William Ricketts, now a tenant farmer, had four acres cleared, four acres cultivated, having eight cattle, and two hundred sheep. Recorded as labourers, Peter Drew had six cattle and one hundred sheep while John Brennan had three cattle. The full page of the above snippet shows William was illiterate - he signed the form with his mark (x) and the Census had been completed by an enumerator. The recorded age of 60 years fits with the age of 40 years from the 1817 Convict Ident. During the research in the Archives, a William RICKETS was found on the 1841 NSW Census residing near the Fairy Meadow Road in the Illawarra District but, after viewing this Census, I was able to eliminate him due to his age being recorded as under 45 years, and the fact he was literate.

Did William Ricketts return to his family in Bedfordshire as family legends would have it? My research strongly suggests the answer is no.¹² After my return from the

¹¹ 1828 Census District of Bathurst; New South Wales Archives, State Records Authority of NSW.

¹² Several Ancestry Trees have the death of William Ricketts as 1840 in Leighton Buzzard; the General Record Office record shows that this William Ricketts is in fact 27 years old.

Archives, I continued my online research and while unable to obtain a death certificate for William Ricketts as the central registration of BMDs only began in 1856, I do have a certified copy of the NSW Burials Register 886 Vol 20 for William RYCANT or Rickett: Abode: Macquarie Mount; Age: 68 years; Occupation: Free, Labourer. The burial, which occurred on 28 April 1836, was performed by John Espy KEANE. *Find My Grave* shows a William Rickett*,¹³ age 66 years, is buried at the Kelso Anglican Cemetery in the Parish of Bathurst and states he died on 28 April 1836. This age gives a birth date of 1770.

The Family William Ricketts left behind.

What of the family that William Ricketts left behind? Following his conviction and transportation, William's wife Lettice was left with five children aged between four and 16 years. One family researcher has stated that Lettice remarried but on 11 June 1829, Letitia Rickett, age 56 years, was buried in the St Peter and All Saints Churchyard in Battlesden. William and Lettice's eldest son, John Rickett (1801-1859), married Sarah BIRCH (1801-1827) on 12 May 1823 in Battlesden, and following her death, he would marry Ann MILLARD (1812-1876) on 11 February 1824 in Eversholt. Letitia Rickett (1811-1863) married John CLARKE (1806-1890) on 14 October 1830 in Hockliffe.¹⁴ My 3rd great-grandfather William Ricketts (1808-1882) married Mary Ann PAXTON (1813-1889) on 24 December 1830 at Battlesden. Ann Ricketts (1813-1887) would marry Joseph MITCHELL (1810-1897) on 4 November 1834 in Milton Bryant. Robert Rickett (1806-1859) married Sarah SPENCER (1812-1884) on 13 October 1835 at Battlesden.

Did Lettice and William's children ever wonder about their husband and father? Did any news about his life in New South Wales ever reach them? Did William even try to return to England, as upon receiving his Certificate of Freedom at the end of his sentence, he had the choice of remaining as a settler or returning home? These are questions that are unlikely to be answered but the name William Rickett, Rickett or Ricketts would be passed on by his three sons to their eldest sons, so in that way my Deer Duffer¹⁵ 4x great-grandfather was remembered. Some 150 years after he was transported, my family, as descendants of William Ricketts' son William, would make the journey to Australia as £10 Poms. Having visited the NSW Archives, I now hope to visit the Bathurst area and go to Kelso Anglican Cemetery where William Rickett is buried. I am also curious to see Eight Mile Swamp and Wiseman's Creek. Another visit to the Archives may also be needed. While it has not been possible to travel since 2020, a trip is planned for a future date. □

¹³ The '*' is how it appears on the *Find My Grave* website

¹⁴ This would be where the belief that Lettice remarried originated.

¹⁵ Australian slang for a rustler.

BACK TWO GENERATIONS - JOSEPH HILL OF POSTGROVE

Claire Bostle



Like Wendy VARVELL (*BFHS Journal*, June 2021 p5) I can claim a maternal grandfather who was born in 1855.

His name was Joseph HILL, pictured left (1855-1924) and he was born in Pottsgrrove (Pottesgrove). He was the last of 5 generations of my family to farm at Hill Farm, Pottsgrrove, as tenants of the Duke of Bedford. In 1922 he gave up the tenancy and bought Thrupp End Farm, Lidlington, from a cousin Ireson W G ROBERTS (1889-1953).

My grandfather married twice. His first wife was Lizzy (Lizzie) Harriet FRYER (1859-1896) who was born in Husborne Crawley.

They married in 1881 and had 8 children, 7 of whom survived to adulthood. Lizzy died at the age of 36, when her youngest child was only 20 months old. Lizzy is buried at Pottsgrrove Church next to their daughter Mabel who died in infancy.



Joseph's second wife, my grandmother, was Mary Elizabeth WALKER (1877-1959), pictured above circa 1927, with her children, Joan Clare, Stuart Roland and Mary.



They married in 1904. Mary was the eldest child of James Croxton Walker (1853 -1925) who ran the Bedford Arms Hotel in Woburn. Joseph was only two years younger than Mary's father.

Joseph and Mary had three children, the youngest of whom was my mother, Joan Clare (1919-2014), pictured left when aged about 20.

Joseph died in 1924 when my mother was only 4 years old.

Two of Joseph's sons (Robert and Richard) stayed farming in Bedfordshire and lived at Lidlington and Husborne Crawley. I have happy memories of visiting them during the 1960s. Three other children (Joseph, Lizzie Constance and Stuart) emigrated to Canada and another daughter (Katherine known as Kitty) went to the USA. The other children (Helen, John, Mary and Joan) settled in various parts of London, Sussex and

Worcestershire. Joan, my mother, was the last of Joseph's children to die. This was in 2014 approximately 159 years after her father was born and 100 years after he died. □

MEMBERS' SURNAME INTERESTS

Every effort is made to transcribe correctly the interests supplied by members but where hand-written details are provided errors may occur, for which we apologise. It would help greatly if all interests were either typed or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. When writing to a member please include a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupons, and it is only polite to reply even if no connection appears to exist.

Surname	Place/Parish	County	Period
Andrew Tebbutt (4505) andrew.tebbutt@gmail.com			
Tebbutt	Kempston/Bromham Stevington/Odell	BDF and possibly NTH	16C - 20C
Pain/Payne	Clapham/Kempston	BDF	17C - 20C
Swales/Swales	Clapham and other local parishes	BDF	Up to 19C
Crowsley	Wooton/Biddenham Kempston	BDF	16C - 19C
Lovell	Wooton/Kempston and other local parishes	BDF and possibly NTH and BKM	16C - 17C

Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer

If you pay your **2023** membership by SO or BT please drop an email to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.

Your help would be appreciated.

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**

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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Holding an ancient licence, this well-known inn is one of the last in Woburn to retain its old-world aspects (older than the Georgian period of which Woburn provides so many graceful examples) of thatched roof, whitewashed walls, low-ceilinged interior. In the roof note the sweeping of thatch over the upper windows, a sensible treatment affording great protection from the rain. The inn was originally embellished with a sign depicting Charles II taking refuge in the branches of an oak tree, and from its position may fitly be termed the 'first and last' inn on the London road. The present landlord, Mr White, is the son of a former proprietor of the Embankment Hotel, Bedford, and he was one of the original members of the Bedfordshire Imperial Yeomanry.

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



Changed very little since the sketch, it is a Grade II listed building dating back to 1730 and was a Green King pub until 2016 when it closed its doors. In the past it was known as The Red Cow.

It was converted and re-opened as an Italian Restaurant as it is today.

Woburn is a lovely village located in the Southeast of Bedfordshire with several shops and restaurants. A good day out could be had with Woburn Abbey just round the corner. □

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.



PROGRAMME

All talks are scheduled to take place at Mark Rutherford School (see page 13 for details). Doors open at 7 pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm.

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.

Foster Hill Cemetery

Bob Ricketts

Friday 6 January 2023

No details of the speaker or talk were available at the time the *Journal* went to the printer. You will find information on the cemetery at fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk and our Facebook page will provide details at a later date.

Plague Doctor

David Bell

Friday 3 February 2023

David Bell is a retired Civil Servant from Newcastle now living in the Peak District 'plague village' of Eyam. Although David is not a doctor, historian or academic, he discovered that the waterfall on the farm he had bought, was the site where a Matthew Morton had taken up residence in 1665, with his dog 'Flash', to escape the plague, which had killed his wife - or was it? When busloads of tourists turned up to view the



waterfall and learn about the plague history of Eyam (whether myth or reality), David decided to research those times and events in the village. The conclusion was that the stories commonly told would appear to have been embellished over the centuries, but have done no harm for tourism. David has unearthed a few tales of his own, to throw into the pot.

His tongue-in-cheek take on life in Eyam and on staying well and avoiding disease 350 years ago, should convince you that, even in these troubled times, we really all have a lot to be thankful for.

RAF Henlow
Edward Martin
Friday 3 March 2023



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.

The Picture Postcard
Mark Pardoe
Friday 21 April 2023 (note date)



Picture postcards were once the best and quickest way of communication. The illustrations were just something to make the card more interesting but thought of something of little worth. However they can now be seen as a, sometimes, vital piece of history. The images record the scene on that day, a scene which has changed and, in some cases, totally disappeared. This talk considers this thought and, hopefully if the lecturer is up to it, demonstrates the picture postcard's place in social history.

Mark Andrew Pardoe was born in 1953 at Nottingham (Britain's most beautiful industrial city). In 1972 he joined the Railway as a cartographer and in a series of fortunate accidents became the Chief Archivist to the British Railways Board. On the demise of the nationalised industry he was given a large bag of money to take early retirement just before his 49th birthday. He is now a freelance archivist and historical researcher. He is a lifelong Notts County supporter and thus never wears red.

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.

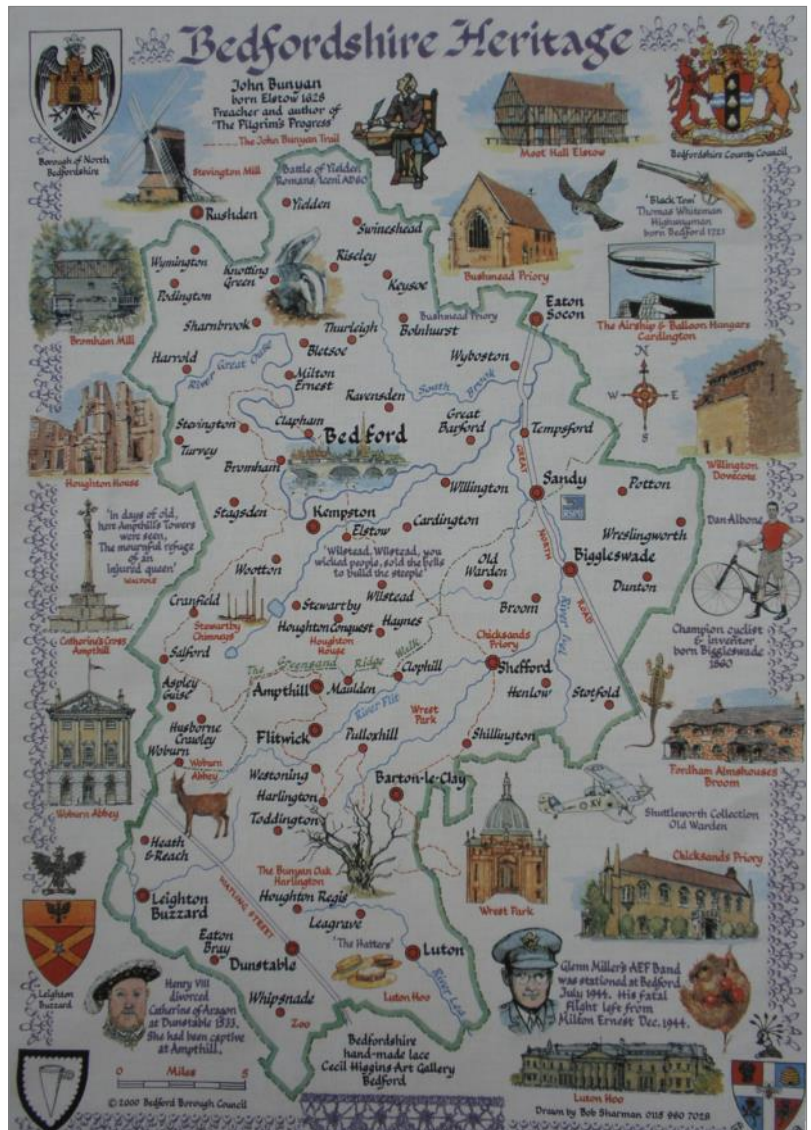
These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

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,

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.



We've joined Twitter!

Come and say hello.

We take part in #ancestryhour each
Tuesday evening, 7-8pm

www.twitter.com/BedsFHS



OBITUARY FOR ANNE SIMMONDS

Mary Wooldridge

Anne joined the BFHS Committee in 1987 as the Monumental Inscriptions coordinator. Her daughter remembers sitting in graveyards with her mum while she transcribed the gravestones. Anne took over as Secretary in 2002, staying in this role until she finally retired in 2016. Anne was also very involved with the early transcriptions of the 1851 census. Even after retirement Anne was still contributing many articles for the journal

When we visited The National Archives at Kew, Anne and I would sit together on the coach. We had a lot in common and I loved to hear about what she had found at Kew. Anne told me all about the reason she came to be interested in family history. It was for medical reasons and in Anne's words 'Our Families Funny Blood'. In those days we could not switch on a PC and find the answer on the internet. We used to have regular outings in Tony Weston's minibus to sources of research mainly to be found in London. Anne and I were regular users of this service.

During her time at the Society, Anne gave us several talks, among them were:

Diary of a Tyneside Youth in the 1890s

Victorian Pupil Teachers

75 Years of Harrison and Simmonds

Having Funny Blood got me into family history

Anne's mum, Aideen Taylor, was also a member and they would come to meetings together. Aideen was a very interesting lady to talk to. Aideen and Anne were heavily involved in The Friends of Brockwell Park, in London. Brockwell was Aideen's maiden name.

That initial interest in family history laid the groundwork when Anne was given a box



of her paternal grandfather's diaries; he was an artist living in Tyneside around the turn of the century. He wrote in detail about his local area, meeting and courting his future wife and about life as it was at that time. Anne worked tirelessly to decipher and transcribe these diaries and sketchbooks and had them published as '*Walking the Lanes with Liz*'. This was also the basis for another fascinating talk.

Further research carried out by Anne discovered ancestors who served with Lord Nelson and on '*The Fighting Temeraire*'. The picture on the previous page is of Anne pouring over family history papers with fellow enthusiast Ian Waller.

Not many people knew that, outside the Society, Anne a strict Catholic was a member of the Order of Secular Franciscans, serving as a London Regional Minister and also serving in many East Anglian posts. □

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

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION SURNAME INTERESTS

Part of being a member of a Local Family History Society is the ability to share information with fellow family historians who are researching the same names in the same areas. This often results in finding that missing link but more importantly you might make contact with a distant cousin or relative and the joy of finding where your family trees meet up.

A couple of years ago the Family History Federation contacted all local Family History Societies with the intention of creating a central Surnames Interests portal on their website which would link Local Family History Societies Members Interest records together in one place. We are pleased to announce that we have now been able to add Bedfordshire's Members' Interests to that database.

To access this database, go to the Family History Federation website and select Surname Interests, familyhistoryfederation.com



MEMBER SOCIETY SIGN-IN

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Type in the surname you are interested in and click the Search icon.

Start searching

Surname

smith

Filter results by:

County

Select...

Chapman Code

Select...

Country

Select...

Search

Searching for: SMITH

657 entries found

As you can see from this example there are 657 entries.

You can then use the filters to refine your search. If you click on any of the filters you get a drop-down menu. In this example over the page we have picked Bedfordshire.

Start searching

Surname
smith

Filter results by:

County

Select...

Select...

-ANY-
Aberdeenshire
Alderney
Anglesey
Angus
Antigua
Antrim
Argentina
Argyllshire
Armagh
Australia
Avon
Ayrshire
Banffshire
Barbados
Bedfordshire
Belgium
Berkshire
Berwickshire

Start searching

Surname
smith

Filter results by:

County
Bedfordshire

Chapman Code
Select...

Country
Select...

Search

Searching for: SMITH
42 entries found

You can now see there are only 42 entries. You can now scroll down to see the results. An example is shown below.

Bedfordshire Family History Society			
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOLDSMITH		Wootton
Bedfordshire	BDF	England	All
Bedfordshire Family History Society			
<input type="checkbox"/>	KENT-SMITH		Houghton Conquest
Bedfordshire	BDF	England	17-19C
Bedfordshire Family History Society			
<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH		Amphill
Bedfordshire	BDF	England	19-E20C
Bedfordshire Family History Society			
<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH		Ravensden
Bedfordshire	BDF	England	19C

You can then click on the link which will take you to the appropriate Family History Society's website where you can then make further contact. For our society, we will pass your contact details to the member whose entry you have selected and then the member can contact you directly.

When contacting our society about a surname interest please include all the details that is on the entry so that we can identify which record you are referring to. We will update the database on a regular basis adding new, updating current, and removing old Surname Interests.

We shall continue to print new Surname Interests in the Journal. If you have any queries about surname interests, please email surname.interests@bfhs.org.uk.

LONDON TO LIDLINGTON

Denise Whittington

My father John Dennis REED was born in Hammersmith, West London, in July 1926 and was under two years old when his father Charles, died in June 1928 after an accident while working as a Ganger's Underman for the London and North Eastern Railway. According to a newspaper report (*West Middlesex Gazette* 30 June 1928) of the inquest, Charles had been on a ballast truck shovelling ashes on to the track. As the train moved along, the usual procedure was for the workers to dig their shovels into the ashes and hold tight to them for balance. Apparently Charles lost concentration because he called out to a fellow worker to hold tight and he himself lost balance and fell from the truck on to the track between two trucks, suffering terrible injuries.

The Coroner's verdict was that it was '*a pure accident such as might happen to anyone engaged in such work, the ashes would give way rather easily and he had no doubt that the unfortunate man fell through directing his attention for a moment to warning his mate*'.

I cannot find out if his widow received any compensation, but I doubt it as it also states that the witnesses gave their fees to the widow. Charles' widow Emily remarried in 1932 and my father grew up with no knowledge of his father's family. I put off researching the Reed family for many years as I had so little to go on, but finally a couple of years ago I decided to give it a go and see how much information I could find.

I started by ordering Charles' marriage certificate, he married Emily Lilian PORTER at Willesden Register Office in 1923, both he and his bride were 19 years old. His father was stated as Henry Thomas Reed.

Well, next I needed Charles' birth certificate and found it, born 11 March 1904 at 26 Denton Road, Willesden; father Henry Thomas, mother Louisa (WILLIS). His parents, Henry Thomas and Louisa married at St Mary, Acton on 23 November 1890. Henry Thomas and Louisa went on to have fifteen children between 1892 and 1917.

Well I thought, let us have a look at the 1891 census for Acton and see if I can find them. There they were, living with Henry's parents (William and Lucy) at 14 Nelson Place, Acton, his father's place of birth Lidlington and his mother's Amtill (Amphill). William stated his occupation as Farm Labourer, although I do not suppose there was much call for it in fast growing Acton. Also at number 14, were two of Henry's sisters, Ellen and Annie who were both stated as being Laundry Maids. At that time part of Acton was known locally as 'Soapsuds Island' as in 1890 there were over 170 laundries doing the laundry (mostly by hand) for large London houses and hotels.

Well, what a surprise, my Father was sure he was from a long line of Londoners!

Henry Thomas' parents, William and Lucy (HOLLOMAN) were married in Lidlington on the 25 May 1856, but by 1861 they were living at 29 Church Street, Chelsea, sharing the property with four other families. In total there were seventeen people at this address. I cannot find them on the 1871 census but on all subsequent ones they are living in Acton where they stayed until they passed away, Lucy in 1917 and William in 1932.

Now my search shifted to Bedfordshire.

William was baptised on 29 May 1836 at Lidlington to parents Michael READ and Hannah (BOONE). Michael is stated as an Agricultural Labourer.

On the 1851 census, Michael is an Ag Lab and Hannah a Lacemaker, and were living at Boughton End, Lidlington. Michael and Hannah were married on 12 October 1816 at Lidlington and their first child, James, was born in 1817 (unfortunately dying in 1822), but they went on to have five more children, the youngest being William in 1836. Hannah was born at Ridgmont, Beds.

In May 1835, a Hannah Read was arrested during the Ampthill anti-Poor Law riots (or Bread Riots). I believe this is 'my' Hannah, she was charged with 'rioting' and committed on 15 May 1835 to three months hard labour at Bedford Old House of Correction. These were desperate times for the poor agricultural labouring families and there must have been great resentment and worry regarding the forthcoming replacement of cash out-relief to a system of payment in kind. They wanted to be paid in money and not in bread.

According to the Bedfordshire Gaol Register, Hannah was 5ft 2in, had light hair, pale complexion and grey eyes. Of her time in prison it was stated she was '*very well behaved*'.

Where was Michael born? It was no surprise to find it was also at Lidlington, in 1799, and he was baptised at Lidlington on 21 July 1799. His parents recorded as Joseph Read and Sarah. So this leads me on to Michael's parents who I believe were the Joseph that married Sarah (PLUMER) at Lidlington on 18 October 1780.

There my research has ended for now. I think that Joseph was born in 1743 at Chalgrave, Beds, but I have not finalised this yet, more research is needed as I have learnt not to go for the easiest option. The problem is that Read is quite a common name in areas of Bedfordshire, there were quite a few in Lidlington and sorting them in to families is quite a problem.

I might add that during my research I have found that various authorities have decided that the name can be written as Read/Reed and occasionally REID.

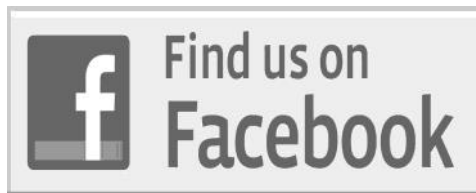
I was registered as Reed, as was my father.

I also found a John Read in the Bedfordshire Gaol Register. He was imprisoned on 24 September 1835 for 'rioting' and sentenced to six months hard labour in Bedford New House of Correction. He was aged forty, was 5ft 5in, had dark hair, dark complexion and hazel eyes. His conduct in prison was stated as '*very orderly*'. I believe he may be an older brother (born 1792) to Michael.

As an aside, loosely connected to the above, my father had one sister, baptised Gladys Louise, she was called Margaret by all the family, including her mother and husband. When my parents visited her in hospital shortly before she passed away, my mother asked for the ward where a Margaret KNIGHT was, only to be told '*We don't have a Margaret but we have a Gladys*'. '*Oh yes*', said my father '*that's her*'.

In sixty years of marriage my father had never thought to tell my mother his sister's actual name.

Just goes to show that our ancestors are not always who we think they are! □



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

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** or **genfair.co.uk**, although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website 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**. 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**.

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**

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	Harrold *	£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
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Clapham †	£10	3	Husborne Crawley †	£20	2
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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
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Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Steppingley †	£10	2
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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
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Northill †	£15	2	Tilbrook	£10	2
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Odell †	£10	2	Tingrith †	£10	2
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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.

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

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

WHERE TO FIND US

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

Bedfordshire Family History Society

PO Box 214 BEDFORD MK41 8WB	Internet: bfhs.org.uk Email: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk Web Sales: parishchest.com genfair.co.uk
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The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk secretary@bfhs.org.uk treasurer@bfhs.org.uk journal@bfhs.org.uk librarian@bfhs.org.uk membership@bfhs.org.uk progsec@bfhs.org.uk bookstall@bfhs.org.uk publicity@bfhs.org.uk research@bfhs.org.uk searches@bfhs.org.uk gdpr@bfhs.org.uk social@bfhs.org.uk webmaster@bfhs.org.uk distribution@bfhs.org.uk surname.interests@bfhs.org.uk	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 Surname Interests
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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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European Membership with one copy per issue of the printed <i>Journal</i>	£14.00 pa
Worldwide 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

General Data Protection Regulation: Please note that the Society uses computer and manual systems to record membership information. The information you give on your application for membership will only be used for conducting Society business and will not be supplied to anyone else in any form except:-

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.

If you have any questions or concerns over the data held, please contact the Information Manager.

