



CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

# THE JOURNAL



**Sat 20 Feb**  
**The Family History Show**  
**Sat 10 April**  
**Really Useful Show**

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# CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society exists to encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry and family history within the old counties of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdonshire. We formed on 1 January 2020 when the separate family history societies representing Cambridgeshire (est.1976) and Huntingdonshire (est.1984) amalgamated into a single organization.

The Society offers a regular programme of meetings designed to appeal to the specialist and beginner alike; the quarterly members' journal is now available, if preferred, as a digital download. The UK subscription, due on joining and annually thereafter, is £10, and includes the member's partner. The overseas subscription is £15, which gives airmail postage of the Journal. If you chose to receive the e-Journal, the annual subscription for all locations is £7 (we also offer a life membership for £100, or £70 with e-journal). Subscriptions/renewals may be made online through the CFHS website via debit/credit card or PayPal, or by DirectDebit; alternatively, sterling cheque/etc made payable to *Cambridgeshire Family History Society*, should be sent to the Secretary. Changes of address/email, and members' interests contributions, should be sent to the Membership Secretary, at the address/email below.

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CHAIRMAN : (T) David Copsey [postal correspondence via the Secretary, please]	email : chairman@cfhs.org.uk
VICE-CHAIRMAN : vacant	
SECRETARY : (T) Muriel Halliday, 15 Castle Hythe, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4BU	email : secretary@cfhs.org.uk
TREASURER : (T) Les Potts, 11 Woburn Close, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1TE	email : treasurer@cfhs.org.uk
MEMBERSHIP SEC. : Joan Bennett, 36c, Mill Green, Warboys, Cambs. PE28 2SA	email : membership@cfhs.org.uk
MINUTES SECRETARY : (T) Wendy Siddles	
PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR : Terry Garner	email : projects@cfhs.org.uk
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WEBMASTER : Pam Dowell	email : webmaster@cfhs.org.uk
NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR : Marie Whittick	email : newsletter@cfhs.org.uk
JOURNAL EDITOR : (T) Caroline Norton	email : editor@cfhs.org.uk
PUBLICITY : Marie Whittick	email : publicity@cfhs.org.uk
RESEARCH OFFICER : Rebecca Bailey [postal enquiries via Secretary]	email : research@cfhs.org.uk
MARCH BRANCH CHAIRMAN : Margery Young	email : march@cfhs.org.uk
CAMBRIDGE BRANCH PROGRAMME ORGANISER : vacant	email : programme@cfhs.org.uk
HUNTINGDON BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE : John Bownass	email : hunts@cfhs.org.uk
RAMSEY BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE : Gillian Rayment	email : ramsey@cfhs.org.uk
EDUCATION OFFICER : (T) Caroline Norton	email : editor@cfhs.org.uk
ARCHIVES & LOCAL STUDIES SERVICE LIAISON : (T) Gill Shapland	email : secretary@cfhs.org.uk
COMMITTEE MEMBER & MARCH BRANCH REP : David Edwards	email : march@cfhs.org.uk

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## SEARCH SERVICES

“CAMBS SUPERSEARCH” most of the transcribed records for Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely (available on CDs or as downloads from our online e-shop) are name searchable via this facility on our website—**now includes** a place-name search for Huntingdonshire parishes—see which transcription products might feature your names &/or places of interest

“ANCESTOR FINDER” an online 'pay-per-view' database of our transcribed records (with digitised images of parish registers from the Wisbech area being added). Tailor searches to meet your particular needs, and view only the records you select using prepaid “tokens” (typically, 25p per record or less, equivalent). Visit “AF” at : [www.cfhs.org.uk](http://www.cfhs.org.uk)

NB: “AF” only features records from Cambs & Isle of Ely at present; transcriptions of Hunts records are currently only available as downloads or CDs, but hopefully will be reformatted for adding to “AF” later during 2020

The Society will undertake a limited amount of help for members who have reached a sticking point in their research This can be done in two ways :- general enquiries can be addressed to the Secretary (if by post, with an SAE, please)  
:- more detailed requests should be sent to our Research Officer, Rebecca Bailey preferably by email, to [research@cfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@cfhs.org.uk) using the request form on the website

Please remember that we are all volunteers, so we ask that you are patient, and reasonable, in your requests

CAMBS CENSUSES : for 1841-1871, & 1891 Cambridge St Andrew the Less (only) **contact** : Research Officer, Rebecca Bailey

STRAYS : a searchable database of about 13,000 Cambs people recorded elsewhere also features in the website's “Cambs SuperSearch”

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS : we also have a list of local professional researchers **contact** : the Secretary (above)

# CAMBS & HUNTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Welcome to the Spring CHFHS Journal :

AT THE TIME OF WRITING ALL F-2-F MEETINGS & PUBLIC EVENTS CONTINUE TO BE CANCELLED

and a selection of talks are being offered via Zoom

IN THE MEANTIME ... CARRY ON RESEARCHING, KEEP IN TOUCH, AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROGRESS

thanks, in anticipation, to all contributors  
we need content for the next issue ...

### FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

do carry on contributing your thoughts, snaps and queries

**WATCH THE WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER & FACEBOOK**  
for latest news & updates as the situation further evolves

**Opening this issue**—is the first of a new three-part story by Ian Stephenson on the life-and-times of a Cambridge family spanning much of the C19<sup>th</sup>. An insightful and anecdotal account, from Diane Clark, brings to life a real fenland character from her family's past in Benwick. A look at the author/recipient of an 1830s letter deposited at the Archives brought insights into a world of youthful hope and expectation cut short. Two chance encounters have prompted explorations of the families concerned—an C18<sup>th</sup> document purchased by CHFHS for the Archives (the Peytons of Doddington from Dave Edwards)—and a marriage in backcountry Canada (the Beaumonts of Comberton from Caz).

Three articles in past issues have prompted additional material on the Ingreys, the Leets, and Ely Cemetery.

Two online family history shows are on the near horizon and are events not to be missed—do come and join us at either or both. Reports, news, updates and a variety of “little gems” complete another eclectic issue. On a sad note, we've recently been informed of the passing of Rob Parker (compiler of Rob's Round Up).

**Regular features can be found dotted throughout the pages, incl—gt-gt-grandparents, twelve tweets, programmes and reports for meetings at Cambridge, Ramsey and Huntingdon (March meetings, and all research surgeries are still on hold) and much more—**

**If the print is a little small, try the e-journal—it can**

**be enlarged to any size**

**NB :** [M] against a contributor's name signifies membership—to contact authors, please refer to the 'Members' Area' of the website, or contact the Editor to be put in touch.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JOURNAL

Please see p.1 of 2018 issues (available in members area of website) for guidance on format of submissions. *Thanks—Ed.*

**Please send your contributions to :**

**preferably by email to :** editor@chfs.org.uk  
**or by post, via The Secretary**

The deadline for the **next** issue will be **31 March 2021**

### PLEASE NOTE :

CHFHS may be held responsible contributors' copyright breaches, if photos or documents are submitted, please supply proof of permission to publish from the copyright holder, thank you.



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### cover picture

**"Who's Wedding ?" & "Where ?" & "When ?"**  
possibly in the Wisbech-Marshland-Outwell-K.Lynn area  
(best man on left John Tagg BOWERS 1901-67—see next issue)

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**update p.38-9**

## Wisbech Museum Project & Hunts Records Project

will bring 'AncestorFinder' to over  
5 million searchable online records  
*records are being rolled out as batches  
are completed at [www.cfhs.org.uk](http://www.cfhs.org.uk)*

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**c5m CHFHS transcripts online**

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**Cambridgeshire  
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1722-1966 (6m+ records)  
from Ancestry—updated Dec 2020**

***THE SOCIETY OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF :-***

**Rob PARKER**

*Genealogist and Tutor  
of Kent and formerly of St Neots  
proprietor of [MyFamilyGenealogy.co.uk](http://MyFamilyGenealogy.co.uk)*

*a long-time supporter and friend of CHFHS  
and regular contributor to this publication with "Rob's Round Up"  
(please see p. 28)*



## A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

~ DAVID COPSEY ~



### Our enlarged Society one year on

Writing this in the first few days of January, it is now one year since we changed the Society name and purpose to reflect our enlarged area of operation, and to welcome members from Huntingdonshire FHS. Few of us could have predicted what 2020 would have been like, and the impact on our lives.



One year on, many of our former HFHS members have taken out life membership of CHFHS, we have a wider programme of talks, four branches, Cambridge, Huntingdon, March, plus, new for 2021, Ramsey. Although we cannot hold face to face meetings just at present, the Zoom talks have become part of our lives.

Just before Christmas, I shared a list of 12 great things about 2020 with former work colleagues from the NHS, and many of the things on my list are also applicable to our Society and family history. First and foremost, is the point I highlighted in my last chair's piece, listening to and questioning international experts whilst sitting in front of our wood burning stove at home. The range of topics from the organisations I belong to is wide, and our own programme of talks has a similar spectrum of subjects. Registration through the link on the front page of our website is easy and quick, and the link to the talk then comes into my inbox. I also mentioned catching up with old friends; seeing named people several years on at Zoom talks provides the chance to get back in touch.

Another item on my list is the opportunity to explore new things that lockdown provides. Daily exercise encourages going down a footpath that I would normally walk past, or going into a local church, often open for private reflection, and looking at the memorials, stained glass windows, and thinking about what our ancestors would have experienced.

### Zoom surgeries

The Zoom meetings give those taking part an opportunity to ask questions about the Society or their own research after the speaker's talk and

questions are concluded. This has proved useful and allows a discussion to take place between participants. We are investigating providing Zoom surgeries as we cannot have face to face ones at present. We will share arrangements when these are finalised, please keep a look out.

### Keeping up to date, a lost opportunity

Looking at our membership statistics, we currently have over 1100 members, but only 650 receive the monthly newsletter. Our journal is published every three months, and many things happen between each issue that come too late for the journal deadlines. Our newsletter comes out at the start of each month, and all members who choose to receive the newsletter receive an e-mail reminder when each new issue comes out. Our membership statistics show that 610 people have looked at the latest newsletter, but over 450 have not opted in to receive the newsletter. If you are one of these, and are missing out, you can receive the newsletter by editing your membership record in the members' section of our website. Whilst, doing this, please make sure that your e-mail address and other contact details are up to date. If you opt out of receiving e-mails from the Society, you are also missing opportunities. Spending more time at home, receiving information from others becomes even more important. Our latest newsletter includes details of our forthcoming events, plus the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies, a week long event in February. I used to live in Canterbury, and often walked past the Institute, as well as visiting from time to time. This newsletter also includes the spotlight on Meldreth, and the Surname of the month, Butler.

### A new size journal

Postage costs have gone up again from the start of 2021, and this then increases costs for all organisations including our Society. We have discussed how best to manage this, and decided to keep our membership subscription unchanged, but to reduce the size of the journal from A4 to A5. We

can have an increased number of pages within the postal cost window. The reduced size will then qualify for reduced postage costs; the change will follow later this year.

#### **4Bears; a family history app**

Martin Brooks, one of our members, has been working over the past two years to develop a family history app. 4Bears is now available from the app store. The app is free of charge for a limited period, and, after this, will be sold at a once only price of £9.99. Martin has worked with the Society to develop the app and has used my own Gedcom file of around 15,000 names to test the functionality. The app provides a great way to display families, anyone can be at the centre of the changing display page, photographs can be included, and the helicopter view generates such features as the frequency of first names and surnames, and problems with recognising links, or dates. A help guide is included. The app provides a nice present either for yourself, or for other family members and friends, as well as generating talking points with others. I hope that we can have a review in a later journal.

#### **A research opportunity**

I have recently been in contact with the daughter of a distant relative, her mother had died aged 103, and I knew that her parents had kept several family photographs and documents. I knew her mother better than I knew her, we last met in 1996 at a golden wedding. Our e-mail exchange started with memories and condolences, and then the therapeutic benefits of family history. We have exchanged photos allowing both of us to learn new things, as well as ask questions. I have just spent

a very enjoyable couple of hours trying to identify two ladies, estimated age 60 to 70, looking like sisters, in a 1930's outdoor snapshot that I hadn't seen before, labelled Bristol aunts. The family lived in Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex. I had a suggested location for the photo, and the writing of the person who labelled it. A careful look at all possible aunts of the labeller, and of his wife, showed no possible aunts either as direct ancestors or by marriage; I then looked at the parents and their aunts, but drew a further blank. However, aunt is often a term used in a wider sense than strict accuracy. My parents were both only children, so I never had any aunts, uncles or cousins, but I referred to my great aunts as aunt. Looking at the children of the great aunts and uncles, showed three sisters all living in Bristol, and the 1939 register shows two of them living together, one widowed, one single, the third sister was married, so I think I have made a likely identification. I have sent the work I did to my distant cousin for comments and to see whether this prompts any memories. Many of you may have similar opportunities that you can follow up.

#### **Happy New Year**

I hope that 2021 will be a prosperous year for you all, and that your time at home will provide the chance to find out more and break down some of your brick walls. We have the 2021 census to look forward to, and also the chance to be paid to help with the work. My own experience as an enumerator in the 1971 census for parts of Russell Square in London is something I have always valued.

*David Copsey*

**HAS ANYONE BEEN A CENSUS EMUMERATOR IN RECENT YEARS (I WAS IN 1991) ??**

**ANYONE'S ANCESTOR AN ENUMERATOR IN ONE OF THE HISTORICAL CENSUSES ??**

## **CAMBS & HUNTS FHS AGM 2021**

**The AGM will take place on Sat 15 May via Zoom**

Details and Agenda will be in the next issue

*(please see p.27 for a provisional Agenda)*

**Minutes of the 2020 AGM were published in 2020:3 (Summer issue)**

*If you are a new member, or no longer have your copy ...*

*... please see the archived journals section in the Members' Library*

# ROBERT PETERS (1798-1880) OF CAMBRIDGE

*BY IAN STEPHENSON*

## Part One

This is not the first time that Robert Peters (my 3x great-grandfather) has appeared in the Journal. I introduced readers to him in my article in the Spring 2018 edition of The Journal, entitled: "Finding Robert Peters' Parents", describing how I overcame my first brick-wall. Next, he was mentioned in articles in the Summer and Autumn 2018 editions of The Journal about his younger son, Ebenezer. Finally, he appeared in the 2018/19/20 series of articles on his father-in-law, William Gallyon, and the Gallyon family. Now it is time to do Robert justice with an article of his own. Part One introduces Robert Peters and his wider family, and tells the story of much of the first half of his life.

The record for Robert Peters is fairly large, not least in newspaper accounts; although many of these reports are of little consequence or largely repetitious. He shares his name with a nephew (1822-1892) and a great-nephew (1847-1924)<sup>i</sup> and whilst in the main it is possible to distinguish to which one a record relates, there are occasions where that is not so. Fortunately, there are no other Robert Peters in the relevant Cambridge census records or BMD<sup>ii</sup>. We will find that Robert was by occupation first a boot and shoe maker, then a rate collector and assistant overseer, that he was dedicated to the nonconformist church and a reformer involved in local politics. There are near-verbatim records of three speeches that he made, plus a few of short letters; this identifies that he was articulate, numerate, literate and generally well-educated - indeed, in 1870 he donated 38 volumes to the Cambridge police library<sup>iii</sup>. There remain, however, areas where we know frustratingly little about him.

Robert was the youngest of three children (who are known to have survived into their adulthood) of John Snow Peters, a Cambridge shoemaker, and his wife Jane (nee Tofts) who was originally from Linton. These siblings were: Jane (1793-1870) and Thomas (1795-1856). In addition, an elder sister, Mary, is recorded baptised at Holy Trinity in 1789 (dau of John and Jane), but nothing more is known of her. A further un-identified brother is presumed to have existed - all that is known of him is his daughter, Eliza<sup>iv</sup> (~1823-1873) who was born

in Middlesex; alternatively, she might have been the illegitimate daughter of Mary. According to his gravestone Robert was born on 23 Feb 1798, in Cambridge, where he grew up (which he tells us in one of his speeches). A census record for sister Jane shows that she was also born in Holy Trinity parish in the centre of town. There are no baptismal records for any of the siblings (apart from Mary), but as I suggested in my Spring 2018 article it is probable they were baptised in the Downing Street Independent Church - implying that parents John and Jane changed their allegiance to non-conformist faith in the early-1790s. There is, indeed, no record of Robert until he was nearly twenty. He followed his father to become a boot and shoe maker, so we might reasonably suppose that he was apprenticed to his father at about the age 14, completing the apprenticeship around 1819, to become a journeyman. Given that in later life he is seen to be well-educated it seems likely that his parents ensured (and presumably paid for) his attendance at school until the start of his apprenticeship; it is also likely, moreover, that he continued to self-educate well into adulthood. There are two records of (adult) John Peters deaths in Cambridge in the relevant period: 1800 and 1819; whether either of those is Robert's father is not known, the latter being the more likely given Robert's favourable start in life. Robert's mother, Jane, died in 1833 at the age of 75. Elder brother Thomas, became a journeyman iron founder who worked for many years for a Charles Finch, who employed him from 1813 until at least 1844<sup>v</sup> and probably until Thomas' death in 1856; Thomas, and his family, lived and worked in Foundry Yard<sup>vi</sup> off Bridge Street and his eldest son John followed his father into that trade. Little is known about Robert's sister, Jane; marrying only at the age of 58/59 in Hackney, London, to John Thompson, a widowed commercial traveller originally from Swaffham, Cambridgeshire; she had no children.

On 3 Apr 1817, at the age of 19, Robert was admitted into the Downing Street Independent Church, which he had probably attended since childhood<sup>vii</sup>. The next record of him is in a pair of adverts in Aug/Sep 1821<sup>viii</sup>, when Robert was age 23, the first advert states:

*I JESSE HUNNS, of the town of Cambridge,*

*in the county of Cambridge, shoemaker, having relinquished and given up my Business in favour of Mr. ROBERT PETERS, do hereby give notice ...*

Immediately below that is:

*ROBERT PETERS, BOOT and SHOE-MAKER, Magdalene-Street, Cambridge, Having taken and entered upon the business hitherto carried on by Mr. J. Hunns, respectfully solicits the favours of the customers of the said Mr. Hunns, also of the Nobility and Gentry of the university and town of Cambridge, and the public in general, assuring all those persons who may please to honour him with their commands, that their orders will be attended to with punctuality and dispatch, on the most reasonable terms, and their favours gratefully acknowledged.*

Considering the short time that he would then have been a journeyman, it is probably that his father had bequeathed him sufficient capital for him to purchase a suitable small business when it became available.

On Saturday 3 Sep 1825 Robert, aged 27, married Hannah Gallyon at St Michaels Church - Robert still occupied a property in Magdalene Street. Hannah was the youngest daughter of William Gallyon, gunmaker of Green Street, and born on 6 Oct 1792 she was 5½ years Robert's senior. Hannah's siblings (and almost certainly herself) had been baptised at the Downing Street Independent Church and she was admitted to that church in 1812 - it is likely that Robert and Hannah had known each other for many years.

Robert and Hannah had five children. Hephzibah was born on 28 Sep 1826 at their home in Northampton Street - perhaps the Magdalene Street business premises were deemed too small to bring up a family, so the couple moved around the corner, to what would then have been the very edge of town. Theophilus William was born on 17 Mar 1828, also at Northampton Street. By the time of the birth of their third child on 17 Nov 1829, Rebecca Jane, the family had moved back to Magdalene Street and would remain there for the births of their last two children: Tryphena on 20 Apr 1832 and Ebenezer on 9 Dec 1834. A surgeon was present at the first two births, for the latter three a midwife. The nonconformist records for each of the children's births (helpfully) include the name of the mother's father, and his occupation; they do not, however, make any mention of baptism<sup>ix</sup>. We can deduce from their children's later occupations that Robert and Hannah ensured that the children benefitted from a similar level of

education to Robert's: both Theophilus William and Ebenezer would start out as clerks and progress to be accountants; Hephzibah was to work as a book-keeper for her father; and Rebecca Jane became, albeit for a short time, a schoolmistress. Robert's father-in-law, William Gallyon, died in 1838; Robert was one of the two executors of the will. In it his wife, Hannah, was bequeathed a property in Swaffham Bulbeck (which had been in her family's possession since at least her great-grandfather, Benjamin Outlaw), together with a part of the estate residue.

We know little about Robert's boot and shoe making business. As with many tradesmen, his house and business were the same premises, so it was not large; there is indication that he employed at least one journeyman. There is record that Robert had at least one apprentice: John Marshall of St Edward parish is listed in the 1820s in the Register of Apprenticeships of Pauper Children<sup>x</sup>; further, it is probable that for a time his nephew Robert was apprenticed to him from around 1840 (the 1841 census shows the 15 year old Robert Peters as an apprentice shoe maker). The elder Robert must have been at least moderately successful for he kept the shoe and boot making business going for 21 years, until he relinquished it for better prospects, and during that period it supported his growing family. The record shows that he was not without business problems. On at least one occasion his business was the subject of theft: in 1827 he took an Isaac Henley (aged 37) to court for stealing leather from his shop - then, it was necessary for the aggrieved to take a defendant to court and make the prosecution - Henley was found guilty and sentenced to 6 weeks imprisonment<sup>xi</sup>. To alleviate the threat of theft, and other crimes, tradesmen and individuals formed societies which clubbed together to pool resources to prosecute criminals; it was also hoped that would act as a deterrent. Robert joined the *Town of Cambridge Association for the speedy apprehension and effective prosecution of felons and thieves of every denomination, and of other persons committing offences on the property of any of the subscribers*<sup>xii</sup> which was formed in Jan 1839. (As an aside, for a number of years the association annually identified their members in the town's newspapers, giving their street location and, up until 1848, their occupation. Thus for Robert it is possible to track where he lived and identify the year in which he became a full-time rate collector.)

On another occasion there was the threat of industrial unrest, a notice in the 16 May 1834 Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, with seven signatories including Robert<sup>xiii</sup>, stated:



*WE, the undersigned MASTER SHOEMAKERS of the Town of CAMBRIDGE, feel ourselves called upon, in consequence of the increase of the Trades' Union Societies in this Town, to declare. That we regard the combination at present existing among the Working Classes of this Country as founded in tyranny and injustice - as injurious in its operations to both the employers and the employed, by destroying that confidence and good feeling which should exist between them - and as dangerous in its results to the preservation of that degree of commercial prosperity and general happiness for which this nation is so highly distinguished. We have therefore resolved, not to employ in future any member of a society calling itself "The National Trades' Union," and most earnestly request the co-operation of the Members of the University and our Fellow Townsmen in general in carrying this resolution into effect.*

Two journeyman shoemakers, Edwin James Dixon and John Phipps, had established in the town a *Friendly Society of Operative Cordwainers and General Union for the protection of labour*, of which they were president and secretary, respectively. It should be noted that anti-Trades Union legislation had been enacted during the Napoleonic wars (and had been slightly relaxed by the 1825 Combination of Workmen Act) as a counter to the perceived threat of revolution. From Robert's and his fellow master tradesmen's point of view, for a small business to lose control of its labour would not only endanger the viability of the business, but also their livelihood. A week earlier there was a similar notice in the newspapers from the town's master tailors, who were to feel the impact of a withdrawal of their journeymen's labour (I have found no reference to the journeyman shoemakers withdrawing their labour). It was not long before Dixon and Phipps were charged under the 1825 Act with making illegal oaths, and the journeymen tailors returned to work and left the union. Dixon and Phipps went to the County Assizes in the July where they were, unexpectedly, discharged. In the two months between their committal and trial the notorious Tolpuddle Martyr trial had taken place - the newspaper quote is: *the proceedings at Dorchester*, one result of which was that the overarching General Union Society had disbanded. That and the defendants stated regret at their actions was sufficient for the Cambridge prosecution to offer no evidence, all the defendants had to endure was the judge's speech about the abhorrence of illegal oaths<sup>xiv</sup>.

Robert's first move away from the shoemaking trade was signposted in an advert which he placed in newspapers in 1836<sup>xv</sup>:

*To the Guardians of the Cambridge Union, under the Poor Law Amendment Act;*

*Gentlemen, - in the event of collecting officers being appointed to the above Union, I beg to announce myself as a candidate for such office, and respectfully to solicit your support. Should I be so happy as to become the object of your choice, no effort shall be wanting on my part to justify your confidence by a faithful and impartial discharge of its duties to the best of my ability.*

*I remain, Gentlemen,  
Your humble and obedient servant,  
Magdalen Street, April 19, 1836.  
Robert Peters*

As a result of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, Cambridge, as elsewhere, was instigating a Poor Law Union managed by a Board of Guardians; whereas previously each parish had been responsible for its poor. As expected, they needed collectors for each of the parishes and Robert was appointed to collect the poor rate of the parishes of St Giles and St Peters. He would go on to add responsibility for collecting the poor rates of St Benedict, St Clement, St Mary the Great, St Michael and Holy Sepulchre in the next few years. We do not know the impetus for him to take on this additional work - a rationale is postulated in Part Two. The following year, 1837, the registration of births, marriages and deaths commenced; a task delegated to the Boards of Guardians. Cambridge was divided into 4 districts and Robert was appointed Registrar of Births and Deaths for St Giles, St Peters, St Clement and St Sepulchre<sup>xvi</sup>. Twelve years later in that capacity he would write a letter to the town's newspaper regarding the *Health of Cambridge*:

*SIR. - At a time when the metropolis [ie, London] and many of the provincial towns are suffering a high amount of mortality, from the prevailing epidemic, cholera, it will be gratifying to your numerous readers to know that this town has been hitherto signally favoured. An illustration of this fact may be found in the registration district of St Giles, which comprises four parishes, and a population of nearly 4,500 persons, somewhat densely located, and chiefly of the humbler grade of society, that up to this date only seven deaths have occurred therein during the last ten week, none of which arose from cholera. Whilst we mingle our*

*sympathies with less favoured places, this fact should elicit thankfulness to a benign Providence, and in the diligent use of all preventative means, inspire a hope that our town may continue to be spared so dreadful a visitation.* ROBERT PETERS, Registrar<sup>vii</sup>

**Part Two will continue as Robert increases the scope of his official duties and feels secure enough in his prospects to give up the trade of shoemaking. It will then describe what is known of his involvement in two of his passions: the nonconformist church and reform politics.**

- i. The nephew was often referred to as Robert Peters sen and the great-nephew as Robert Peters jun.
- ii. Apart from a 7 year old who only appears in the 1851 census.
- iii. Cambridge Independent Press (CIP) of 19 Mar 1870.
- iv. Eliza's will identifies Robert and his son, Ebenezer, as executors and includes references to: *uncle Robert, uncle Thomas and aunt Jane*.
- v. CIP of 12 Oct 1844 - proceedings of the Registration Court at which Thomas Peters successfully gained the vote.
- vi. The 1851 census identifies that Foundry Yard was between 39 and 40 Bridge Street, now part of the ground on which St John's College master's lodge and gardens stand.
- vii. Cambridge Emmanuel Street Minute Book (see CHFHS website) - note, however, British History Online (british-history.ac.uk) tells us that the Downing Street Church was replaced by Emmanuel Church in 1874, implying that the minute book records prior to that date relate to the predecessor church.
- viii. Cambridge Chronicle and Journal (CCJ) of 31 Aug and 7 Sep 1821.
- ix. The England and Wales Christening Index, with only the transcription available online, shows each of the 5 children baptised on the day of birth - which I suspect is a misinterpretation of the information in the nonconformist record.
- x. Cambridge Archives, reference: P28/14/1. Census records and probate, show that John Marshall (1810-1889) completed his apprenticeship and worked as a boot and shoe maker in Cambridge well into his 70s.
- xi. CCJ of 20 Jul and 3 Aug 1827.
- xii. CIP of 9 Jan 1841 (and subsequent Januarys) - this was not the only such society in Cambridge, another covering the *County and Town of Cambridge* had been in existence since 1805.
- xiii. By this date there would have been in excess of 30 boot and shoe makers in the town (Pigot's Directory for 1830 and 1839 list 29 and 54 respectively); with only 7 signatories it is probable that many of the remainder were one-man businesses.
- xiv. CCJ of 9, 16, and 23 May, and 24 Jul 1834.
- xv. Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette (HBPG) of 23 Apr 1836 - two other prospective candidates placed similar adverts; as did those seeking other jobs with the Board of Guardians. The Board held its inaugural meeting in Apr 1836 (CCJ of 15 Apr 1836).
- xvi. HBPG of 27 May 1837.
- xvii. CIP of 8 Sep 1849.

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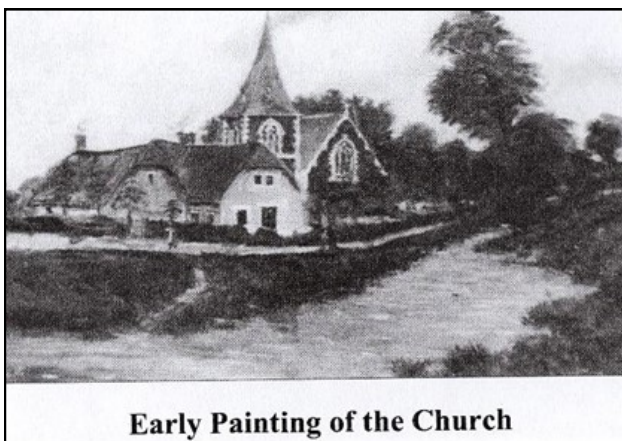
# THOMAS TINKLER

## MOLE CATCHER OF BENWICK

BY DIANE CLARK

The article on Fen mole catching in the Summer 2020 edition of *The Journal* prompted me to write about my great grandfather who was a mole and rat catcher in the Fen village of Benwick. The article noted that mole catching “was a well paid occupation”. This was not the case in Benwick because great granddad’s family was always regarded as being “very poor”<sup>i</sup>. Great grandfather Thomas Tinkler was, by all accounts, quite a character. Fortunately, my father had an excellent memory and was a great story-teller, able to elaborate on the basic facts extracted from Census and Parish Records so he told me all about his grandfather. This is Tom’s story—

Tom Tinkler was born in Benwick in Cambridgeshire in 1853, the fifth child of John Tinkler and Elizabeth or Betsy Ward<sup>ii</sup>. When Thomas was born, the village did not have a church, so the villagers were expected to worship at St Mary’s Church at Doddington, some four miles away. Doddington was one of the largest parishes in England. In 1856, however, it was divided into seven rectories including one at Benwick<sup>iii</sup>. The Church of St Mary, Benwick was built in 1854, one year after Thomas’s birth<sup>iv</sup>.



Early Painting of the Church

Surprisingly Thomas, known as Tom, was not baptised until 20 February 1870, even though his older sister Eliza was baptised in 1859, when she was 17<sup>v</sup>. We will never know why Thomas and his siblings were not baptised as children, especially after the village had its own church. According to Tom’s baptismal entry his father, John, was a rat catcher. We know he was also a mole catcher because this was recorded on his death certificate.

As well as his rat and mole catching, John and Betsy and their children were all farm labourers, taking work whenever they could find it. Schooling for the children took second place to labouring. Not surprisingly, Tom was illiterate.

By 1871 Tom had left the family home at Benwick and was lodging with the Marriot family at Glassmoor near Whittlesey. Both the head of the family, Matthew Marriot, and Tom were agricultural labourers. According to the 1871 Census record a farmer named Edward Infield owned 200 acres at Glassmoor and employed four men and two boys. It is possible that both Matthew Marriot and Tom Tinkler were two of those four men. Infield was a Benwick man, so it is also possible that he knew Tom’s family<sup>vi</sup>.

Thomas married Anne Barrett at Holy Trinity Church, Coates, near Whittlesey, on Friday 12 October 1877. Thomas, aged 24, signed the marriage register with a cross, whilst his 17 year old bride, signed her full name. Tom’s younger sister Sarah Ann was one of the witnesses. The signature of the other witness is too smudged to read clearly.

Four years later, in 1881, the couple were living at Cambridge Row in Benwick with their two children: two year old Betsy Ann and baby Eliza. Tom was working on the land around Benwick, as he continued to do for most of his life, taking over as the village rat and mole catcher after his father, John, died in 1890. By then he and Ann had three more children: Florence, Elizabeth and Jim. Their eldest, Betsy, was already working on the land<sup>vii</sup>. Life was hard!

Altogether Tom and Ann had 11 children; all but one lived to adulthood. Their youngest was Frederick, baptised on 30 June 1905, who died a few days later on 3 July<sup>viii</sup>. Their other children, born after Jim, were Annie (1892), Johnnie (1894), Rose (1896), Emma (1899) and Kate (1902). Jim was my grandfather, but he did not become a rat or mole catcher.

By all accounts, Tom was something of a “character” and not always a pleasant one. *Benwick Bygones* described Tom as:

*... the village Rabbit and Rat catcher; he was badly crippled by rheumatism and couldn't work on the land. He had a donkey and cart and supplemented his wife's earnings by selling the odd rabbit. They had a large family and were very poor, however two of their daughters had beautiful singing voices and hence were in high demand for solos at anniversaries<sup>ix</sup>.*

Both my father and his sister Marjorie said that Tom always walked with crutches because he had been shot through both legs in a poaching accident as a young man. In later life he suffered with severe arthritis, which my father thought caused Tom so much pain that it made him short tempered and caused his excessive drinking.

One of Dad's stories told of Tom and his brother, Jave or Jarvis [his name was "Jabez"], riding in a pony and trap from one pub to the next round Benwick. They started at the Plough at Copalder Corner near the drain, stopping in at every pub in the village. Given that, in those days, there were seven pubs in the village and two on the outskirts", it's not surprising that they soon became too drunk to drive. As the horse knew the way it didn't matter, because it took them into every pub. Dad remembered that the horse could not be made to pass a pub-yard, even if it only walked into the yard and out again.

*The PLOUGH at Copalder Corner, Benwick<sup>x</sup>*



*The RED LION on the Forty Foot Bank, Benwick<sup>xi</sup>  
The other "pub on the outskirts"*

Tom was probably always in trouble as a report in the Cambridge Independent Press of 11 June 1887 suggests. Reporting on the Chatteris Petty Sessions, the article carried the title "Assaulting a Policeman" and read:

*John Tibbles, Thomas Tinkler, William Thompson and John Mitcham, all labourers of Benwick, were charged with assaulting PC Eyre at Benwick on 14 May.*

*PC Eyre said that on Saturday night, about 8.30, he saw 80-100 people in the street and Jarman stood against the door shouting. There was a complete block in the street ... [he] asked them to move on. ... They all moved except Tibbles, who refused and used abusive language. He took hold of him ... Tibbles kicked his legs ... [PC Eyre] took him into custody. ... Thompson and Tinkler then came up behind and Mitcham said "Fall too chaps, and let us take him..."<sup>xii</sup>*

It seems that they aided Tibbles's escape and knocked out the constable. Jarman and the four men were fined, costing Tom 2 shillings and sixpence, which was a lot of money for a farm labourer. In 1887, when Tom and his mates were fined, a farm labourer earned 13s 2½d, but this amount would only have been earned by men in permanent employment on a large farm: a luxury probably not enjoyed by these Benwick men.



Sadly, Tom's drunken behavior spilled over into his home, although it appears that Ann was a very strong character herself and well able to deal with him. This is another of my father's memories:

*... [Tom] went home one day for his tea. Grandmother had it already on the table [but] something didn't suit Granddad so he took each corner of the table cloth and threw it all up on the garden path. When he came home the next evening there was a freshly cooked pie on the table which was set ready for his tea. Grandma said "Help yourself, Tom". When he cut the pie, the crockery he had broken the night before was under the crust<sup>xiii</sup>.*

Given Tom's temper, Ann must have been a very brave woman!

Tom also kept a pack of eight terriers which he used for his work as a rat catcher. He was an excellent dog trainer, spending hours talking to his dogs and training them. Consequently, he was much in demand in the winter or spring when the corn stacks were threshed. Tom placed a dog at each corner of the stack where they knew they had to stay until a rat ran out. Then the closest dog ran for the rat and killed it. Each dog only killed the rats on its side of the stack. At the end of the day or when the stack was finished, the four dogs went home.

Tom trained one of his dogs to go to the butcher's shop in the village. This shop had once been an old stable with double doors and was attached to the Boot and Slipper pub. When Harry Clapham, the butcher, went next door for a pint, he left the top half of the double door open. Tom's dog would jump the bottom door, steal a joint of meat, take it home and lay it at his master's feet. The dog never ran through the village with the meat, but went home along the back of all the houses; neither did it chew nor damage the meat. It was a long time before Mr Clapham found out where his meat was going.

As well as ridding farms of rats and moles, Tom cleared out the local rabbit warrens. He took his dogs and six ferrets to the warren that was to be cleared. Placing a net over some of the holes around the warren, he set the dogs to watch the other holes before putting the ferrets into the warren. When the rabbits bolted, they were either trapped in the nets or caught by the dogs. The dogs never worried the rabbits, but

just gave them a quick nip that killed them instantly. Rabbits caught in the nets were sorted, the bucks were killed whilst the does and young were released. Both Tom and the farmer would take some for the table, others were given away or sold to the butcher. Rabbit pie made a delicious and cheap contribution to the family table.

When Tom and his brother Jabez went rabbiting they often took my 6 year old father with them. Although he was only little, Dad was handy for holding the pony and minding it whilst it grazed and Tom and Jave went rabbiting, searched for mushrooms or dug horse radish root. They drank lots of beer too, which they carried in a half gallon stone jug.

Apparently, their favourite spot for these excursions was Primrose Hill near Doddington, about 6 miles from Benwick. When the pair had caught enough rabbits or collected their mushrooms, or, more importantly, when the stone jug was empty, they started back to Benwick. Their first stop was a small pub halfway between Primrose Hill and Copalder Pub. Jave always bought my dad a bottle of what was called "pop" in those days. It was dad's favourite one – cherry cider. After a few beers the two men went on their way again, only to stop at the Copalder Pub for a few more beers.

On one occasion they started arguing. Jave said:

*"You're drunk, Tom."*

*"No", said Tom, "You're drunk, Jave."*

They began pushing each other, still accusing the other of being drunk until they both fell out of the cart. Then they started yelling for young Fred to stop the pony, but she just kept gently trotting along back into the village, stopping in the yard of the next pub – the Bell. From the Bell she went into the White Hart, then down the street to the Five Alls yard, from where she turned into the lane where Tom lived. As the stable door was open, the pony went straight into her stable but the cart stuck in the door. Fred couldn't get the pony to move so he ran home to his father. Jim was furious. He popped Dad on the crossbar of his bike and peddled back to the stable to free the cart. Then he drove back to the river bank where Tom and Jave were sitting, looking very sorry for themselves. One can imagine the telling off that Jim gave his father and uncle, and Fred was forbidden to go out with them for a long time.

Another memory of Tom from my father's memoir was:

*When I was older and Grandad was on his*

*pension, he would give me half a crown. I would go to the post office to draw his weekly pension [of] 10 shillings...with that and the 2/6d he had given me I would go to the Boot and Slipper to get him a bottle of White Horse Whisky. He called it his medicine. I tried a dose once or twice but wasn't keen<sup>xiv</sup>.*

As Tom's arthritis became more severe, he could do less for himself so either Fred or his sister would go to Tom's house each morning on their way to school to lay his fire and bring in a bucket of coal. All he had to do when he got up was to light the fire. After school one of the children would call in and refill the coal bucket and bring in more kindling, which Jim chopped for his father.

Dad also wrote that:

*Grandad couldn't read. I would take our paper from the day before for him to look at the pictures ... When I went round on the way home from school he would point to different words and ask what they were. In time he could read fairly well.*

As well as laying Tom's fire and fetching his whisky, Fred had to feed his chickens, and collect the eggs. The dogs and ferrets had to be fed too, until Jim "got rid of" the ferrets.

Although not a craftsman, Tom was quite clever at carving, making skates for all his children as they were growing up. There were skates of all sizes from toddler size to grown-ups. These skates were still around when Fred was growing up, providing him with the opportunity to learn to skate at an early age.

Two of the stories about his Grandmother Ann that Dad remembered, provide great insight into her character. At harvest time the men who tied the sheaves "were constantly bending [and]... often burst the buttons off the back of their trousers". In those days a man's trousers were held by braces that went over the shoulders and the loops fastened onto buttons on the front and back of the trousers. Losing buttons meant your trousers fell down!!

Ann always carried her sewing kit with her in the harvest field to sew on the family's burst buttons. Other men came to her as well to get their buttons replaced. Apparently, she got annoyed when the same men came repeatedly so she sewed the button on through the trousers and their shirt which, my father said, "caused a problem when they wanted to take their trousers off!"<sup>xv</sup>

Another story that Dad told was about his Grandma and her daughters:

*The girls went into service when they were old enough ... they lived where they worked and often took the job on a yearly term, ... coming home at Christmas whenever possible. Grandma would have the house and everywhere around clean and tidy, but the girls had got big headed for they looked around to find fault with something. When they were due home one year, Grandma cleaned and papered the house right through, but the one strip of wall paper behind the door she hung upside down. When the girls got home and had a good look round, Grandma pointed to the strip behind the door and said "Don't find fault with that because I like it that way."*

Dad said he didn't think they ever found fault with their mother again. Ann was definitely a match for all her family. Sadly, Ann died in 1912, aged 52, four years before my father was born, so his stories about his grandmother were probably told to Dad by his father.

Tom was alone for many years and my father's memories of his grandfather came from those years. Nonetheless it seems likely that Tom was a rogue and a character all his life. Around 1927, or maybe two years earlier when Jim and his family left Benwick to take up a farm in Stonea, Tom moved to Ramsey to live his daughter, Emma Bradshaw. He died, aged 78 years, in the last quarter of 1931<sup>xvi</sup>.



*Emma Bradshaw and Tom Tinkler, c1927<sup>xvii</sup>  
(outside Emma's home in Ramsey)*

- i. Janet Fountain & Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones, Village Life in the Twentieth Century*, produced and printed by Victoire Press, Bar Hill, Cambridge, UK, no date, p.170.
- ii. England & Wales Birth Index, 1837-1915, 2nd quarter 1853, North Witchford District, vol. 3b, p. 547.
- iii. Doddington, Cambridgeshire, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doddington,\\_Cambridgeshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doddington,_Cambridgeshire), accessed 27-05-2020.
- iv. Janet Fountain & Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones, Village Life in the Twentieth Century*, produced and printed by Victoire Press, Bar Hill, Cambridge, UK, no date, p.75.
- v. Cambridgeshire Family History Society, Parish Record Collection, Baptism Records; England Births & Christenings, 1538-1975, Film 1040370, Batch C13409-1.
- vi. England Census 1871, Whittlesey District, RG 10, piece 1613, folio 75, p.18.
- vii. England Census 1891, North Witchford District, RG 12, piece 1300, folio 1884, p.14.
- viii. England & Wales Birth Index 1837-1915, North Witchford District, 3rd qu 1905, vol 3b, p. 517.; England & Wales Death Index, 1837-1915, North Witchford District, 3rd qu 1905, vol, 3b, p. 517.
- ix. Janet Fountain & Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones, Village Life in the Twentieth Century*, printed by Victoire Press Ltd, 1, Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ, nd, p. 170.
- x. Janet Fountain and Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones, Village Life in the Twentieth Century*, printed by Victoire Press Ltd, 1, Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ, nd, p. 160.
- xi. Janet Fountain and Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones, Village Life in the Twentieth Century*, printed by Victoire Press Ltd, 1, Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ, nd, p. 160.
- xii. Cambridge Independent Press, Saturday 11 June 188, The British Newspaper Archive, [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).
- xiii. Extract from Fred Tinkler's memoir "My Story", owned by Diane Clark.
- xiv. Fred Tinkler, "My Story", 1998, p.24.
- xv. Fred Tinkler, "My Story", 1998, p.27.
- xvi. England & Wales Death Index 1916-2007, 3rd quarter 1931, St Ives District, Huntingdonshire, vol 3B, p. 271.
- xvii. Photograph, author's collection. Donated by Marjorie Tinkler, Thomas's granddaughter.

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***... make a date with Cambs & Hunts FHS at the RUS ...***

# COUNTY RESOURCES

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE CEMETERIES

### *A PRELIMINARY LISTING*

#### Introduction

In the last issue, we were pleased to include a listing of Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely Cemeteries which has been prepared and made available to CHFHS by Dave Edwards. To compliment that listing, we're including here a basic list of cemeteries in Huntingdonshire as derived from place-based information in Kellys Directories. Very much still a work-in-progress at this stage—the listing probably does not include every cemetery in Hunts, and information regarding location of and access to records had yet to be collated.

Cemeteries are a very much under-used resource—especially in rural areas where the existence of a cemetery at a particular location may not be appreciated—and might just provide the solution to finding an elusive burial. Even quite small places might have established a separate cemetery as opposed to extending their churchyard—take a look at a large-scale map and look for a delimited area marked with a “cross” usually found at the edge of the built-up area (*suggestion* : try using [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk) rather than googlemaps as locations are better depicted). With cemeteries come separate set of records, usually maintained by the parish clerk or town council. Access, however, might be less easy than we've become accustomed to of recent years—some places may have made listings available online via their parish or town website, others may have deposited historical records with the local archives; transcriptions/digitisations may have been made from (in particular) archival deposits by the local Family History Society or perhaps by online providers (Ancestry or FindMyPast, occasionally DeceasedOnline)—otherwise, it's probably a matter of contacting the relevant parish clerk or local authority, and enquiring ...

It's also worth seeking out monumental inscription listings as a person/family might be featured.

#### Alphabetical List of Cemeteries by Parish (dates derived from Kellys 1914) :

Bluntisham : Baptist	[not listed]	St Ives : Ramsey Rd	[1984]
Broughton	1900	St Ives : Westwood Rd (Ch)	1869
Eaton Socon	[?1930]	St Neots	1879
Eynesbury	1858	Stanground	1890
Farcet	1901	Stilton	1883
Fenstanton	1905 abt	Warboys : “burial ground”	[?1864]
Fletton	1893	Woodston	1883
Godmanch'er : Baptist	[not listed]	Yaxley	1884
Godmanch'er : London Rd	[modern]	Yelling : Baptist	[not listed]
Gt Staughton	1913		
Hemingford Grey	1893		
Holme	1912		
Houghton	1905		
Huntingdon : North St extn	[1997]		
Huntingdon : Primrose La	[1982]		
Huntingdon : Priory Rd	1850s		
Kimbolton	1858		
Ramsey	1858		
St Ives : Broad Leas	1848		
St Ives : Hill Rise extension	[2012]		

*Any additional information or amendments are most welcome. A better listing can be compiled when free access to Hunts Archives is possible*

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE & ISLE OF ELY CEMETERIES

*by Dave Edwards*

**Addendum to listing in 2020:4 issue**

**Fen Ditton Cemetery** (estab 1895) : registers with the  
Parish Council

(thanks to Charles Jones to this additional information)



# DEATH AT SEA : A RESEARCH CHALLENGE

## BY DAVID COPSEY

**Deaths at sea: Henry Pettit—  
no record of birth or baptism,  
no record of death or burial  
—a challenge for family history?**

September 1936, and Sarah Pettit is interviewed on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In the newspaper reports<sup>i</sup> she looks back over her life, and there is an account of her father, Henry, drowning at sea in December 1872. Until the 1940's there were only one or two hundred centenarians living in England, and these were seen as objects of curiosity<sup>ii</sup>. Sarah's interview bears this out, but the report has several references to members of her family and information not readily available elsewhere, such as the actual date of her pre-1837 birth. She is recalling events from 64 years previously, but I don't think I have ever seen references to the family history value of 100<sup>th</sup> birthday reports. Unlike obituaries, the person themselves can give a first-hand account, and most of her interview is accurate.

December 1872 was a notorious month for shipwrecks, the Marie Celeste was far more newsworthy than the Schooner Ada, and a search in the local Kent newspapers did not give Henry's death or shipwreck any obvious mention. I have been told that his ship ran aground on the Goodwin Sands, but the list of shipwrecks there does not include this. Photographs of Henry show a confident looking man, and Sarah's account



suggests he insisted on sailing in appalling weather, against the advice of his crew, all of whom drowned. There is no obvious death registration in the list of deaths at sea, nor any burial record in any of the three Sandwich parishes. Both death and burial would normally need a body. However, his gravestone in Sandwich cemetery lists several members of his family. The administration of his effects was agreed in October 1874, 22 months after his death (on or about 9<sup>th</sup>). The seven year presumption of death we now have may not have applied in the 1870's.

I have also been unable to find any record of Henry's baptism; he was the youngest of seven children, all the others have a baptismal entry. His father Terry's will and the continuation of this unusual Christian name both confirm his ancestry.

Henry and his wife Mary had nine children, but their lives took very different directions. One daughter married a clergyman. His later widely reported conviction for forgery, and the use of an alias name, was remembered by family members almost a century later. He emigrated to the USA, and his second marriage in Vermont stated he was a widow, although his wife was still living in Massachusetts. One son committed suicide in a San Francisco hotel, again widely reported. By contrast, a second daughter ran a successful barge building business in London for 40 years, after the death of her husband, and a second son owned a tailor's shop that is mentioned in Jerome's "Three Men In A Boat". Three of Henry's children are listed on the cemetery gravestone in Boatman's Hill, the first died only two years after the cemetery opened in 1856; the second records a death in New South

Wales, and the third is Sarah. Her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday account refers to New South Wales, but I feel sure she is transposing her eldest brother with her youngest sister, news of whose death just over 10 years previously in Rhode Island may not have reached her.

i Kentish Mercury, similar reports in other papers  
ii Thatcher, A R, the Growth of High Ages in England 1635-2106,

<https://www.demogr.mpg.de/books/drm/007/2-9.pdf>

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS



An excellent video talk on YouTube by Mary Burgess from the Cambridgeshire Collection  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2NG9R14deM>

### ADVERTISEMENT

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### MYSTERY PHOTOS

Many of us will have unidentified photos among our family papers—  
 —CHFHS might be able to help with any which are thought to be from the county

*We'll be pleased to reproduce a selection of photos in each issue. Please supply any known or suspected background information which might help to jog someone's memory (such as: an approx. location or date if known, the family from which the photo might have originated, depicted event, etc).*

**Submit yours and see if anyone can help**

rootstech

### RootsTech Connect 2021

a live free online event  
 25-27 February

register at  
<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

### ***CAMBRIDGE BRANCH @ Cambridge Central Library : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month***

As part of our “educational” remit, we’re continuing to offer a series of drop-in talks at these sessions at the Cambridge Branch—to cover the content and use of basic genealogical sources, and to look at some of the common problems and pitfalls—and in so doing, raise awareness of the documents behind web content. While it can now be comparatively easy to compile a family tree back to the early 1800s using online resources—filling in the “search box” of a database and getting a result is only part of the story. The original documents, from which online material has been derived, need to be understood—both to increase the chances of success by making “informed” searches, and to be able to make best use of what is found.

*The Society is keen to reach all county-based family historians—where ever their interests happen to be—and especially the local residents who just happening to live here and have ‘non-local families’. Our aim is to encourage and promote a better understanding of commonly used resources and original documents where ever the researcher’s interests are in the country. CHFHS recognises that many of the queries and problems brought to us have arisen because the enquirer may be unfamiliar with the of nature of the original sources/documents, or with how to problem solve using that which is already known.*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
 CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL BRANCH  
[www.cfhs.org.uk](http://www.cfhs.org.uk)

**DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

Come along to the Central Library, Cambridge and find out how to discover your family history.

Cambridgeshire Family History Society will be at the library to help you do lookups on the microfiche.

There will be 2 talks each month, at 12.30 and at 2.00 to offer insights, advice and tips on a wide variety of genealogical topics and resources

We'll also be selling a wide range of CDs of transcribed parish records that will help you take your research back even further.

**Second Saturday of each month 10.30-3.30**  
 Cambridgeshire Collection Rooms,  
 3rd Floor Central Library, Lion Yard,  
 Grand Arcade, Cambridge, CB2 3QD

**meetings via Zoom until further notice**

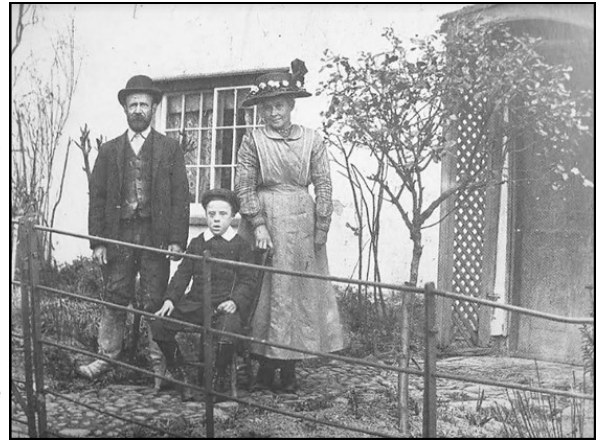
[www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireFHS](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireFHS)

## LEET'S COTTAGE

*received from [member] Brian Morris*

Having read the article in Vol.24/4 of The Journal, regarding the Leete family, I thought you may be interested in my very tenuous connection—

I attach two photos of Leete's Cottage, Leete's Lane, Little Eversden. One taken c1920 and the other from Google Earth as I believe it is today. At the time of the 1920 picture the property was in two cottages and is taken from a copy of "Quiet Lanes and Orchards Ends", which was produced by the villages of Great and Little Eversden to celebrate the millennium. The family are reported to be the Edwards, but I believe this could be an error. It is interesting in that the metal fence is clearly seen in both photos.



My great grandfather and later grandfather, lived in Great Eversden and owned many of the orchards in both villages. I always assumed that he owned Leete's cottage as in 1940/45, I visited it for tea, with my mother. The occupant in the right hand part of the cottage was my Gt. Grandfather's daughter, Catherine Sara Edwards nee Morris. She had moved back to Eversden following the death of her husband.

Great Aunt Kate had a son, Reg, who produced a family tree which I have now completed with the help of the internet. This follows my Morris family from the 1600s to this day and incorporates many well known families from Haddenham, Oakington and the Eversdens.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

As reported in the recent Journals, CALH continues to publish a series of online "Special Bulletins"—compilations of short articles on a wide variety of fascinating topics to do with Cambridgeshire history. Of particular interest in these latest editions are articles on the David Parr House and Chatteris Dock Station.

We've been granted permission to publicise the weblinks to these editions, and recommend that you take a look—you never know what you might find that could be relevant to your research. **Many thanks to CALH.**

[https://mcusercontent.com/c865d588fee0d1a51034ea284/files/b79c6a5b-6d7c-4fff-93ca-f622a13116f1/Special\\_Edition\\_of\\_the\\_CALH\\_Bulletin\\_October\\_2020.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/c865d588fee0d1a51034ea284/files/b79c6a5b-6d7c-4fff-93ca-f622a13116f1/Special_Edition_of_the_CALH_Bulletin_October_2020.01.pdf)

[https://mcusercontent.com/c865d588fee0d1a51034ea284/files/d89c8e26-e2ce-4543-83bf-a70719d622b4/November\\_2020\\_CALH\\_BULLETIN.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/c865d588fee0d1a51034ea284/files/d89c8e26-e2ce-4543-83bf-a70719d622b4/November_2020_CALH_BULLETIN.pdf)

**As a taster, these are the latest titles :**

**... in October edition :**

The Great Plague: A People's History  
Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography  
Boys Toys  
Celebrating 200 years of Stevens' Mill  
Cottenham Feast Memories  
David Parr House  
Peterborough Cathedral Highlights Tours  
Fitzwilliam Museum YouTube Channel  
Cambridge's Forgotten Stations

**... and in November edition :**  
November and Remembrance

A Lab of One's Own:

Science and Suffrage in the First World War  
Cambridge AstroPlus and other upcoming events  
Meet our Military History Guides:

Bespoke Remembrance Tours  
Chatteris Dock – Railway Station  
If you can't beat them, join them  
Interested in Family History?  
Plague Stones, Bowls and Memorials  
Disease Outbreaks in England  
from 541 AD to Modern Times

Under-represented History in Cambridge  
Soul Cakes

The 'WI' Clock: A bit of its history by Greg Selman  
Emmanuel College, Seminars

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### BY ESTHER BELLAMY (ACQUISITIONS ARCHIVIST)

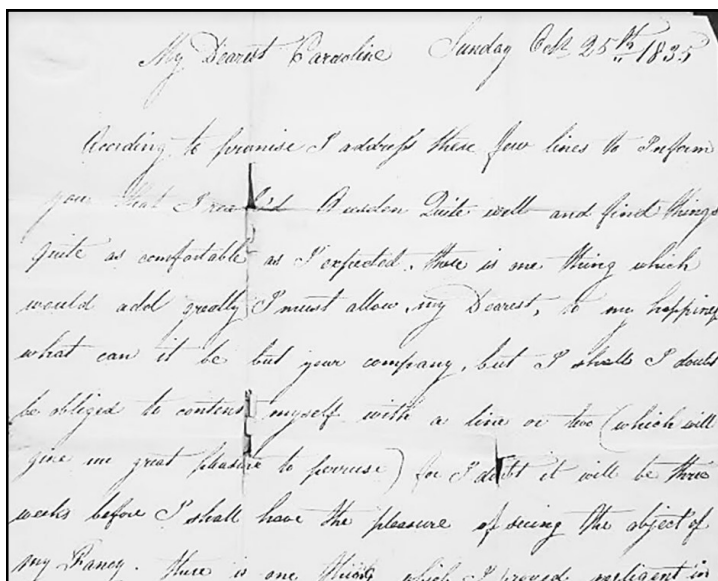
#### CHFHS's Dave Edwards with Esther and the Payton documents at Cambs Archives (Oct 2020)

*Our thanks to Dave for sourcing these and other county documents as offered for sale via online auction websites [see additional article by Dave on p. 30]*

We are grateful to the Family History Society for its assistance in purchasing three accessions this year. In January, the Society successfully bid at auction on two court books once kept by the manor of Glatton and Holme (Hunts Archives: 6057). The court books cover 1735 to 1813 and contain a wealth of information about how land passed between several generations of local tenants. The court books were followed

in March by a 1335 grant of 12 acres of land in Ashley by Alex de Alshornestone to Henry Honeman (Cambs Archives: R120/025) and in October by letters patent appointing Sir Henry Peyton of Doddington a baronet in the province of Ulster (Cambs Archives: R120/046). These three accessions are valuable additions to the Archives and will, we believe, be of great interest to researchers with family connections to the area.

Lockdown has prevented us from taking as many institutional records as usual this year. However, we did receive a large deposit of baptism and marriage registers from the Ely and Newmarket Methodist Circuit in February (Cambs Archives: R120/007), as well as some recent registers from St Peter's Church in Yaxley (Hunts Archives: 6052). The majority of our new acquisitions have come from private donors. These include papers of the Phillips family of Hildersham (Cambs Archives: R120/048), a pedigree and notes on the Crosse family of Leverington and Wisbech (Cambs Archives: R120/045), diaries kept by Betty Storer of Huntingdon (Hunts Archives: 6060) and a sketch book thought to have once belonged to Nellie Shepperson of Upwood (Hunts Archives: 6043).



My favourite item of the year is a letter written to "my dearest Caroline" by her "affectionate beau", John Ray, in 1835 (Cambs Archives: R120/002). It seems John had been obliged to travel to Ousden in Suffolk and was now writing to let her know that he had arrived safely and found lodgings. Ousden, he wrote, was "quite as comfortable as I expected" but her company would be the only thing to improve his happiness during the long three weeks that they would be parted. The letter is addressed to "Miss Seawell, at Mr Seawell's Grocer &c., East Road, Barnwell, Cambridgeshire". A Sarah Caroline Seawell and John Ray were married at St Andrew the Less in Cambridge in 1837. The letter was gifted to Cambridgeshire Archives by a private depositor in January this year.

# LIVES FULL OF HOPE & EXPECTATION CUT SHORT

COMPILED BY CAZ

That love-letter from 1835 which is now lodged at the Archives [see p.18] sparked a curiosity about those named—there's a certain something in the phrasing which is straight out of a romantic novel, and it doesn't take much imagination to picture Sarah, seated in a candle-lit room, swooning over John's letter, perhaps penning a now-lost reply. Like the romantic/social novels of the time, here's a young couple full of hope and expectation of a long, prosperous and happy life ahead ... if only ...

**What sort of life did they go on to have—what might the records reveal about John and Sarah Ray?**

The letter was sent to an address in East Road. Virtually the whole of the eastern part of Cambridge, including East Road, fell within St Andrew The Less parish, and broadly speaking, most of the Victorian growth of Cambridge was within this parish. A look at the maps collection made available by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society show examples of the area well and the location of East Road :

[https://www.camantsoc.org/19th\\_century\\_maps\\_cambridgeshire/#&gid=1&pid=13](https://www.camantsoc.org/19th_century_maps_cambridgeshire/#&gid=1&pid=13) [depicts early/mid 1830s]  
[https://www.camantsoc.org/19th\\_century\\_maps\\_cambridgeshire/#&gid=1&pid=15](https://www.camantsoc.org/19th_century_maps_cambridgeshire/#&gid=1&pid=15) [depicts later 1830s]

As alluded to in the archives' report on p.18, John and Sarah Caroline married at St Andrew The Less in October of 1837 ...

Oct	10	RAY SEAWELL	John full bac carpenter of East Rd son of Abraham carpenter Sarah Caroline 20 sp bonnet maker of East Rd dau of Ellis grocer wits: Edwin SEAWELL, Dinah HOWELL
-----	----	----------------	--

... and they appear at 10 East Road four years later in the 1841 census, with two children ...

10 East Rd	John	RAY	30	Carpenter & Joiner	N
	Sarah	RAY	20		N
	Arthur	RAY	3		Y
	Helen	RAY	7mo		Y

... a few door away are Sarah's family (father's name in marriage record, and undoubtedly to where John Ray's letter had been addressed)

18 East Rd	Ellis	SEAWELL	45	Grocer	N
	Maria	SEAWELL	18		Y
	Harriot	SEAWELL	16		Y
	Emily	SEAWELL	14		Y
	Salina	SEAWELL	10		Y
	William	MARRIOTT	16	M.S.	N

A decade later, John and Sarah, now with three children, are at the same East Road address. Interestingly, from a research perspective, no baptisms can be found for any of the children (perhaps they were non-conformists).

10 East Rd				Sch 1	Folio128B		
John	RAY	H	M	44	Carpenter	SFK	Lavenham
Caroline	RAY	Wf	M	32			Leicester
Arthur	RAY	S	U	13	Scholar		Cambridge
Ellen	RAY	D	U	10	Scholar		Cambridge
Eliza	RAY	D	U	7	Scholar		Cambridge

Also, while there's a possible birth for Eliza in FreeBMD's listings, that same entry does not show up in the GRO's indexes to enable confirmation of the correct record with the mother's surname (a

Births Mar 1844 (>99%)		
RAY	Eliza Sarah	Cambridge 14 12

recognised failing of GRO's own resource for BMD indexes, is that of "missing entries" such as this).

RAY, CAROLINE HELEN	SEAWELL
GRO Reference: 1840 D Quarter in CAMBRIDGE Volume 14 Page 13	

The other children's GRO birth registrations also show additional forenames, **and** well illustrate how spelling/mis-spelling possibilities of the surnames should be considered when looking for individuals ...

WRAY, ARTHUR JOHN	JEAWILL
GRO Reference: 1838 M Quarter in CAMBRIDGE Volume 14 Page 15	

For a while, the happy life imagined by John and Caroline must have looked as though it was panning out nicely, three children and an in-demand craft job. But, the snap-shots provided by life-course records shows that their lives were to take very much a different-to-imagined path in the years to come. Ominously, the family can't be found in either the 1861 or subsequent censuses, and an exploration as to why reveals a chain of events which, sadly, was not uncommon ...

First, a burial in St Andrew The Less in 1856 is supported by a newspaper announcement regarding John's death and describing "a long affliction" ... perhaps TB??

May	29	RAY	John of East Rd 50
-----	----	-----	--------------------



Second, what became of Caroline? She can't be found in the 1861 censuses either ...

**RAY—At East-road, Cambridge, on the 23rd of May, aged 49 years, Mr. John RAY, after a long affliction.**

Perhaps she also died ... or, did she remarry? A search of BMD marriages finds a promising candidate in 1858, but with no Cambridge-based parish register entry to tally, it suggests a chapel or register office marriage. In

1858 Mar 22  
**Groom:** John Benjamin COULSON; 43; widr; bricklayer;  
 Residence: of East Road, Cambridge; Length of Residence: More than a month; District: Cambridge;  
**Bride:** Caroline Sarah RAY; 41; wid; [blank];  
 Residence: of East Road, Cambridge; Length of Residence: More than a month; District: Cambridge;  
 Church: At the Office of the Superintendent Registrar of Cambridge District, Cambridge; Notes: Without licence;

Cambs, the CHFHS are fortunate to have been able to make transcripts of the surviving Marriage Notice Books (effectively, official banns-style announcements of forth-coming register office or chapel marriages), and herein is the answer. Caroline married a John Coulson in 1858; himself, recently widowed.

But, despite the above, she still can't be spotted in 1861. A selection of entries from BMDs, burials and announcements in the local newspaper reveals the continuing sad, but not uncommon, tale—of remarriage, a birth and deaths swiftly following ...

May 18	COULSON	Caroline Sarah of East Road 42
Feb 9	COULSON	Kate Mahala of East Road 4 months

A burial in St Andrew The Less in 1860 shows that Caroline died less than 18mths after her remarriage, and another burial a few weeks earlier suggest the reason. A GRO birth registration shows that the child who died was indeed the daughter of John & Caroline Sarah Coulson.

Name: **COULSON, KATE MAHALA** Mother's Maiden Surname: **SEAWELL**  
 GRO Reference: 1859 D Quarter in CAMBRIDGE Volume 03B Page 461

**COULSON—At East-road, Cambridge, on the 4th instant, Kate M. Coulson, aged 4 months.**

**May 14, at 61, East-road, Caroline Sarah Coulson, aged 42.**

It also appears as though John Coulson went on to marry for a third time late in 1865, in London, to Cambs-born Ann Wilderspin. They returned to live in Castle Street in Cambridge.

**In summary**—a family life so frequently encountered throughout the 19C—one blighted by early deaths and “relay-race marriage”. Relay-race marriage is an apt description of the scenario where either party in a particular marriage, might themselves already be widowed, and perhaps more than once, they remarry, and then go on to again be widowed—and perhaps again. The idea of “blended families” is certainly not new. To have married 3 or even 4 times is not that uncommon, and no doubt occasioned by practicalities—the need to try and ensure economic security by a woman for her children, and domestic management by a man for his children. In amongst these multiple marriage scenarios are the children—his children, her children, the family they might have together, perhaps some children of an earlier marriage of one or other or both parties in the current marriage also came as part of the deal. The children could quite possibly go on to have yet another new parent should one of the present couple die and the other remarry, possibly to someone bringing even more children to an ever-more complex collection of full, half, step, step-step, and step-step-step siblings. Once both parents have died, children would effectively be orphans and the relay-race can be thought of as passing on responsibility for children through the step-spouse who themselves might remarry—but to what extent did responsibility continue regarding children who are not “yours”. While undoubtedly, some step parents were wonderful substitutes, others were not, and treated related-only-by-marriage children abominably. It has also to be asked whether, sometimes, a person was ever fully aware of all their full/half/step/etc siblings, and, to question how children who went away into life without much

family support, fared. Did they join the swelling ranks of rootless folk destined for an anonymous life of abject poverty living in lodgings, scraping meagre livings where they could through dangerous and menial jobs, ending up in the workhouse, and an all too early paupers grave—

—or, did they go on to become stronger people who made a successful life for themselves ...



**How did life go on to treat Arthur, Helen and Eliza—which side of life’s fence did they land?**

The older two, Arthur and Helen, would both have been of an age to make their own way in the world by the time their mother died, Eliza the youngest, was perhaps not quite yet independent. Two of the three, at least, landed squarely and successfully on their feet, it would seem (the third has yet to be fully identified)!!

**Arthur**—he had probably already left home by the time their mother died. A number of Ancestry family trees feature Arthur and his family going forward, but none of the researchers have put together anything about the sisters beyond their existence in censuses in Cambridge, nor anything about what became of the parents. By 1861, Arthur is established as a National schoolmaster at Leigh in Essex, and married to Emma (also a teacher). They go on to have at least six children and remained in Leigh for life. Arthur eventually ran his own school and became the local collector of rates; he died in 1922. Undoubtedly, he was a pillar of local society. Of his children, the oldest son, also Arthur, went on to become a stockbroker and was elected a Freeman of the City of London in 1905.

**Helen & Eliza**—it was difficult to get a handle on either of the sisters to begin with, and recalling their full forenames proved useful. No suggested hints were offered by Ancestry, and nothing sprang out of the <all records> searches—at first! The eye, however, was eventually drawn to an 1861 census entry in London which, although somewhat tentative, was of sufficient interest to warrant a further look (despite the name of “Charlotte” being listed, the rest of the details were sufficiently tantalising to explore more)—is this they??

1861 : at Dalby Terrace, Islington

Edward Godson	Head	Mar	27	Birmingham Agent	City of London
Charlotte A. d.	Wife	d.	19		Cambridge
Eliza Ray	Sister	Un	16		d.

While the above census entry alone, is inconclusive, an exploration of this Charlotte shows that it is they. To date, **Eliza** has not been located subsequently—she has effectively disappeared. Although not provable, she may quite possibly be the “Sarah Eliza, aged 27, born Cambridge” found at Kingston in Surrey in 1871, in the household of a solicitor and his family. Listed there as a “domestic nurse”, presumably to look after the year-old child, she would be the least successful of the three siblings at that stage in life. But what became of her thereafter? Despite extensive and varied searches across <all records> using a variety of criteria, she had so far eluded detection. Perhaps she went on to be a career servant, perhaps she remained single, perhaps she married, perhaps she emigrated, perhaps she soon died—while there are only a few “Eliza Sarahs” to consider, but lots of both “Elizas” and “Sarahs” and lots more Ray/Rey/Wray/Wrey/Roy/Rea/et al surnames out there to be explored when the opportunity arises ...

Older sister **Helen**, on the other hand, seems to have had a life rivalling, even surpassing, that of her brother. Once further exploration of 1861 census household in Islington had shown that the Charlotte and Eliza “b. Cambridge” were, in fact, the Ray sisters, evidence of a somewhat affluent life emerged.

Searches of BMD indexes lead to a marriage reference in 1860 for a Hellen Ray and Edward Godson, which in turn leads on to a digitised marriage register entry in Ancestry’s London Metropolitan Archives Collection, at St Botolph’s Bishopsgate in 1860, which reads :

“Edward Godson, 27, bac, concessions[?] agent, of St Botolphs, s/o Edward Godson, iron merchant” &  
 “Hellen Ray, 19, sp, of St Botolphs, d/o John Ray, grocer”

(perhaps Helen was mis-recalling her grandfather Ellis Seawell back in Cambridge—he was a grocer)

1871 sees the couple plus a son, also Edward born 1863, living at Aldersgate Street in London with two servants, Edward snr is described as an ironmonger.

A decade later, the family are living in Islington with Edward now described as an iron merchant. The 1871

Edward Godson	Head	Mar	47	Iron Merchant	Middle London
Hellen A. d.	Wife	Mar	40		Cambridge
Edward A. d.	Son	Un	19		Middle London
Mary Bolton	Serv	Un	18	General Domestic	Not Known

address in Aldersgate Street appears to have been the Godson family business/home, and the residential address given by Edward when he was admitted as a Freeman of the City back in 1864.

1891 saw the couple apparently living apart and at separate addresses in the Hammersmith area. However, when Edward snr died a few days before Christmas in 1892, Helen was named as the sole administrator of his estate which was valued at nearly £8,000 (equivalent to over £1m today).

**from: Probate Calendar 1858-1995 (Ancestry)**

**GODSON** *Edward of Rivercourt, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, Middlesex, gentleman; died 23 December 1892. Administration (with will) London ... to Helen Caroline Godson, widow. Estate £7,865*

Helen herself lived until 1922, her probate gives the same address as she was at in 1891, a handsome 3-storey later Victorian terrace where she lived “on her own means” with a couple of servants. Was this wealthy widow, from a comfortable end of suburban London, really orphan Helen from Cambridge? Yes it was—the naming of Arthur John Ray and Arthur Robert Ray, described respectively as “gentleman” and “stockbroker”, as her executors quite nicely closes the circle of identity. As a wealthy widow with no surviving children, it’s not unreasonable to wonder whether Helen’s will might contain indications as to what happened to sister Sarah Eliza. If Sarah had gone on to marry and have a family of her own, any children—as nieces or nephews of Helen—might be beneficiaries in their aunt’s will. The same could also be said about brother Arthur John’s will, also in 1922. Next time I order any wills, I might invest in these two, just to have a look ... just to see whether there’re any hints about Sarah ...

**from: Probate Calendar 1858-1995 (Ancestry)**

**GODSON** *Helen Caroline of 26 Poplar Grove West, Kensington Park, Middlesex, widow; died 29 May 1922. Probate ... to [including] Arthur John Ray gentleman and Arthur Robert Ray member of stock exchange. Effects £8,501*

One final twist in Helen’s part of the tale turns up via an Ancestry link to the FindAGrave database. Here, there happens to be an entry from Hammersmith Old Cemetery with a photo showing a handsome, though quite plain, pink granite grave slab with lead inlay letters. The inscription carries only basic details thus :

**from: FindAGrave :**  
**Hammersmith Old Cemetery**

*“Edward Godson, 1833-1892;  
Edward Arthur Godson 1863-1892;  
Helen Caroline Godson 1840-1922”*

But, the eagle eyed among us would be there—queuing up to take every opportunity to mine every last ounce, every last nanogram, of information from each and every record or resource we encounter—and no less so than here. Sometimes, online grave photos are not always in sharp-enough focus to enable the inscriptions to be clearly seen—but thankfully, not in this case. If an enlarged view of this gravestone photo is scrutinised, just discernable below Edward Arthur Godson’s name is the inscribed phrase “*drowned at Sydney NSW*”.

/ Sat 12 Mar 1892 / Page 1 / Family Notices

**MONENS.**  
**GODSON.**—On the 13th ult., accidentally drowned at Bronte, Edward Arthur Godson, late of Kensington Park, London, and of Waverley, Sydney (N.S.W.), aged 29 years. Interred at Waverley Cemetery on the 8th inst. Home papers please copy.

**What’s going on here?!?**

Sure enough, a quick visit to “Trove”, the Australian Newspaper Archive website, finds several hits in Sydney newspapers from 1892. Not just a family announcement and a legal notice concerning Edward’s estate (both of which support the gravestone inscription), but also several reports over the following few weeks as to what happened :

first, that he had gone missing after being washed off rocks whilst fishing at Coogee Beach near Bondi;  
second; that he hadn’t yet been found;  
third, that a body had now washed up;  
fourth; that this body had been identified as Edward Godson, but only by his well-worn boots;  
and finally, inquest reports which bring out some of the grisly details surrounding the official acknowledgement of identity after nearly a month in the water—as being one “Edward Arthur Godson, aged 29yr, a bus driver”—and, that he was to be interred at the Waverley Cemetery, Sydney.

**In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.**

**PROBATE JURISDICTION.**

In the estate of **Edward Arthur Godson**, late of Sydney, deceased, intestate.

**APPLICATION** will be made, after fourteen days from the publication hereof, that administration of the estate of the abovesaid deceased may be granted to **Henry Maurice Jocelyne**, of Sydney aforesaid, Grammar School master, the attorney of **Helen Caroline Sewell Godson**, the mother and sole committee of **Edward Godson**, the father of the said deceased.

**WILLIAMS & SAUNDERS,**  
Proctors,  
39, Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

**from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>**

**A curious, bitter-sweet story. A happy family devastated by early death, and orphaned children making their way in the world—two of whom, at least, made “good” but not without their own loss.**





**FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION**  
*family history societies*  
**SURNAME INTERESTS LISTS**

As a new service to family history societies and their members, the FHF has established a searchable database where surname interests lists of participating societies have been collated. A single search will turn up all references to a given surname in the database, the relevant places/dates, and the society/societies to which the submitter(s) belong. Owing to GDPR, however, only the submitter(s) home society's details are published, so you will need to contact the individual society to take an enquiry further.

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/surname-search>



**Contributed by Robin Pearl**

Susan (Susannah) Ayres was baptised in Little Downham on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1847, the daughter of labourer James and Mary his wife. Susan married William Moxon in 1874 and sometime after that they moved to Barnsley, presumably taken there by William's work. William died in 1890 aged 40 and in 1894 Susan married again to Joseph Coward a widower of Barnsley who needed a wife to help with his seven children. In 1901 she decided to pay a visit to her sister Matilda and her family back in Little Downham, a visit that made the local newspaper.

**Cambridgeshire Times, November 6<sup>th</sup> 1901:**

Last Monday week Mrs Coward, a woman aged 60, and the sister-in-law of Jonathon Lythell, a farm labourer, in the employ of Mr Wilkin, who occupies a farm near the 100 Foot Bank, at Oxloade, left her home in Barnsley to spend a few weeks with her Fen relatives. She was to have arrived by the four o'clock train, which was met at Black Bank Station by Lythell. Mrs Coward had, however, missed the train, and did not arrive at Black Bank until the 4.56 down train from Cambridge. Her brother-in-law had meanwhile returned home, confident that she had altered her mind and remained at Barnsley. Nothing further was heard of the unfortunate woman until the following Friday, when she was discovered in a grass field on a neighbouring farm by Mr Pearson. She was in a very weak and exhausted condition, but perfectly conscious, and was conveyed to Lythell's cottage, when a doctor was sent for from Ely. It appears that Mrs Coward, who suffers from partial paralysis of the lower limbs and is unable to rise once she falls, was proceeding alone through the darkness, after having been assisted to rise from the road by a passer-by, towards her sister's house, close to the Wash Bank. She knew the way well, but in the darkness mistook the gate which led into Mr Wilkin's field, and through which she would have to pass. Instead, she wandered into Mr Pearson's grass field, and, catching her foot, fell, and was unable to rise again. That was on Monday night. In that isolated position she remained until discovered, as stated, on Friday by Mr Pearson, and although she had with her a basket containing biscuits, grapes and other things, she was unable to reach it, as it had fallen a yard or two from her, and thus she passed the whole time, night and day, without sustenance. She avers that she was conscious the whole time, and on Wednesday heard the voices of children in the vicinity, but was unable to attract their attention, and in her position she was invisible from the pathway in the adjoining field. The days were pleasant for the time of year, but the nights were cold, while on one occasion rain fell. In spite of her sufferings, Mrs Coward has not as yet shown signs of any serious illness, and it is confidently hoped that she will quickly recover from the effects of her extraordinary adventure. During the whole three days and four nights, the unfortunate woman had not once been able to stir from the position in which she fell, as was evidenced by the fact of her inability to reach the food so near her, while one arm on which she had fallen was much swollen from the continuance of her weight upon it.

Susan lived on and was buried in Little Downham on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907.

## MEETINGS REPORTS

Autumn meetings in 2020 saw the Society continue to facilitate members' meetings with Zoom technology, and owing to on-going advice and restrictions this format will have to be continued for the foreseeable future. If you haven't yet ventured into Zoom, please do consider giving it a go—and join members from across the UK and from New Zealand, Canada, and the USA (see p. 28).

### ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN FAMILY HISTORY BY PENNY WALTERS (HUNTINGDON : NOVEMBER)

Our first Zoom talk in the traditional Wednesday evening Huntingdon slot featured a talk from Dr Penny Walters of Bristol University. Penny spoke about the ethical dilemmas we face as family historians both as providers of information and receivers of information from others. She linked these to issues such as a privacy; values; morals; adoption; professionalisation; skin colour; illegitimacy; criminal convictions; DNA and consent. Penny highlighted that our own distant relatives such as 5<sup>th</sup> cousins are other people's close relatives, and that sharing your own research, or the work of others needs to be done with great care. Census descriptions such as insane and idiot may not be welcomed by others. Would you read your parents love letters, or tell your grandmother that her parents were not married when she was conceived? The Ancestry Ethics in Genealogy Board posts topics include sharing photos; copying doubtful information across public trees without acknowledgement – showing how important ethics is for family historians. DNA and online communication have both increased the risks. It is not uncommon for

someone to receive an unsolicited e-mail from an adopted person informing them that they are the child they gave birth to decades before. This may be welcome news, or it may be devastating, the perspective of the family historian will be very different from the mother, and it may not even be correct, as DNA is not totally conclusive. There are no right or wrong answers that fit every situation; the best approach is to tread carefully, and to ask what those you are considering sharing with think, before you act, however much you are keen to gather whatever knowledge and information you can find from others.

Penny's talk made us all think, always good, and there were several questions showing the interest and relevance of the issues she highlighted. She has written two books on family history – Ethical Dilemmas for Genealogy, and the Psychology of Searching, both available to order online, and her talk handout is on the members' section of our website.

After the talk, a number of those taking part stayed online for a discussion about their own questions and Society work. This was a good opportunity, and something we should continue as it mirrors what happens when we meet face to face.

*Reported by David Copsey*

### YOUR ANCESTORS IN THEIR PLACE BY JANET FEW (RAMSEY : JANUARY)

As family historians, we tend to concentrate on people's names to compile our family histories. For the first meeting of the newly formed Ramsey branch of the Society, at its regular slot of the first Thursday in the month, Janet Few focused on places as the central pivot around which to gain an understanding of family, local and community history. She presented ten stages for this research, the first of which is to choose a place. The factors considered should include the range of sources available, the size of the task, the time you have available. The place might be a village, a street, a building such as a church or school, and should also include the date range for your investigation.

Taking us through the other stages, Janet gave

several pointers to think about, and websites and sources to consult. The ten stages included collecting data, connecting with groups, analysing your results, setting in context, and disseminating to others. The Society for One Place studies is a useful resource bringing together what others have done, and in her own website,

<https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/>,

she shares her knowledge of this parallel approach to history. Her final step, enthuse, was clearly shared by those participating in the Zoom talk, and the questions showed the keenness to follow up the leads Janet had given us. Her talk handout is on the members section of our website.

I found this talk set me thinking about my own research, and it brought back to me many examples of what I have experienced.

*Reported by David Copsey*

## THE REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW (NOVEMBER)

### The RUS – a visitors perspective

A few personal thoughts - First and foremost, a huge thank you to Muriel, Caroline, Joan and Marie for all the work they did to make it a successful day for us. I am very aware of just how much work there was to understand Slack, the associated technology, managing enquiries, giving helpful answers, and being on hand for six hours. Looking at CHFHS traffic shows just how good a job each of the four of them did.

Second, the show itself. I dipped in at various times as a ticket holder, and it is clear that this was a brave first attempt with several successes, but also many lessons that need to be learnt. The technology was quite complex; navigation not intuitive; participants had to go to several channels not easily linked; the timing of the talks must be published well in advance as not everyone can devote the whole day to trying to catch the key talks that they want to hear; talk Q and A's seemed awkward. I hope the Federation has a good debrief.

I posted two questions, watched one talk, and tried to watch a second. My first question to AGRA

was about which counties have will beneficiary indexes, or indexes in progress. I was referred to contacting each of the 50+ CRO's, the person I spoke to was an East India Company expert, and no one at the AGRA booth had any WBI expertise.

My second question was to an FHS (Essex) about lists of pre WW1 photographers in the County. This produced replies from two people, one referring me to a website that I knew about; the second to a book that I was aware of but did not know about its content. Further exchanges discussed the book, its approach and coverage, and I have ordered a copy. An excellent answer rather like many from our CHFHS team. I've now read the book and learnt some useful things.

I also heard Jim Ryan's talk on Irish Catholic records. This was well prepared and delivered, and I had not really appreciated before the North South Divide for different Catholic approaches linked to poverty and prosperity - Leinster, Munster and then Ulster and Connaught. I already have his book but bought a second one specific to Kildare after the talk.

An interesting day, and as Muriel says, well worth repeating. The Society will be represented at the April RUS.

*Reported by David Cosey*

## WRITERS' WORKSHOP NOTES WITH MARY NAYLOR (CAMBRIDGE : DECEMBER)

**A selection of extracts from this session.  
Fuller notes available on the CFHFS website.**

**What?** - your research, local archives, events, newspapers - in your family, the locality, the world; artifacts - photos, documents, maps, ornaments, toys; social history - what can you find out about the sort of life they had, heating, lighting, housing, food, customs, what did they earn? Transcribing letters and diaries, and maybe adding a few comments of your own.

**Why?** Sometimes there is a need to explain why conclusions have been drawn. It helps your family understand the relationships in their family tree, and makes it interesting

**How?** - one story at a time - If you have nothing to illustrate your work with try google.

But, remember to ask permissions if you are going to use copyright material on a public platform.

**Using a photo**—how much can you see? What does it tell you? Look again! How many people can you name? Make a copy and annotate it with names/observations

**Using a context** - a period that your subject would have lived through — war, an epidemic (not so hard to imagine this now), a coronation

**Proving a story** - how much truth behind the stories you were told?

**Were they ever in the newspaper?** - adverts, BMD's, inquests, obituaries, prison, awarded a prize, a witness,

Try telling a story from someone else's point of view - someone at the workshop mentioned that she often acts the part of her own grandmother or aunt to engage her daughter in the stories.

## SCAM PROTECTION & ONLINE FRAUD

**You might like to keep an eye on these webpages—Cambs Council and Police offering advice on staying safe online and details of the latest scams doing the rounds, and how to report problems**

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/community-protection/against-scams-partnership>

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Cyber-crime-and-security/Cyber-crime-and-security>

**BACKSTORY : AN INTRODUCTION**

BY CAZ

(CAMBRIDGE : JANUARY)

As a prelude to later talks, we took a look at the idea of “backstory”—as a means of explaining or recalling the results of family history research beyond listing just “facts” in trees and biographies. The mere existence of a person might suffice to add to a tree, and pure facts can lose “something” when removed from the context of their source records and added to a person’s individual record. More input is required if we want to make more of

our efforts and that can, in part, come from wringing every last detail out of each/every record across a person’s life. Spotting clues in records interpreting evidence, taking account of context, and looking at the bigger picture are all key to compiling backstory. Backstory can be useful tool to help recall how conclusions have been arrived at. It is hoped that the series will prompt researchers to participate in our annual Writers’ Workshops when “what to write about” has been a block. Later talks will consider the sort of clues which might be uncovered from both key records and life-course events, or that might otherwise go un-noticed.

**EAST ROAD, CAMBRIDGE 1950-Now**

BY MARY BURGESS

(CAMBRIDGE : JANUARY)

Mary’s talk was drawn from her recently published and richly-illustrated book of the same title. Many of those attending contributed anecdotes about the buildings that they recall from personal experiences or which featured in their families’ past.

We were taken on a nostalgic “then-and-now” trip down memory lane along East Road and recalling businesses, individuals and stories associated with the various buildings. First of all, Mary outlined why the journey begins in 1950. East Road began as a track between fields which was slowly built up piecemeal as the town grew. It’s now probably the most changed street-scape in Cambridge, with few pre-1950 buildings surviving the ravages of the Cambridge Planning Proposals of 1950 (known as the ‘Holford Report’). This began a process of slum clearances, road widening and redevelopment (incl. demolition in The Kite area, creating Elizabeth Way and bridge, and the duelling of East Rd, etc).

Beginning at the fire station by Parker’s Piece, we

were led past the Grafton Centre to the Elizabeth Way roundabout on Newmarket Rd, and back past Anglia Ruskin University to Donkey Common on the corner of Mill Road. While several side streets and most of the buildings have now gone, enough does remain to tie in historical photos to each modern property or site/plot—all with a story to tell.

Now gone are The Drill Hall, Bert Collins’ Café, Cook’s Fish Bar, the Working Men’s Club, the Reading Room, Walton Terrace, East Rd School, Ward’s Electricals, the Arcade, and several pubs/hotels—replaced with offices, the Grafton Centre, student accommodation, flats, the Crown Court—and a much wider road!! On the other hand, still recognisable are just Mackays, a couple of (now re-named) pubs, the tram shed, the Zion Chapel and Hall, and a few small shops near Burleigh Street.

*Also available is a similar book which looks at Cherry Hinton Road, and we understand that a third title is currently in preparation—to be a trip along Newmarket Road. Copies of both books are available through the Cambridgeshire Collection; email Mary to enquire (it might be possible for local orders to be collected from Cambs branch libraries)*

**Zoom Talks from The Society of Genealogists**

The SoG has embraced Zoom as a means of continuing their programme of talks.

Attendance used to mean visiting their London base in person—now anyone can from anywhere.

The number of events has been expanded, and at a wider range of times of the day

Take a look at the variety of titles on offer here :

<http://www.sog.org.uk/books-courses/events-courses/>

*NB : attendees do have to book in advance, and these are paid events—discount for SoG members)*

**PRE-REFORMATION HISTON***Received from Peter Evans*

While working on the OFHS county surname project I came across a source of names that might interest some of your members, those who are researching ancestors in Histon. The Abbey of Eynsham in Oxfordshire possessed land in Histon from 1094 until the Dissolution, and its records regularly note changes of land-holdings within the manor providing a good number of names over the period. The Cartulary is available online. I can give you details if you are interested. It is in Latin but the names are easily identifiable and the documents are dated.

*If this resource might be of interest, please contact David, CHFHS Chair, to be put in touch with Peter.*

**Cambridgeshire Family History Society AGM**

**Saturday 8 May 2021 at 1.00pm**

**By Zoom**

**AGENDA**

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Acknowledgement of member organisation representatives
- 3) Minutes of the AGM held on 9 May 2020 Virtually
- 4) The Chairman's Report
- 5) Financial Report for 2020
- 6) Election of the President
- 7) Election of the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee (Trustees)
- 8) The appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Charity's Accounts for the forthcoming year in accordance with clause M3
- 9) Annual Subscription
- 10) Constitution (available to view on the website—see note below)
- 11) Discussion and decisions on any submitted motions (Motions for submission to the AGM shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen clear days before the Meeting, not counting the day of the Meeting)
- 12) Any other business, at the discretion of the Chairman

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
readers' tickets available to CHFHS members**

Just in case you didn't fully read the piece about the Ely Assizes Records Cataloguing Project in the Summer 2019 issue (perhaps because these records aren't relevant to your own work)

**—do take another look—**

As a result of the Society's role in enabling this project, the University Library is granting readers' tickets to CHFHS members without charge (for the duration of the project in the first instance). We have to go through the normal public application process and make an appointment to appear in person to have the photo-ID ticket issued by the Library.

To take advantage of this offer, you will first need to contact the CHFHS Membership Secretary and obtain an approved letter to confirm that you a paid-up member of CHFHS, and then follow the instructions provided.

**—the UL is a treasure trove of material where ever your interests—**

***WE 'LL BE LOOKING AT WHETHER THIS ARRANGEMENT CAN BE CONTINUED  
ONCE VISITING RETURNS TO BEING A REALISTIC PROPOSITION***

## USING ZOOM

“Zoom” is being adopted by many individuals and organisations as a means of keeping in touch and maintaining a service—no less so than family history societies to enable members to “attend” meetings. In fact, the technology allows contact with a far wider audience than the traditional face-to-face meeting, so give it a go ... however, it’ll have to be first-come-first served, as there’s a maximum of 99 “attendees”

### Join by computer

To attend a meeting (talk), please self-register via the CHFHS website (if 2 talks are on offer that same day, you’ll need to register separately for each). Shortly before the event you’ll receive an email containing a URL link to that talk. All you need do is click this URL Link to join the meeting. Your screen will display a “Launching” page and will ask you to click the “Open Zoom” dialog; If the system prompt does not appear you can try to download it manually by clicking the link on the launch page.

Each meeting has a unique 9, 10, or 11-digit number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting. This will be contained in the invitation e-mail sent separately to you.

**Mute**—all participants will be muted during the presentation to avoid generated background noise. If time allows question and answers will follow the presentation. To speak, press the reactions button and when invited please unmute yourself by pressing the microphone button at the top right (or bottom right) hand corner of the Zoom screen.

### Participation tips

Background noise from any of the participants on unmuted microphones should be avoided.

When participating, use a quiet environment so that if you speak, you can be heard clearly over the system.

A room with carpet and curtains is more conducive to a quiet environment, than a workroom or kitchen.

Also, try to be in a room away from road noise.

If you are not muted on entry you can manually mute or unmute yourself.

Using a headset will increase the quality of the audio for everyone and reduces audio feedback.

Don’t talk over each other—multiple conversations are not acceptable in a webinar setting.

### At least one day before the meeting

1. Please install Zoom. This is really easy to do, and saves time when you join your first meeting:  
[https://zoom.us/download#client\\_4meeting](https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting)
2. You can then test your computer, tablet or phone setup, webcam and audio before the meeting  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362283-Testing-computer-or-device-audio>
3. You may want to sign up for a free zoom account:  
<https://zoom.us/signup>
4. You may want to join a test meeting to check out your internet connection:  
<https://zoom.us/test>

**“PRACTICAL” ZOOMING—SOME NOTES FROM THE NOVICES**—not all of us had bothered with or have needed to engage with fancy communications technology. A phone that makes calls and email might have sufficed, thus far. C-19, however, has been such a game-changer in so many ways, no less so than almost being obliged to take up “new ways of working” in order to keep up even in the domestic setting. Zoom has rapidly become main-stream in many walks of life by becoming the go-to means of “attending” a wide variety of activities from church services to doctor’s appointments and out-patient consultation, coffee mornings and chit-chats with groups of friends, exercise classes, school lessons, let alone working-from-home. The recent experiences for a cross-section of us complete novices show that getting to grips with Zoom is not as difficult as imagined. However, one possible hitch is that an older computer etc might not have a webcam nor be compatible (we found that Zoom wouldn’t load on a Samsung tablet that’s just 4yr-old), that, and having a suitably adequate internet connection. The Zoom app for smart phones could be an alternative. You don’t have to actively participate in a meeting—by turning turn off the camera and/or microphone, you can easily just watch and listen only. So if you haven’t done so yet—do consider getting equipped to Zoom because, undoubted, public life is not going to return to normal very soon, and more and more aspects will become “virtual”. You never know when the need for, say, a virtual doctor’s appointment might arise. So, if by joining our Zoom sessions, you can learn and practice with the technology, and become familiar and at ease with its use in a relaxed and informal setting with friends ...

**... then that can’t be a bad thing ...**

## CHFHS AT “THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW”—

### —WHAT DID WE DO ??

The RUS was made possible through a software system called “Slack”. Visitors to the show first saw all the individual pages of the exhibitors, where each was able to describe what they are all about—a shop window—with a link to their own page in ParishChest should the visitor wish to see the exhibitors’ publications listings.

From these pages, the visitor entered the show proper and was able to access the talks and visit the “booths” of any of the exhibitors or societies they were interested in. Visiting booths entailed selecting an exhibitor/society and “joining” their booth—with no restrictions on which booths could be visited, how often, or for how long.

The screenshot shows the website for the Cambridge & Huntingdon Family History Society. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Talk Schedule', 'Exhibition Booths', 'Speakers', 'Competition', and 'Goody Bag', along with a 'Logout' button. Below this is the society's name and logo. A map of the region is displayed, showing various locations. To the right of the map, there is a list of services and information, including branches in Cambridge, Huntingdon, March, and Ramsey; surgeries at Bar Hill, Cambourne, Cottenham, Ely, March, and St Ives; zoom talks; and a research service to help break down brick walls. The page also mentions that the society was formed in 1976 and has 1300 members.

The screenshot shows a Slack channel interface for #cambridgeshire-and-huntingdonshire-fhs. The channel name is visible at the top, along with the website URL www.cfhs.org.uk. Below the name, there is a message with a link to the society's website and a thumbnail image of 'THE JOURNAL' magazine cover. The cover features the society's logo and the text 'CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY THE JOURNAL'. A starburst graphic on the cover says 'Get it for FREE! Download it from our website!'. The channel also shows a list of channels on the left side, including #announcements, #bedfordshire-fhs, #cambridgeshire-and-huntin..., #chesterfield-and-district-f..., #exhibitor-chat, #family-and-community-hi..., #family-history-federation, #family-tree-magazine, #familysearch, #general-family-history-chat, #help-for-exhibitors, #help-how-to, and #lincolnshire-family-history...

Once in a booth, visitors could either just passively look at what other visitors were asking, or to interact with the research team manning the booth (by posting a general comment, or asking a specific question) .

We took the stance of ensuring a prompt acknowledgment when a query was posted, and that we would get back to the enquirer as soon as. Behind the scenes, the team then agreed who would work on a particular question and devise an answer. Some questions were quite complex to unpick, and would have been difficult to deal with in a noisy face-to-face environment with the enquirer hovering expectantly.

This virtual format enabled a range of resources to be consulted and considered answers arrived at in a more relaxed atmosphere, with a mug of coffee at hand; in the meantime, the enquirer was able to do other things (perhaps visit another booth, attend a talk, make their own coffee—or feed the dog, put the cat out, take in the Tesco shopping delivery, empty the washing machine, etc, etc) safe in the knowledge that their query was being attended to. We found that “threads” worked best, as it enabled comments on specific queries to be kept together and better followed.

### What did we think of the RUS—in a word, “excellent”!! Muriel summed up the day, thus :

*After much anguish over trying to understand the way the show would work, it actually turned out fine!! Our booth had a steady stream of visitors all day with Caroline, Joan, Marie and I responding to the various queries. We actually answered 13 people with queries ranging from manorial records, wills, the shoe industry and emigration, the Pedley/Wilderspin families in Swavesey, the 5<sup>th</sup> Dragoon in Elm, Scrimshaws of Leverington, Sansom of Holywell, the Challis, Piddock and Haynes families. Plus, Mark Gilby popped in to say hello along with a couple of other family history societies. There were also 20 speakers on over the day covering a wide range of subjects and those talks were open to show subscribers for the following 48 hours. It was certainly well worth doing as we probably saw/responded to more people than we would have at a FH Fair in London or the NEC. It is more than likely the FHF will put on another one early next year.*

# THE PEYTONS OF DODDINGTON

## BY DAVE EDWARDS

**The Society has recently been able to purchase Royal Letters Patent granting Sir Henry Peyton of Doddington his baronetcy in 1776. These have been donated to Cambridgeshire Archives [see p. 18].**

The Peyton family's association with Doddington extends back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but it is claimed they are descended from William Malet, who fought on the Norman side at the Battle of Hastings, and was the man given the duty by William of burying the body of King Harold. Malet, or his son, took the name Peyton when granted the Manor of Peyton Hall in Boxford, Suffolk, soon after the conquest.

I will leave the descent of the family over the next 500 years for those better qualified in tracing medieval genealogy.

The Peyton's became lessees of the Bishop of Ely at Doddington during the reign of Henry VIII and in 1581 Elizabeth I was in the process of persuading the then Bishop, Richard Cox, to hand over certain valuable estates, including Doddington, when he died.

In a fit of pique Elizabeth refused to appoint a new Bishop for twenty years, during which time the income from the estates entered the Royal coffers. When Bishop Heton was eventually appointed in 1600, he immediately signed over the estates to the Queen and in 1601 she in turn granted the Manor of Doddington, which include March, Benwick and Wimblington, to Sir John Peyton.

Sir John was born c1544, the son of John Peyton of Knowlton, Kent. A soldier, he had served in Ireland and the Netherlands and was a Colonel in the Queen's personal bodyguard at the time of the Spanish Armada. In 1578 he married Dorothy Beaupre, only child of Edward Beaupre of Beaupre Hall, Outwell, Norfolk, and gained significant estates in the county and represented Kings Lynn in the Parliaments of 1580, 1584 and 1593. He received his knighthood in 1596 and in 1597 he was appointed Lieutenant of the Tower of London. When Queen Elizabeth died in 1603 he immediately dispatched his son John to Edinburgh to assure the new King James of his loyalty. For this action the son became the first English knight created by James I.



Sir John Peyton Kt (d 1630)

However, within three months, Sir John senior had been removed from his position at the Tower and given the Governorship of Jersey, a position previously held by one of his prisoners in the Tower, Sir Walter Raleigh. In 1606 Sir John purchased the manors of Hatchwood (March) and Eastwood (Doddington) and incorporated them into the main Manor of Doddington. Sir John died in 1630 and was buried at Doddington. He was succeeded as Lord of the Manor by his son, Sir John II.

Sir John II was born in 1579, probably at Beaupre Hall. From 1596 to 1602 he travelled extensively in Europe as a spy for Robert Cecil, reporting on the situation in Germany, Bohemia and Poland before returning home via Switzerland and Italy. In 1602 he married his cousin, Alice Peyton daughter of Sir John Peyton of Isleham. Sir John served as a soldier in the Low Countries and acted as lieutenant-governor of Jersey under his father. He died in 1635 and was buried at Doddington. He was succeeded by his eldest son Robert.

Little is known of Robert Peyton, other than he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Anderson of Penley, Hertfordshire. He died in 1658 without issue and was succeeded as Lord of the Manor by his brother Rev Algernon Peyton, who had been the rector of Doddington since 1641.

One source says that Rev Algernon was in prison in 1647 but back in his parish by 1649. It is not clear if this was for his Royalist sympathies or for debts. It was claimed that he died in London in 1667 of plague whilst delivering the money collected in his parish for the rebuilding of St Paul's cathedral. However, it is now clear that he resigned as rector on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1667, in favour of his son-in-law Rev John Nalson, and died in London on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1668, where he was buried at St George's Southwark. This was the burial place for prisoners from the King's Bench prison for debtors and the entry in the burial register appears



to have been literally doctored, the "K.B." after his name having been altered to "D.D.". Letters of administration were issued in the name of his principal creditor John Jenkinson.

Rev Algernon's younger brother Henry fought with the King's army during the Civil War but was unfortunately shot dead by his own troops at Banbury when he forgot the password! Rev Algernon's eldest son John had been created the first Doddington Peyton baronet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1660, but promptly died two weeks later, and the title became extinct.

Rev Algernon's second son, Algernon, was created the first baronet of the second creation in 1666 and inherited the Doddington estates. He married Frances, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Sewster of Raveley, Huntingdonshire, acquiring extensive lands there. In 1670 he acquired rights to hold a weekly market at March and two annual fairs. Algernon died in 1671 and was buried at Doddington.

The next heir, Algernon's son Sir Sewster Peyton, was born c1671, possibly after his father's death. He was certainly a minor and the estates were managed by his mother and her second husband Col John Skelton until he came of age. Sir Sewster was Master of Queen Anne's Buckhounds 1703-1709. He married Ann daughter of George Dashwood and sister of Col Dashwood of Peyton Hall, Suffolk. He died in 1717 and was buried at Doddington.

Sir Sewster was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas Peyton. He married the daughter of Thomas Skevington of Skevington, Leicestershire. He was High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire in 1743 and died in 1771 without issue and the title became extinct for the second time. He was buried at Doddington.

The relationship between the Peyton and Dashwood families then becomes complicated. Sir Thomas's sister Margaret had married George Dashwood, whose mother had been Algerina Peyton, the sister of Sir Sewster. By Sir Thomas's will the estates passed to his sister Margaret's son, Henry Dashwood, providing he changed his name to Peyton. This he duly did and Henry Peyton was created the first baronet of the third creation by the Letters Patent in 1776, recently purchased by the CHFHS.

Sir Henry married Frances Rous, sister of the Earl of Stradbroke. He

was an MP for Cambridgeshire from 1782 until his death in 1789. He was buried at Doddington. Sir Henry was succeeded by his son Sir Henry II. In 1803 he married Mrs Harriet Bradshaw, nee Fitzhugh. In 1807 he appointed his uncle, Rev James Dashwood as rector of Doddington. This caused a problem four years later when he forced his uncle to resign so he could make his recently ordained own son Algernon the rector.

Sir Henry II was briefly an MP for Cambridgeshire in 1802 and High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire in 1808. He died in 1854 and was the last of the Peyton Lords of the Manor to be buried at Doddington. He was succeeded by his son Sir Henry III, who married Georgiana, daughter of Sir Christopher Codrington, Bart., of Dodington Park, Gloucestershire.

The baronets had not lived in Doddington since sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their former house was demolished before 1800 and the site is now only marked by the moat containing a Victorian farm house.

They had bought Hagbech Hall in Emneth in 1720, but that too was demolished in 1805. Swift's House at Stoke Lyne, near Bicester, Oxfordshire was purchased in 1830 and remained the family home through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When Sir Henry III died in 1866 he was buried at Stoke Lyne. His son Sir Algernon William became the 4<sup>th</sup> baronet. Sir Algernon had served as a Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards and was Master of the Bicester Hounds. In 1870 he married Miss Laura Webb. Also in 1870, 820 acres of the estates in March, Wimblington, Doddington, Elm, Outwell, Emneth and Benwick were sold. Sir Algernon died in 1872 without issue and was buried at Stoke Lyne. A stained glass window to his memory was placed in the newly constructed St John's church, March in 1874. There are many memorials to other members of the family in Doddington church.

On this occasion the title did not become extinct but passed to the descendants of the first baronet's second son. The Rev Algernon Peyton had died in 1868 after holding the rectory of Doddington for 57 years, so the title and estates were inherited by his eldest surviving son, Major General Sir Thomas Peyton, the 5<sup>th</sup> baronet.

The ecclesiastical parish of Doddington included March, Benwick and Wimblington, some 38,000 acres making it by area the largest parish in England. The rector's income from



*Sir Henry Dashwood Peyton Bt.*

tithes and glebe rents was around £8,000pa, the most valuable in the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was divided into seven parishes: Doddington, Benwick, Wimblington and four parishes in March by two Acts of Parliament passed in 1847 and 1856, but these did not come into force until the death of Rev Algernon Peyton in 1868. Rev Peyton was the last member of the family buried at Doddington. Sir Thomas Peyton served with the army in India for over 30 years. He married in 1852 Miss Lucy Watts, whose father was an official of the Madras Civil Service. Sir Thomas' younger son, Rev Thomas Thornhill Peyton, was rector of St Mary's, March 1882-1927. Sir Thomas died in 1888 and was buried at Stoke Lyne. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Algernon Francis Peyton as 6<sup>th</sup> baronet. He married Miss Ida Mason in 1888. He served as a Captain in the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars and later was honorary Lt Col of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry.

In 1898 the rights to March Market were sold to the March Urban District Council. In 1913 the remaining 1,337 acres of Peyton estates in



Cambridgeshire were sold, including 500 acres at Manor farm Doddington, 400 acres at West Fen March, 200 acres at Cavalry Barn March and 150 acres at Hatchwood, March.

Sir Algernon Francis died in 1916 and was succeeded by his son Sir Algernon Thomas as 7<sup>th</sup> baronet. In 1920 the title of Lord of the Manor of Doddington was sold to the Steward of the Manor Mr Charles W King, senior partner in the firm of King and Sharman, solicitors of March. The last Manorial Court Baron was held at the Griffin Inn March in 1925.

The family's 400 year connection with the area ended in 1927 with the death of Rev Thomas Thornhill Peyton, rector of St Mary's March. Sir Algernon Francis Peyton died in 1962. His only son, Lt John Henry Peyton, had been killed in action in 1945 and his only brother, Lt Col Henry Peyton M.C., had been killed in action leading his battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rifle Brigade in 1918. With no other male heirs the baronetcy of Peyton of Doddington became extinct. The last baronet's daughter and her family continued to live at Swift's House until the M40 was built nearby.

#### Sources :

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 Peyton family memorials in Doddington church  
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 Wm. of Poitiers, *Gesta Guillelmi II Ducis Normannorum*, quoted in David C. Douglas & George W. Greenaway (Eds.), *English Historical Documents 1042-1189*, London, 1959, p.229.

## ROB PARKER

It's with great sadness that we have to report the death of Robert Parker who was the inspiration behind the MyFamilyGenealogy website. Despite having his leg amputated two years ago, Rob was always publicly cheerful and upbeat when we met at the various Family History Shows. Rob was extremely helpful to the Society when we set up our Zoom meetings – his being the first in September giving us a valuable insight into 'The 1939 Register'. Over the years he has given a number of talks to the Society and contributed extensively to our Journal with 'Rob's Roundup of Recent Releases' since 2016. Rob will be greatly missed, and we send our condolences to all his family.

By Muriel

## Join CHFHS at the Really Useful Show on Sat 10 April

**Societies to include** : Chesterfield & District FHS; E. Surrey FHS; Morley & District FH Group; Oxfordshire FHS; W. Middlesex FHS; Somerset & Dorset FHS; Northants FHS; Isle of Wight FHS; Cambs & Hunts FHS; Hampshire Genealogical Society; NW Kent FHS; Nuneaton & N. Warwickshire FHS; Fenland FHS; Peterborough & District FHS; North of Ireland FHS; Jewish Genealogical Society; Romany & Traveller FHS; The Metcalfe Society; The Bliss FHS; et al ...

**Commercial and research organisations to include** : 'Family Tree' Magazine; AGRA; 'WhoDoYouThinkYouAre' Magazine; FamilySearch; The Crafty Genealogist; Family & Community History Research Society; Sticks Research Agency; ParishChest; Irish Genealogy Solutions; FamilyHistoryBooksOnline; et al ...

**Talks to include** : "Deaths At Sea" Simon Wills; "Using Irish Wills & Testamentary Records" Natalie Bodle; "From Victorians To Elizabethans : some sources for tracing our English ancestors from 1901-1952" Janet Few; "DNA For Dummies" Linda Hammond; "Give Your Research The WDYTYA Treatment" Sarah Williams; "Tracing Your African-Caribbean Ancestry" Paul Crooks ...

... watch the show website as more societies/titles/exhibitors are being regularly added

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com>

### '*LOST COUSINS*' NEWSLETTER

subscribe to the monthly newsletter  
compiled by Peter Calver of '*Lost Cousins*'  
*for really up-to-date news and views from  
the wider genealogical world  
this newsletter is the place to keep abreast  
of announcements of events, key records,  
resources, legislative changes, etc etc*

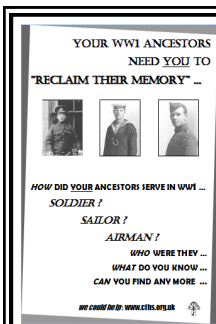
~~ visit the website and sign up ~~  
<https://www.lostcousins.com>



[www.museumofcambridge.org.uk/](http://www.museumofcambridge.org.uk/)

sign up to their newsletter  
or follow them on facebook

*there's more to our town than the University  
visit the museum and get a real feel for  
Cambridge and Cambridgeshire  
lives of our ancestors*



### WAR MEMORIALS

## RECLAIM THEIR MEMORY

**HAVE YOU TAKEN UP THE CHALLENGE ?  
HOW HAVE YOU PROGRESSED ?**

**THERE'S STILL MUCH WE CAN DO**

*1920 saw the movement to establish  
public war memorials being taken up  
by most local communities  
throughout the county*

**MANY ARE STILL NOT REMEMBERED**

visit the  
**Members' Only Section  
of the CHFHS website  
for the 'coffee corner' and  
library of all past Journals**  
~ ~ ~

**\*\* Hunts journals 1984-2019 \*\*  
have now been added**

## ELY CEMETERY

### *RECEIVED FROM MARY STEVENS*

Ely Cemetery was opened in 1855 because the two parish churchyards in the centre of Ely were full to overflowing. Residents of Ely had been buried over the years in two graveyards, that of the Church of the Holy Trinity which is to the north side of Ely Cathedral on the site of what is now called Cross Green and the other St Mary's Churchyard. The outbreak of a Cholera epidemic at the beginning of the 1830s meant that the town urgently needed a new burial ground. A report to the General Board of Health in 1850 recommended that the present burial grounds be closed without delay and a new parish cemetery provided.

A piece of land approximately 6 acres in size was bought from the New Barns Estate but over the years this has been added to and the cemetery now covers 13 acres. As a Victorian Cemetery it escaped the threat of grave robbing as the law was changed in the 1830s making it illegal to steal human remains. Previous to this time the robbing of graves to supply anatomists with human bodies for dissection was so prevalent that the men who were employed to do this were called Ressurrectionists. Ely Cemetery may not have many of the larger Mausoleums of earlier Victorian cemeteries, many of which were constructed to stop the dearly departed being stolen from their place of rest; however it is not without some impressive Tombstones and Memorials.

Many of the more prominent local figures of the city of Ely are buried here. There are 13 members of the Harlock family for example. Ebenezer Harlock built the Ely Maltings in 1868 as part of his brewing complex. When Ely was an island everybody had to drink ale. They couldn't drink the water as it wasn't safe and so gradually over the years certain people such as Ebenezer Harlock became very good at brewing ale. The Harlock family home is Quay House which overlooks the river in Ely near what is now the Antique Centre. The garden of Quay House is now the large public car park next to the Maltings. Eventually Harlock merged with other brewers, notably Cutlack and Hall, and then all three merged with a brewer called Legge to form one company. During the Victorian age the ale they brewed was transported all over the country. The number of public houses in Victorian Ely reflected the strength of the brewing industry in the city. In 1851 for example there were over 68 drinking establishments in the city of Ely. There are many graves in the cemetery belonging to members of the various brewing families such as the Harlocks, Cutlacks, Legges and Halls as I mentioned earlier.

The Cathedral Chapter acquired an area of land in the cemetery where prominent 19th century member of the clergy are buried. Canon William Selwyn (1806-1875) was also an astronomer who established an observatory in Ely. He was distinguished and recognised as a promoter of astronomy and elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of the Greenwich Observatory. Selwyn College, part of Cambridge University, is named after his family. Canon Edward Bowyer Sparke (1805-1879) was responsible for the stained glass window dedicated to his father (who had been a Bishop of Ely) at the east end of Ely Cathedral. When he died his wife, Maria Sparke, financed the building of St Peters Church on Broad Street in Ely to her husband's memory. Dean Charles Merivale (1808-1893) was known as a historian. He wrote a history of the Roman Empire in eight volumes but is probably better known for the fact that he instigated the Cambridge Oxford boat race which still takes place on the Thames in London every year. During the Second World war, however, it was held here in Ely seeing that it was deemed too dangerous to hold it in London. The most famous man buried in this area has got to be Dean George Peacock (1791-1858) who was the driving force behind the Victorian restoration of Ely Cathedral, and it is because of him we have the painted Nave and restored Octagon which draw tourists to Ely from all over the world. Dean George Peacock is also to be thanked for the preservation and planting of Ely Park and the Deans Meadow. I think if anybody should have been buried in the Cathedral itself it should have been Dean Peacock but alas by the late 19th century no new burials were allowed in the Cathedral so he joins his colleagues in Ely Cemetery.

There are so many people worth writing about who are buried in the Cemetery, but a mention has to be given to Colonel Ferris a member of the local militia, and for twenty seven years Chief Constable of the Isle of Ely. Hundreds of people attended his funeral in 1906 and a large volley of rifle shots were fired over his grave at his burial. The existence of a militia dates back to Saxon times and were formed as a local reserve force who could be called on in times of conflict. The militia had their barracks in Silver Street in Ely and their parade ground in what is now Barton road car park. A terrace of Sergeants houses was built adjacent to the Prince Albert pub on Silver Street and are now known as The Range. The militia seems to have died out after the defeat of Napoleon but was reformed again in 1852 at the time of the Crimean War. [*cont'd bottom next page*]

## Cambridgeshire Collection

at The Central Library,  
Grand Arcade, Cambridge

The search room is only staffed at certain hours,  
but a range of open-shelf local history books  
are accessible when ever the main library is open.

Check for their website for Covid-safe  
opening arrangements

TO ASSIST WITH RESEARCH  
CHFHS HAS LOANED A  
FULL SET OF PARISH REGISTER CDs ETC  
FOR READERS TO USE DURING A VISIT

Roger BUTLER-ELLIS [3708]

ELLIS robert austin	1833 Ipswich SFK
BOTTOMLEY mary ann	1833 Ipswich SFK
ELLIOTT robert	c1823 Brundish SFK
KING martha elizabeth	1820 Weybread SFK
BURTON robert	1811 Chilcomb HAM
VIDLER ann	1815 Winchester HAM
WHEELER joseph	1824 Salisbury WIL
TOLHURST mary ann	c1839 Battle SSX
BUTLER james	1826 Swaffham Bulbeck CAM
CAMPBELL sarah	1828 Burwell CAM
WATTS john	c1830 Bottisham CAM
SHIPP hannah	c1828 Bottisham CAM
PENFOLD john	1809 Hawkenhurst KEN
WALKER elizabeth eleanor	c1816 Wittersham KEN
MARCHANT benjamin	c1811 Hawkenhurst KEN
BARNES mary ann	1811 Hawkenhurst KEN

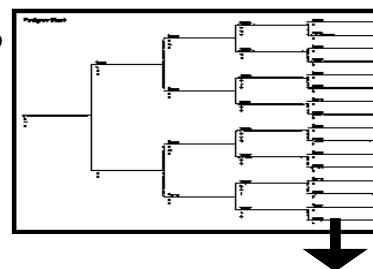
## "My Gt Gt Grand Parents Were ..."

The more opportunities there are for members to make their work and interests known, the better, and the Journal is an ideal place to share information. This regular feature invites you to send in a list of your **16 gt-gt-grand-parents** (or, as many as you have identified thus far) for inclusion in a future Journal.

Please add your name & membership number in case anyone wants to contact you. Amended lists can be resubmitted if new information emerges.

**For uniformity, and to follow conventions, please prepare your list as follows :**

- ~ summarize your direct ancestors in a pedigree chart format,
- ~ ie. use the illustration as a template, and work from left to right :  
yourself (on the left), through 2 parents, 4 grandparents,  
8 gt-grandparents, to the 16 gt-gt-grandparents (right)



**This feature focuses on the 16 gt gt grand parents as listed on the chart thus :**

- ~ from top to bottom :- list the "couples" (alternating husband/wife; husband/ wife)
- ~ for each person's details :- surname, forename, birth yr, birth place/county \*\*
- ~ use "n/k" where person's name or details aren't known

### \*\* CHAPMAN CODES

Standardised shorthand for county / country names, devised by Colin Chapman  
eg Cambridgeshire = CAM; Suffolk = SFK; Middlesex = MDX; Essex = ESS;  
Lincolnshire = LIN; Scotland = SCT; Cheshire = CHS; Devon = DEV; etc

**a full listing of the abbreviations can be found at :-**

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Regions/Codes.html>

SMITH john 1845	Girton CAM
JONES ann 1848	Coton CAM
WHITE george 1837	Newark NTT
PRICE susan 1844	London MDX
BROWN william 1855	Brighton SSX
ANDREWS eliza 1853	Guildford SRY
n/k	
DAVIES margaret 1851	Swansea WLS
PAUL frederick 1849	Chester CHS
n/k mary 1851	n/k
n/k	
ADAMS elizabeth 1860	Maidstone KEN
n/k	
PETERS charlotte 1861	Cambridge CAM
ARMSTRONG charles 1858	Ely CAM
MacBURN Florence 1863	Edinburgh SCT

[from p.34] They were active in Ely from 1852-1908.

At the east end of the cemetery there is a large mound often thought to be the mass burial ground for victims of the cholera epidemic in Ely in 1833 mentioned at the beginning of the article. This could not be the case as the cemetery was not opened until 1855. Records show the cholera victims were actually buried in the two graveyards in the centre of Ely. If you stand at the side of the mound it is easy to see the tracks where carts would have trundled to the top of the mound where a windmill might have been. This theory makes

much more sense than thinking it was a Burial Mound. The idea of a cholera victim burial mound in Ely might have come about because it was not uncommon practice in some towns. If you look at the John Speed map of Ely dated 1607 it is possible to see a mound here where a windmill might have been.

**To find out more about Ely Cemetery visit  
the Friends of Ely Cemetery website**

[www.friendsofelycemetery.co.uk/](http://www.friendsofelycemetery.co.uk/)

# A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED “STRAY”

## BY CAZ

**What is a “stray”?** To those of us who began researching back in the pre-www era, the idea the “stray” will be very familiar—for those beginning more recently, perhaps not so much. The “stray” formed a significant and much-valued resource of its day, and was a lucky-dip finding-aid in the quest to find missing people at a time when searching was largely confined to personally wading through reams of original records, or following up on hits in name indexes for specific records sets.

### Joseph and Esther Beaumont of Comberton

To anyone searching for what became of this couple today, the quest would now be a piece of cake and the difficulties faced by earlier generations of researchers, almost unimaginable. The couple would appear to have gone “missing” after the 1881 census, and if the researcher had nothing by way of clues in the family archive—such as letters, newspaper clippings, hearsay, etc—then they may well have remained lost to the family unless turning up as what researchers referred to as a “stray”.

**THEN** : the reporting and collating of strays was once a core activity among FHSs whilst undertaking indexing projects; individual researchers were also encouraged to altruistically report “strays” into the collation system. On a county-by-county basis, the “stray” was an identifiable individual who turned up in records of a different county—an individual who someone back in their “home” county might be looking for. The idea was that these strayed persons were reported back to the “home” county—it was of course, a two-way process with out-of-county individuals from the host county being reported back from wherever they happened to be noted.

Strays formed a phenomenally useful resource, the value of which can now be easily underestimated. But, considering the frequency with which people from a different county do turn up in key records—baptisms/burials/banns/marriages/censuses/grave-stones—those which were reported probably only scratched the surface, and actually finding someone of interest was very much a chance pot-luck affair compared to modern www searching.

**NOW** : today, we can just click to search <all records> to hunt for a missing person across a whole census in one fell swoop. But it doesn’t stop there—we can search, say, the whole of Ancestry, FindMyPast, FamilySearch just as easily in the hope that one of the featured records sets will contain sufficient detail to enable a conclusive

identification to be possible (or, at least, provide enough individually inconclusive clues to allow identity to be deduced, if only circumstantially).

With millions and millions of records now at our fingertips, we can find many of these hitherto “missing persons”—be they only in the next village, the next county, or the other end of the country. More than that though, many family trees used to be somewhat quite constrained through not being able to find what became of some of our ancestors’ siblings who might have effectively vanished from their immediate home area. Such individuals, who perhaps ended up half-a-world away, might have turned up through the strays reporting system—but only if someone had happened to spot their record and to take the trouble to report it. Many of these folk can now, with any luck, be found as readily as if they were just in a neighbouring village or the local town. It is, however, down to the research to set out to find these folk for themselves.

The individual researcher can now search for themselves or perhaps try a short-cut, either by seeing whether another researcher is following the same family from a different starting point (and who may have found records not yet consulted) or, by using proffered “suggestions” deemed to be the same person as picked up by the sophisticated algorithms of providers’ websites. Both Ancestry and FindMyPast offer “suggestions” of other records in their collections which their algorithms consider could be the same person. A useful facility—but just a tool—and one to be used with extreme caution as the researcher must make that final decision for themselves, as to whether a “suggestion” is in fact the right person. *To link or not to link, that is the question!* None of these offerings are ever claimed to include the correct person (but the adopting of offered records as fact, without adequate checks and due attention, are probably the cause of many of the awful linkage errors found among online family trees—many-an-unwary researcher has clicked and linked individuals who blatantly are not the right ones).

**Joseph & Esther Beaumont of Comberton**

Today, just a click click <search> of “all records” would enable an interested researcher to find this couple half-a-world away from Comberton—in the backwoods of Ontario, Canada. It is in this context, through what was a good old-fashioned chance encounter with a “stray”, that Joseph and Esther came to light, out there in backcountry Ontario.

There I was, doing my own Lincolnshire-based research, when a branch of the family happened to end up in Canada. The trail of clues led to Ontario, and eventually to a particular marriage record in Cardwell, Muskoka District, in 1894. A scan of the record happens to be available online via Ancestry, and was viewed—the adjacent record on the same page happened to catch my eye. Had I chosen to view only a transcription of “my” entry, the other one on the page would, as likely as not, have been missed as the transcription “hit” feature only mine. “Strays” were and are all about chance and the random opportunity for something to be noticed.

In summary, this adjacent entry to mine reads :

**MARRIAGE: Beaumont & Beirne**  
*Henry, 26yr, farmer, son of Joseph & Ester,  
 born Cambridgeshire England*  
*Ida, 20yr, dau of Samuel & Mary, born Ontario*

Of course, at this stage, I knew nothing of Joseph and Esther, nor the Comberton connection—it was **CAMBRIDGESHIRE** which caught my eye—and the curiosity sparked as to who this person was ...

What clues are there to work with in this record :

*Henry son of Joseph & Ester Beaumont*  
*Age 26 in 1894 [therefore b.c1869]*  
*Born in Cambridgeshire [apparently]*

A search of the 1891 Canadian census turns up the family under “Watt, Humphrey and Cardwell Townships” (roughly midway between Parry Sound and Rosseau, see map) : Joseph & Esther with seven children aged from 22yr down to 4yr; the parents and oldest three children are listed as “born England” with the remainder “born Ontario”—a 22yr-old Henry J. is shown as the oldest. The 1881 census refines the

picture a little more. At the same place can be found Joseph & Esther and eight children between 14yr and 2yr (at 12yr-old, Henry J is here the second oldest). Of the children, only the youngest two are shown as “born Ontario”.

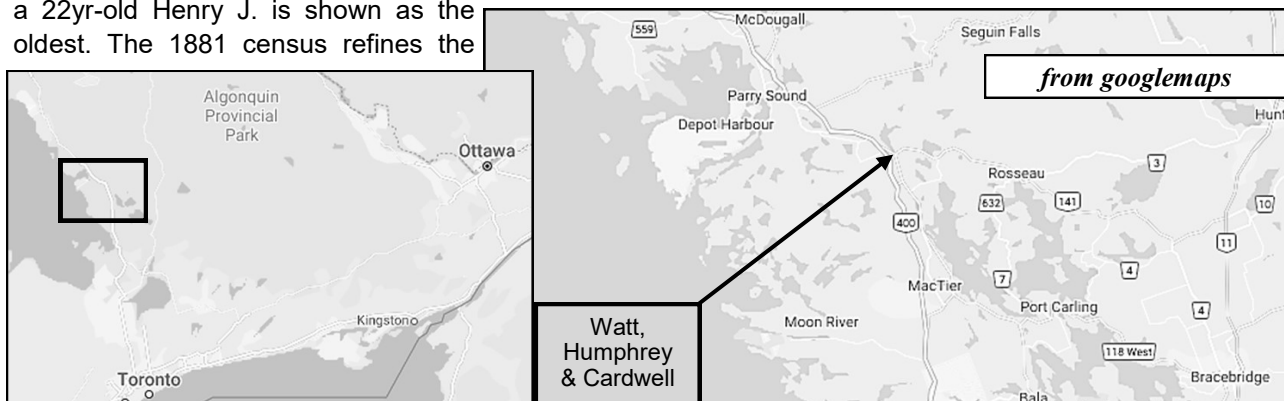
Back in England, and there they are in the 1871 census, at Comberton : Joseph (26yr, a contractor, born Comberton) and Esther (25yr, from Little Eversden) with three small children, the oldest of whom is a 2yr-old Henry J. The marriage of Joseph Beaumont and Esther Adams had taken place at Comberton back in April 1865, and the family’s arrival at Quebec via Liverpool in 1875, aboard the ‘Peruvian’, is listed in Ancestry’s Canadian Arrivals.

A quick timeline of the family across all censuses, suggests that the couple had at least 12 children :

	1871	1881	1891		
Walter	—	14yr	—	#	b.England
Henry James	2yr	12yr	22yr		b.England
Matilda	1yr	11yr	21yr		b.England
Joseph	1wk	9yr	—	#	b.England
Laura Jane		8yr	—	#	b.England
Agnes Anetta		7yr	17yr		b.England
Fanny Eliza		5yr	—	#	b.Ontario
Annie		2yr	—	#	b.Ontario
William John			10yr		b.Ontario
Mary			7yr		b.Ontario
Sarah			6yr		b.Ontario
Susan			4yr		b.Ontario

Linked records in Ancestry’s collection shows that Joseph and Esther both lived to a fair old age, they died in 1915 and 1913 respectively and have a FindAGrave entry showing their imposing obelisk-style gravestone. In the same cemetery is a separate headstone listing six of the children, five of whom died in the space of a three week period in June/July of 1882 [marked as # in the list above].

What became of Henry & Ida—by 1911 they are in the Saskatoon area of Saskatchewan with several children; they died in 1938 and 1951 at Hanley, and have a similar obelisk-style memorial stone.



## THE WISMUS PROJECT ... LATEST UPDATE

**All registers are now scanned—the end is now definitely in sight !!  
a further 23 more registers have been uploaded since the Autumn Journal**

*Please note that registers are being uploaded as they are completed, and not in chronological order; the dates shown denote the start date of the individual registers*

Clenchwarton Banns	1755	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Bapt	1813
Clenchwarton Burials	1887	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Bur	1813
Leverington Marriages	1837	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Bur	1860
Newton Marriages	1837	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Marr	1754
Walpole Marriages	1937	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Marr	1813
Walpole Mixed	1653	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene Marr	1838
Wiggenhall St Germans Banns	1871	Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin Marr	1795
Wiggenhall St Germans Burials	1813	Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin Marr	1813
Wiggenhall St Germans Burials	1867	Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin Mixed	1655
Wiggenhall St Germans Marriages	1903	Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin Mixed	1803
Wiggenhall St Germans Marriages	1916	Wisbech St Peter Marriages	1917
		Wisbech St Peter Marriages	1923

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE RECORDS ... LATEST

Our data-management team and their team of volunteers continue to work on the records from Huntingdonshire that we “inherited” following the merger of Cambs FHS with Hunts FHS. As reported in the last journal, the aim is to make these records readily available to researchers online alongside those from Cambridgeshire by assimilating them into the ‘AncestorFinder’ system and by creating downloadable files. Unfortunately, most of the Hunts record sets were not of a suitable format to enable a straight transfer into AF and all required an individual assessment. Steady headway is being made in the reformatting of those already digital, others, however, will require editing and re-keying; work is also in progress on record sets not yet transcribed in any form. As with the WisMus Project, record sets will be rolled out as they become available—in no particular order however, as many sets are being worked on by the team. Please see the pane on next page..

### ATTENTION ALL CAMBRIDGESHIRE RESIDENTS

Ancestry continues to be freely accessible from home with a valid library card  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries>

*... make the most of it while the offer lasts !!*

### THIS MIGHT INTEREST YOU ... spotted in an early-January newspaper

**“Last widow of a US Civil War veteran dies age 101: woman who married 93-year-old cavalry soldier when she was just 17, passes away at her Missouri nursing home”**

*“Helen Jackson has died at the age of 101, having married a Civil War veteran in 1936 when she was just 17 and he was 93. James Bolin married her to help out financially”*

Helen died 155 years after the end of the Civil War. It seems that such marriages were not uncommon, and the other three last surviving widows were all under 21 with husbands of over 80yr at marriage. James and Helen never made their marriage public through fear of damage to their reputations, and a public backlash over their age difference; James Bolin died in 1939. After the secret marriage, Helen continued to live with her parents until they died—never claiming the pension to which she was entitled as a veteran’s widow. The marriage was only revealed in 2017, after “Miss Jackson” disclosed to her pastor and he realised the significance of her story. The previously believed last surviving widow had died back in 2008. (Wikipedia).



**\*\*\* A SELECTION OF BOOKS AT BARGAIN PRICES \*\*\***

When the Cambridgeshire FHS and Huntingdonshire FHS merged, the newly-minted CHFHS inherited a large selection of books (all new) from the HFHS. Some relate to Huntingdonshire towns and villages specifically, but many cover a broad variety of topics of interest to family historians.

These books have recently been listed on the Parish Chest website at bargain prices (enter parishchest.com and click on the CHFHS logo)

Note that although we can set the price of books, we have no control over the postage! In many ways it is worth ordering several books at once to be delivered together. (How's that for a sales pitch?). To date we have already sold books to the USA and Australia so customers there have obviously thought it worth their while.

The general interest books include many of the research guides published by the Family History Federation and the Family History Partnership. There are also a number of military books (including several on WW1 topics) by Pen & Sword.

**THE STOCK IS FINITE—AND ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE**  
If you have doubts about their current availability, or need to discuss the contents of a book before ordering - please email [bookstall@cfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@cfhs.org.uk) for further details.

**HUNTS RECORDS : SEARCHABLE ONLINE**

**ABBOTSLEY** parish register transcriptions now available to search online in 'AncestorFinder'

**Other Hunts records sets nearing completion include (register start dates) :**

*Alconbury with Alconbury Weston burials 1901; Barham burials 1604;  
Brampton banns 1756; Broughton burials 1852; Conington banns 1756;  
Leighton Bromswold banns 1754; Lt Gidding burials 1637; Lt Raveley banns 1824*

The originals of most of our transcribed materials are normally available at :

Cambridgeshire Archives at Ely	(cambs.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	01223-699399)
Huntingdonshire Archives at Huntingdon	(hunts.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	01480-372738)
Wisbech & Fenland Museum at Wisbech	(info@wisbechmuseum.org.uk	01945-583817)

**All your purchases (CDs, downloads, AncestorFinder tokens) help the Society to support the County Archives Service & Local Studies Libraries and a number of other organisations in their conservation and preservation of the genealogical history of Cambridgeshire.**

**Paying for CHFHS Shop Purchases**

*If you wish to pay by credit/debit card :* please use our online shop at [www.cfhs.org.uk](http://www.cfhs.org.uk) (also with PayPal)

*However, if you wish to order directly :* send the order to the Secretary (see inside cover for details), with your name and address clearly printed on it, and include your cheque or postal order for the total amount, including p&p.

**NB: Cheques, etc, should be made payable to CambsFHS. Thanks.**

**Postal Charges :** recent increases in postal rates have made it necessary to review postage on orders :

	UK	Europe	USA/Canada	Australia/NZ
<b>1 or 2 CDs</b> (< 100gram band)	£2.50	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
<b>3—6 CDs</b> (100-250gram band)	£3.00	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00
<b>Parishes Map</b> (sent as rolled in tube)	£3.10	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00

## ME & MY FAMILY HISTORY IN 12 TWEETS

Terry Garner (CHFHS Project Officer) “volunteered” as the third contributor to this new feature series—tweet-length responses to a selection of questions on research interests. If you'd like to contribute your “tweet” responses for a future journal, just send to editor@cfhs.org.uk. Thanks ...

**How long have you been researching, and what first sparked the interest :**

*I have been researching my family history since the death of my father in 1998. When he died, I learnt from the remaining family, things that I had not been told, so I decided to find out for myself.*

**How many direct ancestral families are you following – 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 (more ?) :**

*At present I am following 6 families, although I have 16 listed.*

**In which area(s) of the country do your main interests lay :**

*Luckily, most of my research has been in Cambridgeshire, but I have 1 family from Canterbury*

**Any interests abroad, and where :**

*I discovered a great Aunt of mine remarried after WW1 and emigrated to Ontario Canada, and to date I have discovered this family has grown to over 60 people. I have since visited 3 relatives over in Canada and have also found a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin in Rutland UK*

**Which family line have you had most success with :**

*My own family as I have been very lucky, in as much as they stayed in and around the village of Willingham, Cambridgeshire.*

**Do you have a “favourite” individual ancestor/relative, or family, and why :**

*Yes, I suppose I do have a favourite, my Great Aunt May (Hannah) from Canada—she had only just got married at the beginning of WW1 when her husband got killed on his 1<sup>st</sup> action aboard in France. She was left a widow with a child and living in London at the time; returning to her family in Cambridge, she then met and married another soldier. After WW1, they emigrated to Canada. On the information I have gained from my research and from family members in Canada, their life was very hard and the land that they were sold was duff and of no use for farming or raising livestock—and now with seven children to raise, life was from hand to mouth. They lived in a tiny wooden hut, away from any town or village on their own land, and walked everywhere as they could not afford any transport. Even though the father was injured during WW1 he had to walk miles to and from his work on an assembly line in a canning factory. The mother walked the children to and from school every day plus doing odd jobs when she could. Because of this strong desire to survive and carry on, all of the children have done very well in life, which I attribute to the well bringing up and determination of the mother—as the father, towards the end, resorted to staying at home and complaining about his injuries from WW1.*

**Do you read any family history magazines (past and present), and which is/was your favourite :**

*I've tried most of the family history magazines but found Family Tree was the one that best suited me.*

**Do you belong to any family history, or related, organisations :**

*Yes, I am a life member and the Projects Officer for the Cambs & Hunts Family History Society (CHFHS)*

**Which county/other archives or events have you visited in the past 5 years – good experiences ? :**

*I have visited the Family History Shows, held at Earls Court and Olympia plus, as a member of the Committee of CHFHS, I have helped set up the stalls at these events and some of the small local Family History Fairs. Whilst I was chairman of CHFHS I initiated the restart up of our own family history fair and found this to be challenging, but at the same time, very rewarding. I have visited the local archives in Cambridge, Huntingdon, Peterborough, along with small chapels and small village religious sects to take photos of their records for our volunteers and transcribers to work on to add them to our website.*

**How do you keep your own notes – paper-based, computer (which software) or a mix :**

*When I first started, I had and still have, all my research on paper—but as it has grown. I have put my total tree on free software, called Legacy 8. I have since transferred all my research to PDF files and have them backed up to the I-cloud.*

**Do you have an online family tree or your own FH website; do you collaborate with others :**

*I used to have a family tree online, but have since removed it as I found a distant family member had blatantly copied it without asking. Yes, I collaborate with others on Ancestry in the Public Trees section.*

**Which do you use/prefer – FindMyPast/Ancestry/TheGenealogist/MyHeritage/FamilySearch/other :**

*I have accounts at FindMyPast and Ancestry, I also use Family Research, FreeBMD and the General Records Office site (GRO), sometimes DeceasedOnline. I use all these to cross reference any information I gain to ensure that, as best practice, the research I have done is correct.*

**Many thanks, Terry**

## THE MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS OF DENTON

by Mike Stephenson

I first encountered Cuthbert Bede in the 1950s. As a family we spent every Christmas in the spooky home of my grandmother in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. It was a very dark house and I don't think there was any furniture that dated from after 1900. As the snow fell in clumps outside I searched for something to read and in a revolving book-case I discovered "The Adventures of Mr Verdant Green" by Cuthbert Bede, with illustrations by the author. As a teenager the book, which is still in print, first attracted me by the many humorous drawings, which in a Cruikshank style, illustrated the life of a freshman in Oxford University. Cruikshank was indeed one of the writer's friends. I later discovered that Cuthbert Bede was the nom de plume of a clergyman called Edward Bradley (1827-1889) who wrote several novels and contributed to "Notes & Queries" and "The Boys Own Paper". He was also an early photographer.

I next encountered Edward Bradley in the 1851 census for Glatton & Holme, Huntingdonshire, where he was the curate and at the time was lodging with a local farmer.

By 1861 he was rector of Caldecote with Denton on the other side of the Great North Road. Both parishes are tiny and in 1861 Caldecote consisted of only seventy inhabitants in fourteen houses and in Denton eighty-seven persons lived in nineteen houses. That year Edward Bradley was living in Caldecote Rectory with his wife, a yet to be named infant, and five others. He held the living from 1859 to 1871 and with only 157 persons to minister to he must have had plenty of time to write articles and to take photographs.

To get to Denton you wriggle your way through Stilton and over the hill towards Moonshine Gap on the Bullock Road. Turning left at Caldecote you travel along a single-track lane with passing places and eventually you arrive at the loop of lanes which is Denton. There are still very few houses in the hamlet and several more were pulled down in Bradley's time; he chronicled those demolished in "N & Q" in 1864. The most important lost building was a mansion of the Cotton family, the base of which is probably part of the farm buildings opposite the church. The antiquary Sir Robert Cotton (1570-1631) was born in the mansion and his library eventually became the basis of the British Library.

The roofless shell of All Saints church stands on a slight rise in an overgrown thicket of trees, thorns, nettles and prickly bushes. In 2019 the Huntingdonshire Family History Society started to map the churchyard and to transcribe those stones which could be found in the jungle. With the assistance of saws, secateurs and sharp eyes the task was completed in July 2020. In the depths are several lovely headstones from the eighteenth century with crisply cut inscriptions, despite their covering of green algae. Families with several stones include BELLAMY, HALL, IBBOT and NEWBURN. As usual, every stone has been photographed.

Caldecote church has been a domestic house for many years and a fallen notice in the nettles by Denton church indicated that there was planning permission also to convert it into a house.

### THE INGREY FAMILY

*Received from RAYMOND HARBEN [member 5988]*

The item in the Autumn 2020 journal awakened my memory of when researching the Harben family history.

Many many years ago I was in correspondence with William Harben of Manchester who kindly sent me his family tree of the Harbens of Tadlow. On digging it out, sure enough there they were, the INGREYS.

EDWARD HARBON (b.1803; d.1870) of Tadlow Gate married in 1823 SARAH INGREY (b.1806; d.1872) their daughter JANE HARBEN (b.1845; d.1919) married THOMAS INGREY of Tadlow in 1865 they had 10 children:- FRANCIS HARBEN (b.1862—out of wedlock),  
    SARAH ANN INGREY (b.1866),   ELIZA ALICE INGREY (b.1869),  
    BENJAMIN INGREY (b.1871),   RACHEL INGREY (b.1873),  
    CHARLES INGREY (b.1875),   EMILYJANE INGREY (.b1877),  
    ANN ELIZABETH INGREY (b .1879), GERTRUDE INGREY (b.1881).

Walter told me his daughter was preparing the family tree so whether or not it was uploaded to any site I cannot say; William did send me a hand prepared tree on several sheets of A4 paper. However, William died several years ago now so all contact has been lost.

## HERE TO HELP ...

### RESEARCH ADVICE in 2021

correct at the time of writing—unlikely to recommence until later in the year, any updates will be advertised

CHFHS volunteers hold regular advice sessions at the meetings and at public libraries around the county  
there are no charges for these services  
enquiries : secretary@cfhs.org.uk

<b>Cambridge Branch</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat each month	dependent on libraries fully re-opening	once face-2-face meetings are able to recommence	drop-in between 10.30 & 3.30
<b>March Library</b>	every Tues		every week once face-2-face mingling permits	10.00-4.00
<b>Ely Library</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed alternate mths		if access allows (Jan/Mar/May)	10.00-4.00
<b>Bar Hill Library</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon alternate mths		if access allows (Jan/Mar/May)	10.00-4.00
<b>Cambourne Library</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon alternate mths		if access allows (Feb/Apr/Jun)	1.30-4.30
<b>Cottenham Library</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon each month		continuance to be confirmed	7.00-9.00
<b>Norris Museum St Ives</b>	<i>a new drop-in Research Surgery is to be established as soon as circumstances permit..... hopefully, 3rd Wed of alt mths (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) look out for further news</i>			

**CHFHS also hopes to be involved in events arranged under current restrictions  
as and when opportunities arise**

*... watch out for announcements in the Newsletter, Journal or via Facebook ...*

### HUNTINGDON BRANCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at **7.00pm**  
**Zoom** or WI Hall, Walden Rd., Huntingdon  
enquiries : huntingdon@cfhs.org.uk

<b>Wed 20 Jan (zoom)</b>	<b>Conserving Your Family Archive</b> <i>with Sue Gibbons</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Wed 17 Feb (zoom)</b>	<b>Humour in Genealogy</b> <i>with Christopher Broom</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Wed 17 Mar (zoom)</b>	<b>Writing Your Family History</b> <i>with Jackie Depelle</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Wed 21 Apr (zoom)</b>	<b>to be confirmed</b> <i>with xxx</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>

### RAMSEY BRANCH

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at **7.00pm**  
**Zoom** or Ramsey Rural Museum, Ramsey  
enquiries : ramsey@cfhs.org.uk

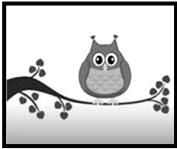
<b>Thurs 7 Jan (zoom)</b>	<b>Putting Your Ancestors In Their Place</b> <i>with Dr Janet Few</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Thurs 4 Feb (zoom)</b>	<b>Family History—why it matters</b> <i>with Christopher Broom</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Thurs 4 Mar (zoom)</b>	<b>Which Website And Why</b> <i>with Jackie Depelle</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
<b>Thurs 1 April (zoom)</b>	<b>to be confirmed</b> <i>with xxx</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>

### “BACK STORY”

The enforced inactivity of the past few months has allowed thoughts to turn to considering the theme for next season's programme of **12.30 Saturday Talks**. We are often conflicted over what we're doing—on the one hand, gathering new facts and growing the tree, on the other hand, perhaps a keenness for others to appreciate our efforts and to “tell the story”. The regular writers' workshops offer self-help sessions with the opportunity to discuss writing styles and techniques, but we still need something to write about beyond just “Fred was born in 1865 ... and he married Emma ... and they had 6 children ...” The plan is to compile a series of short illustrated talks on spotting clues in the various key records to help deduce something about the context/circumstances of records and events—ie. constructing “back story” ...

# MEETINGS PROGRAMMES : JAN–APR 2021

<b>MARCH BRANCH</b>		<u>1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday</u> of the month at <b>7pm</b> March Library, City Rd., March <b>enquiries</b> : march@cfhs.org.uk
*please check* before meetings with the website/newsletter & the “Your Fenland” column of the Citizen Newspaper		
<b>LATEST NEWS</b>	<i>March Branch meetings are suspended until face-2-face activities again become possible, *these talks* have been arranged <u>should</u> meetings become possible</i>	
<b>* Tues * 5 Jan</b>	Victorian Law And Order	<i>with Charlotte Paton</i>
<b>* Tues * 2 Feb</b>	Getting The Best From Newspapers And Directories	<i>with Ian Waller</i>
<b>* Tues * 2 Mar</b>	By The Visitation Of God—the speaker’s 2xgt grandfather’s life as a hatter	<i>with Mick Rawle</i>
<b>CAMBRIDGE BRANCH</b>		<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday</u> of the month at <b>10.30-3.30</b> <b>ZOOM</b> or Cambridgeshire Collection Meeting Room Central Library, Lion Yard, Cambridge <b>enquiries</b> : programme@cfhs.org.uk
<b>Sat 13 Feb Zoom</b>	<b>12.30 Back Story—interpreting BMDs</b> <i>with Caroline Norton</i> <i>There’s much more to be gained from BMDs than just a name, a date and a place—  a look at some clues which can lurk in these records to help enhance a family story</i> <b>2.00 A—Z of Cambridge : places, people, history</b> <i>with Sarah Doig</i> <i>Fascinating and little-known facts about the city, as well as tales of the famous  people who have lived there and visited Cambridge over the centuries.</i> Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website	
<b>Sat 20 Feb online</b>	<p align="center"><b>The Family History Show</b></p> <i>a virtual show from the publishers of ‘Discover Your Ancestors’ magazine</i> <p align="center"><b>CFHS will be participating ... do join in and visit our booth</b></p> visit the show website for details and tickets <a href="https://the.familyhistoryshow.com/online/">https://the.familyhistoryshow.com/online/</a>	
<b>Sat 20 March Zoom</b>	<b>12.30 Back Story—interpreting Census Returns</b> <i>with Caroline Norton</i> <i>Censuses can hold far more than just “facts” to be taken at face-value, we’ll take a  look at some of clues which can lurk in these records to help enhance a family story</i> <b>2.00 A Dirty History of Cambridge</b> <i>with Alan Denney</i> <i>We take a look at Cambridge’s source of drinking water from polluted wells and a  filthy River Cam; the first piped clean water supply to a Franciscan community in  1295; the Hobson Conduit in 1610; moving forward to look at what the Victorians did  for Cambridge introducing a pumped clean water supply from the Greensands  Aquifer; plus in 1894, completing a system for dealing with sewage and cleaning up  the polluted river Cam.</i> Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website	
<b>Sat 10 April online</b>	<p align="center"><b>** The Really Useful Family History Show 2 **</b></p> <i>a second virtual event by the Family History Federation</i> <p align="center"><b>CHFHS will again be participating ... do come and “join” us</b></p> visit the show website for details and tickets <a href="https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/">https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/</a>	
<b>COVID19</b> —we will be presenting sessions via Zoom for the time being. Once restrictions on public assembly finally ease and the venues we use reopen, we will reassess. Until then, we will continue to Zoom and post updates on the website, facebook, and newsletter ahead of each date—please check		



## ... & ANOTHER 'LAST WORD'

### ... FROM CAZ THE EDITOR



#### GETTING SIDETRACKED or "GOING OFF PISTE"

Sometimes, quite by chance, we can encounter a snippet of information which opens up an interesting piece of research through the thought "*I wonder...*". Totally irrelevant, but which makes for a fascinating and convoluted story, nevertheless.

One such moment occurred some few weeks ago whilst rambling around a somewhat distant branch of the family in Grimsby, before they went off to Australia. Grimsby being Grimsby meant that many of the menfolk who went to sea didn't come back, and re-marriage was an even more frequent occurrence than elsewhere. Second, third and even fourth marriages can be found—and no less so than within the family I was following ....

A widower, William G, and his three children had moved up to Grimsby from further south in Lincolnshire. They appear in the next census along with a married housekeeper, Sarah, and her own children; it was to become evident that the pair had a liaison, and a son (who later died as a child). By the next census, William G has gone to Australia with his surviving son, and Sarah's husband is home from sea; however, he died soon after, she remarried, and life went on. Curiosity turned to finding out a bit more about this Sarah, the mother of my relative's son. To cut a long story short, Sarah was in fact William's sister-in-law (his late wife's sister—the give-away being their surnames/birthplaces). But that's not all, she had also had a very short-lived *earlier* marriage to a Richard—in

total, she collected three husbands and a liaison!!! It's this Richard's family who are of interest here ...

Richard can be traced back to coastal Kent—he was apprenticed to a mariner and thence went to Grimsby. Both his widowed mother and sister go off to London and appear there in poor relief records. This sister, however, seems to have led somewhat of a rags-to-riches life, Eliza Doolittle-style. After three children with him, she eventually married the much older John Oxenford (b.c1812, Camberwell), a noted author/playwright and wit of the times—like Eliza D, perhaps she was his muse.

Those of us now of a certain age may recall the earlier days of children's radio broadcasting and "Listen With Mother", the presenter was one Daphne Oxenford. Fast forward to today and, by chance, CHFHS's Saturday Zoom talks have the LWM opening credits as a rather apt introduction :

*"are you sitting comfortably, then we'll begin"*

The "*I wonder*" moment here is, of course, "*could they be related*"? Although Oxenford appears to be quite a rare name, it's scattered. However, it has been a fairly straightforward process to track the ancestors of both Daphne and John. Their lines do come together through a Henry b.1787 (gt-gt-grand father of Daphne) and a William b.1783 (father of John)—they being the sons of a John and Ellen of Newington, Surrey. This would make Daphne and John "*first cousins thrice removed*"?!!

So, despite the name occurring in scattered clusters country-wide, it has been possible, here, to show a common ancestor of two randomly encountered people who share the same surname.

Our thanks continue go to everyone who has sent in contributions—whether as articles about your families and researches, or just shorts pieces, please keep it coming—getting something down on paper to share the story with others is the key. Family history is so much more than just genealogical facts, it's the stories which we either know or have deduced from the raw facts, and these need to be written down. Apologies if your piece hasn't appeared as yet, it's very much a matter of doing a jigsaw to fit the material into the set number of pages.

**Remember—the CHFHS Journal is predominantly made up of your work ...**  
I just put it together ...

*Caz the Editor*



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Please contact the Editor or Secretary

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For information & email address : please visit the FamilySearch Wiki page below

**\*\* NB : CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE \*\***

*The Cambridge Family History Centre's webpage on the FamilySearch Wiki can be found at :*  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Cambridge\\_England\\_Family\\_History\\_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Cambridge_England_Family_History_Center)

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OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST**



we are looking for additional volunteers  
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**PLEASE CONTACT—[projects@cfhs.org.uk](mailto:projects@cfhs.org.uk) or write to The Secretary**

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