



CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

THE JOURNAL



The Genealogy Show
June 25-26

The Family History 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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CHFHS tel. no.: 01223 853273 for UK only (answer machine—please leave your name/phone no. & we'll get back to you as soon as possible)

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**

NB: “AF” only features records from Cambs & Isle of Ely at present; transcriptions of Hunts records are currently available as downloads or CDs—all are to be reformatted and are to be added to “AF” as they are completed

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 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 Summer 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 hopefully resolves

Opening this issue—a delightful account, from a trio of researchers, of a connection with the CUBG (Cambridge University Botanic Gardens). Elsewhere, the continuing life and times of Robert Peters, and the tale of a local-man-made-good in Australia who then returned home to Whittlesey. Can anyone help with suggestions for the purpose behind a curious set of heirloom jugs from Ely, and Kate, the contributor of an enviable collection of photos, seeks confirmation of her research. An adoptee, Richard H, recounts uncovering his hitherto unknown links with the county, and regular contributor, Caroline K of the former Hunts FHS, tells the story revealed by a headstone in Denton churchyard. The answering of a query regarding Weston Colville highlights the power of a perhaps underused resource, the PERSIndex.

The coming months see **2 major online/virtual shows** being held—attend from wherever you happen to live for a fraction of the cost of F2F events—no travel costs, no parking issues, and it could be raining cats'n'dogs!! Well worth attending one or both—and visit us, CHFHS

Regular features are dotted throughout the pages, incl—gt-gt-grandparents, twelve tweets, programmes and reports for meetings at Cambridge, Ramsey and Huntingdon (research surgeries and March meetings are still on hold) and many more genealogical gems

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 **30 June 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.



CONTENTS

Chairman's "First Words"	3
Rosa Blanche Kester by Ray Crozier, John Devonshire, Sandra Crozier	5
Robert Peters of Cambridge, part 2 by Ian Stephenson	8
AGM Agenda & joining information	12
Local Book : St Ives 'Life & Times of a Victorian Country Doctor'	14
My Cambridge Connections by Richard Hodge	15
Acquired For The Archives	17
Coming Soon—A New Look Journal	17
Family Photos from Outwell & Upwell by Kate Lillie	19
William Henry Plowman of Whittlesey by Jan Wilson	22
Local Book : Little Downham 'History Of The Parish of Little Downham' by Robin Pearl	23
Meetings' & Events' Reports	24
CHFHS @ The Family History Show 2021	29
Practical Zooming—some user insights	31
Spotlight On A Denton Headstone by Caroline Kessler	32
Letter To The Editor	33
My Ely Jugs by Hugh Parson	34
Using The PERSI Index—an example (the answer to a Weston Colville query) by Caz	36
Me & My Family History in 12 Tweets from Joan B	38
Gt Gt Grandparents	39
WisMus and Hunts Records—updates	40
Meetings' Programme : to July 2021	42-3
Editor's Last Word	44

cover picture

"An Upwell Wedding, 1910"

full details of the group on p.21

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and its Contributors
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update p.40

**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*

ANCESTOR FINDER

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*an online marketplace from the
Family History Federation*

**CHFHS's stock list
has now been added**

**Cambridgeshire
Victuallers' Licences**
*a selection now available
www.FindMyPast.co.uk*

THE SOCIETY OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF :-

Susan ALEXANDER [5142]

Brian PITTUCK [2069]

Robin HAIGH [3924]

David BUTT [4494]

Bernard AMPS (1925-2021)

*Former Cambs FHS Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary
Founder of March Branch and Ely Branch*

*An appreciation of Bernard's contribution to the Society
will appear in the next issue*



A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

~ DAVID COPSEY ~



Family history and your health

Keeping a healthy lifestyle has been very prominent in our lives recently, so I was very pleased to receive evidence from Chris Broom after his "Why family history matters" talk to us in February. The links he sent me support what many of us have known for a long time – family history is good for all of us for many reasons including happiness; resilience; humanity; disease awareness.

<https://selecthealth.org/blog/2019/08/5-benefits-of-knowing-your-family-history>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK115560/>

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/family-history-2/>

<https://digest.bps.org.uk/2010/12/20/the-benefits-of-thinking-about-our-ancestors/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/jan/14/children-family-histories-ales>

Finding gaps in your family

We are all aware of the challenges of using online sources to find our ancestors. The original record is based on the understanding of what someone said, even if they could not read or write; the transcription is an interpretation of what the transcriber sees from a historic original that may be in poor condition with unfamiliar handwriting; differing software that the various online providers use to provide character recognition and identify matches to the same core data; and not least, the information that we put in to make the search to find our ancestors. When everything is straightforward, all can work well – an easy to spell first and second name; familiar place names; consistent dates and spellings. If all the records say that Susan Jones was born in Cambridge in 1852, and her Anglican baptism took place soon after her birth, it should be easy to get both her birth certificate and her baptism details. However, this doesn't always happen, and surprisingly, investigating my fictional example, there are no births for anyone called Susan Jones in Cambridge registration district on FreeBMD before 1942.

The element over which we have the most control



in finding records is the search that we choose to make, the names, dates, places that inform each search. Each database has its own way of working, and I was again pleased to have guidance from another of our recent speakers, Jackie Depelle, about the use of fuzzy matching and wildcards to overcome some of the challenges of trying to second guess how each

database works.

[Using wildcards to search databases \(futurelearn.com\)](#)

[Searching with Wild Cards \(ancestry.co.uk\)](#)

[Searching with Spelling Variations \(ancestry.co.uk\)](#)

[OCR Production Nightmares: BLOG@IGP \(infogridpacific.com\)](#)

Fuzzy searches - [FamilySearch Places • FamilySearch](#)
Scroll to Special Characters

[Guides | ScotlandsPeople](#) Levenshtein distance formula

Zoom talks

Both of the above examples show one of the benefits of drawing on the expertise of our speakers, and it is good to see many regular participants at our talks. Don't forget you can book these online through the public front page of our website, <https://cfhs.org.uk/>

Other counties and family history societies

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire borders seven other counties, and many of our ancestors will have moved into or come from these and other counties. We already receive a number of exchange journals on a reciprocal basis from other family history societies; they can be accessed from the members' section of our website and are a good way of keeping up to date with developments in other areas. We currently have e-journals from 13 other societies, please have a look at the list, so you can find out what is happening in other areas where your family have links. Soon after writing this, I will be attending a regional group meeting for all family history societies across East Anglia, and I hope that one outcome from this meeting will be a

more comprehensive exchange of e-journals. Some of our neighbouring societies' journals are on the members' section, but others are not. I also have a number of recent print issues of journals from several family history societies worldwide. If you would like to have these sent to you free of charge in exchange for a donation to the Society, please send me an e-mail.

Five year plan

The past year has been a challenging one for us all for a variety of reasons, and our last committee meeting began discussion about a five year plan for the Society. It is important that all members have the opportunity to contribute to future thinking and developments, so please contact me, chairman@cfhs.org.uk about any ideas you have, no matter how large, small, complex or simple. If you can do this before July, we will be able to include these in our planning.

Annual General Meeting

Now that the Society has its own Zoom account, members will be able to sign on and take part in our virtual AGM on Saturday 8 May at 13.00; there will be Zoom talks before and after on the same day. AGM papers will be available beforehand on our website, and there will be the opportunity, as with a face to face AGM, to ask questions and make comments. I do hope that a good number of our members will take part. The AGM will be chaired by our President, Elizabeth Stazicker, and, as we are a charity, much of the format is determined by the Charity Commission.

Licensing records

Many of the Society records are also available on Find My Past, although there are others that are only available as downloads or CD's, or through

Ancestor Finder. Find My Past pays us a royalty sum each year based on access statistics, and this is a useful addition to our income, as well as publicity for our Society. Our most recent FMP publication is a new category, licensing records, currently around 18,000 records from 1774-1828, showing the names of the ale house victuallers, those providing surety and many other details. Further local licensing records will be uploaded as soon as they are ready and in a suitable format.

Census records

I was interviewed today by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire as part of their census awareness series a couple of days before census day; some of you may have heard it. The census records are an incredibly rich source for family historians as well as community historians and statistical planners. I am continuing my own research on earlier generations of my family, and I am currently working through the siblings and siblings' children of my fourth great grandparents. This takes a very long time, as we all have 64 direct ancestors less cousin marriages in this generation, and their siblings and sibling children take the number beyond one thousand. Early censuses are really useful for this work, as are the growing number of parish register records online. Drawing a wide net also brings unexpected links to our direct ancestors

I hope you are all finding that you are able to devote more time and gain pleasure through your family history research at home.

David Capsey

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Mar 25 1898—Saturday was about the worst Boat Race Day on record. The weather was vile in the extreme, and the race was simply a procession. As it turned out, however, the winning of the toss gave an immense advantage to the Dark Blues, and before the race had been in progress for three minutes the Cambridge boat was full of water. They rowed on pluckily, and succeeded in getting to Mortlake without being capsized. [*Cambridge lead by 84 wins to 80—this years event on Apr 4 to be held at Ely!!*]

Feb 23 1973—Raiders have escaped with a haul of 172 million Green Shield stamps from a warehouse at Bar Hill, near Cambridge. The reels of single and 10 units weighed more than five cwt and a spokesman for the Green Shield company said they must have been removed in a car or a large van. The thieves forced their entry through a fanlight in the roof of the warehouse. The stamps, enough to fill 134,375 books, were all in cartons ready for distribution. [*Wonder what they exchanged those for ???*]

Feb 24 1898—At Cambridge police court the manager of the Cambridge Omnibus Company was charged with assaulting a driver of a Tramway Company bus. The affray seems to have arisen out of the rivalry of the two companies. The driver got off his bus to look after the passengers, and the driver of the rival bus got off too. Defendant came up, and struck him in the face. Cross-examined he had at times made jeering comments on the wheels of the other bus. [*Road rage is nothing new !!*]

ROSA BLANCHE KESTER (1901-1998)

*BY RAY CROZIER, JOHN DEVONSHIRE
AND SANDRA CROZIER*

On 8th September 1930 Rosa Blanche Kester of 'Imelda', Kimberley Road, Cambridge married Reginald Radcliffe Cory at St Martins Registry Office in London. [1] It was a quiet wedding. Even close friends were unaware of it taking place and no one from the groom's family attended; indeed there are suggestions that they only found out about it from the press. Any hopes of keeping it quiet were soon dashed and it received extensive coverage in the national press and in the regional press from Cornwall to Scotland. The articles invariably referred to the disparity in their ages – he was 58 years old; she was 29 – but the main interest was in the contrast between the huge wealth of the groom and the modest background of the bride – she was working in Heffers Bookshop in Cambridge at the time of the wedding. 'Millionaire Marries Bookshop Girl' was a typical headline.

Reginald Cory was the third son of John Cory who, after the death of his father Richard Cory who founded the company, set up Cory Brothers, a colliery and ship owning company in South Wales, with his brother, that made its fortune exporting Welsh coal to more than 120 ports across the world. When John Cory moved his family into the mansion and estate at Dyffryn House in Glamorganshire in 1891 he set out to rebuild the house and Reginald, who was a law student at Trinity College, Cambridge at the time, soon became active in the design of the gardens in conjunction with the landscape designer, Thomas Mawson, who was commissioned by the Cory family. Reginald became an acknowledged authority on horticulture and Dyffryn became one of the great British gardens (currently under the stewardship of the National Trust). Reginald had close connections with Cambridge and the University, a generous benefactor of Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG) whose large and frequent donations formed a large proportion of the Garden's annual income for many years, continuing through his estate after his death, and enabled the Garden to survive serious financial difficulties. For example, he enabled the garden to expand in size and he was involved in the funding and design of Cory Lodge, which still stands at the heart of the Garden today.

Annual Accounts books and Insurance and Wages books of the CUBG held at Cambridge University

Library show that Rosa Kester was employed there from September 1919 to February 1924. We assume that this must have been where they met; newspaper accounts suggest that their relationship dated back ten years, which would be to around 1920. During the 1920s Cory was a regular visitor to the Garden. He became friendly with Albert Charles Seward, a Professor of Botany who became Master of Downing College in 1915 and Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1924 and with Humphrey Gilbert-Carter, the first director of the Garden. Cory's relationship with Rosa was not known to anyone outside the immediate Kester family; indeed, in November 1927 he replied to Gilbert-Carter's teasing him about his bachelor status following Seward's recent marriage by confessing that 'I am sorry to say that the future Mrs Cory has not yet materialised, and so the production of her is still in the future, if anywhere'. [2] We do not know why Rosa left CUBG, whether this was related to Cory's desire for secrecy or whether his connection with the management was an issue for them both for her to be employed there. Nor do we know whether she worked anywhere else other than at Heffers or what her position was in the bookshop. Any information from readers about this would be very welcome.

Rosa Blanche Kester was born on 14th January 1901 in Chesterton, Cambridge. Her parents were Walter Harry Kester and Isabella Rosa Kester, neé Manning. [3] The 1901 census indicates that the family was living at 1 Arthur Street, Chesterton, Cambridge, and the household comprised four persons – her two parents, both aged 29 years, her older brother Walter Harry (aged two years) and herself (aged three months). Her father's occupation is described as postman.

The 1911 census shows that the family was resident in 79 Hertford Street, New Chesterton, Cambridge. It lists the same members of the household but with the addition of another brother, Thomas Henry, aged six years. Walter Harry, the son, is aged 12 years and Rosa is 10 years old. Walter Harry Kester, the father, is now described as a head postman and Civil Servant. In July 1914, the Cambridge Independent Press reports her Junior Pass in piano in the Trinity College of Music examination – she was thirteen years old. The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of

Wednesday 17th September 1930 report of her wedding added that she was an Honorary Governor of Addenbrooke's Hospital. At the time of her wedding in 1930 Rosa was living at 34 Kimberley Road. [4]

Rosa's mother and father died in 1937 and 1958 respectively. The National Probate Calendar dated 17th September 1937 states that Rosa Isabella Kester of 24 Queen Ediths Way, Cambridge, died on 13th June 1937. Her effects amounting to £349 14s 10d were to go to her husband, Walter Harry Kester, a Post Office inspector. The Calendar of 22nd April 1958 states that Walter Harry Kester of 24 Queen Ediths Way, Cambridge, died in Addenbrooke's Hospital on 12th January 1958. His effects of £1724 6s 4d were to go to Walter Harry Kester, a solicitor (presumably his eldest son).

After their wedding Rosa and her husband took a house, Rodwell, near Wareham in Dorset. John Cory had died in 1910 and his wife the previous year, and although Reginald had inherited the Dyffryn estate his sister Florence had the right to live there during her lifetime. For reasons unknown (he stipulated that his papers must be burned after his death) Reginald chose not to live in Dyffryn despite his attachment to the garden. Their marriage was, sadly, all too short because he died suddenly in 1934. They seem to have been a happy couple and travelled together on plant-hunting trips. His death left Rosa a wealthy woman.



Mrs Rosa Blanche Cory, in the Riviera, 1935

Photograph from the Collingwood Ingram Archive, courtesy of Ernie Pollard (Copyright : Ernie Pollard)

Two years later Rosa remarried. She married Lieutenant Leopold Hewetson Landman RN on 7th March 1936, in St Michael's Church, Pimlico, London. [5] The marriage certificate states that her address was 3 Grosvenor Cottages, Eaton Terrace, London (which had been one of Reginald's properties) and Leopold's address was Bloxworth Rectory, near Wareham. Leopold's father, also called Leopold Hewetson Landman, and a retired naval chaplain and the rector at Bloxworth, performed the ceremony. Also present were Walter Harry Kester (her father) and Lucilla Constance Landman (the groom's mother). We don't know how or where the bride and groom met. Rodwell is not far from Bloxworth. Rosa was 35 and her husband 27.

Her new husband had a distinguished naval career. He graduated with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in 1929, aged 21 years. He was rapidly promoted and became a Lt. Commander in 1939, aged 31 years. He commanded HMS Clare and HMS Hotspur during World War II and was twice mentioned in dispatches. He retired from the Navy on 1st March 1953 with the rank of Commander at the age of 45 years. He then had a second career as Operations Executive in the oil industry, based in London. Leopold and Rosa had a daughter, Rosemary Penelope Hope Landman born in Hove, Sussex on 10th January 1937, her father's address given in the birth certificate as Bloxworth Rectory.

We have evidence from the 'England and Wales 1939 Register' that the Landmans were domiciled at 24 Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge on 29th September of that year. [6] In the household were Walter H Kester, a retired assistant inspector for the GPO; Leopold H Landman, Lt Commander, RN and on leave from the Admiralty Operations Division; Rosa Blanche Landman, his wife; Rosemary Penelope Hope Landman (b.1937), their daughter; Maud Linsey (born 1880), companion help. This appears to be the home address of Rosa's parents – it is the address of her mother when she died in 1937. We assume that they were staying there when Leopold was on leave from the Admiralty, where he was based at that time. The record illustrates how close the Kester and Landman families were, in sharp contrast to relationships between Rosa and the Cory family. Florence Cory had died in 1936 and the Dyffryn estate was sold.

Reginald Cory was a generous benefactor of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, as we have seen. His death would have been a considerable shock to everyone at CUBG. It had few sources of income so news of his sudden death must have

been received with trepidation there: he was no remote benefactor and had built up relationships over the years with the directors and superintendents. Reginald had made a significant bequest to the CUBG and resolving its complexities took several years before the Garden could benefit from it. We have no record of Rosa's role, if any, in this process. However, records show that she continued to provide financial support to CUBG after his death and this carried on after her remarriage. In 1970 she was personally involved in funding and planning a memorial plaque for Reginald Cory at the Garden, designed by the distinguished stone cutter and typographer David Kindersley, whose artwork can be seen all over Cambridge.

Reverend Landman, Rosa's father-in-law died in 1955 in Wareham and is buried alongside his wife, in the churchyard of St Andrew's, Bloxworth. Rosa's husband Leopold died at home in Broadstone in 1989 and his ashes are also interred there. Rosa, then aged 88 and a widow for the second time, and her daughter Rosemary, now aged 52 and still unmarried, moved to Sussex. They spent the remainder of their lives in a large bungalow close to the sea front at Bognor Regis. Rosa fell ill with pancreatic cancer and died in St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester in 1998, aged 97 years. Her ashes were interred in the



Landman family grave, St Andrew's, Bloxworth

*Memorial for Leopold's parents at base of cross, the other stone plaques L to R : Leopold Landman, daughter Rosemary, Rosa Blanche Landman
(Copyright : Pam Hinton)*

Landman family grave shortly afterwards. Rosemary developed lung cancer and died at the Chichester Nuffield Hospital in 2004, aged 67 years. She never married. Her occupation on the death certificate describes her as an 'Estate Agent, Negotiator'. There are small memorial plaques to all three generations at the foot of the memorial stone. Close up, they are readable but quite covered in lichen.

Rosa Blanche Kester lived a long and active life. She travelled widely and her correspondence shows that even in her seventies and despite loss of sight in one eye she thought nothing of taking a trip to Kenya. Her life was transformed when she met Reginald Cory. From starting her working life as a poorly paid secretary at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden she ended up on first-name terms with her former employers and an honoured guest at the Garden. She was diligent in arranging a memorial for her first husband at the University Botanic Garden some 35 years after his death.

Our research into her life is ongoing and we would welcome any information that readers may have.

NOTES

[1] Registry of Marriages, 1930, Jul-Sept, volume 1a, page 1529

[2] Day, Juliet. 'Reginald Cory, Benefactor of Cambridge University Botanic Garden', Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 2006, 23 (1), page 123.

[3] Registry of Births, 1901, Jan-Mar, volume 3b, page 452

[4] The Register of Electors for the South Ward of Cambridge for 1930 and covering the period 15/10/30 – 14/10/31 includes Rosa Blanche Kester as living with her parents at 34 Kimberley Rd, Cambridge. Rosa was married to Reginald during this period.

[5] Registry of Marriages, 1936, Jan-Mar, volume 1a, page 685

[6] Ancestry: 1939 England and Wales Register: Rosa Landman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Pam Hinton, Ernie Pollard, Jean Reader, Irene Stewart, and staff at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens and Cambridge University Library for their help with our research

PHOTOGRAPHS

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ROBERT PETERS (1798-1880) OF CAMBRIDGE BY IAN STEPHENSON

Part Two

Part One described Robert Peters' wider family, his early life, his boot and shoe making business, and the start of his career as a civic officer with responsibility for collecting the poor rate in seven parishes and the office of Registrar of Births and Deaths for four parishes.

A separate authority, the Commissioners for Paving and Lighting, set up by Acts of Parliament in the late-18th century, was responsible for the improvement of paving, its cleansing and lighting in the town (later to be called the Improvement Commissioners). Prior to 1839 they employed a single collector of their, separate, rates. By then, with the growth of the town, that collector's task had become too large for one man (although, with arrears of about £1,200 some of the commissioners questioned the competence of the incumbent).

As an aside, at today's value £1,200 equates to £1M. Other monetary values quoted will be followed by the modern equivalent in curly brackets - for an explanation of the equivalence see endnote Iⁱ.

It was decided to appoint three improvement rate collectors, and Robert was appointed to No 2 District which covered the eight parishes of: St Giles, St Peters, St Clement, St Sepulchre, St Michael, St Mary the Great, St Edward and St Andrew the Great. The total annual rent he had to collect was £911 {£760k} (over 40% of the total for the town) for which he received a salary of £50 {£42k} pa. No doubt the duplication of collecting duties across five of these parishes eased his task; indeed, it would be identified some years laterⁱⁱ, but that duplication would not be eradicated until the Improvement Commission's responsibilities passed to the Town Council, sometime after Robert's death. Robert had to provide the Commissioners with sureties of £700 {£580k}, which were given by John Eaden, a solicitor, and Henry S Foster, a brewer, both Whig/Liberal politicians in the borough - he would take up his duties in July 1839. A year later the Commissioners paid him an additional eight guineas for his part in collecting the rate arrearsⁱⁱⁱ.

Also in July 1839, and still maintaining his boot and

shoemaking business, Robert was appointed to the office of assistant overseer for the parishes of St Giles and St Peters^{iv}. Later evidence, recording his resignation from Board of Guardian duties (see Part Three) suggests that at about this time Robert was also appointed assistant overseer to the other five parishes for which he collected poor rate. The assistant overseer role, gleaned from various reports of Robert Peters execution of his duties, included (note, this may not be exhaustive): the maintenance of the burgess voting list, with the reason for qualification; attendance at the Registration Court, to answer queries regarding that list; attendance at inquiries to provide information about the parish; taking prosecutions to court where a man left dependants chargeable to the parish; representing the parish at court where there were chargeable paupers to other parishes; and representing the parish at other localities that had Cambridge paupers to be removed. This last task is speculative based on a section of his 1868 speech (see Part Three) that:

'...Until the Award Act^v was passed every affiliation case came into his hands, and it was very rarely that professional aid was called; in pursuance of his duties in this department he was often called away from home both by night and day, and on one occasion travelled as far as Whitehaven [in Cumberland]. His duties then were very arduous, and it may not be known to gentlemen present, that on those occasions he received nothing whatever beyond his official salary ...'

- he must have been exceedingly busy. The salary from his various Poor Law duties and his Improvement Commissioners collecting together might well have approached, or exceeded, £200 {£160k} pa.

The 1841 census shows the whole family in Magdalen Street: specifically theirs is the second of four properties between Cross Keys Yard and a victualler (the White Bear) - probably one of the block of houses which are now numbered 26-28, with No 27 being a good bet. Having been a rate collector for six years he was obviously sufficiently confident of his secure prospects in 1842 to cease trading as a shoemaker (having been in the trade

for thirty years). At the Jan 1843 list of members of the Town of Cambridge Association he was first identified as a rate collector (rather than shoemaker) and had moved to St Peter's Street, where he remained for three years. Published data^{vi} for the first four years of his collecting for the Improvement Commission shows that for each year he was collecting over £1,100 pa, and that the bad debt in his accounts was only of the order of £60-70; the Commission's clerk stating:

'the exertions of the collectors had been constant and unremitting and they were entitled to great praise'.

Another official role to which Robert was appointed was that of one of two constables to the Court Leet of St Mary the Great, responsible for ensuring order during court sessions; that commenced in Oct 1843, it is not known how long he held the office^{vii}.

Beyond work and family, Robert had two passions which often went hand-in-hand: the non-conformist church and reformist/liberal politics. From the little that appears in the record, it is possible to construct some narrative of his religious pursuits. We have already seen that in 1817 he was admitted to the Downing Street Independent Church and that his children's births were recorded there. In 1842 Robert's allegiance changed to the St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, with wife Hannah and eldest daughter Hephzibah joining two years later; the remaining two daughters would join them in subsequent years, but there is no mention of either sons. Robert, however, is missing from the 1846 list of church members^{viii}. So far we only know of Robert's changing church attendance - skipping ahead, his obituary^{ix} provides the tantalising line:

... he was the predecessor of the Rev C H Spurgeon, as pastor of the Baptist Church of Waterbeach, residing at the same time at Cambridge ...

Let me briefly digress. Charles Hadden Spurgeon was to become a Baptist minister of note. He was born 1834 in Kelvedon, Kent, and baptised into the Baptist faith in May 1850 at Isleham Cambridgeshire, in the River Lark. He joined the Cambridge St Andrew's Street Baptist Church where he taught in the Sunday school, was mentored, and learned to preach. In Oct 1851 at the age of only 17, Spurgeon was engaged to supply as pastor at Waterbeach. He stayed with them (whilst residing and studying at Cambridge) for two and a half years, before taking on a ministry in Southwark, London, where his reputation as a

preacher was made. His library includes an autobiography - now published on the Spurgeon Center website^x.

Spurgeon's autobiography states, with respect to Waterbeach:

They had, for twenty years, a minister who went over from Cambridge ... After that, they tried to have a minister, but as they could not keep him [that is, they could not afford to pay him], he has left, and they will have to do as they used to ...

That suggests both that Robert took little, if any, payment for his services, and that there was an interval (at least a good few months, and possibly a year or so) between Robert's cessation of ministry at Waterbeach and Spurgeon's engagement. So each Sunday, from late-1820s/early-1830s to perhaps 1849/50, Robert would take up much of his day with the 6 mile walk to Waterbeach, administering to his flock, and the return walk (it being unlikely that his houses allowed for stabling of a horse). The only other known reference to that ministry is an 1840 book^{xi} which reproduces a protest made in 1837 to The British and Foreign Bible Society by a large number of Baptist ministers, including: *Peters, Robert, Waterbeach*. Why did he leave his ministry at Waterbeach - we do not know, but perhaps it was associated with the death of his daughter, Rebecca Jane, in May 1850 and a realisation that he needed to give more time to his family.

In politics Robert was an ardent Liberal and reformer. He does not appear to have made any hustings-type speeches, rather he appears to have been an energetic, dedicated and thorough organiser who worked mostly behind the scenes to ensure the Whig/Liberal vote was maximised at elections in the town. Cambridge for a long time had been in the grip of the Tories. With the passing of the 1832 Reform Act, however, Whig politicians Thomas Spring Rice (who in 1835 would be appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer) and George Pryme were returned as the town's two MPs in the election of later that year; both were re-elected at the 1835 general election. The 1835 Municipal Corporations Act brought elections for a new town council in December 1835. In Cambridge the result was emphatic: all 30 councillors' seat were won by the Whigs, with 6,157 votes; the Tories 2,609 votes gave them none^{xii}. The earliest record that I have found of Robert Peters' involvement in politics is in this context - a report^{xiii} of a dinner held at the town hall on Saturday 23 Jan 1836 given to the town's two MPs by the burgesses of the new corporation. About 400 burgesses attended the dinner, which

consisted of plain and substantial old English Fare, roast beef and plumb-pudding at a cost to each of 3 shillings. A brief address by the new mayor, Ebenezer Foster, was followed by nine or ten speeches, the first two being from the town's MPs. Towards the end of the speakers' list Henry Gunning, a veteran reformer, proposed

'The District Associations, and the King Street Independent Society in connection with the name of Mr Henry Staples Foster^{xiv};

the latter, having acknowledged the toast went on to say:

'there was another individual to whose exertions all were indebted, and his name was put on the [speakers'] list; but instead of Mr Peters's name his [Foster's] was substituted. Mr Peters had had more practical knowledge, and but for that, the District Association would never had succeeded so well as it had done ...'

Robert was called to speak. As his speech was at some length and of eloquence, Robert had evidently been tipped off that he would be called, despite his name having been substituted from the list (presumably as he was thought to be insufficiently well connected). He stated that he had proposed the formation of the Castle District [Reform] Association for promoting the independence of the Town of Cambridge; formed in February 1835, it was the first such association. The association was replicated in the remaining districts of the town and were evidently formed to promote reform debate, to identify like-minded Whig voters and ensure that they got out to vote^{xv}; in total nine such associations had been formed. Robert went to say:

'Their opponents [the Tories] have objected to them, as being immoral in their tendency, and promoting political asperity. He differed in toto from this opinion, and as the nature of the town, and intimately acquainted with the habits of the humbler classes, he had been surprised when he witnessed the good moral feeling, the intellectual capacity, the political integrity, the loyalty as well as patriotism, manifested by the members of these associations...'

Twenty one months later, the 21 Oct 1837 Cambridge Independent Press reported:

On Monday evening last the Members of the Castle District Association met at the White Bear, Magdalen Street, for the purpose of presenting Mr. Robert Peters

with an elegant embossed silver cup, as a testimonial of their esteem, for the disinterested and energetic exertions displayed by that gentleman, in the great and sacred cause of Civil and Religious Liberty. Henry Staples Foster, Esq. presided ...

Henry Gunning presented Robert with the cup, which was embossed with:

PRESENTED
To Mr. ROBERT PETERS, by
his fellow-townsmen,
the 16th of October, 1837,
as a testimonial
of esteem for private worth and
gratitude for unremitting,
zealous, and successful
exertions in the great
and good cause of
Civil & Religious
Liberty.

The circumstances of the presentation are not explained, but Gunning's speech alludes to the recent re-election of the town's liberal MPs. Gunning was reported saying:

'... Reform, which was taking such rapid strides, was mainly, he contended, owing to associations like the present. Mr. G. then alluded to the infinite service Mr. Peters had done to the District Associations, and the extent of his local knowledge. They had, it was evident from what he held in his hand [the presentation cup], appreciated those services, and presented him, that night, as a token of their esteem and friendship, the splendid memorial, and he felt certain that he would value it, not for its weight in silver, but for the sentiment with which it was given; he knew what his friend's feelings were upon this interesting occasion - and his conscience would tell him that it was a proud and honourable reward, but in no way commensurate with his important services; and may he long live to enjoy it, and transmit it to his children as a reward and compliment which he had received at the hands of his fellow townsmen, for moral worth and energy in the cause of liberty (great cheering)...'

Robert's speech (reported verbatim, but in the third person) was 5-6 minutes in length, in speaking of himself: ' ...

He could not but observe the favourable construction they had put on his character. He always considered that private character

was the basis of public confidence, and rejoiced to know that, in serving their cause, he was never called upon to sacrifice that respect he owed to himself, his family, and society. If, in serving their cause, he could have injured the reputation - ruined the circumstances - or destroyed the prospects of any of his fellow-townsmen - he would have felt himself an object of self-detestation, and worthy of universal scorn; and that cup, instead of wearing the splendid lustre it then bore, (fit emblem of the moral dignity of their cause,) would have assumed a tarnish as though some infernal fiend had breathed upon it...^{xvi}

Those two reports are all that I have found that specifically tell of Robert's political activities. How long he took an active part in the Castle District Reform Association, or in Reform/Liberal politics, is not known. A further report^{xvii} suggests that for a time he acted as the Reform registration agent supporting the reform barrister at the Registration

Court; although, that formal activity may well have ceased when he was appointed an assistant overseer (which would have been seen as a conflict of duty). It is reasonable to assume that the impetus for him seeking his first rate collection job in 1836 was to further the reformist political cause by gaining a better understanding of the voting population in that part of the borough. Robert was a minor witness at the 1853 Commission of Inquiry into Corrupt Practices in the Cambridge Borough Elections^{xviii} for the previous year's parliamentary election. He was no doubt pleased that the inquiry identified many electors who had accepted Tory bribes; although, amongst them was William John Gallyon, Hannah's nephew, who admitted to accepting £5 {£4,000}.

Part Three will complete Robert Peters' story, taking him from his late-40s to the end of his life and the influence that he probably had on some of his descendants.

NOTES & REFERENCES :

- i The modern equivalents of monetary values in the 19th century have been calculated using a comparison of average earnings, with the result rounded to 2 significant figures - Source: Gregory Clark, 'What were the British Earnings and Prices then? (New Series)', Measuring Wealth, 2019 (www.measuringwealth.com/ukearncpil/). This comparison has been used by the economic historian Sir Roderick Flood in his book 'An Economic History of the English Garden', and seems a good precedent to follow. In the first half of the 19th C average earnings were between £30 and £35 pa, rising to £55 pa by 1880; of course, being the average, a large swath of the population was earning less than those figures. That some of the modern equivalents may seem excessive is possibly down to the low average earns of the 19th C.
- ii Cambridge Chronicle and Journal (CCJ) of 8 Nov 1862 reporting on the proceedings of the Board of Guardians recorded the chairman as noting that Robert collected both the poor rate and for the Improvement Board. There was a proposal (quite possibly politically motivated) that there should be separate collectors for each rate. However, the idea was squashed by the chairman who considered: '*The income of the collector might be fixed at £180 or perhaps £200 {£140k} a-year and he thought that enough to ensure the entire services of one respectable and responsible man; but if they divided that salary in two, neither collector could live on £100 {£70k} a-year, that is, supposing him to be such a man as it was desirable to employ, and he must therefore enter upon some other business or livelihood. If he did this there would be a strong temptation for him to apply the Guardian's money to his own business purposes, and the Guardians would come off second best. These were his reasons for preferring the entire services of one well-paid man to the divided services of two ill-paid ones*'
- iii Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette (HBPG) of 9, 16 and 23 Mar 1839, and Cambridge Independent Press (CIP) of 6 Jul 1839 and 16 May 1840.
- iv Cambridge General Advertiser of 31 Jul 1839.
- v The Cambridge Award Act of 1856 reset the responsibilities between the town and university over a large range of civic matters.
- vi CIP of 8 Oct 1842 and 26 Aug 1843.
- vii CIP of 28 Oct 1843.
- viii Cambridge St Andrews Street Baptist Church Book 1832-1896, and Church Manual 1846 (see CHFHS website).
- ix CIP of 25 Dec 1880.
- x spurgeon.org (The Spurgeon Center at the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, USA).
- xi The Baptist and the Bible Society - Memorial, relating to the Bengali and Other Versions of the New Testament, made by Baptist Missionaries in India. January 6, 1840. Appendix C.
- xii HBPG of 2 Jan 1836. The council inherited an exhausted treasury and a debt of £1,003 {£850k}. There was an immediate clear out of the officers appointed to serve the former Tory council, except for some of the lower grade jobs. It appears that each burgess had 6 votes (each of 5 districts returned 6 councillors) equating to ~1,500 voters in a town of population 21,000 (1831 census), ie ~7%. The basis of Burgess qualification, under the 1835 Act, was: 3 years occupancy, rating to the poor (rent of £10 {£8,500} pa) and payment of poor rate (HBPG of 14 Nov 1835).
- xiii HBPG of 30 Jan 1836 - 'Cambridge, Burgess Dinner'.

xiv See earlier - Henry Staples Foster was one of the 2 sureties for Robert Peters as a collector for the Improvement Board.

xv I have found very little information about the District Associations, apart from brief references in contemporary newspapers. These are mainly meeting notifications in the 'Town and County' section. The Castle District Reform Association is recorded to have met monthly in local public houses (over 20 are listed). By 1842, when it resolved to meet fortnightly, it had 60 members, and the following year 100. However, the last mention that I have found is in 1846, eleven years after its formation - although, whether that marked its demise is not known.

xvi We cannot know the veracity of Robert's statement which implies that he did not allow his political views to conflict with his civic responsibilities. One recorded instance, however, supports his case. At the Sep 1843 Registration Court (CCJ and CIP of 30 Sep 1843) Robert gave evidence in the case of a John Cupsley, a barber in St Giles. Following information that Robert had received at a vestry meeting, that Cupsley's landlady had reduced his annual rent from £10 (the threshold for the vote) to £9, Robert as assistant overseer removed Cupsley (a Liberal voter) from the voter list - contrary to Robert's political benefit. With further evidence and exchanges between Tory and Liberal barristers the voting right was allowed to stand.

xvii CCJ of 25 Nov 1836. Robert Peters is reported making registration claims in St Clements parish where, at that time, he had no parish duties. Thus, I presume he was acting as registration agent (a term which may not have been in use at that time).

xviii Cambridge Archive: CB/2/CL/19/4. 1853 Report of the Commissioners to Inquire into the Existence of Corrupt Practices in the Borough of Cambridge.

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

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2021 AGM

**The 2021 AGM will be an online event via Zoom,
and will take place between the 2 talks at the Saturday meeting, at 1.00pm**

**To participate—please register separately for the AGM via the website
(just as you would for a talk).**

Minutes, accounts and reports are on the CHFHS website, Members' Area

DO YOU HAVE NORTHANTS INTERESTS

RECEIVED FROM NORTHANTS FHS

A fresh edition of the **1673-4 HEARTH TAX** lists for Northamptonshire, including a detailed introduction. There are over 22,000 records, providing names and other details of the vast majority of county householders sorted in various ways.

This is the most complete snapshot of local residents earlier than the 1841 census.

It is available as a set of PDFs waiting to be downloaded from Parish Chest.

<https://www.pari chest.com/northamptonshire-hearth-tax-index-1673-1674-10546.php>

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

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NEW RECORDS ARE BEING ADDED EVERY MONTH

DNA FAMILY SECRETS

a series of 3 programmes about people seeking answers through a mix of genetic and traditional genealogy

*including : a war baby seeking family of his GI father
is a mother a Huntington's disease gene carrier
a man who finds that his Dad isn't his father*

screened in Feb/March on BBC 2 and available on iPlayer for xxx

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH @ Cambridge Central Library : 2nd 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

DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

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

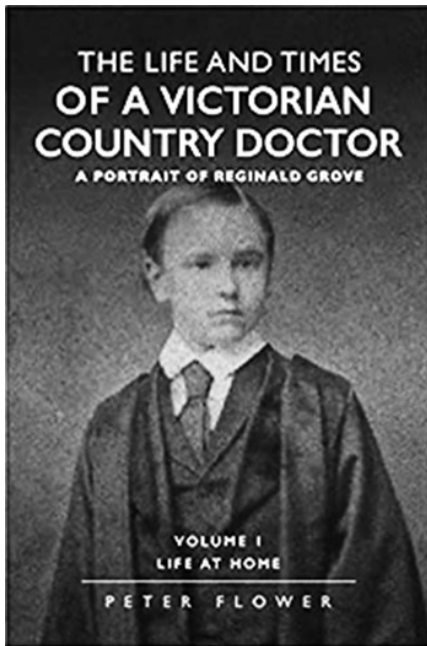
Cambridgeshire Family History Society will be at the library to help you do lookups on the records.

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,
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**The Life and Times Of
A Victorian Country Doctor
—A Portrait of Reginald Grove—
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Brown Dog Books (23 Feb. 2021)

ISBN-10 : 1839522070

ISBN-13 : 978-1839522079



In the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, eighteen-year-old Reginald Grove left Uppingham School for Cambridge before training at Guy's Hospital and then taking over his father's medical practice in Huntingdonshire. As he later reflected "*I was born in a country practice and destined from my earliest years for a medical career*".

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This first volume covers his upbringing in a Victorian market town; it paints a charming portrait of family life, his friends, hobbies, reading, holidays on his cousin's farm, summer days fishing and boating and in the winter, skating on the Fens. **[Available locally and via Amazon]**

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

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

What sort of people were the enumerators of past censuses.

What did your enumerator ancestor do in their everyday life—teacher, vicar, local guardian, farmer, shopkeeper, tradesman, craftsman, a WOMAN ???

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 recent editions are articles on the David Parr House and Chatteris Dock Station.

We've been granted permission to publicise the content 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.**

As a taster, these are the latest topics :

... in Feb edition :

St Valentine's Day and
other February Feasts and Custom
Who was St V?; Candlemas; Pancakes; Leap Year
TALK MARCH 2021: Mr Bartlett Begs to Inform
The Cromwell Museum
Ghost Words: Reading the Past -
Launches Monday 1 March 2021
Exhibition at the University Library Cambridge
The Cromwell Museum
Americans in Cambridge
Zooming into the history of Peterborough Cathedral
What do we know about the Anglo-Saxons in East

Anglia and Chatteris ?

By Ian Mason, Curator, Chatteris Museum

INTRODUCTION

PRECHRISTIAN BURIAL AREAS

WHO COULD THESE GRAVE GOODS HAVE BELONGED TO?

PAGAN BURIALS AND GLASS 'CLAW BEAKERS'

THE STATUS OF THE SWORD IN ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

WHY DID THEY COME TO CHATTERIS ?

WHO WERE THE RULERS?

WHO WERE THEIR GODS ?

CHRISTIANITY IN CHATTERIS

LANGUAGE AND WRITTEN RECORDS

CAS Talk 'History of Fairgrounds and Showmen'

Fruit Farming in the Cam Valley

Local History at the Whipple Museum

MY CAMBRIDGE CONNECTIONS

BY RICHARD HODGE

Hopefully, my somewhat convoluted tale will not bore you too much, but I will tell it anyway.

Little did I know that when I started out on this family finding quest, that I had any connection at all to Cambridge. I have never lived in or near Cambridge, nor was I born there. To the best of my knowledge, I have never visited either.

For the first 31 years of my life, I knew that my name was Richard Hodge, I was born in 1943, what date my birthday was and that I was a boy. I had never been told otherwise and one didn't ask questions of parents in our household, the stock answers were either "why do you want to know?" or "it's none of your business", the latter being the most used.

I was brought up in Dorset and joined the Army in 1959. When I left in 1970, I settled in Scotland, mainly because my wife was born and bred here, and I wasn't going to argue with her. We are still living here to this day. Apart from a Passport which I was able to get using my "short" certificate, all other paperwork including that for my marriage, was handled by Dad Hodge.

It was in September of 1974 whilst I was working away from home that, when I phoned home to let my wife know I was on my way, she told me that Dad Hodge had been taken into hospital and that I had best get down to Dorset as soon as I could. A quick meal and a suitcase packed and I was off to the station to get the overnight train down to Sherborne. I arrived safely on the Saturday morning, and made my way up the hill to the then family home. Sadly, Dad Hodge died on the Sunday of that weekend.

Following the funeral and once the legal matters had been attended to, Mum Hodge called my sister and I into the dining room where she opened the old family deed box and gave us each an envelope saying "I think you should have these now". This was on the evening before I was due to travel back to Scotland. All that was written on my envelope were the words "Richard's Papers". My keen eye though, noticed a name on my sister's envelope which was later to tell me that we were not blood related although we, as I now know, had been born about 10 miles (and 2 years) apart. I took my papers up to my bedroom and popped them into my suitcase, not even bothering to read them as I didn't think they were that important. It

wasn't until I got home and took them out and read them that I realised how wrong my previous assumptions had been. It took years of "investigation" once the internet was available and easier to use, to get to the stage I am now at with my history.

So, what did all of this paperwork tell me that I didn't already know? Firstly, that my birth name was McKinstry, not Hodge, and I had been born in Norwich (the former David Rice Hospital, to be precise). Secondly, that I had been officially adopted through Woolwich Crown Court in September of 1944. In addition to this were a number of letters to my adopting parents from my foster mother, with numerous details of my biological parents.

Who were they then?

Father, not uncommonly in East Anglia at the time, was an American Air Force man whose mother lived in Louisiana, USA. My mother was a married but separated woman who, it seems, may have been working with the USAAF when I was conceived, probably when father was stationed at Alconbury. I had actually been fostered by a couple in Boxford, Suffolk from the age of 10 days for about a year prior to adoption. Incidentally, the same couple adopted a girl, just a year older than me, who I now know to be my biological cousin whose origins were similar to mine.

This then, should bring me to my Cambridge connection, but before we get there I should mention that my own mum was actually born in Llangynidr, Wales, and my aunt, her older sister, after the hurriedly arranged marriage of her parents, in Hove, Sussex.

Now to those connections. My mother was one Gwladys Winifred McKinstry (nee Kirbyshire) and my aunt was Rosa Newman (also nee Kirbyshire). They were the daughters of Samuel Edward Kirbyshire of Cambridge, born in 1871 and Alice Mary Ann Kirbyshire (nee Rayner) who was born in 1890 in Stowupland.

I shall try and concentrate on Grandpa Samuel's side of the family for the time being. As I have mentioned, he was born in Cambridge, the son of Samuel Kirbyshire and his wife Louisa (nee Clifton). Grandpa Samuel was the third successive Samuel in his line but there was a Thomas who was his Great Grandfather. Grandpa Samuel, apart from a couple of comparatively minor incidents in

his youth, seems to have led a reasonably “quiet” life.

His father was a different man though. He had served in the Marines during the blockade of Cadiz. He was also known to be a man prone to violent outbursts as demonstrated in court records where he had “threatened his wife with her life” and on another occasion “assaulted a Marine during an argument over a coconut”. He had also assaulted a number of Police Officers who were trying to arrest him. He died age of 38, just a few months before Grandpa Samuel had been born. This left his widow to “soldier on” with Grandpa and his older brother Albert. Louisa did, however, re-marry, this time to a William Bell with whom she had more children. Albert, incidentally was to die in 1896 at the age of 25.

Grandpa Samuel's whereabouts from birth to death are fairly well documented with the exception of the years between 1891 and 1903. It was in 1903 that he married Charlotte Elizabeth Markham. He also joined the local Militia in 1904, serving for 4 years. His marriage to Charlotte was not to last, as she sadly died in 1906. In 1911 he was shown as living once more with Louisa and her new family in Castle Street and was still working as a Groom. When he joined the Militia he was a Groom in the employ of a Lord Gerard who appears to have been a student at Cambridge University at the time.

When we next hear of Grandpa Samuel he is marrying Alice Mary Ann Rayner in November, 1913 in Hove, Sussex when they were both working in the same Coaching Inn. He was a groom and she a cook/general servant. How or why they both ended up in Hove is an unknown and really can't even be guessed at. Following the birth of their first daughter in December, 1913 they then went to Llangynidr in Breconshire where Samuel found work as a “Boatman on the Canal”. This probably involved looking after the horses which pulled the barges. His former workplace still stands today, as does the cottage they lived in. A few years later, whilst still in Llangynidr, another daughter (my mother) was born. Both girls were schooled locally but around 1927 the family made the journey back to Cambridge, stopping briefly somewhere in Suffolk, probably Stowupland.

Samuel lived in Cambridge until his death in 1951. For a few years he had been resident in the Hostel on Willow Walk. It was from here that he was admitted to Addenbrooke's where he died. It would seem though, that he and Alice must have parted company around 1937 as there is no record of them living together after that. Alice certainly had

made court appearances in 1937 and even prior to that for various offences but there is no record of her being remanded in custody at any point. The girls, Rosa and my mum, both married quite young, at 16 and 19 respectively. My mum was actually married in Manchester to a Robert Archibald McKinstry, but things obviously didn't work out as they separated and she finally ended up in East Anglia again. Alice though, appears to have not been a very pleasant woman which could explain why they were both keen to leave home. It is interesting that a family member who lives in the USA has made mention of the fact that Samuel was a kind man who used to visit them (with sweets), and also that he used to hire out punts on the River Cam. Alice, though, has never been mentioned which may back up my remark about her not being a very nice person.

Eventually both the girls were to emigrate to the USA in the mid 1950's and re-marry. I only found out what had happened to my own mum because I was looking for some information for the cousin I mentioned at the start of this story. It was an obituary, from 2011, and staring me in the face were the names of Grandpa and Granny Kirbyshire.

I shall now get back to Grandpa Samuel's mother, Louisa (nee Clifton). It is really her Grandfather, Guylott Clifton who is another interesting character. He was born in Longstanton but must have settled in Fulbourn which is where the next part of this narrative is focussed on. He was no “angel” but, apart from “absconding and leaving his wife and children chargeable to the Parish” there wasn't much else going against him that I can find. The main reason for him getting a mention though is that he was one of a number of Fulbourn residents who, in 1836, signed a petition to overturn a Court Ruling of 7 years “Transportation” imposed on two local girls, Harriett Patten and her sister, Susan King for theft from their employer. They were “pardoned” by His Majesty and, as a result, were not transported but spent some time in prison in Millbank Penitentiary. It is on record that Harriett was Pardoned and released in 1837 following the death of King William IV when he was succeeded by his niece, Victoria.

The petition though, prompted me to look into another of the names on it. Ann Wright was the particular lady in question. She was a “farmer” in Fulbourn. More interestingly, she was the great grandmother of my Foster Mother who was actually born in Fulbourn. Interestingly, although we know that Susan King was staying with her sister Harriett in 1841, we have found no record of a Pardon for her or even a release date.

One other member of the Kirbyshire family I should also mention was Grandpa Samuel's uncle, a certain Edward Kirbyshire who lived for most of his married life in Gwydir Street and is buried in the Mill Road Cemetery. He was notable for all of the right reasons and spent many years as a quite prominent member of the Cambridge Police Force, rising to the rank of Inspector. He died in 1924 whilst still living on Gwydir Street.

Although there are other family connections, I would like to close with one last one. Before my mother emigrated, she was living on Lensfield Road. At one of its junctions sits the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs. The connection is a little more recent in that the aunt of my daughter-in-law was, until quite recently, a Lay Worker attached to the Church and was known to be a Prison Visitor and Chaplain.

My final Cambridge connections, for now anyway, are Stephen Payne Clifton and his Father-in-Law, John Henry Howard who were both shown in 1841 as teachers at Barrington School.

That then, is as much as I can write without turning it into a book—other than the fact that I am in touch with relatives of my bio mum and dad on the other side of the “Pond”, and have even recently met one of my half sisters on my dad's side.

That is the rewarding side of family history. There are downsides as well, but I won't go into them.

Thanks for reading.

Richard Hodge
(Member No: 5685)

THE JOURNAL ... A NEW LOOK ... AN UPDATE A RE-VAMP

This will be the last issue of the journal in the current A4 print format—but this isn't just a decision taken lightly or one of change for the sake of change. It has been prompted by a desire to find a way of managing rising costs. Recent further increases in postal rates mean that it now costs more to post the journal than it does to print it.

We considered four options :

- 1) To reducing the number of issues a year to three and having more pages in each issue for the same postal rate
- 2) To increase membership fees
- 3) To offer an e-journal only
- 4) To change to a smaller format which would fall into a lower postal rate band

We have gone with option #4.

It does however, mean that we will be limited to a maximum of 52-pages per issue, and to use the fitting of a 'quart into a pint pot' analogy, the smaller A5 format will not accommodate the same amount of content as a 44-page A4. To enable the range and variety of “feature” content to be maintained, a supplementary Members' Research Directory of county information is to be produced to complement the journal, and updated annually. We hope to have the Directory ready over the summer.

ACQUIRED FOR THE ARCHIVES : Wisbech Indentures

All thanks once again to Dave E for monitoring document sales on e-Bay for items relating to the county. While some items obviously attract a great interest and go for huge sums to collectors, others of historical value can sometimes be acquired for a modest price and added to the county archival collection.

With guidance and advice from the Archives staff, we recently bid successfully for the following indentures :

William Cuthbert Clarke, son of Henry Clarke of Wisbech, coal seller, apprenticed to William Poppleton of Wisbech, sail maker, for seven years. Signed 17/3/1855

[NOTE: only three sail makers in 1861 Census for Cambs., including William Poppleton and his father]

Martin Marshall, son of George Marshall of Wisbech, superintendent of the Gas Works, apprenticed to Thomas Brown and James Barrow, of Wisbech, drapers, for five years. Signed 19/5/1842

[NOTE: the Marshall family are at Sutton Rd, Wisbech St Peter, 1841, but listed as “N” not born in county]

Zoom Talks from The Society of Genealogists

The SoG continues to Zoom as a means of delivering 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 & try out the NEW BOOKING SYSTEM :

<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)



FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
podcasts on a variety of topics
www.familyhistoryfederation.com

‘LOST COUSINS’ NEWSLETTER

subscribe to the monthly newsletter compiled by Peter Calver of ‘Lost Cousins’

to keep really up-to-date with news and views from the wider genealogical world

this is the newsletter to follow—keep abreast of announcements of events,

key records, resources, legislative changes, opinions, etc etc

~~ visit the website and sign up ~~

<https://www.lostcousins.com>

two episodes of a programme entitled WARTIME BRITAIN

were screened on Channel 5 in mid-Feb

“Keep Calm & Carry On”
&

“Make Do & Mend”

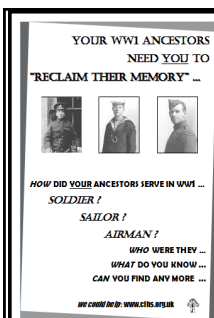
catch them both on <http://www.my5.tv/>



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**

~ ~ ~

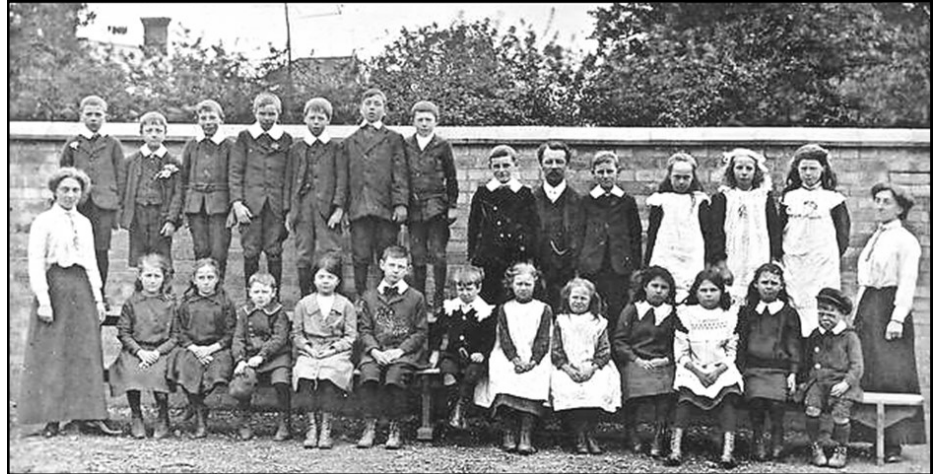
**** Hunts journals 1984-2019 **
have now been added**

BOWERS & LE PLA FAMILY PHOTOS (OUTWELL/UPWELL AREA) *RECEIVED FROM KATE LILLIE*

I have the following photos which may be of interest to others, and I would be grateful for more details if anyone has information.

1. Clara Le Pla (1885-1952) is on the left in the first picture. Her sister Fanny Ethel Le Pla (1882-1925) was my great grandfather, John Bowers' (1877-1950) second wife. After Fanny's death, Clara was housekeeper to John Bowers.

I wonder if it is possible to identify the school setting.



2. The same school and similar time period. Fifth from the right seated is Emily Watson (1900-?) who was "taken in" by the Le Pla family but never formally adopted. From Census records it shows that she was born in around 1900 and the only evidence I can find is an Irish birth. Can anyone add further information?

3. This photo shows Clara Le Pla centre back with other teaching staff.

Is anyone able to identify other staff members or the school?

Since Kate's contribution was received, some independent investigations show the Le Pla family to be from Outwell. In 1911, Fanny and Clara, aged 28 and 25 respectively, are there with their widowed father and the "adopted" Emily Watson; both



Fanny and Clara are described as “assistant teachers”. It would seem reasonable to suppose that the school in the photos is at Outwell, seeing as they are both living there and unlikely to be teachers elsewhere. It could be speculated that Fanny is one of the other ladies with Clara in **Photo #3**. A search on “occupations” in the 1911 census for the Outwell area turns up a number of others described as teacher/schoolmistress/etc, including a couple called Allsop (Frederick 39, b.Derbys and Alice 34, b.Yorks) described jointly as head teachers, and living at The School House, Outwell, with their four locally-born children. Frederick and Alice could very well be the slightly older seated couple in the photo ?? It might be possible to make educated guesses about the others in the photo as searches also pick up a couple of other young women in the area, described similarly as “assistant teachers”.

4. The fourth photo I believe is Thomas Wayman Bowers (1844-1910) with his second wife seated Sarah Day (1866-1914) and their children.

One of the older girls being Annie Maria Bowers (1882-1969), but I wonder if anyone can confirm this?

Re this family group, the 1901 census has Thomas Wayman Bowers at Upwell with his second wife Sarah Day, and lists several children with them on the day. Some of the children could well fit those depicted in the photo : the 2 little boys at the front appear very similar in size, and as Charles and Hubert are just a year different in age, these lads could well be they (and aged about 2 or 3 in the photo), and perhaps the pictured babe-in-arms is Edith G in the census. All this would perhaps date the photo to about late1897/early-1898 ?? (It was then noted there's an Edith Grace Bowers birth registered in June Qtr 1897 Wisbech District; mother Day). You could extrapolate on all the other children in the family and try to decide which of their other children is not present in the photo, and, speculate whether the seated girl could be Annie. A later note from Kate shows that she had come to similar conclusions.



Bowers Family : 1901 Census, Upwell

Thomas W.	head	56	
Sarah	wife	35	
Anne Maria	dau	19	b.c1882
Florence M	dau	11	b.c1890
Dorothy	dau	9	b.c1892
Charles P	son	7	b.c1894
Hubert	son	6	b.c1896
Edith G	dau	3	b.c1898
James H Day	stepson	15	



5. This photo shows my grandfather John Tagg Bowers (1901–1967) as best man on the left, but whose wedding and where?

*This photo, you may recall, featured on the cover of the Spring 2021 Journal—
—has anyone recognised the event or location ??*

6. This photo is the wedding of Walter Means and Annie Bowers 1910 at Holmleigh Upwell—home of Stan Jarvis

(Kate writes that she believes this to be the 4th Qrt 1910, and that Holmleigh was on Small Lode)

Please see the front cover for a larger image



Back row left to right

Charles Percy Bowers 1893 - 1981 (married Dora Mary Barrett 1889 - 1971)

Rose Means (Gray 1873 - 1918) and husband Frederick Means (Frederick was the groom's brother 1873 - 1957)

Lisa Bowers *

Thomas Bowers *

Catherine Seayers Chapman - (1882 no relative but shows on the 1891 Census as a direct neighbour of Annie Bowers living at Walnut House, Small Lode)

Hugh Bowers - (Thomas Hubert Bowers 1894 - 1983 married Edith Annie Tott 1901 - 1982)

Front Row left to right

Elizabeth Means (Sizer 1845 - 1932 - groom's mother)

Florence Bowers (1889 - 1971 married Wilby Jarvis - same name as location, but I can not find a Stan Jarvis connection. In the 1911 Census, Wilby is living with parents Willby W Jarvis and Eliza and Pinfold House, Upwell. Wilby was captured at Arras on April 23 1917 and was a prisoner of war)

Walter Means (1882 - 1941)

Annie Bowers (Ann Maria Bowers 1881 - 1968 daughter of Thomas Wayman Bowers 1844 - 1910 and Ann Maria Bennett 1844 - 1881 who had 6 children. Annie was bought up by her step mother Sarah Day 1866 - 1914 who had a further 6 children. Thomas and Sarah were cousins, their mothers were sisters)

Edith Bowers (standing) (Edith Grace Bowers 1897 - 1935)

Dorothy Bowers (Dorothy Agnes Bowes 1892 - 1983 married Reginald Lee 1889 - 1956)

Sarah Bowers - nee Day (1866 - 1914 second wife of Thomas Wayman Bowers 1844 - 1910) Sarah had an illegitimate son Thomas Henry Day born 1886. In her Will she writes that he is currently residing in Canada. We know through family stories that Charles and Thomas were also in Canada pre WW1 but they returned when their mother got ill, there is no mention of whether Thomas Henry also returned and it has not been easy to find a definitive trail - there is a James Henry Day who died in 1936 but I have no idea if this is the right relative)

* these two do not match up with family records—Annie had 5 full blood siblings and 6 half blood siblings but names and ages do not correlate. The nearest I can match is George William Bowers 1869-1913 which would make him around 44 in the photo. He was married to Eliza All Holman 1869-1949. Could Eliza be Lisa?

I would be grateful for any help with identification or further information on the settings.

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 are 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**

WILLIAM HENRY PLOWMAN OF WHITTLESEY

BY JAN WILSON

William Henry Plowman was born in Bristol on 26th April 1819. He married my ancestor Hannah Roberts at St. Mary's Church, Whittlesey on 26th May 1847. Hannah was born 17th August 1824 in Whittlesey and is the niece of my 3 x great grandmother, Elizabeth Faulkner (nee Dossey). On his marriage certificate William gives his occupation as railway labourer (having come to Whittlesey to work on the Great Eastern Railway).

In 1851, the couple are living in Pilot Street, King's Lynn, where William is described as an excavator.

The couple decide to move to southern Australia due to the greater opportunities to be found in the gold mining industries. They arrive in New South Wales in February 1857, having travelled on the vessel Hindostan as assisted immigrant passengers. It is noted on records that William can read and write, Hannah cannot.

They settle in the town of Major's Creek, county of St. Vincent, New South Wales.

The first European settler in this area was Major William Sandys Elrington, a professional soldier. The area was a farming community raising cattle, horses, wheat, dairy product and vegetables. When gold was discovered in 1851, a shanty town sprang up and was named Major's Creek after him. By late 1851 there were approx. 2,000 miners in the area mostly living in tents scattered around the countryside. Major's Creek was the largest goldmine, but alluvial gold (i.e. panned from creeks) ran out in 1856, and by 1866, the town only had 200 residents.

In 1869 gold in the area was reef mined (dug out in seams in underlying quartz rock) and by 1871 the town comprised of a post office, chemist, 24 stores and 4 hotels. In the 1860's a private school and 3 churches had been operating out of tents; these were to be replaced by permanent structures later. Inhabitants of the town enjoyed horse racing, picnics, dances, sports contests, concerts, teas and fetes.

Gold attracted thieves and bushrangers who preyed on the gold convoys. In the early days the town was lawless, life was tough with brawls and drunkenness occurring regularly.

The reef was harder to mine and most of the goldminers of this time worked for larger

companies who provided finances and equipment. The ore had to be crushed in stamping batteries and then treated to release the gold. William Henry Plowman, an excavator from England, thrived and became successful in this gold mining community.

On 15 December 1876 William, now a store keeper at Major's Creek, applies for a licence to keep and sell explosives; he is successful, and this entitled him to sell explosives for 12 months.

In later life, around 1896, William and Hannah returned to England to live in Whittlesey.

William gave the children of the chapels in Whittlesey a mug each. He had seen children being given mugs for special occasions such as jubilees and coronations, but being made of china they broke. He gifted the children with pewter mugs inscribed "Mr & Mrs Plowman's Gift". Unfortunately, although they didn't break, they became too hot to hold when filled with a hot brew. Nice thought though William...



Hannah died on 19th July 1905, and Henry died a year later on 15th July 1906. The couple had no children.

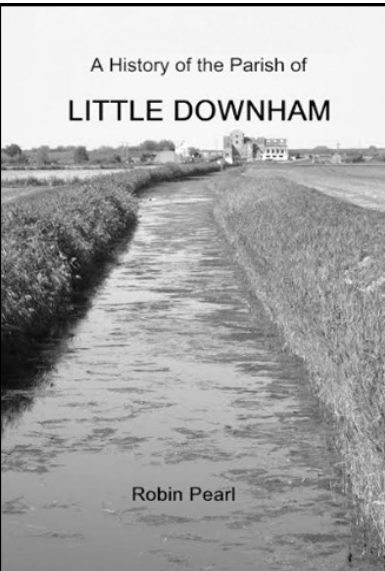
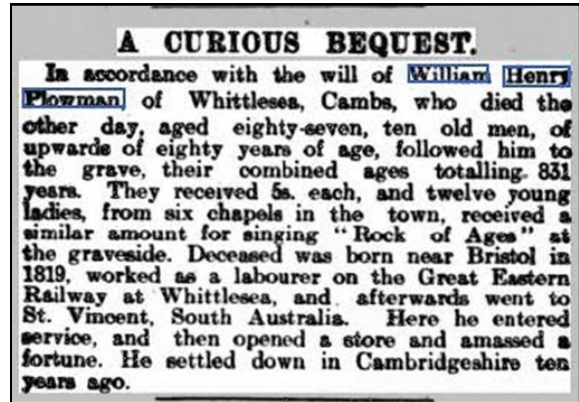
In his will he asked that "ten elderly men of 80 years and upwards" should follow him to his grave, which they did; their combined ages totalled 831 years. Twelve young women from six chapels in Whittlesey were asked to sing "Rock of Ages" at



his graveside. The old men and young women were rewarded with the sum of 5s each.

William Henry Plowman of Clifton House, Station Road, Whittlesey left £3243. 0s. 7d in his will to three of his friends from Whittlesey, equivalent to £386,862 in today's currency.

Incidentally, the gold rush in Major's Creek, Australia was all but over by 1914. The last reef was completely closed by World War 2.



A HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF LITTLE DOWNHAM by Robin Pearl

This book emerged from an online oral history project. Local people recorded their memories of the village and supplied the author with documents and pictures which recorded the histories of their houses and families.

Here, are recorded the changes that have taken place primarily over the past two hundred years, much of it within living memory. These have been elaborated with stories from the preceding generations as remembered by those that heard them, and supplemented by items of interest gleaned from old newspapers and records from local archives. This mainly charts the evolution of the parish from a time when there were shops for all the everyday needs, and farmyards that opened up onto the main Street in the middle of the village. People worked on the farms or in local businesses, there was a railway station, a village policeman and everyone knew everyone else. It concentrates on the fabric of the parish, the buildings and organisations, and passes lightly over the lives of the people.

The parish of Little Downham includes Little Downham village, Pymoor, Oxloode, Hundred Foot Bank. The Drovers, the Hythe, and general fenland. Anyone with family from the parish or who owns a property in the village will find a point of interest in this book.

Available directly from the author for £10. Please email: robinpearl@hotmail.com for further details.



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>

MEETINGS REPORTS

Spring meetings in 2021 saw the Society continue to facilitate members' meetings with Zoom technology, and owing to on-going advice and restrictions this format will continue to be used for the foreseeable future. If you haven't yet ventured into Zoom, please do consider giving it a go—and join us. As well as “locals”, we've welcomed members from all across the UK and as well as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the USA and Finland—non of whom would otherwise have been able to join in society activities (if you haven't tried Zoom as yet, see p. 31 for some guidance notes)

BACKSTORY : BMDs & INDEXES

BY CAZ

(CAMBRIDGE : FEBRUARY)

As alluded to in the “Backstory : Introduction” talk in January, the idea behind this season's topics is to raise awareness of not just “seeing” the content of a record at face value, but in “reading” between the lines. Backstory is all about looking beyond the pure facts, and considering the clues and signposts which can lurk both in the record itself and in the circumstances/context of the event. Whether closer scrutiny identifies additional facts or the circumstances/context of an event reveal the broader family and historical setting—it can only add to the accumulated information. “Backstory” is the recounting of facts, interwoven with the telling of interpretations and deductions derived from circumstances and context.

The more facts and information which can be gathered on a person, the better—the larger the pool from which to compile “backstory”. It follows,

therefore, that at least every key record across a person's life-time should be sought out as any one of them might have some otherwise unique fact, detail or clue.

BMD Indexes are often seen only in terms as a means to an end for obtaining certificate references—the indexes are, however, a much under-used resource in their own right. The flexibility of online search systems enable much sifting and sorting to help narrow down lists of “candidates”, especially when used alongside other types of record, and can undoubtedly cut down on the number of certificates we need to purchase.

Certificates themselves can hold a variety of unexpected or hidden clues : such as evidence of earlier marriages, unknown relatives as witnesses or informants, missing father's names suggesting illegitimacy. The location and/or timing of a birth or marriage or death event can also add a whole new dimension, and so, be of great interest for the compiling and telling of the “backstory” of both a person and their family.

BACKSTORY : CENSUS RETURNS

BY CAZ

(CAMBRIDGE : MARCH)

After BMDs and BMD Indexes, census returns could perhaps be thought of as the most significant and versatile set of records available to researchers of the period covered.

Census records have many facets, and can contribute to our family history from a variety of perspectives and scales. All aspects of the records may well reveal something which adds to the “backstory” of both the individual and their family. Central to the effective use of censuses in helping to deduce backstory is to recognise the idea of censuses being recordings of “households”, and not just “families”.

Looking at the facts about an individual across census records at “face value” is perhaps where some researchers stop—“John Smith, unm, 26, carpenter, b.Histon” to “John Smith, mar, 36, joiner, b.Histon” etc, but, the individual person can easily become detached/separated from the context of their family and household as enumerated.

To effectively consider “backstory”, we need to be looking at the “bigger picture” around the person, their family, the circumstances of the event being recorded, and, at wider history/society—and much can be gleaned from censuses.

The illustrated talk offered a variety of ideas to help interpret the range of recorded facts about individuals in terms of the person's life-course, their family, the circumstances, and wider history/society. A person's location and address can tell much about their lot in life and social standing (villa, slum, lodgings, own home); the other people present (are they family, relatives, employees, visitors, lodgers, etc); the person's own role in the household (the householder and family; a live-in relative, visitor, employee, servant; a lodger or boarder; the inmate of an institution); the person's occupation again strongly suggests their place in life (butcher, baker, candlestick maker; ag lab or servant, professional or “of means”; for children : errand boy, bird-scarer or “pupil”; and for women : laundress, dressmaker, teacher, housekeeper, or more commonly “[...blank..]” implying a housewife.

All can contribute to compiling/deducing backstory.

CONSERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVE

BY SUE GIBBONS
(HUNTINGDON : JANUARY)

Sue Gibbons was Librarian at the Society of Genealogists for almost twenty years, and she was made a Fellow of the Society in recognition of her services. In his introduction David Copsey paid tribute to the valuable advice she had given him on his visits to the Society.

Sue began by giving us general guidance on caring for our own collections. The 'enemies' are extremes of temperature and humidity, dirt, dust and insects, direct sunlight and strong artificial light, folds and creases in fabric and paper, chemicals in cleaning solutions or storage media, and rust and acid from human skin and unsealed wood. In addition to avoiding these, good practice includes keeping large documents and fabrics flat or rolled and wrapping fabrics and other artefacts in acid free tissue paper. Plastic envelopes, bags or boxes should be avoided.

She dealt with the different types of archival material in turn: paper, books, photographs, etchings and paintings, textiles, objects and digital media. Throughout she gave well-illustrated, highly practical advice on day-to-day care. Specialist firms such as Conservation by Design, Conservation Resources, Preservation Equipment, Secol and Solander supply a range of helpful storage and cleaning products. Before Sue's talk, how many of us had heard of a vulcanised rubber smoke sponge? This is used for cleaning paper. As regards storage of photographs, for individual ones she recommended clear, pocketed polyester pages instead of plastic. We should use traditional albums of archival standard with photo corners, or archival storage boxes for photos, negatives and glass plates. To supplement her own advice, she referred us to national organisations. The British Library produce conservation guides and, in normal times, run bookable conservation studio tours for which a fee is charged. As well as a more general guide on caring for your own records, The National Archives produce one on caring for photographs, as does the Institute of Conservation. Both these organisations also produce guides to caring for art works on paper.

Oil paintings on canvas and wood, textiles, and antique dolls in particular need to be handled carefully, only when necessary, with clean or cotton gloved hands. Cleaning, repair and reframing of the former should only be undertaken by professionals. Sue gave clear advice on caring for and cleaning textiles, jewellery and soft toys,

stressing gentleness. She advocated mild, liquid soap in tepid water for the former, (never use a washing machine!) and use of a soft brush for the latter. Regular careful cleaning with a small vacuum removes dust and moth eggs from textiles. In addition to drying, splitting, or growing mould due to extremes of temperature and humidity, furniture and wooden objects can be attacked by woodworm. So keep a careful watch and consult a conservator if you find a live infestation. Never use a dishwasher when cleaning ceramics, and don't hang cups by their handles. For extra advice on caring for and cleaning these and other artefacts she recommended the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Institute of Conservation.

To protect research stored in digital form, Sue advised us firstly to take steps to ensure our data isn't corrupted. To future-proof our data, we should save as GEDCOM, ASC11 or RTF rather than a commercial programme, and include images as well as text but save them in a generic format like uncompressed TIFF which can be read in years ahead. (Each time a JPG image is edited and saved it degrades slightly). Digital media should be backed up regularly, keeping the last 3 versions, and we should keep copies of backups at different locations such as on the cloud for free, on a USB memory stick, or with a friend. She suggested other ways in which we can preserve our family history such as writing it up, creating a website or publishing an e-book.

All too often we fail to take into account what will happen to our research after we die. Sue's final piece of down to earth advice was to put it in our will. We should convey copyright and consider donating to, e. g., a one-name study, or a digital copy to the Latter Day Saints, or using the SOG will codicil pro forma to donate our research to the Society. Meanwhile, it is vital to keep house and house contents secure and ensure our insurance is up to date and adequate.

I found Sue's talk to be very informative, wide ranging and practical. She gave thoughtful, helpful answers to questions after the talk. Her advice has prompted me to review the ways in which I store my records.

Reported by Jane Beeley

CAMBRIDGE TIMES : 6 Sept 1889

North Witchford Union

A removal order was received from Boston Union for Mary Ann Bedford on the grounds that her place of settlement is at Benwick

WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

BY JACKIE DEPELLE
(HUNTINGDON : MARCH)

Jackie is a very experienced genealogist and a well-known speaker on the subject of writing your family history, but even she admits how hard she finds it to write up her discoveries in an interesting and creative way. This was a surprise given her enjoyable and informative Zoom presentation to the 30 participants including representatives from Finland and the USA.

I think we all agree that you should publish your history for posterity but taking that first step seems to be a common problem for those, like me, who are not natural story-tellers, but by the end of the talk I feel we were all energised to start writing that best-seller.

Jackie set out a number of fundamental steps:

- Complete a pedigree chart and information sheets with basic facts. Expand individual record sheets to show personal timelines.
- Keep a record of the source of the original documents not just the website.
- Give context to the story by including local history, national and international events.
- Add in photographs and always include names and dates and how they relate to the story
- Draw the family tree.

Then make it more interesting:

- Use maps to show location of family members – where they lived and worked. Did the family move around – why? What was travel like?

- Add charts to show the distribution of jobs your family was involved in, the population of their villages/towns. Explain why changes occurred.
- Always ask yourself what it must have felt like being that person in the place they lived or worked. What were the conditions like?
- Give context to every record used, eg. do not just give facts from the 1939 Register, explain what it was held. Use evocative words; be creative.

Then bring it all together in a narrative with an introduction that defines why you are writing this and who is it for, and how to publish it:

- You could write a short story about the family name, an interesting individual, or even a holiday and send it to a society journal.
- Make a scrapbook presentation.
- Illustrated family tree for a personal present to a family member.
- Website, blog, or self-publish.

Jackie explained the many mediums available and helpful instruction books on the subject but whatever means are employed, always be aware of copyright issues.

There were only a few questions at the end of the presentation because Jackie had covered almost every aspect of the subject that one could imagine, or maybe we were all thinking about the fantastic family stories we were about to commit to paper!

The last words of encouragement – *“start small but make that start – look at the charts and write the first paragraph — then keep going”*

Reported by John Bownass

RootsTech Connect 2021

some personal observations

Over a long weekend at the end of February, the **RootsTech Connect 2021** virtual conference was held. Although widely advertised in advance in the genealogical press, many of us appear to have missed its existence completely, or only picked up on it at the last minute. That's a pity, because the opportunity to attend a genealogical extravaganza was missed—all virtually, of course—and all for free, courtesy of FamilySearch and the other sponsors. All is not lost, however, because many of the talks were pre-recorded and are to be available to view for sometime to come after the event. RootsTech Connect is another example of how the adoption of technology is enabling our participation in events we would never have accessed otherwise. However, despite all the opportunities which can be derived from the use of Zoom etc, such as opening up access to anyone anywhere, is there however, perhaps a downside? By having access

to recordings after-the-fact, it does rather remove the necessity of attending the event itself. Perhaps an attitude of “I'll do it later” emerges, but we never get around to it and this just what has happen to me over RootsTech Connect—after a month, I still haven't watched many of the talks I originally intended to look at. Something for idle moments ...

The format was similar to that of other virtual events : a panel of experts, an exhibition hall, and the lecture theatre. There was a whopping 600+ talks to choose on a huge range of topics (many on DNA, heritage, and from the stance of American researchers looking into their world-wide origins—a number of topics appeared to be somewhat similar, though from different perspectives). Of the 60+ exhibitors, again the majority were US orientated, but there were a handful of British organisations represented (incl SoG, FIBIS, IGHS, WDYTIA Magazine, Essex Soc for FH). It will definitely be an event to follow again—if there is a “next time”.

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021>

HUMOUR IN GENEALOGY

BY CHRISTOPHER BROOM
(HUNTINGDON : FEBRUARY)

Christopher, who lives in East Suffolk, presented what he says is his favourite talk to the 35 or so participants (including one in San Antonio, Texas) via zoom, which must have made it more difficult for him as he didn't get the immediate feedback of laughter from his audience to the many jokes and humorous extracts he presented. But at the end of the talk when many observations and questions followed, it was clear that there is indeed much humour in genealogy.

His interest in genealogy was spurred on by his father who was clearly a strong influence and shared the same sense of humour, which led to Christopher keeping notes of the funny things he found in his record searches. The notes of the last ten years now provide the basis of this presentation.

On a serious note, Christopher emphasised throughout the importance of scrutinising the original documents wherever possible, not just the summary or search websites, as so many mistakes are made in translation, and information omitted in the websites.

Christopher managed to find humorous examples in many documents commonly searched by genealogists, including parish registers, BMD, monumental inscriptions, national censuses, wills, newspapers, court records, diaries and journals to name a few.

With the help of clips of well-known British comedians (at least they are well-known to a

certain age!) he made us laugh with such examples as:

- In a census Robert Goodman's occupation was "international playboy" whereas his son was a "ponce". The whole page was filled with bizarre comments.
- Another census described a one year old child as "the boss" and a 15 year old's occupation as "does as she pleases".
- In 1911 there was a Peter Tabby, shown as "servant and mouser".
- In 1847 the Aberdeen Asylum gave one reason for admission as "sedentary life – abuse of tea".
- Names are a rich vein of humour; examples of real people: Morris Dancer, Gladys Friday, Easter Bunny and Minnie Skirt (in 1777).
- Transcription errors include Towel dealer (instead of Fowl dealer), Credit scorer (instead of crow scarer) and Lovers Lane instead of Sierra Leone.
- On an 1894 passenger list the destination was given as Mars; it was actually Marseilles.

Christopher brought a very funny and stimulating presentation to a close by re-emphasising the serious messages:

- Check the original documents.
- Get to know and understand the wealth of documents around us.
- Legacy – preserve your own history for your descendants even if it is only a couple of pages about your life.

There followed a lively discussion with Christopher with many of the participants joining in. A very amusing and informative evening.

Reported by John Bownass

A-Z OF CAMBRIDGE
WITH SARAH DOIG
(CAMBRIDGE : FEBRUARY)

With the subtitle "*People, Places, History*", Sarah's illustrated talk provided a tantalizing insight into the topics in her book of the same title. Sarah had selected a few choice pieces to represent the themes followed in the book—the aim of which is to provide an alternative local guide to the town as a place of 'home' and 'work' and 'leisure', and not overshadowed by the University. A number of, as Sarah puts it, "quirky" themes to catch the imagination and dip into, run alphabetically through the pages. Themes such as :

A for apples and of course, Isaac Newton. We looked at apple trees at Trinity College and in the Botanical Gardens which are "descendants" of the tree under which Newton sat, back home at Woolsthorpe Manor; and at the famous Mathematical Bridge, attributed to Newton but, in fact, built some two decades after his death.

B for books and the "old" library at Trinity Hall, still in its original 16th century building and aligned east/west to allow maximum light in through the windows; and the very industrial-looking University Library, no wonder, as it was designed by the same architect as Battersea Power Station.

G for games—from bull and bear baiting, to the origins of the rules of modern football which began on Parkers Piece.

R for rodents and how both the Black Death and the Great Plague affected the town; and the colourful character Snowy Farr, who locals will recall collecting for charity in the market place, with mice running around the brim of his hat.

These are just flavours of but a few of the many curiosities covered by the book. A lovely guide to many many of the "well I never knew that" aspects of Cambridge's history. With over 100 colour photos, the book is well worth having. Available through Sarah's website, at £14.99

sarah.doig@ancestral-heritage.co.uk

FAMILY HISTORY : WHY IT MATTERS*BY CHRISTOPHER BROOM
(RAMSEY : FEBRUARY)*

Chris began his talk by saying that he started research in 2010 when his father wanted to find out more about his own background. He now runs a family history research business: the work he started was a catalyst to a future career. He showed a video of key events over the last century: the final screenshot emphasised that we are all unique. Chance encounters included his ancestor who was wounded in the war meeting and being nursed by his future wife after a shell exploded in his tent. If the shell had been a short distance away, he would not have been hurt, or, in the other direction, he would have been killed.

Our own lives impact on others, as does family history research. Who Do You Think You Are often

shows how people's self esteem has risen, as awareness of their family background is life affirming, giving them a new purpose and meaning. Research contributes to health and wellbeing, encouraging mental agility, and there is evidence that children who link with their wider family are more able to handle the challenges of lockdown.

Chris encouraged us all to capture, share and pass on the knowledge we have; our unique perspective will be lost if we do nothing. How often have we thought, "*I wish I'd asked my parent / grandparent / relative about that?*" We can find out more by using the 20 questions approach with our own family members. Questions from those taking part showed that many were enthused to take a more active approach, and some had already started documenting their own lives.

Reported by David Copsey

A DIRTY HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGE*BY ALAN DENNEY
(CAMBRIDGE : MARCH)*

A long-standing interest in industrial history and the evolution of public-health related technologies lay behind Alan's fascinating illustrated tour through the grubbier side of Cambridge's history. Alan opened with the popular image being one of an historic centre of learning and a prosperous neat market town, and not one of industry. But, industry there was, in for example, the numerous iron foundries located within the town's bounds. Also, in common with most every growing town, rubbish, waste disposal and water supply became a problem and local legislation and individuals' initiatives sought to establish improvements. Parts of town benefitted from a managed supply of clean water from the 13thC, but waste water and rubbish had to wait considerably longer.

We were taken on a virtual tour around the remnants of the riverside Victorian sewerage pumping station which was ingeniously powered by a refuse destructor plant. Sewerage was pumped to the new "farm" at Milton where it was treated and used as fertilizer. A far cry from rubbish being dumped in any convenient hole and all waste water from houses, industry and privies ending up in the river and also contaminated drinking water wells.

Cambridge has long been able to benefit from numerous springs close enough to town for water to be brought in via pipes or open conduits. Alan described the engineering of a piped supply from the Madingley area as early as the 13thC, and the later construction of what is known as Hobson's Conduit from the Gogmagog Hills. By the 1880s, an additional supply was sourced from Fulbourn to meet growing demands.

See the talk's illustrations on the CHFHS website.

WHICH WEBSITE & WHY*BY JACKIE DEPELLE
(RAMSEY : MARCH)*

Jackie's inspiration for her talk came from Roots Tech 2018, and a comparison of four leading family history websites. She has developed this to produce a detailed list of reasons why people choose a particular website. These include cost; records available; accuracy; time periods; tree building tools; language; mobile friendliness; comfort.

She went through many categories of records – births, marriages, deaths; censuses; parish registers; wills; newspapers; military records highlighting the benefits and problems with each

site. A handout giving a summary of the main points of her talk is available on the members section of our website.

Examples she gave included using the UKBMD website of local register indexes which differ from the GRO indexes on FreeBMD, Ancestry and FindMyPast. For counties that have been indexed, the entry may list the church where a marriage took place including non-conformist churches. North Wales entries are particularly rich in patronymic surnames. The Ancestry card catalogue and FindMyPast all record sets show which data sets each site includes. Jackie displayed entries for both Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire including our recently available licensed victuallers. Online access has increased during lockdown, so

our Society should get an increase in income when our data is accessed.

The British Newspaper Archive is regularly updated and provides an excellent local snapshot with family names and events. National Archives wills are currently available at a reduced price, the Phillimore Atlas maps show the jurisdictions and peculiars for all parishes. The beyond 2022 project is gathering alternatives to lost records in Ireland; Scotland's People is valuable for census images, not available elsewhere. TNA research guides are

recommended. The Long Long Trail website gives details of British soldiers. Questions and comments from those taking part shared other important websites including Boer war; u-boats and shipwrecks.

Feedback comments showed how much Jackie's talk and knowledge were appreciated, and the detailed slides will have included new ideas for everyone, regardless of their level of experience.

Reported by David Copsey

DAVID ON THE AIRWAVES *BBC RADIO CAMBRIDGESHIRE* *(MARCH)*

Saturday 19 March saw the CHFHS Chair, David Copsey, being invited to appear on Radio Cambridgeshire (Louise Hlland's morning show) to coincide with 2021 Census.

David briefly discussed the 2021 census before explaining all the useful data that people interested in their family history could find from older censuses. He went on to talk about the 1841-1911 censuses being easily accessible online these days so researchers could find out details of their ancestors from home. The people living in an ancestor's household - names, ages, relations, occupations, any domestic servants (Louise butted in here to say her family were more likely to be the servants!). In addition the 1921 census will be available next year.

Filling in a census form is both a civic responsibility

to help government decision making as well as being an aid to future generations curiosity. They may benefit just as we do from the work done by the enumerators a hundred years ago.

Louise, who is currently becoming interested in her own family history, has found that some ancestors used the surname Holland and some used Hlland and wondered why?

David suggested that she and anyone else getting into family history could benefit from joining the CHFHS with its modest subscription!

The chat ended with Louise suggesting a further interview in a few weeks time.

It looks as though the programme will be available on the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire website until 17 April, so with any luck this journal will have arrived just in time. It's a 4hr show (6.00-10.00) and David was on just over half-way through (at around 8.10)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p098bqyv>

REALLY USEFUL SHOW

Sat 13 Nov 2021

*a third event from the
Family History Federation*

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

*format will be confirmed nearer the date
dependant on covid restrictions*



What's going to be on offer ... choose from a wide selection of informative talks

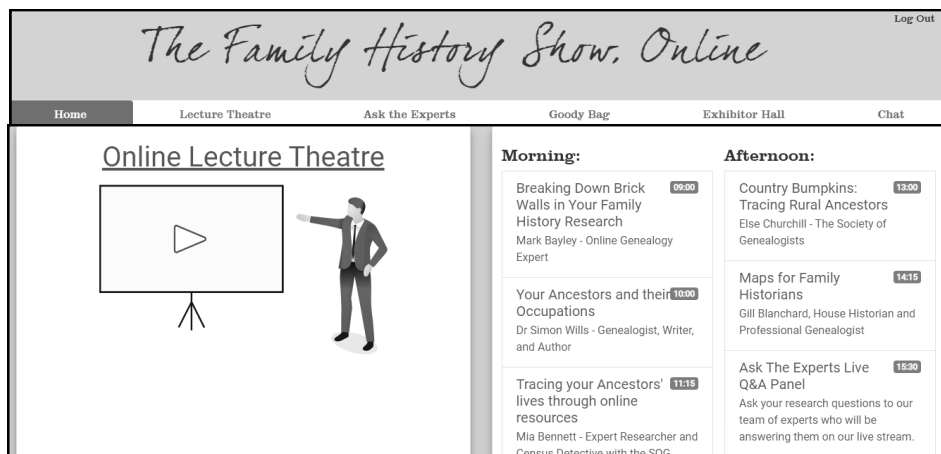
... drop in on FHSs from your area(s) of interest country-wide

... perhaps ask them a question about records of your ancestors

... visit commercial traders and other historical organisations

... book a session with an expert to try and solve that difficult problem

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



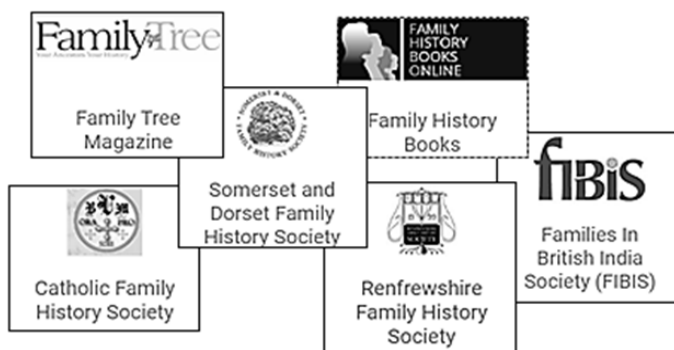
CHFHS @ THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW—ONLINE

Feb 20 saw the CHFHS events team at this online event hosted by S&N in lieu of a face-2-face show.

Despite the selection of exhibitors, the number of FHSs attending and range of talks on offer, it was perhaps rather a slow day.

Visitors to the show were able to participate in 'Ask The Experts' sessions—a pre-booking a slot with the expert(s) of their choice and submitting the query in advance (with a panel of 25 to choose from, most topics were covered).

The 'Lecture Theatre' / 'Exhibition Theatre' area offered a programme of more than a dozen talks throughout the day on a wide variety of informative and interesting topics. For future reference, the talks are to be available to ticket holders for 72 hours after the show—so, with no pressure on the day to keep to a timetable of watch-it-or-miss-it presentations, visitors could spend the whole day visiting the society/commercial booths and experts—and watch the talks at leisure the next day, with a cup of coffee and piece of cake in hand !!



The 'Exhibition Hall' linked to the individual "booths" of over 100 organisations representing family history societies, local history societies, one-name societies, informational organisations and commercials. It was very good to see over 60 FHSs represented—especially smaller groups and from Wales and Scotland—

many of whom would otherwise find it almost impossible to reach a wider audience owing to expense and practicalities. For them, and for all of us, the reach of the virtual show is limitless.

In the 'Exhibition Hall', each booth-holder had a homepage to carry information and a rolling publicity slide-show. All thanks to Mark for setting up



our page. Visitors were offered the option of video chats or emails to post research queries.

Our events team of Muriel, Mark, Caz, Joan, and Marie, manned the CHFHS booth all day in relay, and welcomed a number of visitors with their queries—via either individual "chat rooms", or the more popular email option where we were able to provide more considered replies. Enquiry topics included : local maps and trade directories; Stilton records; non-conformists in Hunts and in the Fowlmere area; family interests in Eaton Socon, Kimbolton, Leighton Bromswold, St Neots; licenced victuallers records; fen drainage; missing Ely censuses; ideas for unearthing "more about the family"; probate records; tithe maps online.

Show visitors could also take advantage of a free downloadable "goody bag" of the S&N Genealogy catalogue (with some interesting articles), and the 'Discover Your Ancestors Compendium, 2018' (12 issues of their monthly online periodical for that year, all 385 pages of useful and informative articles). If there's a "next time", and it's very probable that there will be—get your queries ready and **SEE YOU ON THE DAY !!**

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
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 ...

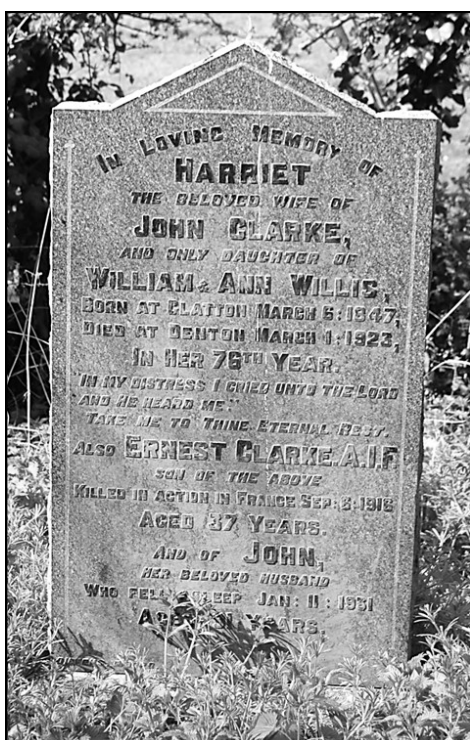
... then that can’t be a bad thing ...

SPOTLIGHT ON A DENTON HEADSTONE

BY CAROLINE KESSELER

One of the final headstones to be transcribed in Denton churchyard was that of John and Harriet CLARKE and their son Ernest. The inscription was very clear and it was especially interesting as it recorded that Ernest had fought and died in WW1:

'In loving memory of Harriet the beloved wife of John Clarke ... died ... 1923 in her 76th year ... also Ernest Clarke A.I.F son of the above. Killed in action in France Sep: 6: 1916. Aged 37 years. And of John her beloved husband who fell asleep Jan: 11: 1931 aged 91 years'



I assumed that A.I.F was an abbreviation of 'Australian Imperial Force' and that Ernest must have emigrated at some point prior to WW1. UK Census records for 1911 reveal that Ernest was still in the UK at this time and living with his family at Vine Cottage in Caldecote, Huntingdonshire. This is a neighbouring village of Denton.

A search on Google revealed a website <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/> which is concerned with a project carried out by a university in Canberra, Australia called 'The A.I.F. Project' This free database, compiled from various sources, gave details of Ernest's life and his WW1 service. It states that he arrived in Australia aged 32 years and at the time of his enlistment in the A.I.F July 5th 1915 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia, he was

working as a labourer and living in Gnowangerup W.A. He embarked aged 34 years with the 11th Battalion A.I.F (regimental number 2799) from Freemantle W.A. in October of the same year. This suggests he arrived in Australia c.1913 although these dates do not quite tally with his birth year calculated from details on the headstone. Apparently he was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme and is commemorated on the Australian national Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux a few miles east of Amiens. His Australian WW1 service records which can be found at www.ancestry.co.uk reveal that he had served in Egypt with the A.I.F before joining the British Expeditionary Force in Alexandria in June 1916 prior to sailing for France later that month. Records show that his father received Ernest's personal effects in 1917. These comprised a tobacco pouch, letter, photos and cards. John would also have received Ernest's medals (1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal). A bronze memorial plaque and paper scroll were also issued to the family together with a pamphlet entitled 'Where The Australians Rest'.

While I was using the Ancestry website I thought I would see if anyone had placed a family tree online for this particular CLARKE family. I hit the jackpot! Not only did I find a tree compiled by the Gt Gt Granddaughter of John & Harriet CLARKE, but also photographs of the family including one of Ernest in uniform ...



and one of the same headstone in earlier times with John standing behind it. The owner of this tree, Natasha GRIFFIN of Memphis, Tennessee, USA, has kindly given permission for these photographs to be reproduced here. Natasha confirmed Ernest's emigration to Australia and informed me that three of his siblings also went there.



John's wife Harriet died in 1923 some years after their son and it is possible this headstone was erected about that time.

Natasha told me that the framed photograph propped up at the base of the headstone is that of Harriet. It has been 'cropped' and Natasha has a copy of the original which shows John seated next to her. The cottage behind John CLARKE is no longer standing.

RECEIVED VIA THE CHFHS NEWSLETTER

Dear Editor,

May I, through your excellent magazine, recommend some reading for those members of the Littlechild family researching their history. Stephen Littlechild has compiled to date, three excellent volumes covering the Littlechild family from the middle of the 16th century to the 20th century, with potentially more on the way (my maternal grandmother was a Littlechild from Fulbourn).

The family name covers areas such as Fulbourn, Stow-cum-Quy and Duxford as well as stretching into Suffolk Norfolk and Essex. The volumes were printed by the Victoire Press in Cambridge, and I am happy to furnish Stephen's contact address should anyone wish to follow this up.

Thank you so much for your informative magazine and research articles.

Yours sincerely,
Ralph White-Robinson [5865]

MY ELY JUGS *BY HUGH PARSON [2201]*

For over 25 years now I have been researching my unusual Ely jugs and why they have a date of 1833 on them. I believe these heirlooms were first owned by my 3 x Great Grandfather, Henry Parson, a boatwright and publican. He was born in Ely in 1799 and died in Ely in 1842. I assume these jugs were made in 1833 when Henry was a widower between two marriages, and the date does not seem to match up with any event in my family history.

The inscription on the front reads "H.P. ELY 1833".

It is in enamel, painted above the glaze, and by the same hand on all three jugs. Unusually, they have three spouts spaced at 90 degrees around the rim from the handle making it very difficult to pour. They are decorated inside and out with a form of under-glaze green transfer printing which has then been painted in various colours. The pretty decoration is of ornate flowers on a white background. There are no markings anywhere to indicate where they were made, although a pottery expert told me that they are Staffordshire "pearl ware".



Recently I read the very interesting article by Mary Stevens in the Spring 2021 edition of the CHFHS journal about Ely Cemetery. In the article she states there was a cholera epidemic in Ely in 1833, so this immediately rang a bell. I found on the internet that my Henry entered hospital in 1832 with cholera. In fact he even wrote a short will the day before going into hospital, so I assume he thought he was going to die. Luckily he recovered sometime later, and perhaps he decided to celebrate the occasion with having these jugs made for himself and his two children.

So, if any reader can suggest why my 3 jugs have 3 spouts, or why and where they were made, or why they have the date 1833—I would love to hear from them.

Upcoming Show

The Family History Show, Online 2021

Sat 19th June 2021

10:00 - 16:30

Online

**talks ... trade exhibition
FHSs ask the experts**

*Cambs & Hunts FHS hopes be there
we look forward to seeing YOU*

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com>

THE GENEALOGY SHOW

JUNE 25 - 26 2021



take a look
at the
promotional
video on
YouTube

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk>

CHFHS will be exhibiting there too
*join us for a virtual chat—bring us your queries
we'll be waiting to offer help and advice*

** WAR GRAVES WEEK **

21-28 MAY

a week of events from the CWGC to raise awareness and inform
of their ongoing work to commemorate the fallen

*check out the programme near you
(covid restrictions dependent)*

www.cwgc.org/our-war-grave-your-history/war-graves-week/

SCAM PROTECTION & ONLINE FRAUD

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

Why not sign up for the talk on spotting and dealing with online scams on Sat 8 May (following the AGM)

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE VACCINATION CERTIFICATES??

An additional source of a child's date of birth, address and father's name (plus his occupation) in the years immediately before the 1911 census—as the examples below illustrate. Have a look, you might be lucky ...

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Ronald Tiesdell
Description: boy: Birth Date - 7 - Dec - 1909: Birth Address - 3 David St
Parent's Name: SMITH Frederick
Description: Father-labourer
Effective Date: 30 - Mar - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - 1910-Mar-30: Signed By -
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/2

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Sylvia Grace
Description: girl: Birth Date - 20 - Jan - 1910: Birth Address - 40 Eden St
Parent's Name: SMITH Henry John
Description: Father-drayman
Effective Date: 4 - May - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - 1910-May-4: Signed By -
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/24

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Susan
Description: girl: Birth Date - 11 - Dec - 1909: Birth Address - 99 East Rd
Parent's Name: SMITH Frank
Description: Father-labourer
Effective Date: - - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - -: Signed By -
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/7

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Sidney Hermon
Description: boy: Birth Date - 1 - Mar - 1910: Birth Address - 9 Staffordshire St
Parent's Name: SMITH Sidney Hermon
Description: Father-engine fitter
Effective Date: - - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - -: Signed By -
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/38

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Grace Ellen
Description: girl: Birth Date - 17 - Dec - 1909: Birth Address - 17 Malta Rd
Parent's Name: SMITH Charles
Description: Father-railway cleaner
Effective Date: 5 - Mar - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - 1910-Mar-5: Signed By -
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/8

Record Set Cambridge Vaccinations G-C-XVb12
Surname/Forename: SMITH Charles Henry
Description: boy: Birth Date - 2 - Mar - 1910: Birth Address - 1 Browns Yard Newmarket Rd
Parent's Name: SMITH Walter
Description: Father-hawker
Effective Date: 19 - Jul - 1910
Notes: Cert Date - 1910-Jul-19: Signed By - F DEIGHTON
Source Reference: G-C-XVb-12/40



www.familyhistoryfederation.com
Beginning Your Family History
**FREE online four-week course for those
new to family history or wanting to
improve your skills—via Zoom**



**Tues evenings 7.00-8.30
4, 11, 18, 25 May
Pre-booking required**

REV. TIPPING, WESTON COLVILLE AND MARRIAGE MONGERING

MIGHT THE INFORMATION YOU WANT ALREADY BE “OUT THERE”...“SOMEWHERE” ??

Finding the one “*someone out there who might know*”, some fact or other, some explanation about this or that, some insight into the whys and wherefores of whatever can come from the most unexpected sources. While focussed internet searching can help us find so much, sometimes it’s more by sheer luck and random creative searching, than anything more structured. There’s so much knowledge on all manner of subjects out there—but overcoming the chicken’n’egg situation of *if, where, by whom* and more importantly, *how can it be found* becomes the issue. So, why not give PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) a try. If, for example, someone happened to have written an article in a periodical, say 30yrs ago, which included the topic in which you happen now to be interested—it might just turn up—but you won’t know, unless you look.

From a personal perspective, although I’ve been aware of PERSI for a long time, it has not been a resource I’ve thus far bothered with as such, and like all resources it came down to the matter of access. But after the chance success outlined in this story, that, I think might now change and PERSI will become a fixture in my list of digital go-to resources.

What is PERSI ...

PERSI is an on-going index-style resource compiled from thousands of historical, genealogical and ethnic publications. But is more than just an index of titles, as it includes subject matter; searches can be made or refined on a variety of topics. The content of an article appearing in a genealogical periodical could be far more extensive than might be first apparent or suggested by the title alone, and PERSI might prove to be a way in, and find information otherwise possibly obscured.

After being relatively inaccessible for many years PERSI is now searchable via FindMyPast, and appears under the “Newspapers & Periodicals” tab on the homepage—a basic search facility is offered as part of the “PlusSubscription”, but to see details of the publications in which any results appear, the higher “ProSubscription” is necessary; you would still need to contact the original publisher to pursue access. To get an insight into the scope/limitations of the resource, the descriptive notes are well worth a look :

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/periodical-source-index>

A more detailed description of the resource and its background appears in the Wiki of FamilySearch :

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Periodical_Source_Index_\(PERSI\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Periodical_Source_Index_(PERSI))

Pre-internet, writing in journals, such as that of Cambs & Hunts FHS, was about the only way researchers could pass on their findings and observation, and we can continue to benefit from the fruits of their labours in our work today by drawing on their accumulated insights and wisdom concerning the records—but—only if we can find it, because we don’t know what’s out there. All the past Cambs & Hunts Family History Society journals, for example, are archived on our website and available for members to use, but are indexed by title only. Content, on the other hand, can be somewhat different or far-reaching to that which the title alone might suggest. In addition, there is far more in the journals than feature articles which can be just as interesting and potentially useful.

REV. TIPPING, WESTON COLVILLE AND MARRIAGE MONGERING

The following example illustrates how, by chance, the PERSI index can be shown to have picked up content from 40yr-old Cambs FHS Journal, and therefore provides just the answer to a particular query. This example illustrates how the power of PERSI is not to be underestimated—the answer here lay not in a feature article with a recognisable title, but hidden away in a piece appearing in the journal index only as “Projects Reports”. The PERSI index, as will be seen, has picked up on specific content within that piece.

This trail begins with a recent post on the CHFHS facebook page and circulated to the committee for ideas—one of our members, JC, writes : “*I have just found a marriage record in Weston Colville church for my 7xggps; he is from Isleham and she is from Swaffham Bulbeck. They are not the only ones to travel far to get wed here ... [JC adds that] ... from 1690 to the 1730s most marriages are of couples who do not live here, in fact, it’s hard to find any ‘of this parish’. Does anyone have any idea why this should be the case?*”

Among the responses was one from Dave E, who noted that a Rev Thomas Tipping was the incumbent at Weston Colville for the whole of the period in question : from 1680 until his death in 1732. There was speculation that the Rev Tipping might have had something to do with the apparent excessive number of marriages (such as having a particularly charismatic personality, or the holding of liberal views compared to others in the locality at the time). The Victoria County History entry for the village held no information which shed any light, and all the churches in the surrounding area appeared to have been functional with marriages conducted throughout the period (so were not closed or without incumbents).

The answer came from a bit of creative googling—and eventually, a search on “*Weston Colville Thomas Tipping*” brought this hit in PERSI :

Article Title	Periodical Title	Year
Marriage Records, Marriage-Mongers, And Weston Colville And Thomas Tipping, 1687-1730	Cambridgeshire Family History Society Journal	1981

However, searching for the “article” in the 1981 CHFHS journals’ archive, on the strength of how it appears described in the results, highlighted an important finer point about the PERSI system worthy of note.

The so-called “article” was not evident in the indexes in any of the journals published in 1981, and the first thoughts were that the PERSI compilers had made a mistake, or perhaps mis-transcribed the year.

A browse through the 1981 issues, however, eventually spotted this in the August (3) 1981 issue, hidden under the “Projects Update” feature, by Janet Hurst ...

... and in the extract below from December 1981 No4, again under “Projects Updates”, a reply from Peter Layng notes the significance of these observations. It would seem that the situation found at Weston Colville and other locations around the country by the mid-18thC, help bring about the Hardwick Marriage Act of 1753.

In the Thorney registers 1654-1753 there are 28 marriages where one or both partners came from outside the county. Of these 25 of the parties came from Yorks/Derbys and 6 from even further north - Cumberland, Lancs. & Scotland. The remainder came from the local counties one would expect - Hunts., Northants. & Lincs. Can anyone offer an explanation for this unusually large crop of northerners in our records? I know little about Thorney, a village in the north of our county near Peterborough, other than that it was (still is?) an estate village owned by the Duke of Bedford and that a well-known Huguenot colony existed there in the 17c.

The other mystery concerns Gt Eversden. Between 1671 & 1730 there were 105 marriages recorded in the registers. Of these 56 were for couples where both parties came from other parishes all over the southern half of the county, Cambridge itself and Bedford. The phenomenon was most marked 1671-1707. Was Gt Eversden a kind of Cambridgeshire Greta Green? Most of these marriages were by licence, so they do not seem to have been irregular. Is it relevant that the village was a centre of nonconformity at this period? I hope to investigate this mystery when I have time and would welcome any help from members. Having gone through so many marriage register transcripts, I can assure readers that these marriages at Eversden were unusual. For example, between 1686 and 1692 there were 13 marriages at the church and not one involved a person living in the village. The parties came from Cambridge (2), Hauxton(2), Trumpington(1), Foxton(3), Harston(4), Hardwick(1), Elsworth(1), Comberton(3), Haslingfield(1), Harlton(2), Thriplow(1), Whittlesford(1), Caxton(2) & Orwell(2). Anyone see a pattern in that?

PETER LAYNG writes

"Janet Hurst enquired in the last number of the Journal about marriages at Great Eversden in which both parties came from other villages. D.J.Steel says in the National Index to Parish Registers Vol I p 313 'In searching the registers of a country parish it is not unusual to find a quarter of the marriages missing, and before the Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1753 one cannot expect with any degree of confidence to find a marriage celebrated in the parish of either of the parties...Every county had its marriage mongers - clergy who were willing to marry, without banns or enquiry, parties neither of whom resided in their parish.'

At Weston Colville between 1687 and 1730 during the incumbency of Thomas Tipping most of the marriages were between non-residents: and there are several parishes in the county in which for a few years there were many marriages of non-residents. There appear to have been a variety of reasons for these marriages:- secrecy, a desire for a quiet wedding, economy in not having to entertain guests, and perhaps a more sympathetic attitude from the clergy concerned to Dissenters and Roman Catholics. The Act was designed to stop clandestine marriages, especially of heiresses who were being tricked into marriage, as well as marriages in the Fleet Prison by imprisoned clergy."

Undoubtedly, this is not fool-proof and neither every item nor name can be guaranteed to be picked up. It goes without saying that PERSI is drawn only from those periodicals which the compilers have included—
—but, hey, searching on “Weston Colville” and “Thomas Tipping” found an answer to JC’s query hidden away in comments in past journals of Cambs & Hunts FHS.

ME & MY FAMILY HISTORY IN 12 TWEETS

Joan B has “volunteered” as the next contributor to this feature series—
—tweet-length responses to a selection of questions on research interests.
If you'd like to contribute your response “tweets” 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 since my children were young, which I am shocked to realise is over 40 years now. I took a “career break” from FH when I went back to work full time but for the last 10 years have been actively researching again. I first got interested by listening to family stories from my aunt, some of which have turned out to be true, for others, the jury is still out.

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

I am following direct lines as far as I can. Some have petered out sooner than others, so I have between 32 and 64 direct family lines in the go.

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

Fortunately, most of my ancestors lived in Cambs and Hunts, with only one line from Bedfordshire.

Any interests abroad, and where :

One paternal gg uncle emigrated to Tasmania and I have been in contact with a few relatives there. One maternal GG aunt went to America, and I have been sent a lovely letter which she wrote to relatives back here in which she mentions my mother and her brothers.

Which family line have you had most success with :

Both the paternal/paternal and the maternal/paternal have gone well. It is the female lines which often “brick wall” first.

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

Yes, a ggg aunt Rebecca who appears to have overcome adversity to have a successful life. She was born 1831, by age 20 she was working as a servant for a farmer. She married aged 25 and had six children. Unfortunately, her husband died shortly after the youngest was born and by 1881 Rebecca is recorded as a widow and pauper. However, by the time she was 59 Rebecca had trained as a “nurse for the sick” and at the age of 69 was a “retired nurse”. Out of retirement by the next census she was a “monthly nurse at 79. Rebecca died aged 92 and a note in the margin of the parish record says, “This sweet person was fit for heaven”.

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

I have looked at most at one time or another, more when the library used to buy magazines for us to borrow. but do not find them worth spending money on.

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

I am the Membership Secretary of the CHFHS. Apart from that I belong to a few Local History Groups of interest because my family is so local.

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

I have happy memories of visiting the old Huntingdonshire Archive when it was upstairs on an old building behind the Cromwell museum. Later I have used the same in the Huntingdon library. In both the staff have always been patient and helpful. The same goes for the Cambs Archive in the bowels of Shire Hall, I am looking forward to visiting their Ely residence. I have also visited Bedford and Peterborough Archives, all good.

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

I keep a mixture. Mainly computer based but I find paper records are so much easier to explain things to other people. I live in hope of getting some of the family interested in this way.

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

Yes, I have a tree on Ancestry. I also use Family Tree Maker which I find useful for printing out charts and reports. I am not actively collaborating with anyone else.

Mary MOLE [4952]	n/k ?? Belgium		
	n/k ?? Belgium		
	MOLE william	c1829	Braughing HRT
	SMITH amelia	c1840	Braughing HRT
	WARREN thomas	c1828	Fullbourn CAM
	OAKMAN mary ann	c1830	Cambridge CAM
	BALLS george	c1837	Bungay SFK
	WEBB mary	c1837	Stuston NFK
	GERMANY george	c1841	Haverhill ESS
	KELLY betsy	c1841	Cambridge CAM
	WHITE benjamin	c1839	Bottisham CAM
	GIBSON sarah	c1840	Bottisham CAM
WATTS john	c1830	Lode CAM	
SHIPP Hannah	c1828	Lode CAM	

Christopher Malcolm BILLETT [6231]	BILLETT john	1814	Hinxton CAM
	CASBOLT ann	1823	Linton CAM
	BARKER francis	1833	Cambridge CAM
	COLE susannah	1825	Horseheath CAM
	HARDING william	1808	Inkberrow WAR
	DUTTON elizabeth	1825	Crophthorne WAR
	HUMPHRIES edward	1820	Redditch WAR
	TAYLOR sarah	1826	Redditch WAR
	GRUNEWALD georg	c1823	Worms, Germany
	N/K eliza	1838	Boxted ESS
	BROWN charles	1839	Colchester ESS
	KEST eliza	1838	Southerton ESS
	CHAMBERLAIN james	1830	Burghfield BRK
	RICHARDSON elizabeth	1836	Ufton BRK
	CORLEY richard	1848	West Ham ESS
	SILVESTER mary jane	1852	Abingdon BRK

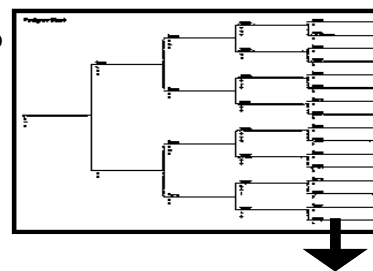
"My Gt Gt Grand Parents Were ..."

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-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

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 !!

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Which do you use/prefer – FindMyPast, Ancestry, TheGenealogist, MyHeritage, FamilySearch, or others :

I use Ancestry and Find My Past mainly. I also use the GRO and the National Archive along with Family Search. Anything really which can help to verify a record before I add information to my tree.

Many thanks, Joan.

THE WISMUS PROJECT ... LATEST UPDATE

**All registers are now scanned—the end is now definitely in sight !!
a further 19 more registers have been uploaded since the last 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	Marriages	1962	Wiggenhall		
Clenchwarton	Mixed	1786	St Germans	Marriages	1930
Elm	Marriages	1654	Wiggenhall		
Leverington	Marriages	1837	St Mary Magdalene	Marriages	1934
Outwell	Burials	1862	Wiggenhall		
Tydd St Giles	Marriages	1940	St Mary Magdalene	Mixed	1654
Walsoken	Banns	1943	Wiggenhall		
Walsoken	Marriages	1925	St Mary the Virgin	Baptisms	1813
Walsoken	Marriages	1939	Wiggenhall		
West Walton	Banns	1921	St Mary the Virgin	Marriages	1838
West Walton	Marriages	1932	Wisbech		
			St Augustine	Baptisms	1940
			Wisbech		
			St Augustine	Marriages	1945
			Wisbech		
			St Peter	Marriages	1938

HUNTINGDONSHIRE RECORDS ... LATEST

The first 16 Hunts Parish Registers have now been added to AncestorFinder to join the Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely and WisMus records already available

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

Abbotsley	Banns	1760	Brington	Burials	1604
Abbotsley	Baptisms	1604	Broughton	Burials	1852
Abbotsley	Burials	1604	Buckden	Banns	1755
Abbotsley	Marriages	1604	Conington	Banns	1756
Alconbury with			Conington	Baptisms	1583
Alconbury Weston	Burials	1901	Leighton Bromswold	Banns	1654
Barham	Burials	1604	Little Gidding	Burials	1637
Bluntisham	Baptisms	1538	Little Raveley	Banns	1824
Brampton	Banns	1756			

CAMBRIDGESHIRE VICTUALLERS LICENCES

Were your Cambridgeshire ancestors pub landlords?

Discover the name of their establishment, its location and when they ran it.

The surviving records for Cambridgeshire 1764-1828 are kept in the Cambridgeshire Archives in Ely. They have been photographed and transcribed by members of the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society, which has licensed the records for the use of researchers on FindMyPast. Each record normally includes the name and abode of the victualler, the name of the alehouse, tavern or inn, and the name and abode of the person providing surety.

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**

*** 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 for further details.

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 (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
1 or 2 CDs (< 100gram band)	£2.50	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
3—6 CDs (100-250gram band)	£3.00	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00
Parishes Map (sent as rolled in tube)	£3.10	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00

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

Cambridge Branch	2 nd 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
March Library	every Tues		every week once face-2-face mingling permits	10.00-4.00
Ely Library	3 rd Wed alternate mths		if access allows (Jan/Mar/May)	10.00-4.00
Bar Hill Library	3 rd Mon alternate mths		if access allows (Jan/Mar/May)	10.00-4.00
Cambourne Library	3 rd Mon alternate mths		if access allows (Feb/Apr/Jun)	1.30-4.30
Cottenham Library	3 rd Mon each month		continuance to be confirmed	7.00-9.00
Norris Museum St Ives	<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

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

Wed 21 Apr (zoom)	Help—my ancestors have vanished <i>with Simon Fowler</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
Wed 19 May (zoom)	Victorian Crime, Police, & Criminals <i>with Anthony Marr</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
Wed 16 Jun (zoom)	Tracing The Ancestral Home <i>with Dr Nick Barratt</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
Wed 14 Jul (zoom)	TBC

RAMSEY BRANCH

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

Thurs 1 Apr (zoom)	The Mists of Time : sources for Medieval & Early Modern Genealogy <i>with Dr Nick Barratt</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
Thurs 6 May (zoom)	The Poor & The Parish <i>with Gill Blanchard</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>
Thurs 3 Jun (zoom)	TBC
Thurs 1 Jul (zoom)	Researching Family History : a personal account <i>with David Copsey</i> <i>to attend : please self register via the website</i>

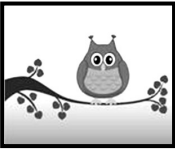
“BACK STORY”

The enforced inactivity of the past few months has allowed thoughts to turn to considering the theme for next season's programme of **12.00 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 : MAY–AUG 2021

MARCH BRANCH		<u>1st Tuesday</u> of the month at 7pm March Library, City Rd., March enquiries : march@cfhs.org.uk
please check before meetings with the website/newsletter & the “Your Fenland” column of the Citizen Newspaper		
LATEST NEWS	March Branch meetings are suspended until face-2-face activities again become possible—the “regulars” will be notified	
CAMBRIDGE BRANCH		<u>2nd Saturday</u> of the month at 10.30-3.30 ZOOM or Cambridgeshire Collection Meeting Room Central Library, Lion Yard, Cambridge enquiries : programme@cfhs.org.uk
Sat 8 May AGM at 1.00 Zoom	<p>12.00 Back Story—interpreting Parish Registers with Caroline Norton <i>PRs 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/further a family story</i></p> <p>1.00 AGM—please see p. 12 for the Agenda. Minutes, accounts and reports will be in the Members’ Area of our website <i>To participate, please register separately via the website (as you would for a talk)</i></p> <p>2.00 Staying Safe—digitally with Nigel Sutton <i>With digital communication on the increase in the wake of covid, and more and more financial transactions being moved to online platforms this is a must-hear talk. Nigel is a Cyber Protection Officer with Cambs Police, and will give advice on how to spot and deal with scam emails, texts and calls.</i></p> <p>Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website</p>	
Sat 12 Jun Zoom	<p>12.00 Back Story—interpreting Cemeteries, Wills & Gravestones with Caroline Norton <i>Although perhaps more difficult to find than other records, and not everyone will feature, these records can be a goldmine of information. It’s well worth making the effort to see whether a person can be found in one or more of these records.</i></p> <p>2.00 For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals with John E Vigar <i>Our Christian rites of passage as told through objects found in Anglican churches</i></p> <p>Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website</p>	
Sat 10 Jul Zoom	<p>12.00 A Genealogical Tour Around Cambridgeshire with Caroline Norton <i>Our “patch” has quite a complex genealogical history, and as with any area of interest, it’s useful to consider, not just the records themselves, but also the real-world places to which they refer. We will take a virtual “tour” around the county to look at how the key records are arranged and at the resources out there to help find/access the records. In principle, many of the topics covered will be “transferable”, and would be broadly applicable to research in other counties.</i></p> <p>Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website</p>	
Sat 14 Aug Zoom	<p>12.00 A Genealogical Tour of Cambridge with Caroline Norton <i>Cambridge itself is also quite complex, genealogically-speaking, compared to many other county and market towns. We will take a virtual “tour” around the town and have a look at how the town has evolved since the early 1800s, and at the key records/resources which can help in our family history research.</i></p> <p>Similar arrangements to previous sessions—to attend, please self-register via the website</p>	
<p>COVID19—we will continue to present 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</p>		
<p>21-28 May ** WAR GRAVES WEEK ** www.cwgc.org/our-war-grave-your-history/war-graves-week/</p>		



... & ANOTHER 'LAST WORD'

... FROM CAZ THE EDITOR



WHAT'S IN A SINGLE LETTER—

**UI or W, I or Y or EA, T or TT, LL or L ...
continuing a stalled one-name study**

What's in one letter—quite a lot, as it happens. A single letter can matter greatly when trying to sort out spelling variants, deviants and rogues—a complete lack of consistency can spell (quite literally) a whole hatful of difficulties for the one-namer, and in any other research for that matter.

We've been in lockdown for a year now, and have sought out numerous ways to amuse outside of figuring out how to cope with new ways of dealing with the necessities of life and work. Early-on, I embarked on attempting to revive a very -much stalled one-name-study, with the intention of trying to make some sense of my lists and "data".

This project first got underway very early in my family history "career". The realisation that I was dealing with quite a rare and seemingly very localised surname led to the inevitable wondering, as one does, of whether all the bearers of the name are related. In my innocence, what could be simpler—extract names from the key sources and stitch them together into families. *If only!!* It didn't take that long to begin to appreciate that simple, it wasn't. Right from the outset, I'd got bogged down in the mire brought about by different spellings, and although having made several efforts over the intervening years to make headway—there was always a sticking point over how to manage the bigger picture of spellings. The question became one of "where to draw a line" to define the project.

Collecting instances of this or that spelling from particular records is one thing, but trying to compile family groups and lineages from these listings is a whole different ball game. We have to even more careful, and doubly or even triply sure of our assertions when it's evident that a person might have a number of different surname spellings across their lifetime. It's not impossible that some of the instances are so completely different that they morph into a spelling otherwise outside the scope the project. How many other people might be missed by not looking at that spelling as well ??

All these consideration were brought back into sharp focus just the other day, when a completely unrelated piece of work brought up the surname of MOLSON from Moulton. Following these individuals and families found MOLSOM and MOWLSON/M and then flitted between MA-, ME-, MI-, MU-, before adding MOULSON/M to the mix. To further complicate the issue, there could also be MALTON/MALTOM, MELTON/MILTION, MOLTON, MULTON etc; if the T is perceived as L we also get the likes of MILLSON or MITTON etc. Any could also have the last letter being M instead of an N. There's even more of a problem if the initial letter M is read as a W: we could then get the possibility of WILSON, WELTON, WALTON, etc—and then of course, the O could become U or E. While it may be evident that some resulting permutations are just variations on the original MOLSON—the real difficulty starts if "genuine" WILSONs, MILLSOMs, MELTONs exist in the same area at the same time.

Then there's all the above MOLSON variants marrying variants of CORBY/KIRBY—mostly all called John, Wm, Thomas, Mary, Ann or Eliz. !!!

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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