



THE JOURNAL



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VOLUME 27 : 4

WINTER 2021

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No. : 278815

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 reformed on 1 January 2020 when the separate family history societies representing Cambridgeshire (est.1976) and Huntingdonshire (est.1984) amalgamated into a single organization.

We actively support established guidelines for good practice and aim to promote considered, informed and quality research. Our projects teams continue to work to scan, transcribe and index name-rich resources of genealogical interest, to enable researchers to pursue their county ancestors wherever they happen to now live. Volunteer researchers will offer their collective opinion on almost any query.

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At the time of writing, we've been unable to reopen all public meetings and research surgeries as we'd hoped to do—please look out for updates—we will see you soon

In the meantime, stay safe—carry on researching, keep in touch, follow us on facebook & instagram, and contribute your progress, thoughts & queries to the journal

For latest news, and updates as the situation further evolves (& resolves)

WATCH THE WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER & FACEBOOK

CONTACT US (for additional contacts/services see p55-6)

All general correspondence via the Secretary, please :

secretary@cfhs.org.uk or by post to

CHFHS Secretary, 15 Castle Hythe, Ely, Cambs., CB7 4BU

(we also have an answer phone 01223-853273—& leave a message)

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CAMBS & HUNTS FHS JOURNAL

VOL 27 : 4

WINTER 2021



The countdown has started!! We've just heard that by the time of the next issue, the 1921 Census will have been released and will be accessible via FindMyPast from 6 Jan (searches are free, but seeing results will cost £2.50 transcript or £3.50 image)

Welcome to the Winter edition of the CHFHS Journal, and thanks for the positive comments about this new compact format. Opening this issue, is Diane C's father's recollections of a 1920s childhood in Benwick. Ian S recounts his research into a family bigamy from the 1870s, and the story of a migrant clergyman from Coveney to New Zealand is told by Robin P. Elsewhere, we remember both CHFHS stalwart, Bernard Amps, and eighty years on, a perhaps-forgotten WW2 casualty in the City Cemetery; &, hear of updates on a decade-old article from John B, and are reminded of pre-internet research by Paul R's '12 Tweets'—plus—an intriguing 17thC will.

Most of the regulars features found in the old format are also dotted throughout—incl : projects updates, gt-gt-grand parents, meetings & research surgeries (some venues have reopened); reports of talks/events; book reviews—and much more ...

Print too small ?? Try the e-journal—it can be enlarged to suit all vision !!

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cover picture : Remembering Sgt Ronald Sebastian Havery (see page 21)

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A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



A memorable day

I am writing this just after a memorable day for the Society, 15 September. There were three Society events on this Wednesday, all of them pointing their way to the future.

First, our March Branch held the first physical Society meeting for over eighteen months; more than 25 people met in March public library to hear Tom Doig talk about clues to help date 19th century photographs. Members brought in their own cherished photographs for Tom to give his expert view on dates, often within a year or two. We were all able to talk with each other whilst having tea, coffee and biscuits, and to catch up since we last met. I would like to thank Margery Young and her committee for having the courage, care and attention to detail to be able to hold this hugely successful meeting. Thanks are also due to the library team at March for hosting the event; we were fortunate to meet in the library during the time when it is closed to the public; to have plenty of space with windows open, and to sit socially distanced from each other. It was noticeable that as the meeting progressed, more people took off their masks so they could speak to others and be understood. Library staff were working in their offices and on hand to deal with any issues, but the organisation of the afternoon was so well thought out, that I don't think they were needed.

Second, at the same time on the same day, Muriel Halliday and her brother John staffed the first face to face surgery since the beginning of 2020, held in Ely library. The library itself was open for normal business, but Muriel had liaised with the library staff to find a suitable place to hold the surgery and to check arrangements. Visitors included a committee member, another Society member, and a non-member. Again, a great pointer for the future.

The third event was an evening talk held by Zoom, Vicki Manners showing how DNA can contribute to family history research. This was also important, as the next meeting in the traditional Huntingdon slot of the third Wednesday in the month will be a physical meeting at the WI Hall on 20 October. Sue Paul, the speaker, will take part by Zoom, and so participants will be able to see her and ask questions without having to travel to Huntingdon. However, the March event shows the benefits of meeting face to face with others, so

we hope for a good attendance in the Hall. Final arrangements are still being worked out, so keep an eye on our website and newsletter.

Catching up on talks that you missed

I am very aware that members cannot always attend talks as they have other commitments, and the timing of talks means that they can be in the middle of the night for overseas members. Equally, some of those participating at talks may want to revisit what was said, to check details, website addresses and information sources. For quite some time, we have placed speaker presentations on the members' section of our website, and we have recently started recording talks and questions when the speaker agrees to this.

Recent contact with members shows that not everyone knows about this, and I have been asked to emphasize how useful past presentations and recordings can be. When I looked a few days ago, there were more than 20 past events that have either the speaker presentation or the recording, a wealth of expertise, hints and tips. I recommend looking at this.

Also talking to members, some are very wary of using Zoom to take part in Society events. I expect that several of you use already Skype, Facetime or similar technologies to speak regularly with family and friends, Zoom works in a similar way. You can choose to remain unseen, but listen to the talk, ask questions through the chat function, but then unmute so can share your own experience with others attending. It is natural to be uncertain about something new, but everyone I know who has used Zoom now feels comfortable and recognises the benefits. If you would like a test trial before an event, please let me know, and we can arrange this.

Helping your Society

We always value the work that our volunteers do in a variety of roles, without these there would be no Family History Society. All offers of help are of course welcome, but there are three areas where recruiting people will make a big difference now. These are: someone to arrange the programme for Huntingdon for 2022; those with technical skills or experience; and younger members. Please think carefully about this, it is an opportunity to give something back; to learn more and influence the Society, and to generate ideas for your own interest and family history. Please contact me or any committee member listed in the journal; there is no obligation, and the work can always be fitted around your time and other commitments. You don't have to live nearby, many of our volunteers live at a distance or overseas. Thank you.

Duke of Manchester papers

After discussion with the County Archives, I am pleased to confirm that the Society will be funding the first stage of work to make the significant papers from the Duke of Manchester more accessible through a cataloguing project.

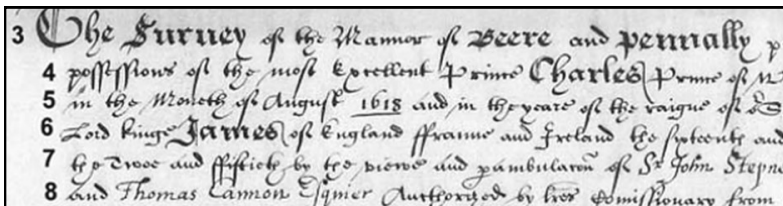
My second great grandmother was housekeeper to the Duke of Portland, and I am very sure that the papers will mention a large meeting, after receiving many suggestions and comments from members and those on the committee, thank you all. Amongst the things that we will prioritising will be a new IT system and website which is our core information, marketing, income and recruitment source; quick wins to make records and data more accessible and tidier to use. Keep a look out for developments over the coming months.

I shall look forward to seeing you at forthcoming Society events and having the chance to speak with you and get feedback and comments. Please also continue to email me when you want to ask me about any aspect of the Society's work.

David Copley

Thank you.

READING OLD HANDWRITING



Want to brush up on your palaeography skills

Want to learn from scratch to start delving into older records

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ONLINE COURSE FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

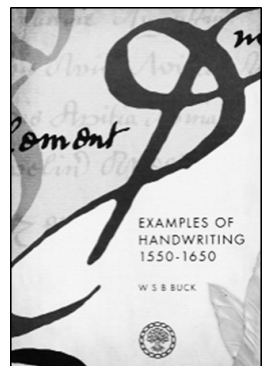
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/>



**SOMETHING TO DO ON
COLD WINTER EVENINGS**

~~~ & FREE ~~~

*2 booklets available via the
National Archives online shop
will provide additional guidance*



GROWING UP IN A FEN VILLAGE IN THE 1920S

by
Diane Clark

My father, born in the Cambridgeshire Village of Benwick on 5 June 1916, was named Frederick Kitchener Tinkler. Frederick was a family name but his middle name was chosen because his father's hero – Lord Kitchener – died on the day that Dad was born; Dad was not impressed! Dad lived in Benwick

until his family moved to Sparrow Hall Farm in Stonea around 1926. He and my mother migrated to Australia in 1971 so Dad never again lived in Benwick, consequently the stories he told of his life in Benwick attest to his incredible memory of those early years. Finally, at the age of 82, he was persuaded to begin writing his memoirs, which underpin the stories below.

Life in the fen villages after the Great War was really hard, especially for land workers. Grandad Jim Tinkler leased a small acreage from the local Council, granted to him as a returned serviceman, on which he grew potatoes, wheat and mangolds for stock food. Sugar beet was also introduced to the area about this time. Grandad had a pony and trap for transport, and also kept goats, chickens and a pig so the family never went hungry. Farm work in those days was very labour intensive with the whole family expected to work on the land. By the age of seven Fred and his nine-year-old sister Lil helped their parents to plant seed potatoes. Fred explained that:

Dad only grew two or three acres ... He would cart the potatoes down a row, placing the first bag 22 yards from the end. The next bags were 44 yards apart, which was the distance a basket of seed potatoes would cover. Lil and I would plant from the end [of the row] to the first bag and back. Dad and Mum planted from the first bag to the far end and back.

Even planting half a row to their parent's full rows was hard work for small children.

Apart from land work, including feeding chickens and collecting eggs, my father was expected to help his grandfather Tom Tinkler by laying his fire in the morning and carrying a scuttle of coal into the house: enough to last the day. Dad also had to run errands for Tom after school or on Saturdays because the old man was severely disabled.¹ Life was not all work though: Fred remembered that he and his friend Bill "played around together when we were not doing odd jobs".

Most games were seasonal, for example hoops and top spinning were

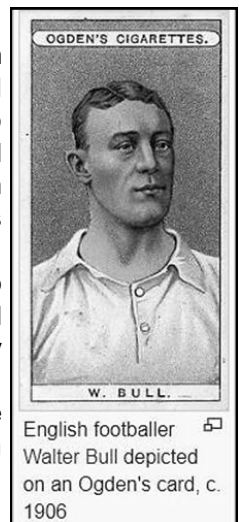
played in spring whilst cricket was the game for summer. Spinning tops, called “mushies” were mushroom shaped and were whipped into spinning and could be made to jump if whipped properly. Girls used “mollies” rather than “mushies”. They were better spinners but did not jump. Dad said:

We were not allowed to use mushies in the street in case we hit one through a shop window. Parents were expected to pay for anything their children damaged in those days. Also, in the autumn there was more horse traffic on the roads [taking wheat or potatoes] to the station. You never whipped a top or ran an iron hoop when a cart or wagon was close by.

Kite flying was another spring pastime. The children made their own kites from pieces of lathe kindly provided by Mr Mails at the carpenter’s shop. The carpenter also gave the children the tacks to fasten the short piece of lathe across the longer piece. Brown paper and string was provided by the grocer in exchange for running errands. Once glued in place using flour and water paste, the brown paper provided the kite’s sail whilst the string was used to make the tail. Dad said they “scrounged the binder twine” for flying the kite. Provided the tail was not too heavy the kite flew well but a heavy tail would cause the kite to nose dive and crash. Then the children would have to start again.

Football was a winter game that was played using a treacle tin or a pig’s bladder provided by the butcher, Harry Clapham. The dried pig’s bladder was preferable to the treacle tin because it lasted longer if used on the grass and didn’t knock the toes out of the boys’ shoes like kicking a treacle tin.

Collecting things has always been popular with children. In the 1920s, cigarette packets contained cards that covered many subjects from gardening, geography, and cars to film stars and movies ². They were very collectable. Dad recalled that “most young men smoked and would usually give us the fag cards, as we called them”. The boys would swap cards to make sets. Some sets comprised 25 cards whilst others had as many as 50 different cards to the set. Dad was sure that “we learnt more general knowledge from them [cards] than we did at school.”



As well as the cards, some cigarette brands included a silk flag in the packet. Dad said he had many sets of cards and a set of flags of the nations that he had put into an album. After he left home his mother sold them at auction to an American dealer. Sadly, she didn't make a fortune from them.

My father also remembered that marbles was another game that was popular with the village boys. He described the different games as follows:

One game you made a small hole in the gutter. Gutters were only earth in those days, not sealed like now. We would see who could roll the most marbles in the hole. Another game ... we would draw a chalk ring on the path or, if the path was earth, just mark a ring with a stick, and then place an equal number of marbles in the ring. Then, using a larger multi-coloured marble made of glass, called a boss or alley, roll to see who could knock the most [smaller marbles] out of the ring.

Another pastime from that time would definitely be frowned on today: the children collected bird's eggs. It seems that Grandad Jim told Fred and the other boys that if there were four or more eggs in a nest, they were not to touch them because the mother bird would be sitting on them. As well, they were told never to take more than one egg from any nest except from house sparrows, which were a pest. The local landowner of the area would pay a penny a dozen for house sparrow eggs or young birds, which he would then destroy because of the damage they did to the ripening corn or by tearing the ears of wheat from a corn stack. Hedge sparrows or Dunnocks were different. A smaller bird that laid a tiny blue egg in an open nest, hedge sparrows were to be respected because they didn't damage the crops; feeding on worms and other small creatures. After collecting bird's eggs, the children made a hole in either end of the egg so that they could blow the contents out of the egg.

Blowing an egg was quite an art as it was so easy to break the delicate shell. Blown eggs were kept safe in a box lined with soft cloth, straw or chaff. On Sundays the children were expected to attend Sunday School, but Dad and his friend Bill would "forget" to go in the summer, preferring to walk down the railway line to the sidings where some of the farms had a section of diverted line holding a dozen trucks for farm use. Often a guard's van and a trolley would be stored at the siding as well. The platelayers used the trolleys to move along the rails when they were working.³ The boys would search the guard's van for a fog signal, which they clipped to the line and then pushed the trolley over the fog signal, which exploded to their great

satisfaction. After a while the vans were locked and the trolleys chained to the rails, so that “put a stop to that lark”.

November 5th was, not surprisingly, another time for explosive mischief. The boys saved what little money they had to buy



penny bangers and squibs which they lit and popped in people’s letter boxes. They usually got away before they were caught! Dad said that:

Bonfire night was a big night for us. Not a lot of money was spent on fireworks, maybe a few sparklers, but we would make ourselves a “coffee pot”. This was a tin – mostly a cocoa tin – with big holes punched in the bottom. Wire was wound round the tin and twisted to make a handle. The tin was loosely filled with rags. We would light it and then run along with it at arm’s length with smoke and sparks coming out of the bottom of the tin.

Imagine what it would be like if children today tried the same trick!

Another equally dangerous trick was to make a carbide tin. Carbide was easy to get in those days because both bicycle lamps and the village street lamps were gas-fuelled by carbide. The boys would get a treacle tin or any other tin with a push-in lid and, once again, make a hole in the bottom. They placed a piece of carbide in the tin and spat on it to make it gas. After firmly replacing the lid, they left it for a minute or so for the moisture to do its work before putting a lighted match to the hole. The gas exploded, blowing the lid off the tin with a loud bang.

There was always more mischief to be had in the village streets after dark, for example:

The houses in the street had doors opening opposite each other and when it was dark, we would quietly tie two doors together and knock on both. As one door opened for someone to look out, the other door would be opened pulling the string and closing the first door on the head of whoever was looking out.

“I thought it was funny then”, wrote my 82-year-old father; clearly seeing

that it was really not that funny after all!

Another prank called “tick tacking” involved a long length of thread from mother’s workbox and two safety pins as follows:

We would tie the thread to one pin about six inches from the end with the second pin on the other end. Then looping the thread between the two pins, we would stick one pin in the top window frame, so the loose pin would go down the glass pane. From a distance we would gently pull the thread causing the bottom pin to tap on the window. We would then pull a little harder pulling the pin from the frame. When someone came out to look, no-one was there. If there was a doorway where we could hide, we would wait until someone walked by and tap the window as they passed. When the person opened the door, they would shout at the passer-by asking why they had tapped on the window.

Probably the most unpleasant mischief was played out on Friday evenings when the fish and chip shop was frying. The boys would ask the fish shop owner for some fish heads for the cat, which they made into a parcel and dropped on the ground on shopping night. The parcels were picked up by a passing shopper who rarely looked to see who might have dropped the parcel. Opening up their “win” at home must have been a nasty surprise.

Most of the ladies did their weekly shopping on a Saturday night because their husbands did not get paid until 4.00 o’clock on a Saturday afternoon. When it was dark, the boys made up a parcel round which they tied a length of fine string. The boys left the parcel on the footpath whilst they hid in a doorway or nearby bushes. When a passing shopper bent to pick up the parcel, the boys whisked it away on the string. Dad said it was “surprising how many people were caught” by the trick.

Benwick School c1920s ⁴

Back : Althea Moore
Rose Johnson
E Stokes
Lizzie Foster
Front : Emma Richards
Bertram Seals
Emma Seals



Life was not all pranks and mischief. Dad went to school from the age of three. I remember him saying that he was sent to school with his sister and was given the cane of his first day because he cried. The village school was run by a headmaster and about five other teachers.

It seems that Dad was not impressed by Benwick School because his only story referred to a day when a small plane crashed in a nearby field. Of course, all the children wanted to see the plane but the headmaster banned them from going under threat of the cane. When Grandad Jim heard about the ban, he told the headmaster he should take the whole school to see the plane because the children would be unlikely to see a plane close up again. Certainly, the visit to the plane remained in my father's memory as he often retold that story. Maybe the plane looked like this one.⁵



Life was not all about land work or mischief with his friends, there was home life as well. My father said very little about that side of growing up, although he did remember that his father was strict but fair. Grandad Jim would not allow the children to talk at the meal table, always using the command "let your victuals stop your mouth". He also believed that education was important and attended courses himself at the local institute. Whether or not this was a Mechanics Institute I haven't been able to find out, although it would be surprising if a small village like Benwick had its own Mechanics Institute. It is possible that Grandad cycled to Chatteris or March if, indeed, there was one there.

My father definitely remembered that his father:

... always had a good supply of books for us to read, I suppose he bought them for there was no library in the village in those days. When you had been reading a book for a while he would ask you questions ... to see if you were taking it in.

Dad remembered Grandad reading two books in particular: one was about a ventriloquist called Sylvester Sound and the other was a detective story by Valentine Vox.

As well as reading, the family filled their evening hours playing Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and draughts, as well as a game called Put and Take for which:

... there was a small brass top with 6 flat sides engraved with take one, put one, miss a turn, spin again, take two, take all. To start each player had an equal number of counters and ... put one in the middle of the table. This was the pool. Players took turns to spin and did whatever was shown on the flat side when the top fell over. Whoever finished with the most counters was the winner.

All these evening activities took place by the light of a paraffin lamp because there was no electricity in the village houses and only the well-off families could afford to have gas lamps in the house, although these lit the village streets. Grandad entertained his children by making shadow patterns on the wall using his hands. Dad said he and Lil could make butterflies but that his father could fold and twist his hands in so many ways to make shadows of horses and rabbits and “nearly anything”.

By the time that Dad was around 10 years old, the family moved to another, larger farm called Sparrow Hall at Stonea. Even smaller than Benwick, Stonea was, and still is, a hamlet consisting of a number of farms and houses scattered along the bank of the Sixteen Foot Drain. Located about 14 miles from Benwick and six miles from March, the main part of the hamlet gathered around the Golden Lion Pub. Stonea School, attended by Dad and his two sisters, was probably somewhere close by as well. There was also a railway station which closed in 1966, and a Methodist Church which has since closed and became a private home.⁶

My father clearly enjoyed his childhood in Benwick despite the hard work that was expected of children in those days. The words he used to describe the boys’ games and pranks echo with the fun and laughter of a bygone era. Naughty though those boys must have been, they were not wicked, nor were they averse to helping the older folk in the village. Dad’s stories did not end with his move to Stonea but continued with his school life there.

These tales, however, must wait for a future telling.



Aerial photo showing Stone Bridge Farm 2020

¹ See article on Tom Tinkler in the Winter 2021 Edition of The Journal.

² Cigarette Card, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cigarette_card,

³ Platelayers trolley at Stratford on Avon, [https://
au.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?](https://au.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?)

⁴ Janet Fountain & Adam Keppel-Garner, *Benwick Bygones*, Victoire Press Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, no date, p.107.

⁵ British Aircraft 1920s, Google [https://au.images.search.yahoo.com/
search/images](https://au.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images); accessed 12-01- 2021

⁶ Stonea, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonea>, accessed 24-05-2020.

BERNARD AMPS (1925-2021)

Earlier this year, we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our Honorary Life Members, Bernard Amps. Until well in his 90s, Bernard was still an active member of the Society, and long-continued to make the journey from home up to Cambs to run library research surgeries where he offered help and advice to all who attended. The advent of the “world wide web” brought unprecedented possibilities, and as an early adopter he was quick to start helping internet novices get to grips with the benefits this new-fangled technology offered for family history research. Bernard was a former vice-chairman, treasurer and our first research officer, and was instrumental in the success of our Society. He founded the March and former Ely branches of the Society, and will be remembered for his helpful and engaging manner by all who knew him. Events and fairs were greatly enhanced by Bernard's front-of-house presence with his ability to approach passers-by and draw them into conversations about researching their family history. On a personal level, Bernard also worked extensively on the AMPS/HAMPS One Name Study. We send condolences to all his family and friends

**A blast from the past
found in Dave's desk ...**

**10th ANNIVERSARY
LUNCH PARTY
22 Nov 1986
at
New Hall**



Top : L to R : Vicki Uffindell; Gill Rushworth; Norman Uffindell

Middle : L to R : Gill Rushworth; Marjorie Moore (WiltsFHS); Brian Payne (Chairman)

Bottom : L to R : Mrs Tiplady; Gill Rushworth

THE 1871 CAMBRIDGE BIGAMY CASE

received from
Ian Stephenson

Newspapers of the era are particularly valuable for discovering aspects of an ancestors' past which might otherwise remained unseen. Not only does this help expand the knowledge of an individual and family, but it also gives illustration to the times, and attitudes, in which they lived.

During my research I have come across two Cambridgeshire court cases in which a brother and a cousin of my 2xgreat-grandfather, Theophilus William Peters, were involved. Both court cases were unusual, and the first, at the time, sensational. In this article I describe the first court case; the other will be the subject of a future article.

The court case described here involved, albeit as the hearings progressed as something of a bit-part player, Ebenezer Peters (1834-1875). Readers may recall that I wrote about him in articles in the Summer and Autumn 2018 editions of The Journal.¹ Ebenezer had been the registrar of marriages for the Borough of Cambridge since 1868. In that capacity, in 1870 he had married John Bewley and Margaret Jane Stothart at the Cambridge register office; a year later he would instigate the prosecution of John Bewley for bigamy. The case against Bewley is detailed in the accounts of the court cases in the Cambridge newspapers of 3 and 10 Jun, and 5 Aug 1871²; other newspaper notices of around that time contain information relating to Bewley's bankruptcy and sale of his estate.

The story starts in the north of England, in Penrith. Bewley, who was born in Ireland in 1838, was the son of an army private from Carlisle and an Irish mother. During his childhood, the family moved to Penrith - presumably, in 1846 after his father's discharge from the army. There Bewley found employment as a linen draper's assistant and in Sep 1856 at the age of 18 he married Penrith-born Eleanor Harriet Ruby Russell, three years his senior, in Dumfries (some 50 miles north of Penrith). The couple set up home in Penrith and during the next 11 years six children were born³. In 1869 Bewley found himself in financial difficulties and went to America - his intentions were not recorded, but we may perhaps assume that he was hoping to find good employment and intending his family to following after him. That did not work out (perhaps the period of reconstruction after the American civil war was not the best time to seek such opportunity) and after a short while Bewley returned to Penrith; he stayed there for only a few

months, then moved to Sheffield where he obtained work in a draper's shop.

Margaret Jane Stothart was born in 1845 in Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, the eldest daughter, one of four, to Martin and Harriet (nee Elliott) Stothart. Her father was a journeyman iron founder who moved his family to Cambridge around 1847/49⁴ and progressed to become the proprietor of the Trinity iron foundry in Trinity-place, King-street. The Stotharts are recorded as being leading and consistent supporters of the Panton-street Primitive Methodist Chapel. It was in Sheffield that Bewley met Margaret Jane Stothart in 1869/70. Margaret Jane appears to have been working and lodging in the establishment next to Bewley's workplace⁵. They struck up a relationship whilst Bewley purported to be a bachelor. In early-1870 Margaret Jane's father, Martin, suffered apoplexy (the inability or feel or move due to a blockage or rupture of a brain artery); she visited her father on two occasions, both times accompanied by Bewley, during the second of which Bewley sought and gained her father's permission to marry. Martin Stothart died on 18 Mar 1870. In his will he left everything (including his business' tools, materials and stock in trade) to his wife, Harriet; the will did not list any property, and probate was valued at under £800 (ie, £600-800). Harriet ensured that the business continued, being advertised as: '*under the superintendence of Skilled Workmen*'.

Margaret Jane and Bewley's marriage took place by special licence on 2 Apr 1870⁶ and it appears the couple settled to married life in Cambridge, where Bewley (we might assume, having ingratiate himself with the family) took an active part in the Panton-street Chapel and joined the Senior Conservative Club. During this time Bewley maintained an affectionate correspondence with Eleanor, his lawful wife, in Penrith, as he had done whilst working in Sheffield. He sent her money, albeit not as much as he would have liked, in the form of stamps. He gave his return address as Trinity-place (the site of the foundry) to ensure that Eleanor's letters would not be found by Margaret Jane. Contrary to his practice whilst at Sheffield of sending his clothes home to Penrith to be washed and mended, he claimed that that was not possible from Cambridge due to the increased cost of carriage.

In due course, Bewley persuaded his wife and mother-in-law that he should take over the running of the iron foundry; his name being identified in adverts for the business from Dec 1870. In the 1st quarter of 1871 Margaret Jane gave birth to twin daughters, Harriet Stothart Bewley and Ellen⁷ Bewley; however, both were to die within that same quarter. Referring to these infant deaths, one account of the trial records: '*...which, happily, died.*' (a view that that was better than being the product of a bigamous marriage!) Bewley was, we might assume, out of his depth and obtained loans from a Cambridge solicitor, James Hunt, amounting to £400 on the production of 16

forged bills of exchange. By 10 May 1871, after the forged bills started to become due, the pressure of his deceptions had taken their toll. On Margaret Jane's insistence that he tell her the cause of his *'low spirits'* he confessed that he had another wife and children, and threatened to commit suicide. The following day, having heard rumours about the first marriage, Ebenezer Peters confronted Bewley at the foundry counting house. Having confirmed the rumours, Bewley absconded and on 18 May a warrant was obtained for his arrest.

During his absence, Bewley is known to have written three letters. One to James Hunt admitted that the bills which he held were forgeries and offering to give promissory notes to cover them (although, how he thought he might be able to make good such promises is not known). Another was a self-pitying letter to Peter Russell, of Manchester, brother of his lawful wife, in which he admitted that he was *'as big a scoundrel as ever lived'* and that he would *'throw myself on your mercy'*; whilst he made no specific reference to bigamy, it suggests that Russell was already aware. In a third letter to Margaret Jane, Bewley suggested that if she wanted to speak to him she should communicate through the advertising columns of the Daily Telegraph. The prosecuting authorities duly had the following message placed in the Saturday Daily Telegraph of 27 May: *"J.B. I am in bitter trouble. When can I see you? - MAGGIE."* The following morning she received a letter from Bewley asking her to meet him that day (Sunday 28 May) at 10:30am on Midsummer Common⁸, and that she should be alone. Unable to arrange for a policeman to be present, Margaret Jane met Bewley and contrived to meet him for a second time that day at 7:00pm; at the second meeting Bewley was arrested by Detective Sergeant Kirbyshire and PC Carter.

Bewley's first court appearance at Cambridge Police Court was on Monday 29 May, the day after his arrest. There he *'was brought upon a warrant, charged by Ebenezer Peters, Registrar, with feloniously and unlawfully marrying Margaret Jane Stothart, of King-street, his wife, Eleanor Harriet Ruby Russell, being then alive'*. A Mr Ellison, the attorney for the prosecution, sought the prisoner's remand, and Peters gave evidence that Bewley had admitted to him that he had previously been married and that he (Peters) had received information that the first wife was still alive. Bewley was remanded for a week. (A curious aspect of the short press report was that Bewley *'now appeared minus his moustache'*.)

The following Monday, 6 Jun, Bewley appeared before three magistrates, including the mayor and deputy-mayor, on the charge of bigamy. The Cambridge Independent Press reported that the case *'has continued to excite considerable interest, and on Monday when the prisoner was brought up for the hearing the court was densely crowded, as were all the*

approaches, and those professionally concerned who were not in their place a quarter of an hour before the time for commencing had to literally fight their way through'. The reporter continued, somewhat inexplicably, to say that *'the whole of the circumstances of the affair are of a thoroughly romantic character'* and he described Bewley as *'a well-fed, good-looking man now he has shaved off his moustache, and he conducted himself with due propriety'*. Bewley was undefended (unsurprising as he was about to be declared bankrupt), and again Ellison appeared for the prosecution.

The evidence of the previous Monday's hearing was heard first. Then that of Detective Sergeant Kirbyshire who first described Bewley's arrest before going into the detail of the evidence gathering. On the previous Wednesday, Kirbyshire travelled to Manchester where, the following morning, he interviewed Peter Russell (the brother of Bewley's lawful wife) and obtained letters from Bewley relevant to the case. He proceeded to Penrith to interview Eleanor Bewley, nee Russell, (Bewley's lawful wife); she also provided relevant letters from her husband and showed Kirbyshire the family bible which had documented the dates of birth of husband and wife and those of their children, and the date and place of their marriage. Mrs Bewley tore out the page and gave it to Kirbyshire, and the details were read out in court ⁹. Finally, Kirbyshire went to Dumfries to interview the Rev Archibald McEwen, rector of St Mary's Episcopal Church, who had married Bewley and Russell in 1856 - there, Rev McEwen produced the church marriage register and wrote for Kirbyshire a copy of the relevant entry, which was read out in court. The press report does not record when Kirbyshire got back to Cambridge, but it may well have been only on the Sunday, the day before the hearing.

The next witness was a Catherine Bell, the wife of a railway worker, who ran a small provisions shop in Penrith; although not mentioned in the report of Kirbyshire's evidence, she had presumably been interviewed by him and persuaded to go to Cambridge to give evidence. She stated *'I know the prisoner well, and have done so for the best part of twenty years before he married his lawful wife. He frequently used to come to my house. He used to bring with him his wife Mrs Bewley. I have heard him call her his wife. I knew Miss Russell before her marriage. They lived just across the road opposite me. I knew them to live together as man and wife for fifteen years. ...'* The final witness was Ebenezer Peters, who was brought in to attest that the various letters (mentioned above) and the page from the family bible were in Bewley's hand. Presumably, at that time handwriting experts did not exist, or at least not in the provinces, and as an educated man in a respected office Peters was considered able to give a sound judgement. He stated *'I am well acquainted with his handwriting. I swear that the letters are*

in the prisoner's handwriting. 'Well acquainted' may be over-stating his case - he had Bewley's signature on the Cambridge marriage register and also the letter that Bewley had written to Peter Russell (given to Peters by Margaret Jane), which was also read out in court.

Bewley was remanded until the Friday to enable the prosecution to produce witnesses to prove the first marriage; although it was noted that one of the witnesses was dead and the whereabouts of the other was unknown. On 8 Jun Bewley was declared bankrupt and two days later on the morning of Friday 10 Jun the bigamy hearing continued. The Cambridge Independent Press reported that *'interest in the case seemed unabated, but better police arrangements prevented the unseemly crowding on Monday.'* The Rev McEwen appeared before the court - as a graduate, and member, of Magdalene College he was presumably not displeased at an opportunity to visit his alma mater. He produced the Dumfries marriage register and the certificate of banns that enabled him to conduct the marriage ceremony. Peters was recalled and confirmed to the court that the signature on the Dumfries register was that of Bewley. Bewley declined to give evidence and was committed to trial at the Assizes.

Cambridge Summer Assizes commenced at the County Courts, Chesterton, seven weeks later on Friday 28 Jul 1871. Bewley's trial was held before Mr Justice Byles the following day. In addition to the bigamy charge, Bewley was also charged with three counts ¹⁰ of feloniously forging bills of exchange during Feb/Mar 1871 with the intent of defrauding James Hunt - these were prosecuted on behalf of Hunt by his own attorney, separate to the attorney prosecuting the bigamy charge. Bewley, on the advice of his attorney, pleaded guilty to all four charges and was sentenced to seven years penal servitude. In sentencing Bewley, Mr Justice Byles commented that: *'without at all disregarding the offence of bigamy, the principal offence here was forgery'* and *'The first wife is not an aggrieved party - she has lost nothing.'* Not surprisingly, the trial was fully reported in the Penrith Observer and the Sheffield Independent. It was also picked-up and reported (no doubt, syndicated) in newspapers across the country, albeit in just short paragraphs: from Kent to Devon, north and south Wales, up to Northumberland, and into Scotland reaching the Orkney Herald.

Of those involved, Eleanor Harriet Ruby, Bewley's lawful wife, only lived another year, dying in Aug 1872 in Penrith. Margaret Jane Stothart, the bigamously married wife, continued to live in Cambridge with her mother, in King-street, and in Mar 1881 married Robert Rogerson Dawson, a grocer, at the Panton-street Chapel. Margaret Jane was, however, not to enjoy a long happy marriage; she gave birth to a son, Robert Stothart Dawson, on 26 Dec 1881 and died at King-street, presumably from complications of the birth, just

eight days later. Harriet Stothart, Margaret Jane's mother, whose business Bewley bankrupted, continued to live in King Street working as a midwife until she married a James North in Kentish Town, London, in 1881 ¹¹. They went on to live in Great Yarmouth where Harriet died in 1900 ¹². Edward Kirbyshire, the detective in the case, went on to be promoted to inspector; he retired from the police force and lived to the age of 89, dying in 1924 in the house at 119 Gwydir-street that he had lived in for over 50 years.

That leaves John Bewley. Fortunately for us, he features in the TNA PCOM3 records - *Home Office and Prison Commission: male licences 1853-87*. They show that he remained in Cambridge Gaol for two months before being transferred to Pentonville Prison; he was there for a further two months before being moved to Brixton Prison in Nov 1871. He spent five months in Brixton before another move to Chatham Prison where he spent four years. In May 1876 he was once again transferred, this time to Borstal Prison ¹³ in Rochester, Kent. Bewley's prison records are quite comprehensive. They have a physical description (including the location of various moles and scars, and noting his 'hairy chest') and a June 1871 photograph of him in his Cambridge prison uniform. It provides details of his next of kin, his mother, and his place of birth ¹⁴. In addition, there are records of the letters (some 15) he sent to his mother; punishments (few); petitions he made, and some related correspondence; and detail of his weekly attendance at classes (although, the content is not disclosed) and the marks he gained for that. Those marks accumulated and were converted to a financial reward which (I assume) was provide on release - £3, which appears to the maximum allowed. Bewley was released from Borstal Prison in Apr 1877 to serve the remaining fifteen months of his sentence on licence; his destination was the Leeds Aid Society. Thereafter no further record of him has been identified; perhaps he tried his luck for a second time in America?

Bewley's prison record identifies his mother as Mrs Rodger Russell, she had obviously married a second time; this information helps complete some of the back-story. Her first husband, Bewley's father, died in 1853, and the 1861 census for Penrith has her with new husband, Roger Russell, a son born in 1857 and two Bewley children from her first marriage ¹⁵. Her marriage to Russell, a record of which is yet to be found, must have occurred between 1853 and 1857; further, Roger Russell was the father of Eleanor Harriet Ruby, John Bewley's lawful wife. Thus, we might surmise that John Bewley and Eleanor Harriet Ruby met because of their parents and probably lived in the same household, they eloped to Dumfries to marry, and Bewley was well acquainted with Peter Russell to whom he wrote in May 1871 (see above).

NOTES & REFERENCES :

- 1 Whilst writing those articles I was aware of Ebenezer's involvement in this court case, but decided against mentioning it, as it did not fit the narrative I wished to portray - it would merely have shown an unusual aspect of the job of registrar.
- 2 The Bury Free Press and Sheffield Independent of 10 Jun 1871, and the Penrith Observer of 1 Aug 1871 provide additional detail on some aspects of the case. Also to be noted is that there are some discrepancies of fact between reports, these are mentioned in relevant endnotes.
- 3 Some reports identify 5 children, but 6 are recorded named in the family bible, one of which was without a date of birth.
- 4 Date of the move to Cambridge bounded by birth of 2nd and 3rd daughters in Stockton and Cambridge, respectively.
- 5 Some reports state '*residing*' others '*was engaged*'. I have taken it as meaning that she was both working and lodging at the same location, as was often the case. It may be that a position had been found through relatives of her Yorkshire (Leeds) born mother.
- 6 Some papers give the date as 22 Apr 1870. The date has been taken from the report in the UK Calendar of Prisoners. The (CHFHS) Cambridge Marriage Record Book gives notice of the marriage issued on 31 Mar.
- 7 Had Bewley named this daughter after his lawful wife? His letters were addressed to his wife as 'Ellen'.
- 8 Some reports have the meeting place as Stirbitch (ie, Stourbridge) Common, but of the two Midsummer Common being much closer to the family home seems the more likely.
- 9 One wonders whether any descendants of the family researching their ancestors in Cumberland, who were unaware of Bewley's court case, would happen across this family history information in a Cambridge newspaper.
- 10 It is unclear why only 3 charges were put up for trial.
- 11 Cambridge Chronicle and Journal of 15 Jan 1881.
- 12 Harriet's 3rd daughter, Harriet Elliott Stothart (born Cambridge 1849), married Theophilus Witter Swindell, a bank clerk of Great Yarmouth, in 1875 at the Cambridge Pantons-street Primitive Methodist Chapel, it was the first wedding at that chapel. The couple then lived at Great Yarmouth and that was probably the reason for her mother and second husband to move there. Theophilus Witter Swindell would go on to be a bank manager in Great Yarmouth, an alderman and the mayor of the town in 1909. (References: Norfolk News of 7 Aug 1875 and Yarmouth Independent of 8 Aug 1925.)
- 13 Borstal Prison was opened in 1874 in the village of Borstal as a prison for male convicts labouring on public works. It was not to acquire its function as a male juvenile prison until 1902, from which the early-20th century institutions gained their name (source: prisonhistory.org).
- 14 Given as Abbey Holme, Cumberland - which differs from early censuses that identify Ireland.
- 15 This and the 1851 census give Bewley's mother's birthplace as Ireland, yet in later censuses it is surprisingly given as Malta, then Corfu.

The will of Christopher West

contributed by
Gill Shapland

A chance encounter whilst
transcribing wills ...

Note the curious statement in
the highlighted last but one
sentence—wonder what that
was all about ???!

Christopher West 1642 (PCC Will)

Memorandum That on or about the five and Twentieth day of February last one thousand six hundred fortie one Christopher West of Sutton within the Isle of Elie in the county of Cambridge yeoman, being then sicke of bodie but of good and perfect memorie did make and declare his last will and Testament nuncupative as followeth (vizt.) hee gave and bequeathed unto Thomas Burdell the sonne of Thomas Burdell of Sutton aforesaid his godsonne the somme of Twenty pounds oweing to him by John Thredder of Wistowe and Thomas Thredder of Rowny in the parish of Pidley in the county of Huntington, Also hee gave unto John West his brothers sonne fiftie sixe shillinges and fower pence oweing to him by Christopher Miles of Broughton in the Countie of Huntington aforesaid All the rest of his goods chattles and debts whatsoever hee gave and bequeathed to Margaret his wife whome he named and appointed to bee executrix of this his last will and Testament Nuncupative, **And the said Christopher West being at the tyme aforesaid desired to give somewhat unto his kindred, hee answered hee would not give them anything for that they had not deserved anything haveing delt very ill with him**

All which premisses or the verie same in effect, were uttered and spoken by the Testator aforesaid, in the presence and hearing of Robert Tilley, John Stringer and Thomas Birdwall

REMEMBERING Sgt Ronald Sebastian Havery RAFVR (1917–1941)

Well away from the formal CWGC plot in Cambridge City Cemetery is a lone grave—the resting place of Roland Havery, a former engineer from Chorlton Manchester, and one of the crew of an ill-fated Stirling bomber of 7 Sqn RAF Oakington. It crashed at Dry Drayton, 3 May 1941; the crew of seven were killed, and all were returned to their home places for burial—except Sgt Havery. Puzzling though, is why he has a private grave (gravelled kerb, with a CWGC marker). Research shows that as both parents and siblings had pre-deceased him, it's possible there was no-one to really notice his passing—hence burial at Cambridge. *But, who then arranged the private grave ??*

THE CURATE OF COVENEY

received from
Robin Pearl

Richard Taylor

Founder of
New Zealand

Richard Taylor was born at Letwell, Yorkshire on 21 March 1805, one of four children of Richard Taylor and his wife Catherine Spencer. In 1825, he went to Queen's College, Cambridge, and after graduating BA in 1828, Richard was ordained priest on 8 November 1829. On 15 July 1829 he married Mary Caroline Fox at Huntingdon. In June 1830, he accepted the position of Curate of Coveney with Manea and so moved into Coveney Rectory. The house stood against the roadside in what is now the front garden of the Old Rectory next to the church.

Richard left a diary of his time in Coveney and some extracts give an idea of his life there.

22nd January 1833: *' I walked across Grunty Fen to Streatham and thence to the eighth milestone from Cambridge to meet the coach by which I went to Cambridge. I had a busy day in paying bills etc. At 4 o'clock I dined at Queen's College with Mr Hewitt and took tea and a bed at the Fisk's. I don't know that I ever felt more fatigued than I did that evening. The following day I returned by coach to Ely where I slept at the Stevens. The following morning I walked across the fen to Coveney and was then so ill that I was completely laid up.'*

He mentions his journeys to Manea on several occasions. It appears that he went towards Oxlode and then crossed the washes. Once the other side, he was relatively close to Welches Dam and Manea.



THE REV. RICHARD TAYLOR, M.A.F.G.S.
Curate of Coveney + Manea, Isle of Ely, 1830-1856.
born at Letwell, near Workop, Notts., March 21st, 1805.
died at Wanganui, New Zealand, October 10th, 1873.
1833.
Founder of the Coveney National School.

26th February 1833: *'I took a funeral at Manea and found the fen very wet, the water being level with the land and the roads very bad. The water was in the wash more than three feet deep in the shallowest place and the wind rendered the passage very stormy'*

13th October 1833: *'I celebrated the Sacrament at Manea and had a very full table. Poor Padget, who had been the most respectable shoemaker in the place but who, by drinking and keeping a pot house had almost ruined himself, was in church. Since he has so entirely given himself up to drink he has frequently fancied he saw a person standing before him and this recurred during the sermon. He stood up and spoke to this fancied person interrupting the service. I called upon him the next day and, after speaking very plainly and seriously and praying with him, entreated him to give up beer-drawing which he promised to do and actually pulled down his sign while I was there. I never saw anyone more earnest in his supplication to God for mercy.'*

Once on returning to Coveney from Manea with Mr Fisk, it was a little late and the ferryman had gone to bed. The two of them spent almost an hour shouting at the tops of their voices from the far bank in order to rouse him!

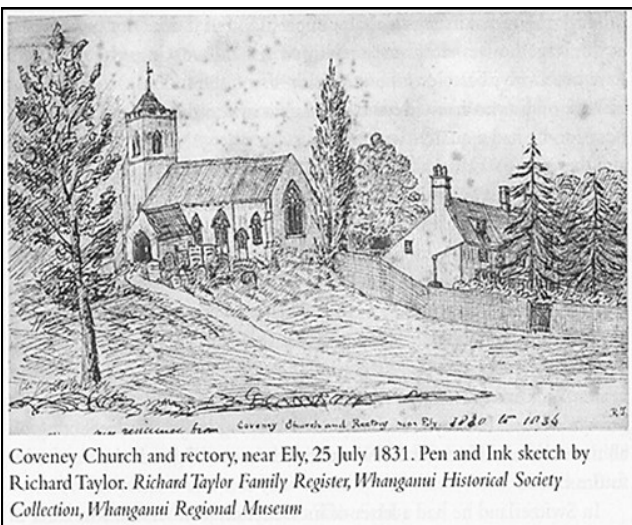
6th November 1833: *"I had two funerals at Coveney – one of old Hiams who died so suddenly that they did not have time to take off his shoes before he was a corpse."*

8th December 1833: *'I got benighted being a very cloudy night and no moon. I never remembered seeing it so dark and it was with the greatest difficulty I managed to find my way as I could neither distinguish the road or the ditches. When I got to Oxloode, old Forman lent me a large black oak stick which I found of the greatest service as it enabled me to feel my way. When I got to Wayhead I saw what I fancied was a lanthorn a little way off, so I walked through thick and thin (for the mud was nearly ankle deep all the way) to get up to it but without appearing to gain upon it. I then stopped and listened whether I could hear the footsteps of the person who carried the light and was then surprised to see it dance first to one side of the road to the other and back again in a moment. I was much pleased as I got so near as distinctly to see its shape. It kept appearing and disappearing every moment, and I observed it several times divide itself into two parts leaving a streak of light between and then come together again. I stood still and it appeared to move towards me. In fact, it seemed to come quite close and so rapidly as to rather startle me. It was then a round light as large as the full moon. I afterwards saw another. This light does not appear to me to be inflammable gas as is generally supposed arising from the oily particles of decomposed*

aquatic plants, but simply luminous air or phosphoric light arising from the drains, the same as I have seen rotten wood emit a very strong light in the night. The ignus fatuus (will-o-the-wisp) is only seen on the darkest nights. I believe the one I saw came so near as actually to touch my face. '

In 1834 he was curate of Witcham as well as Coveney and Manea and he found he could not cope.

June 22nd 1835. *"I had two marriages in Manea. The parties were very young and unsteady. It was the feast time and several drunkards came with a pitcher of ale into the churchyard to congratulate them*



whom I found it rather difficult to dislodge. I gave the parties a lecture on the necessity of fearing God in order to be happy in life and to avoid the company of such abandoned characters. "

In 1834, Richard Taylor was engaged in efforts to open a church in Welches Dam but everything did not go smoothly ...

On 13th February he wrote: *'I went to Chatteris to attend a meeting of the Manea Proprietors respecting the propriety of erecting a church at Welches Dam. Most of the farmers were Dissenters and opposed to the project from the fear of entailing an increase in tythe or other expense on their lands but at last it was amicably arranged that they would give their consent provided I could insure them from any such increase.'*

On 1st April 1835 he further wrote *'I attended a meeting at Welches Dam on the subject of building a church there. Nothing decisive was agreed upon. I dined with them.'*

And on April 26th, *'We have had severe hail storms and frosts every night during the last week. I was completely wet to the skin by one of these wintry storms and had to do the duty in wet clothes. I had purposed giving an evening service at Welches Dam for the first time and had procured a room*

for that purpose but the Dissenters were so opposed to my doing so that the person who offered me the room was threatened with immediate dismissal if he did, so I deferred going there to a future period.' .

He never mentions Welches Dam again.

25th February 1825: *'Having heard of several skeletons being discovered in Mr Golborn's clay pits at Witcham, Caroline (his wife) Mr Brittin (a servant) and myself walked over to see them. The man who dug them up stated that he had disinterred seven human bodies, the skeleton of a horse and, at a small distance, found many skulls and bones of cows pigs and other animals. Most of the human skeletons were found buried at the depth of between 3 and 4 feet and the bodies appeared to have been violently thrust down so as almost to be bent double. In one place were found the skeletons of a man and a horse close together presenting the appearance of one being astride the other. Another had the appearance of having been a man of rank as he was buried his full length and had round his neck an amber necklace formed of rude or rather unshaped beads which, though very brittle, still retain their lustre. I purchased about 25 of them with three pieces of brass which seem to have been used as joints in the armour. With the beads were discovered a large round bead apparently of ebony, much decomposed, another of a chalky nature and a third of glass'*

Two further references in **1835** which are of note. On 18th October he mentions *'seeing the comet; it had a long tail extremely visible.'* On 18th November he mentions seeing the Northern Lights.

At Coveney, he was worried about his own health and the health of all his family. His eldest son Arthur was dangerously ill at the time he applied to become a missionary but he also wrote in his journal that he suffered from 'an active complaint within' which he thought might kill him. He wrote 'In the midst of life we are in death' and, feeling that way, he felt, as do many people in a similar position, that he must seek God's will for his life as a matter of urgency. The conclusion he came to was that he must offer himself as a missionary. This became the only thing that mattered to him and he ignored the violent opposition of all the members of his own and his wife's families. He ignored the offer of a position as curate of Redruth in Cornwall which was belatedly offered him and indications that another curacy may be available to him.

In 1835 he was appointed a missionary in New Zealand for the Church Missionary Society and the family set sail on the Prince Regent arriving at Sydney in June 1836. As Richard was required to give evidence in a court

case they remained in New South Wales for three years but eventually made their way to the Bay of Islands in the north of New Zealand. He purchased a large tract of land at North Cape from the Kaitaia chief Nopera Pana-kareao of Te Rarawa. Taylor recorded in his journal that his purpose was to enable the original owners to return to their ancestral lands. The land was remote and generally infertile, but because the acreage was considerable, he was criticised in England and tried to get rid of it without success.

The first contact between the Maori and Europeans was in 1642 when Dutch explorer Abel Tasman arrived and was fought off. Captain James Cook arrived in 1769 and claimed New Zealand for Britain. However the British government showed little interest in following up this claim for over half a century and documents of the time state that New Zealand was not a British colony.

The main interaction between Europeans and the locals was the use of the Bay of Islands area by whalers, stopping for food and supplies. Trade between New Zealand and Sydney increased for Kauri timber and flax. This period also brought an influx of missionaries and the Maori way of life changed from subsistence farming and gathering to farming commercially tradable crops. America and France also traded in the area but the Maoris preferred dealing with the British and in 1831 they wrote to King William IV asking for help to guard their lands. As a result of this the British gradually pursued a process of annexing New Zealand as a British colony which culminated in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on 6 February 1840.

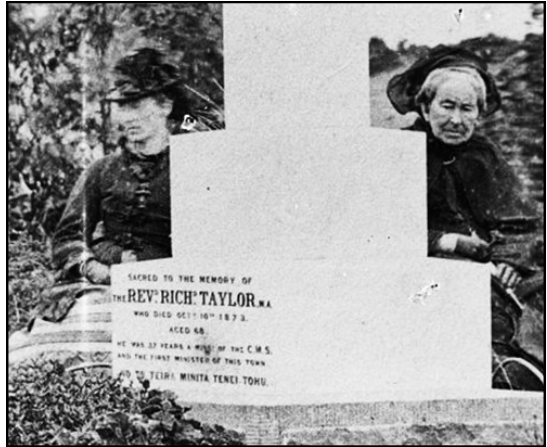
The entire treaty was prepared in three days in which it underwent many revisions. Realising that a treaty in English could not be understood, debated or agreed to by the Maori the treaty was translated. This was done overnight on 4 February by missionaries Henry Williams and Edward Marsh. On 5th February the treaty was presented to the Maori and read aloud in English and Maori. The Maori debated the treaty throughout the night with catholic converts being against and the protestant converts being for. There were concerns that if they didn't agree they would be pressured into signing a similar treaty with the French. The treaty was subsequently signed the next day.

Although not featuring as a major character in articles about the treaty Richard Taylor was present at the discussions at Waitangi on the 5th February and that evening was given the rough version of the treaty to make the final copy on parchment. He noted in his journal that he kept the original draft, but this does not seem to have survived. He also attended and carefully recorded subsequent treaty discussions at Hokianga and Kaitaia.

The Taylor family remained in New Zealand and Richard became a mediator, helping to maintain the peace between the Maori and Europeans and also

between warring Maori tribes. Some of his missionary duties were later taken up by his son the Reverend Basil Taylor.

Throughout his career Richard maintained an interest in ethnography, botany, zoology and geology. He was a fellow of the Royal Geological society and a founding member of the New Zealand Institute. A parasitic growth found at the root of certain native trees was named *Dactylanthus taylori* in his honour. He also wrote several books about New Zealand.



Richard Taylor made a couple brief visits back to England but died in Wanganui, New Zealand on 10 October 1873.

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JOHN WILLIAM WILES

An Anonymous Contribution

Dave Edwards found this amongst the CHFHS files archive—but, we have no idea either when it was written or by whom!!

Does anyone happen at all to recognise this family, or perhaps know of the author ...

James William ⁱ was the eldest child and only son of James Wiles, a monumental sculptor and later a Prudential Insurance agent ⁱⁱ. J.W. was born in Cambridge in 1877 and his sister Emily Gertrude in 1882 ⁱⁱⁱ. He attended the Perse school, and matriculated in 1900. It is not known for certain if he gained his degree at Fitzwilliam Hall as his entry in the *Alumni Cantabrigiensis* records his as being non-college. He obtained his B.A. in 1904 and his M.A. in 1914. He obtained honours in Part 1 of the Historical Tripos before going on to teach at various schools. When writing the obituary of his uncle Henry for The Gospel Magazine he described himself as 'M.A. Christ's College, Cambridge'.

At school he was a decent cricketer, and was recorded as playing on Parker's Piece and the highest scoring batsman on the Fitzwilliam Hall side when they drew with the Perse School. He also played for the Old Perseans when possible and took part in their annual athletic meeting when he won a 200 yard race. He took part in an Old Perseans debate in 1903 on the recent bye-elections. James spoke against the motion and his team won the vote against those speaking for the motion, by 24 to 12. (*CC 17 April 1903 p4*).

After school he appeared to have several jobs at the same time. In the 1901 census he was working as a college servant, he was also an assistant master at Warkworth House School run by his uncle, Joseph Pitts Wiles between 1897-1900, and was also connected to the *Cambridge Independent Press* until the middle of 1903 when it was announced that he would be leaving his job as sub-editor to continue University studies. At this time he was also learning Esperanto and was listed as one of the early pioneers in Cambridge. A society for the promotion of Esperanto in the town and university was set up in November 1905. There does not seem to be much more known about its usage in Cambridge after 1907, although a few conferences seemed to have been held. (*Pioneers of Esperanto in Cambridge. Bill Chapman CFHS Journal Vol. 19, No 3, July 2013 p3*).

Did John William have much chance to practice his new language when he moved to teach at the Clarence School, Weston-super-Mare in 1904, or Worcester Grammar School, 1905; or King Edward VI's School, Birmingham

1906-14? While at the latter school he married Cambridge girl Louisa Duncana McPherson in 1907. She died in Cambridge in 1939.

He first went to Serbia in 1913, as English Lecturer at Belgrade, and was there in 1914 when war broke out spending 6 months there from November with the British Serbian Relief Expedition. He was in Cambridge in May 1915 before returning on a mission which took him through Switzerland, Italy, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Sweden and Norway with another experienced traveller in Russia. He and his companion took with them some relief moneys for Poland and Russia and a gift from the Master and Fellows of Christ's College, Cambridge for the Serbian Red Cross. He held the position of Hon. Captain of Infantry in the Serbian Army. After the war he returned to Serbia and became a Professor at the University of Belgrade, and then as head of the British and Foreign Bible Society for South-Eastern Europe. In 1931 the Society announced that John William had been awarded the Freedom of the City of Cettigne. He mastered the language and made his home within the community. He translated several Serbian texts but the one that he is remembered for is that of P.P. Njegos *The Mountain Wreath*, which appear to be about some tussle for supremacy in the 1300s between the Christians and the Mohammedans. He had also translated a collection of Serbian folk-songs (Internet: P.P. Njegos *The Mountain Wreath*).

In 1919 his wife Louisa was attached to the Serbian Red Cross at Belgrade and wrote about the celebrations for the children held there at the end of the war. Louisa had returned to England and died at 47 Perne Avenue, Cambridge on 21 January 1939 ^{iv}^v. James, at his death in 1950, was living in Purley, Surrey. He seems to have married twice as probate was given to 'Annabella Wiles, widow' ^{vi}.

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

Additional notes by the CHFHS Editorial Team to reveal something of the wider family :

- i the author refers to the principal character as both "James" and "John"
- ii JWW's parents were James Wiles (1845-1907) and Harriet Gimson (1854-1933), both of Cambridge. Both James, snr, and his father John (1812-1908) were masons in Cambridge, although James snr was to become an insurance agent in later life. Both generations had large families, so there were lots of relatives, many number of whom are buried in Histon Road Cemetery. The family features in a number of online trees with varying amounts of detail, but all agree that the family was from the Stamford area although John Wiles was born in the West Indies(!). He came to Stamford, married and thence to Cambridge; other members of the family spread around the country and world, many finding success in chosen careers.
- iii Emily did not marry, and appears with the parents in each census. She died at Bromley in Kent in 1933, though given as residing at 90 Tenison Road, Cambridge [the family home since before 1901]; her probate names [brother] "John William Wiles, agent" as executor.

iv Louisa's probate identifies 47 Perne Road as being where she died, but she is given as being "of Belgrade, Yugoslavia". In the 1939 Register, later the same year, that address was the residence of a Bertha McPherson, a widow aged 51yrs, Vera McPherson, married aged 29yrs, a McPherson child and a "redacted entry". With the same surname, they were undoubtedly relatives of Louisa (nee McPherson). It can be shown that Bertha was the widow of Louisa's brother Archibald who had been killed in 1915, and that Vera was the wife of their [absent] son Victor. The McPherson family was still living at 47 Perne Road into the 1970s.

v The 1939 Register finds the recently-widowed James/John living with a family called Broadbent at Gislingham in Suffolk and recorded as being "Secretary, British & Foreign Bible Society, Yugoslavia". His host, Edmund Broadbent is described as a farmer, and earlier in censuses also as a "missionary"—might he be an acquaintance or friend through the B&FBS?

vi No marriage can be found for James/John to an "Annabella", perhaps they married abroad [or, were not officially married]. However, she was not necessarily his widow, and could have been a widowed relative of a male cousin [she couldn't be a sister-in law as JWW had no male siblings]. Very few other references to a lady of this name have been noted in readily available records—other than appearing in Electoral Rolls at the same address in Surrey as JWW from 1948 to 1954; a death registration in March Qtr 1974 in Watford District of an "Annabella Wiles, b. 7 May 1897" [the four June/Sept Qtr 1897 births of Annabellas can all be discounted]; a tallying probate in 1974 suggests this Annabella was residing by then at the Abbots Langley Hospital; and a burial at Islington [in a grave with one other]. Are these references to one and the same person?? It's likely, yes?? Could she be JWW's widow??

"A House Through Time" on BBC iPLAYER

Over the past couple of years or so, there have been three previous editions of this programme, each of which looks at the history of one particular house. Through the eyes of various families and individuals who have called the house 'home', the ups and downs of everyday life as played out against local and wider events are revealed, and while some residents led relatively unremarkable lives, others turn out to have been quite notable locally if not further afield. This time, a house in Leeds was traced over the past 150-or-so years and its story told over four episodes.

The researchers have delved into a variety of contemporary records to reveal fascinating insights into the lives of the residents, as well as something of the worlds in which they lived (ranging from the immediate locality up to society at large, and from the mundane to the extraordinary).

This is well-recommended, and provides fascinating insights which are broadly relevant to the lives of many of our ancestors wherever they happened to be. Look out for re-runs of other editions in the series relating to Liverpool Newcastle upon Tyne and Bristol. This fourth series is available on iPlayer until the middle of next year.

—get some popcorn and binge-view these episodes in one evening !!

The WisMus & Hunts Projects—newly added records

A further 24 new files have been added to WisMus since the last (autumn) issue, and 3 to Hunts

NB : the dates refer to the year of commencement of individual registers

WinMus Parishes :		West Walton	Banns 1959
		West Walton	Marriages 1956
Leverington	Marriages 1837	Wisbech Sy Peter	Burials 1869
Leverington	Marriages 1972	Wisbech St Peter	Marriages 1938
Leverington	Marriages 2004	Wisbech St Augustine	
Leverington	Marriages 2008		Baptisms 1947
Leverington	Marriages 2013	Wisbech St Augustine	
Newton	Mixed 1653		Marriages 1939
Southea	Marriages 1957	Wisbech St Augustine	
Tilney St Lawrence	Marriages 1964		Marriages 1950
Tilney St Lawrence	Marriages 1976	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene	
Tilney St Lawrence	Marriages 1991		Marriages 1951
Tydd St Giles	Marriages 1959	Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene	
Walsoken	Marriages 1925		Mixed 1695
Walsoken	Marriages 1954	Wiggenhall St Mary The Virgin	
Walsoken	Banns 1953		Baptisms 1945

Project co-coordinator, Terry, updates progress of WisMus

Some 40 register are being worked on, with similar to be started. All thanks to the volunteers for their hard work. The end is now coming into sight, but as the remaining registers are mainly “early” ones which are often more difficult to read —anyone with experience in older handwritings will be most welcome to join the team for the final push.

HUNTS Parishes now available to search via AncestorFinder :

Abbotsley (all complete & online)
 Barahm (all complete & online)
 Alconbury Weston (baptism only)
 Bluntisham (baptisms marr, burials)
 Lt Raveley (all registers)

& in progress are :

Bluntisham Banns
 Brampton Banns and Burials
 Brington Baptisms and Burials
 Broughton Baptisms and Burials
 Buckden Banns
 Bury Baptisms and Banns
 Conington Baptisms and Banns
 Hartford Banns
 Leighton Bromswold Banns
 Little Gidding Banns and Burials

MARCH BRANCH PROGRAMME		NB: <u>WEDNESDAYs</u> at 2.00pm
Wednesday Face-2-Face Meetings		March Library, March
		enquiries : march@cfhs.org.uk
We'll look at returning to Tuesday evenings when the opportunity arises		
Wed 8 Dec	“The Long Paper Trail” <i>the story of discovery of papers found in a chest</i>	with Sue Paul
Wed 5 Jan	“Red Herrings” <i>a look at avoiding some ways in which we might get misled</i>	with Caroline Norton
Wed 2 Feb	“The Railway Manias” <i>relates to the changes to the lives of our ancestors that the railways brought</i>	with Don Chiswell
Wed 2 March	“By The Visitation of God” <i>not in the religious sense—relates to hatters!!</i>	with Mick Rawle

HUNTINGDON BRANCH PROGRAMME		<u>3rd Wednesday</u> of the month at 7.30pm
Self-register for zoom via website		Zoom & WI Hall, Walden Rd., Huntingdon
		enquiries : huntingdon@cfhs.org.uk
Wed 17 Nov	“The Spirit of Over” <i>insights into the history of Over village from Carolyn’s recent book</i>	with Carolyn Redmayne
Wed 15 Dec	no meeting	
Wed 19 Jan	topic to be confirmed ... please see website / newsletter	
Wed 16 Feb	topic to be confirmed ... please see website / newsletter	
Wed 16 March	topic to be confirmed ... please see website / newsletter	

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH PROGRAMME

2^m Saturday of the month via Zoom
at 12.00 and 14.00

enquiries : programme@cfhs.org.uk

NOVEMBER 12-13 Fri & Sat :

THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW

Join us online for the latest outing of The Really Useful Show (see p46)

This time, the RUS has an additional feature—a free-access session on the Friday evening to the Exhibition Hall to visit the societies & traders booths

DECEMBER 11 Sat : Zoom

12.00 Writers' Workshop with Mary Naylor
A further opportunity to share and exchange ideas to help write about your researches and stories.

Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

JANUARY 8 Sat : Zoom

12.00 The 7 Ages—intro & gender/age in research with Caroline Norton
Successful research often requires different strategies depending on who is being sought and their then life-course phase. Over the coming season, we'll be taking a look at some ideas which might help find that elusive person at various points in life.

14.00 Cambridge Museum of Technology with Pam Halls
Located by the River Cam on the east-side of town, the MoT offers a fascinating insight into technology and innovations of the past—not just relating to Cambridge, but as were emerging in forward-looking towns across the country. Join us for a virtual tour of the collection.

Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

FEBRUARY 12 Sat : Zoom

12.00 The 7 Ages—childhood with Caroline Norton
Children's lives depended on their family's "lot", they then moved on to become "mini adults"—a look at some of the possibilities to consider

14.00 Everyone Has A Story To Tell with Jeanette Moser
My family from Berlin 1890 to South Africa to Zimbabwe and now in UK. Will your great, great grandchildren know who you were?

Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

MARCH 12 Sat : Zoom

12.00 The 7 Ages—adolescents with Caroline Norton
Some ideas for researching lives in between childhood and marriage

14.00 Burwell Museum with Alison Giles
Insights into the collection held by this excellent rural museum

Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

**Henry John Swan
BARRELL
when was he born?**

*received from
John Barrell*

In 2012 & 2013 the CFHS were kind enough to publish the Cambridge story of my Barrell family—from my namesake and 3x great-grandfather John Barrell, to my father, Henry James Barrell.

When I wrote the section about my grandfather, Henry John Swan Barrell, I said that I felt fairly confident that the day on which he celebrated his birthdate of 28 May 1885 may not be correct.

One of the words of wisdom given when delving into family history is “always go back to the original entry as that will be correct; when copies are made errors creep in”. If only! I have found errors in original PRs etc even within the last century.

I always understood Henry was born on **28 May 1885**. I did so because that was the date my parents thought it was and entered it in their birthday book and they did so because it would have been the date given to my father by his parents.

Searching the original church baptism register in the Cambridge Record Office I soon found Henry’s baptism entry – **25 August 1884** so perhaps he was out by a year, being baptised 3 months after his birth.

Continuing the search for his sibling’s baptisms I found a clutch of four sisters and Henry being baptised on **1 October 1887** – together with their birth dates entered alongside by the incumbent, in descending order of age, the last Henry’s being given as **28 May 1884**, I felt that this backed up my one-year-out hypothesis.

Then knowing that he had been a police constable I inspected the Personnel records of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary at the Cambridge Record Office. Fortunately some had survived and there I found he joined the Force on 24 February 1906 and among the other details such as height, complexion, colour of hair and eyes was his date of birth – **14 December 1884**.

Confused and worried and, remembering the experts’ other advice I also began to wonder if there were two Henrys. Further searches of the St Paul’s Church Registers and the Mill Road Cemetery records showed my surmise to be correct.

A Henry Barrell was buried on **1 September 1884 aged 9 months**, giving a birthdate at the end of 1883 or beginning of 1884. Clearly the parents had not got around to a baptism until in August 1884 he was near to death. Obtaining a copy of his birth certificate from the Registrar's office I found that Henry's birthdate on that to be **14 December 1883**.

A copy of the second Henry's birth certificate and registered on **28 August 1885** shows his date of birth to be 3 June 1885. So I had five birthdates to consider :

- 1) **14 December 1883**. This was the birthdate of the first Henry who was buried on 1 September 1884.
- 2) **28 May 1884**. This was the date of birth incorrectly given by the priest to the second Henry who was not born until 1885.
- 3) **14 December 1884**. The first Henry was born on the 14 December 1883. Did the second Henry take the wrong birth certificate with him to the Constabulary and they misread the year?
- 4) **28 May 1885**. This was the date which was accepted by the second Henry, his family and descendants as his date of birth.
- 5) **3 June 1885**. This was the date of birth of the second Henry when his mother registered it on 28 August 1885. Was this the true date of birth or did she confuse "officialdom" trying to remember the date three months after the event?

Usually one could expect to accept the birth register as correct but there had been so many errors recorded in this case that I am inclined to accept Henry John Swan Barrell's date of birth as **28 May 1885**.

-X-X-X-X-X-X-

Thank you, John. You can find John's account of the Barrell family in the archived journals collection in the Members' Library of the website.

This is a conundrum that many of us have all face at some point in our family history research careers—one of when someone was actually born. Certainly before 1837, all we generally have to work with is a baptism date and the varying trends in a particular period of the then interval between birth and baptism. While sickly infants might have be baptised the same day, baptism was usually within a few weeks, or months at the most. Occasionally, a delay might be encountered, and a specific age might be attached to a baptism entry—or even, if we're really lucky, a birth date. But, as we have seen, even after 1837 and "birth registration", we find that different records for a person can tell differing stories for a variety of reasons such as : recollection in later life, ignorance of the truth, other people informing, etc **—Editorial Team**

MEETINGS REPORTS

AT THE TIME OF WRITING, THE
FORMAT OF FUTURE MEETINGS
CONTINUE TO BE UNCERTAIN AS
VARYING RESTRICTIONS REMAIN
IN PLACE ACROSS OUR VENUES

- **CAMBRIDGE** : LIBRARY RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE TO MAKE NORMAL FACE-2-FACE MEETINGS UNVIABLE—ZOOM SESSIONS WILL CONTINUE
- **MARCH** : ACCESS HAS BEEN GRANTED TO THE MAIN LIBRARY ON AN OTHERWISE CLOSED AFTERNOON FOR F-2-F TO RECOMMENCE
- **HUNTINGDON** : WI HALL IS NOW AVAILABLE AND WE'RE TRYING OUT SO-CALLED 'HYBRID MEETINGS' OF F-2-F WITH ZOOM TO FACILITATE BOTH IN-PERSON AND REMOTE ATTENDANCE ... **WATCH THIS SPACE!!**

USING DNA & GENETIC GENEALOGY TO EXPAND YOUR RESEARCH

WITH VIKKI MANNERS

(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : SEPT)

Vikki is an associate member of AGRA (Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives), based in Bedfordshire but with many years of experience throughout the UK. She specialises in Genetic Genealogy, which combines genealogical DNA testing with traditional family history records to trace ancestors and living relatives; this was the subject she presented via zoom to an audience of around 25 people.

Vikki made it clear from the outset that the subject is very complicated and you should first decide if you need it! Then to understand the different types of test available and how to interpret the DNA results when you receive them. I'm sure I am not alone in signing up to DNA testing (via Ancestry) and upon receiving the results simply reviewing the names of potential relatives with very little knowledge of the science behind it all – I should have listened to Vikki first!

She first discussed the value in genetic genealogy, such as finding the parents of illegitimate children, tracing living relatives, and confirming the relationship between two people, but stressed the importance of using this tool in conjunction with traditional family history studies. Importantly one must be prepared to wait for results, both from the initial testing and then subsequent discoveries. Vikki gave the example where she received notification of a close DNA match after four years.

Vikki then described the three types of DNA test available: Autosomal, Y-test, and Mitochondrial DNA. The Autosomal is the most widely used in the

UK, covers both parents' lines and is reliable over the last five generations but more suspect further back in time. The Y-test is for the male line only and very expensive, the Autosomal (X chromosome) only looks at tracing the female line and is not common in the UK.

The major genealogical sites such as Ancestry, 23 and Me, Family Tree DNA, Living DNA (Find My Past), My Heritage, all use Autosomal testing. Vikki uses several providers but recommended Ancestry for beginners as it has by far the largest database of DNA results and therefore the best chance of getting matches. Unfortunately you cannot import data from other sites and there is no chromosome browser, however you can export your results from Ancestry and load it onto another site which may offer additional features, such as a chromosome browser.

Vikki then moved onto interpreting the results. Put simply, genetic genealogy looks at how much DNA you share with other relatives and so can be expressed in the most basic way as a %age. For example: 50% of your DNA is shared with a parent, 25% with a grandparent, 12.5% with a great grandparent, which is the same for a first cousin and so on. The second measure often provided is the number of units (centi-morgans or cMs) upon which the relationship is based. Vikki showed a chart of relationships and the corresponding % and cMs of shared DNA - this is a vital tool in understanding how these figures relate to the relationships. Vikki warned that anything under 10 cMs is unreliable and all the figures are averages and it is unknown which side of the family the match is from.

If you want to investigate further it is necessary to use a chromosome browser and techniques such as triangulation in order to identify unknown individuals. In essence you are looking for any overlap in any of the 22 pairs of chromosomes. This is where it gets complicated and beyond the scope of a review such as this but displayed Vikki's deep knowledge of the subject and the ability to explain it to her audience.

Vikki then went on to explain how the DNA reports and traditional history family records could be brought together to find unknown ancestors and expand your own family tree by working through a real example from her own family. This part of the talk also included a look at all the extra information on Ancestry that becomes available once the DNA test report is completed. This was a real surprise to me as I hadn't looked in detail beyond the list of names, but with Vikki's guidance will surely do so very soon.

The second site described in detail was MyHeritage which is very similar to Ancestry but also includes a chromosome browser for looking at specific people of interest. Vikki's own family research showed again the importance of working on the DNA analysis in parallel with the paper trail to better

confirm or reject potential relationships.

With all our appetites whetted Vikki concluded her talk with information on where to find out more, the best starting point being the website of The International Society of Genetic Genealogy. AGRA also have a podcast on the subject but for greater depth of knowledge Vikki runs a 5 hour workshop. There were questions at the end from various members that showed varying degrees of expertise in the subject but it was clear that we all learnt something from Vikki's talk that will improve our ability to track down those missing relatives.

Reported by: John Bownass

**HENRY SMITH: A MOST NOTORIOUS, NAUGHTY, FALSE,
LYING FELLOW: A GLOBAL BLACK SHEEP
OR MALIGNED CHARACTER?**

*WITH SUE PAUL
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : OCT)*

This was the first meeting back in the WI Hall in Huntingdon since the pandemic first struck and was something of an experiment – our speaker, Sue Paul, was at home and appearing via zoom to about 30 people in their homes, and 6 people who met in the hall. This 'hybrid' meeting format will probably be the way we continue for some time as it suits both those who want to meet their fellow society members as well as those members preferring to sit at home.

Sue has had a number of articles published and is an experienced public speaker and amateur genealogist. Over recent years Sue has been writing a biography of Captain Thomas Bowrey - a late seventeenth century East Indies mariner and early eighteenth-century Wapping merchant as a part of her one-name study.

During this endeavour Sue came across the name Henry Smith, who lived at the same time as Captain Bowrey, was possibly his step uncle, and was mentioned in some of the contemporary records she had found. She used this experience to demonstrate how to reconstruct a seventeenth-century life that cannot be found in traditional genealogical records.

Sue then proceeded to tell the story of Henry Smith and in so doing brought 17th century history to life. It was a light-hearted presentation of a Black Sheep; Henry Smith's story was one of corruption and embezzlement, piracy and mutiny, rebellion and slavery.

He first appeared in the records of the East India Company in 1668 as a probable apprentice clerk based in Indonesia. Later he was stationed in

Bombay, India, still with the East India Company (EIC) but sacked maybe for hiding embezzlement. Whatever the truth, he left the company owing the considerable sum of £157. His father later paid back the money owed. His brother, Samuel, was also working in Bombay at the time strengthening the town's fortifications.

In 1678 he was back in England but somehow was re-employed by the EIC and returned to Bombay. Henry had several disagreements with his superiors in the company and finally left again, accused of 'outrageous behaviour' to his boss amid arguments about bribe money. He even drew his sword during an argument which led to a public apology.

Sue continued his story based on the wealth of historical data about life in the colonies in the late 17th century. We find him in places such as Edinburgh, and Newgate prison charged with piracy and murder (for which he was acquitted).

Sue also recognised that some of the stories may not be about our Henry Smith. She presented four 'Henry Smith' signatures from different sources and dates that should be considered; 1680 in Bombay; 1700 in Newgate; 1701 in added notes to a dictionary that he had been involved with; and 1707 in Edinburgh, – are they proof or not of the same person? My view – not proven but I'm no expert!

The basis for all of Sue's story and the message to the audience is that there are many treasures waiting to be discovered in private documents such as family papers, letters and diaries. Also search for the name you are interested in the British Library catalogues, National Archives, published books (which are often indexed), and Google books. I did not know of Google books but tried it and immediately found new information on my own family.

Despite all of the information Sue has been able to find, she has not discovered any birth or death records of Henry Smith, so how much is true? Was he a 'bad' person or just misunderstood and maligned – we may never know but it was fun trying to find out.

Reported by: John Bownass

ELM CEMETERY 1913-2013

Do you have any families in the Elm area—might they have been buried at Elm Cemetery?? A searchable transcription of the burial register is available on the Parish Council website :

<https://elm-pc.org.uk/cemetery-records/>

IDENTIFICATION OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

WITH TOM DOIG

(MARCH BRANCH : SEPT)

The March Branch of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society were pleased to hold their first meeting back at March Library on Wednesday 15th September. Tom Doig was welcomed and gave his talk on the ' Identification of Old Photographs'. David Copsey, chairman of CHFHS was present and gave updated information from the Society. Samantha Farmer from Cambridgeshire Libraries attended to provide information on making use of the relevant library facilities and to ask questions about the needs of the group.

Tom gave in-depth information on what to look for when trying to identify and date old photographs. A lot relates to the mounting and framing of the photographs with less emphasis on the clothes people are wearing. He spoke about the history of photography, explaining that a photograph is an exact image of the subject and can be dated much earlier than the Victorian era. Picture of hands on cave walls found in France where dye has been blown around a hand leaving an image on the wall are in fact photographs not drawings.

Silhouettes date back to 1810-1815. Although these are drawn the images are in a way, photographs as they are an exact copy of the sitter. The sitter sat in front of the photographer who drew around the shape of the head and body. Clothes were added afterwards. Tom showed a slide of possibly the first photograph taken by Nicephone Niepce, a French pioneer. The exposure time for a view taken from his bedroom window in 1827 is believed to be 9 hours. Eventually du Gare got the exposure time down to 10 minutes but could not 'fix' the photographs. Niepce and du Gare worked together and eventually came up with a half an hour exposure. Niepce died in 1832.

Early photographs of the 1840's are often mounted in leatherette cases with a fold over lid, a mount chamfered with sprayed gold and held in place in a lightweight metal frame. Tom showed examples of several photographs and how the framing evolved. He explained that it is dangerous to date by clothing except for uniforms which can be dated. When looking at gentlemen' coats, if only the top button of the jacket is fastened, this was a sign of affluence. During Victorian times most photos of people are full length or $\frac{3}{4}$ length; not just the face. By 1857 a new type of presentation, the carte de visite, photographs mounted on card, measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", the size of a formal visiting card became more widely used. By this time exposure had come down to about a minute. The camera had 4 lenses taking 4 images at one time, 3 went to the customer, 1 was kept by the photographer, referenced

and used for repeat orders. 99% of that type of photograph that has survived are copies, this is not a problem. They can contain small white spots caused by dust on the copying frame. By 1863 negatives had been developed and copies could be produced easily.

Tom showed examples of clothing in photographs that related to different occupations. A man wearing check trousers and a jacket with tight cuffs are the costume of a compositor in the printing trade. Tight cuffs were to prevent the ink getting on shirt cuffs. There was also a standish (inkwell and pens) on the table further indication of the printing trade. The subject also wore a watch chain and badge of a friendly society indicating he has finished his apprenticeship and been elevated in society.

Photographers used props such as curtains, tables, chairs, plants, metal stands, an umbrella or walking stick to lean on in the pictures as many of the subjects were standing. Neck clamps were widely used to keep the subjects still whilst the pictures were being taken.

After the talk and presentation, Tom spent time with individual members helping them to identify dates of their personal photographs. Attendance at the meeting was good; members welcomed the opportunity to be able to meet again face to face.

Reported by Linda Pickett

MAKING THE MOST OF NEWSPAPERS & DIRECTORIES

*WITH IAN WALLER
(MARCH BRANCH : OCT)*

Ian Waller provided a wealth of information at the October meeting with a presentation entitled 'Making the most of Newspapers and Directories'. This was depicted throughout by showing examples of front pages of papers, their format, type face and illustrations. He began by advising us to plan ahead and concentrate on an area of research as it is very easy to get sidetracked spending time on reading unrelated articles. Local people often find their way into the national news as well as provincial newspapers which, when no radio and television existed these were the main source of information about people, places, events, community aspects and local issues.

During the 17th century single newsheets were distributed often in pubs to the general public. These contained 2 columns of national news. By the 18th century a lot more newspapers were published including regional papers, sporting, local news that did not appear in the national papers. The 1712 Stamp Act posed a newspapers tax at 1d per paper, this was passed on to the public. 1797 saw a further tax increase on all papers selling for less than

6d. This was repealed in 1855 leading to a huge increase in mostly privately owned publishers. Advertisements began to appear on the front pages which were full of trades of the time. These provide illustrated information on the sort of goods people were buying at the time that cannot be found elsewhere. The 20th century saw a massive growth soon after the Boer War. Reading rooms often in village halls and pubs became popular.

Newspapers contain a wealth of information when researching family history. Hatches, matches, dispatches and engagements are all there, obituaries give a mini biographical sketch of our ancestors. Ordinary people placed these in the papers as a means of communicating with others in the local area. Sometimes photographs – or a sketch in earlier times appear, mourners at the funeral and their relationship to the deceased are often listed. Articles about local and national epidemics appear, for example smallpox. Auction sales for land and properties appear providing names of those involved, the auctioneer as well as buyers and sellers. Reports of accidents at home, at work, on roads and on railways can be found as well as very many farm accidents.

During WW1 meaningful letters from soldiers were published. Although they may not relate directly to family members, the information they give applies to many of the men. Other useful articles reported relate to crime and punishment, poaching, manslaughter etc. Victorian newspapers are factual and go into a lot of detail giving using the jargon and fancy language of the day, for example, in depth circumstances of a crime. Sales of wives, although not common, happened and were reported. Reporters sat in court and recorded all the details, giving a local perspective, for local newspapers. Letters to editors appear, written by ordinary people. These provide independent views rather than official reports.

The first illustrated newspaper was the London News 1842 which contained lifelike etchings. Reports included royalty, sport, fashion, transport, society, travel, arts, discovery and exploration, science and technology. People were interested on what was happening and when. People refusing to complete the 1911 Census, including Suffragettes were included in reports.

Ian went on to talk about directories, these included Kelly's, Post Office mid-1850s, Pigot's 1830-40. These provide occupations and street addresses but were 6 months out of date by the time they were printed. Ian advised we use these in conjunction with census returns. Small businesses were usually in rented premises so they often moved. Most libraries hold local directories and record offices hold them all for the relevant area.

By the 20th century far more specialist newspapers were published. These included sport, stage, nursing, railways, political, football, cycling and the

Suffragettes movement. Bells London Life was a sporting chronicle that began as an antiestablishment publication. Contributors included Charles Dickens. Ian recommended searching The Stage publication for theatre and concert connections and what our ancestors may be entertained with. The London Gazette is also worth researching through 'Gazettes on Line' and typing in the name or subject. These covers bankruptcy (often not talked about in families), gallantry, dispatches from the Admiralty War Office, Civil Service, names of those being granted British Citizenship, notices about deceased persons estates, honours, legal name changes, shipping intelligence, those mentioned in dispatches, insolvent debtors when released from prison, government notices, land registry and property disputes, military medals, volunteer services, casualty lists and the Royal Dockyard.

Trade newspapers – periodicals for coastguards, engineers, coachbuilders and many others contain valuable information on a range of subjects. The Gentleman's Magazine contains an index of clergy. The Police Gazette dates back to 1772. This not only gives information relating to those in the police but also missing persons, criminals, robbery and wanted people.

Lloyds List is available on line and at Google Books – shipping records that date back to 1696 and are indexed. Details of ship wrecks, captains and much more can be found. British India Newspapers contain information of British people living and working in India centred on Bengal, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. Colonial Newspapers are available on FindMyPast – subscription website. British Newspapers Online, also subscription, millions of pages are added each month and on-going.

The British Newspaper Library is now housed at Boston Spa, it has replaced the facility at Collingdale and is open Monday – Friday. A British Library Readers Pass is required. A pre booked 'back stage' tour is available. Newspapers for USA and Canada are available on line digitally. For Australian newspapers Ian recommended carrying out research through TROVE.

By the end of the presentation we were left with plenty of areas to make further research – enough to last several months or years.

Reported by Linda Peckett

DNA, HEALTH, TREES & ADOPTEE MIRACLES

*WITH CATHAL MCELGUNN
(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : SEPT)*

This session was recorded and is available to view in the Member' Area of the CHFHS website

CHERRY HINTON ROAD—THEN & NOW

WITH MARY BURGESS

(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : OCT)

A welcome return by Mary Burgess from the Cambridgeshire Collection, with a zoom talk based on her recent book illustrating old photographs from along Cherry Hinton Road. Almost every plot has a story to tell ...

From Hills Road, down one side as far as the cross-roads in Cherry Hinton and back up the other side, we visited many of the buildings and landmarks—some almost unchanged, some changed beyond recognition, others, while variously altered, were still quite recognisable 100+ years on. Many of the terraces of earlier houses/shops were generally very recognisable, because, while shops may have changed hand or had their exterior modernised several times over, the upper floor generally remained unaltered. Other locations along Cherry Hinton Road are fairly readily recognisable from various landmarks which have existed at different times. The side roads and plots which carry business premises also form persisting landmarks, between which houses reflect styles typical of dates when built.

The corner of Hills Road carried a garage for almost 100 years, with the cattle market opposite for even longer—both now gone and replaced by a prominent block of flats and the leisure village. Near the far end of Cherry Hinton Road is Cherry Hinton Hall and the former Cambridge Water Works (the latter also now gone, apart from the gate house). The proximity of the water works and ample space for drying grounds, saw laundry businesses flourish in the area, including the long-established family-run Swiss Laundry (which has just recently relocated to Papworth Everard).

A native and resident of the area herself, Mary was also able to draw on personal and family memories and recollections, and a number of the audience also contributed their own anecdotes relating to particular houses, residents, businesses, schools and shops.

Reported by: Caz

BACKSTORY : OCCUPATIONS

WITH CAZ

(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : SEPT)

Continuing with the “Backstory” theme—a series of talks offering some ideas to help enhance the family story through looking at the context and setting surrounding genealogical events and records so created.

Many occupations produced little by way “records”, and the main clue to what someone did was how their work/job was described as part of another

record (such as the census, wills, birth/baptism/marriage/death records). The talk suggested that much could be gained from more generic information, and to look at “*what was it like to do ...*” and “*what was it like to be a ...*” could prove very insightful in the absence of more specific records. A wide variety of reference books, websites, museums, articles, etc could perhaps be drawn on to set the scene for almost any type of work and to describe an evolving life-long ‘work history’.

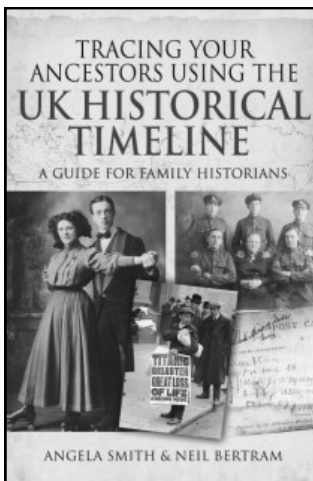
Chasing your Ancestors by Robert Parker

Many of you will remember Rob for his passionate interest in family history. He was the speaker on our very first Zoom meeting on the **1939 Register** back in September 2020 (reported in Autumn 2020 Journal), and was also the author of ‘Rob’s Roundup of Recent Releases’ which appeared in the Journal for a number of years. Rob sadly passed away last year, and the book he had just finished writing has now been published.

The book is called **Chasing your Ancestors** and is a practical guide using stories from Rob’s research to demonstrate key practices and principles; part 2 of the book gives guidance on tracing family history in different parts of the UK and Europe. The book is 448 pages and costs £15 (£5 from each book sale will be donated to SarcomaUK through a ‘Just Giving’ website set up by the family). 2nd class standard postage is £3.85 (book weighs 889g).

Please contact Rob’s widow, Maxine, if you would like to purchase a copy: mbparker2004@yahoo.co.uk

Tracing Your Ancestors Using The UK Historical Timeline : A Guide for Family Historians by Angela Smith & Neil Bertram



- A family historians’ guide to genealogical resources, placing them in context with historical events
- Whereabouts and availability of records, from 1066 to 2020, easily located using internet friendly keywords
- Major dates relating to monarchy, state, church and society help to place your ancestors in history and point to records that may be available for that era
- Designed for all levels of ability
- Immediate appeal to family historians in easy chronological format
- An invaluable reference of useful dates and details in British genealogy

REALLY USEFUL SHOW

Fri 12 & Sat 13 Nov 2021

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



a third event from the Family History Federation

2 days this time ... what's going to be on offer

- ... free Friday evening access to societies & trade Exhibition from 6pm
- ... choose from a varied 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
- ... chat with commercial traders & other historical organisations
- ... book an "expert session" to try and solve that difficult problem

we'll be there to help with all your queries

drop in and chat with us (email chat or zoom)

An insightful look at

the impact fen drainage had on the "locals" ~

'This book goes straight into my shortlist of books of the year ... no doubt about it.'
MARK AVERY

IMPERIAL MUD

The Fight for the Fens

JAMES BOYCE

Author of Van Diemen's Land



Imperial Mud :

The Fight For The Fens

James Boyce (April 2021)

A title which, on first glances, might just cause this book to be passed by on a bookshop shelf—perhaps being thought of as something to do with the Romans? However, the subtitle its reveals the relevance to us ...

'In telling the story of the people and the lost wetlands, Boyce has provided robust scholarship and rigour which combines with passionate writing to bring the account to a wider audience. In short this volume is incredibly readable as well as being wonderfully entertaining, and not least, informative.'

-- Ian D. Rotherham — Environment and History

RESEARCH SURGERIES—scheduled locations/dates/times

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

Ely Library	3 rd Wed alternate mths	SESSIONS RECOMMENCED Jan / Mar / May Jul / Sep / Nov	10.00-4.00
Cambridge Library	2 nd Sat each month at meetings	once face-2-face meetings are able to recommence	between
March Library	every Tues	when access allows every week	0.00-4.00
Bar Hill Library	3 rd Mon alternate mths	when access allows Jan / Mar / May Jul / Sep / Nov	10.00-4.00
Cambourne Library	3 rd Mon alternate mths	when access allows Jan / Mar / May Jul / Sep / Nov / Dec	1.30-4.30
Norris Museum St Ives			

OTHER RESEARCH SURGERIES CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED OWING TO VENUES' RESTRICTIONS

THE SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS HAS MOVED ...

The SoG is now temporarily located at 'Resource For London'; 356 Holloway Road, London (the former Jones' Bros Department Store in Islington). The location of their new permanent "home" is to be announced in the near future

Take a look at the SoG's re-vamped website and learn how their vast collection of records and documents might assist your researches. More and more of the collection is being digitised, and added to their online database to be searchable via an ever-growing online catalogue

A packed online talks programme has at least one event most weeks—the selection of titles will include something for almost everyone

visit the SoG at : www.sog.org.uk

We are pleased to publish these tweets, contributed by one of our long-standing members, Paul Roethenbaugh (number 545) —tweet-length responses to a range of questions on interests.

How long have you been researching, and what first sparked the interest in family history :

66 years ago in 1955, by my surname. Articles of Clerkship with solicitors then in Carey Street (behind Law Courts) and close to the then Public Record Office - then in Rolls Buildings off Chancery Lane. Somerset House in the Strand held the probate divorce and admiralty division (Wills, Wives & Wrecks) and BMD Registers. Then it cost 1s 6d (12.5p) to search 5 years and 3s 9d (31.25p) for a certificate.

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

About 32

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

London, Middlesex and Cambridgeshire

Any interests abroad, and where :

Through my Cambs RANDALL ancestor - Canada (Ontario and British Columbia), Australia (New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia), New Zealand, Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

Which family line have you had most success with :

RANDALL family from Bassingbourn, Litlington, Abington Pigotts and Guilden Morden (about 1400), Steeple Morden (My mother was a RANDALL) - all in Cambridgeshire

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

The Hon Stanley RANDALL (“Stan”) M.P. for Don Mills, Toronto and a Cabinet Minister in two sessions of the Ontario Provincial Government (My Mother’s First Cousin).

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

“Family Tree Magazine” - every issue since first printed, and Cambs & Hunts FHS Journal; both are “favourites”.

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

Cambs & Hunts FHS since becoming Member 545 about 1984.

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

Not since 2015. Now aged 87, I am a housebound invalid with poor eyesight and am no longer computer literate.

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

Paper-based plus pre-2015 computer-based family trees.

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

No online family tree, nor FH website

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

FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, IGI (until I ceased to read my own computer in 2015)

**If you'd like to contribute your response “tweets” for a future journal ...
... just write, or email editor@cfhs.org.uk for the questions template.**

THIS MIGHT JUST INTEREST YOU

Cambridgeshire Libraries Catalogue

Our friends at Cambridgeshire Association for Local History, draw our attention to a new feature on the Cambridgeshire Library Catalogue website, that allows readers to publically “tag” useful and relevant information they find. As the CALH says, “*our local and family history societies are a font of knowledge, and this is a great way to share this. It is also possible to have your own private tags that can help in your research*”. However, this does appear to be a feature which is only available to “locals” as potential users have to have a Cambs County Library PIN (ie. library card) for access.

C of E Graveyard Mapping Project

A while ago, you might have noticed reports about the Church of England setting up a project to produce a nation-wide digital mapping of churchyard features including gravestones (with linked burial information). Work has now started. The project is to take several years, and it's not yet known when they might get around to our area. The content does look impressive—try out the search system on locations where the project was piloted via :

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/nationwide-digital-churchyard-mapping-project-begins>

However, what is perhaps not clear as yet, is how accessible this database will be to family historians—publicity suggests “free to parishes” so perhaps a pay-to-view system will be set up for searches by everyone else?



LAST WORD

“I wonder if ...”

**DON'T IGNORE
ANYTHING ...**

Not for the first time has curiosity led to following up on some chance encounter ... and a fascinating story emerging ...

While browsing iPlayer recently, I came across some past episodes of that true crime series which has a genealogical twist—the one where a couple of barristers re-examine cases on behalf of relatives of convicted murderers who believe their relative might have been wrongly convicted. I happened by

chance, to start looking at an episode where a woman had been convicted of poisoning her farm worker husband back in the early-1930s—her present-day relatives felt she hadn't been fairly represented during the trial. Watching the programme, it was soon evident that this was in Lincolnshire, and being the county of much of my interest, I took a closer look. A bit of creative googling soon revealed more of the sorry story, and it had played out in the very area where one of my main ancestral families lived!! AND—the victim's surname was one which features as a marry-in with “my” family, what's more, the neighbour whose evidence help convict the wife, was the same surname as mine. This was too much coincidence to let pass and “*I wonder if...*” began swirling around in my mind. As neither forename featured in my work to date (I hadn't yet explored the more distant branches of this huge family in that area beyond 1911), I started researching the ancestry of both the victim and witness to see if there was convergence with my known folk.

To cut a long and very convoluted story short, both the victim and the witness did in fact lead back to records where “I've been here before”, and to siblings of one of my direct ancestors from the 1820s. What's more, both research trails converged on each other—more than once. It can be shown that the witness's husband was in fact, related to the victim (as a 2nd cousin as I recall), and something which I don't think was realised, by either the original enquirer or the programme researchers—were it known, I'm sure it would have been mentioned. The wider families of both parties had married with each other a number of times in preceding generations, many people across that area will undoubtedly be inter-related several times over.

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 ... we just put it together ...

The Editorial Team

MEMBERSHIP

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. All contact details can be found on p52.

SEARCHABLE RECORDS & SHOP

"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 for Cambs plus digitised images of most parish registers from the Wisbech area (the WisMus Project is nearing completion), with Hunts being added as they are reformatted. Tailor searches to meet your particular needs—view only records you select using prepaid "tokens" (typically, 25p per record or less, equivalent). 25p per record or less, equivalent).

Visit **"AncestorFinder"** at : www.cfhs.org.uk

NB: "AF" mainly features records from Cambs & Isle of Ely at present; transcriptions of many selected Hunts records are being reformatted and added as they become available (are available as downloads or CDs—check their availability via the website shop)

CHFHS SHOP search the publications listings on the website to see what's available for particular locations (CDs and /or downloads)

RESEARCH SERVICES

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 by email secretary@cfhs.org.uk (or by post, with an SAE please)
- # more detailed requests should be sent to our Research Officer, Rebecca Bailey preferably by email, via the request form on the website research@cfhs.org.uk

We will attend to requests as our time allows. We ask that you remember we are all volunteers, so please be patient and reasonable in your requests. Please supply as much information about the topic/person as possible (such as the sources of "facts" you have and which records/resources have already been consulted (eg. census, certificate, a family tree, Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc)

CAMBS & HUNTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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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 is possible

SELECTED RESOURCES TO ASSIST RESEARCH IN CAMBS & THE ISLE OF ELY AND HUNTS

www.cfhs.org.uk

visit the CHFHS website to find listings, links and information

SIGN UP TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER

TRY 'ANCESTORFINDER'

TRY 'SUPERSEARCH'

VISIT THE SHOP

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ANCESTRY

FINDMYPAST

THE GENEALOGIST

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

WDYTYA MAGAZINE

FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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WISBECH

& : ELY, MARCH, ST IVES, ST NEOTS

MUSEUM OF CAMBRIDGE

WISBECH MUSEUM

FARMLAND MUSEUM

BURWELL MUSEUM

MARCH MUSEUM

RAMSEY RURAL MUSEUM

ELY MUSEUM

CHATTERIS MUSEUM

WIMPOLE HOME FARM

WICKEN FEN & COTTAGE

MIKE PETTY'S '*FENLAND HISTORY
ON YOUR COMPUTER*'

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY

ARCHIVE NETWORK

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORY

ROLL-OF-HONOUR

PUT SOMETHING BACK INTO FAMILY HISTORY



CAMBS & HUNTS FHS WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE COUNTY ARCHIVES & LIBRARIES TO PHOTOGRAPH, SCAN, TRANSCRIBE AND INDEX KEY COUNTY RECORDS ESPECIALLY NAME-RICH ONES OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

we are looking for additional volunteers to help expand access to name-rich county genealogical material

*'TRANSCRIBING' FROM DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE DOCUMENTS
'CHECKING' BY COMPARING DIGITISED DOCUMENT IMAGES
AGAINST WORD / EXCEL FILES OF TRANSCRIPTIONS*

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT
projects@cfhs.org.uk or write to The Secretary**

OUR EFFORTS ARE HELPING TO PRESERVE CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S LOCAL RECORDS AND TO MAKE THEIR CONTENTS AVAILABLE FOR COUNTY RESEARCHERS TO USE AT ANYTIME ANYWHERE

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