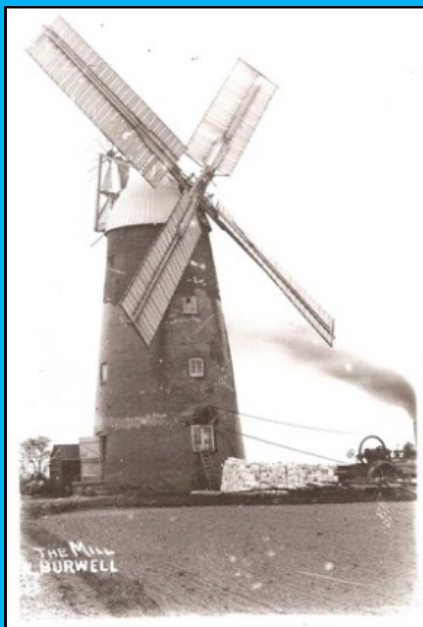




THE JOURNAL



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society exists to encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry and family history within the old counties of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, and Huntingdonshire. We 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 28 : 2

SUMMER 2022



Welcome to the Summer edition of the CHFHS Journal—first things first, how are we all getting on with the 1921 Census—any surprises, or have even more questions emerged than answers found ?? The 1950 US Census has also just been released.

This issue opens with a review of unusual forenames encountered during research by Ian S. Diane C. continues the recollections of her father’s fenland childhood with tales of his schooldays from the 1920s. Bill L. from Australia tells the sorry story he’s uncovered about a distant relative. The idea of the Census “Full House” has been taken up by Gillian F. with her great grandfather from Weston Colville; and the lives of a couple of local “*Super Full House-ers*” (all censuses+1939Reg) are considered, and all isn’t always as it seems!! A local tragedy in the 1870s which went on to frame national legislation is now to be acknowledged with a “blue plaque”. May sees the Society AGM, and we look forward to seeing many of you on the day.

Most of the regulars features are to be found dotted throughout—incl : projects updates, meetings diary and research surgeries (venues are reopening, but zoom continues for a wider participation); reports of talks; book reviews—& much more

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

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cover picture : Stevens’ Mill, Burwell c1890 burwellmuseum.org.uk (see p. 43)

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A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



County Archives Parish Register Digitisation project

I have written more than once about the research benefit of making digital images available to family historians – you can draw your own conclusions based on evidence and see how this links with searchable transcripts. Our work with Wisbech and Fenland Museum placed the image alongside the transcript for parish register entries, and it is therefore noteworthy that the County Archives now have plans to digitise their extensive collection of parish registers at both Ely and Huntingdon.

I attended an initial meeting in February with Archives staff and a representative from Ancestry, who will make arrangements to photograph the entire parish register collection and then transcribe the content. Project details are still at an early stage, and it is possible that Ancestry will use our transcripts instead of creating new ones from the images. When the project is complete, the images and associated transcripts will be published on the Ancestry website. This will undoubtedly be a significant event for family historians, and for the Society, and I will update you as the project evolves. It will generate interest in both Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire and be an opportunity for us to publicise further resources and activities that will add to the newly published Ancestry content.

Finding answers to your questions

The Society has several places where you can ask questions and use the pooled expertise of our members to seek answers. Since the start of the year, our surgeries at Bar Hill, Cambourne, Ely, March and a new venue at St Ives, have all restarted, and both members and non-members are bringing their problems for us to investigate. Dates for each venue are on our website.

Coffee Corner on our website allows everyone to post enquiries, and to respond to other people. Sharing information, ideas and experience is fundamental to family history and allows us all to get ideas to further our own

family research.

For a more in-depth investigation, you can, of course, contact our Research Officer, Rebecca Bailey, research@cfhs.org.uk. I was copied in to much of the correspondence of a recent example from someone living in the North of England whose enquiry came to us through the Family History Federation. Rebecca undertook her usual thorough research and suggested many other avenues to follow up. Other committee members were also copied in, and the information asked for was eventually found in the Archives collection to the delight of the enquirer. Many hours of work by several people with grateful thanks from the enquirer and excellent publicity for our work.

Annual General Meeting

I am writing this a month before our AGM, the yearly opportunity to take stock of what your Society has been doing and to point to developments over the coming year. The Cambridge library venue is not yet back to pre-Covid arrangements, so the AGM will be online, the same arrangements as last year. I do hope as many of you as possible will join us. You can register online in the normal way, Saturday 14 May, 13.00. Why not make this a family history day? There are talks either side of the AGM, one at 12.00 and one at 14.00, again details on the website.

New website

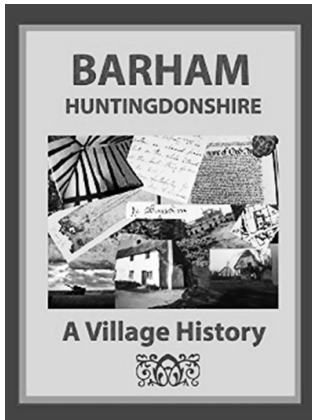
Our work with Beachshore to develop a new website is progressing steadily; Norfolk FHS are also working with Beachshore, so there are opportunities for joint work and cost savings.

Donations

I am sure most of you are aware that the Society does not receive any external funding for its work, and donations are an important part of the income we receive to carry out our activities. We have recently become aware of a significant donation made to another Society as part of a will provision. We have therefore added a mention of wills to the donate section on the website, <https://cfhs.org.uk/donations.cfm>. We shall of course be delighted to receive donations at any time.

My best wishes to you all

David Copsey



BARHAM—a village history

Jane Watson (2017) Kindle ed.

“This is the history of a very small English village from the earliest Iron age settlements to the present day. Despite there being no manor house, no impressive buildings, no landed gentry or famous people who lived here, there is a story to be told about how land owners, the tenants and workers were dependant on one another, and the surprising connections along the way. The book is based on original research, using surviving records about land and the people who lived off it. There is

insight into village lifestyles through the ages, rural household possessions, animals and farming equipment, and how the countryside changed over the centuries. Other subjects covered include poverty, crime, family inter-relationships, the influence of the church, and taxation which attempted to reach all levels of society however remote the location.”

A real gem—if Barham, Hunts, is on **your** radar, then this book is for you!

**MANY LOCAL BOOKS ARE SMALL-RUN PUBLICATIONS
AND NOT AVAILABLE BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE AREA
IF YOU HAPPEN TO COME ACROSS NEWLY-PUBLISHED TITLES
DO LET US KNOW & WE CAN HELP ADVERTISE THEM**

PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

6 Feb 2022 marked the accession of Queen Elizabeth II

We invite you to send in your families’ stories recalling what they or their communities did to mark the occasion back in 1952.

It was probably one of those once-in-a-life-time events where you remember exactly what you were doing when you heard the news.

A time of celebration and rejoicing for the new Elizabethan age, or perhaps tinged with sadness at the passing of the old King??

We will be running a similar “call” for contributions next year to mark the anniversary of the Coronation—so, do get writing!!

**Unusual Given
Names
including some
*BISHOPs of Linton
and Cambridge*
by Ian Stephenson**

**PART ONE - BISHOP TOFTS
(1796-1870)**

I have a certain fascination with unusual given names of ancestors and their relatives. One that I am particularly fond of is Hayton Hardy, a 3x great-grandfather born in Cumberland in 1800. His given name was his mother's maiden surname. The name persisted through three subsequent generations from Hayton and his

brothers. Another unusual given name in my family tree is Apalina ⁽ⁱ⁾, first appearing with my 4x great-grandmother, born in Berwickshire in about 1735. Whilst Hayton might be said to have trickled down through the generations, the name Apalina (or variants of it) could be said to have cascaded: no fewer than 20 Apalina are found in the subsequent 6 generations, the last belonging to a 5th cousin who died in 2007 - the name spanning over 270 years in the extended family. The given names of both Hayton and Apalina are not unique to my family, but they are rare and do make it relatively straight forward to trace an individual.

My Cambridgeshire ancestors provide another example of an unusual given name that trickled down the family. Here the given name is: Bishop, and Bishop Tofts (1796-1870) was the last of five to have that name. His story is given here; had his name not been so distinctive it seems unlikely that his story would have been uncovered.

Bishop Tofts was born in the parish of Linton in 1796, most likely in the autumn. He was, I believe, a first cousin of Robert Peters of Cambridge (who I have written about in articles for The Journal in 2021). Bishop's lineage will be discussed in Part Two of this article. The first recorded document relating to Bishop is his army attestation papers. On Monday 23 Nov 1812 at Bury St Edmunds he joined the 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot for unlimited service; he gave his age as 16 and his birthplace as Linton, Cambridge ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾. This was at the time of the Napoleonic Wars when Wellington was prosecuting his successful campaign in the Iberian Peninsula - the Peninsula War. The 48th Regiment had been fighting in the Peninsula since 1809 and no doubt was recruiting to maintain the regiment's strength. In 1812, Bishop was a tanner, presumably working in a Bury tannery, maybe as an apprentice. We do not know what made him join the army: perhaps a combination of a hard, mundane and uninteresting job and the prospect of excitement abroad, with any youthful fearlessness yet to

be dulled.

Later documentation tells us that Bishop fought on the Peninsula, although we don't know which dates, nor where. Presumably, he was with the regiment whilst it pursued the French army back into France. At the conclusion of the conflict the 48th Regiment returned home in 1814 to serve in Ireland - an army pay book shows that Bishop was in Dublin during late-1815; as a private he was paid 1s a day.

In 1817 the 48th Regiment was sent to serve in New South Wales where its duties were the escort and guarding of convicts. Bishop Toft was with the regiment, he sailed on the troopship 'Matilda' (a then recently refurbished ship registered in Plymouth). Fortunately, an Australian Government website⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ provides outline details of Matilda's voyage and the title of a book^(iv) which includes a description of the voyage. Matilda left Cork on Friday 28 Mar 1817 with the regiment's CO, his staff, 179 troops, including the regimental band and Bishop Tofts, and wives and children; the total complement, including crew, was 240 - the ship was said to be crowded. The full regimental strength was 600 or 650 (depending on which source is taken), so other ships were also employed in the deployment. On board a daily routine was maintained, including an early muster, regular exercise and the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic to the troops - perhaps, that was where Bishop learnt to read (for later documentation informs us that he could read, but not write). The ship's captain was said to have strictly observed the sabbath, reading a church service to all on board and giving a sermon. Whilst the journey was long and tedious, it seems to have been harmonious. Two ports of call were made: at Madeira on 9 April, leaving the next day; and at Rio de Janeiro to pick up supplies, arriving on 16 May and departing twelve day later. The Matilda reached Port Jackson, Sydney Harbour on 3 Aug 1817, a voyage in excess of four months^(v).

The 48th Regiment arrived in New South Wales at a time of substantial change. The 1817 muster of the expatriate population counted 20,379 in New South Wales and its dependencies (primarily Van Diemen's Land - Tasmania) of which 30% were convicts (associated children are also included in that percentage). By the end of the following year the number of convicts had almost doubled to just short of 10,000, 40% of the estimated total population of 25,000. Not surprisingly, concern was being raised about the capacity of the 600 soldiers of the 48th Regiment to cope^(vii). Consequently the regiment's strength was increased to 1,000, but was reduced back to normal when in 1822 a further regiment, the 3rd (the Buffs) Regiment of Foot, was sent to New South Wales to augment the 48th.

Bishop served in New South Wales for seven years, being medically discharged from the 48th Regiment in 1824 at the age of 27. His discharge

papers state that he was suffering from a 'sore arm'. That apparently trivial complaint belies the fact that other documents tell us that he had an ulcerated left forearm which was caused by an (undisclosed) accident. The 48th Regiment was to transfer to India in 1824 and, perhaps, an injury which continued to give complaint was seen as more of a liability in that theatre of operations than it was in convict-guarding duties. Bishop could have taken the option of returning to England to be discharged, but evidently decided to remain in New South Wales - it may well have been ten years since he was in England and he probably considered his prospects to be better where he was.

Bishop's discharge from the army was not without incident, and here it is hard to fully untangle the somewhat contradictory documentation. His discharge document gives the date of discharge as 24 Feb 1824, but is overwritten in red with the date 22 Dec 1824. It appears that sometime after his discharge from the 48th he signed up with the 3rd Regiment of Foot from which he obtained a 'monthly pass' (leave from duty for a month). During this time Bishop went to the town of Liverpool (17 miles inland from Sydney, but now on the outskirts of the city) where he was appointed a constable on 14 Apr; thus he was serving two separate masters - it couldn't end happily. Recalled to duty with the 3rd Regiment, Bishop decided to remain at his constable duty in Liverpool; he duly found himself confined to the 3rd's guardroom for being absent from duty - the army unsurprisingly trumping the civilian authority. Bishop sent a petition for intercession to the governor of New South Wales (presumably written on his behalf, though the image of it shows that he was capable of producing a signature) in an attempt to extricate himself from the situation, but he was required to resign his post of constable on 30 Jun 1824 and may have stayed in the army for perhaps a further six months ^(vii).

Bishop's army pension of 6d a day paid three-monthly (presumably in arrears) would have been insufficient to sustain him ^(viii). In Jun the following year, 1825, he sent a 'memorial' to the governor seeking to obtain a grant of land on which '*by his industry he would support himself*'. The 'memorial' appears to be a somewhat formulaic letter which Bishop would have had written on his behalf. A note, dated 10 Nov 1825, on the application shows that it was rejected due to it '*being unaccompanied by the necessary certificates and recommendations from his officers*'. But good news was to follow, for land grant records show that he was granted 100 acres at Burragorang (40 miles west of Sydney) just 5 days later - perhaps all he had needed to do was to produce his army discharge certificate.

Was Bishop able to make a success of his 100 acres in Burragorang or was life tough for him? The little information that we have would suggest that

the latter was more likely the case. As yet, nothing has been found about him until 1838 when a notice in the New South Wales Government Gazette identifies that Bishop's land was re-allocated to two other people as tenants in common - the original 'donee' being identified as '*Bishop Tofts deceased*'. Bishop was not dead (at later documents clearly show), so why might that have been thought? We can only speculate: perhaps making a living from his land was difficult, perhaps he had run up debts and the easy way out was to leave it all behind and try to start life afresh elsewhere - we simply do not know.

There then follows another long period when Bishop does not appear in the records. Unfortunately, when he reappears it was the start of a record of a long decline. In Jan 1856, at the age of about 60, he was in Bathurst (100 miles west of Sydney) confined to gaol for 7 days due to vagrancy. He was recorded to be a labourer, and it is in that record that we first learn that he could read, but not write. Within a fortnight of his release he was again confined in Bathurst gaol for vagrancy, this time for 14 days. About a year later he was guilty of drunkenness and given the option of 48 hours in Bathurst cells or a fine of 41s, he took the former option (presumably the fine being an impossibility to pay). Bishop appears to have stayed out of trouble for the best part of two years, but in Oct 1858 in Maitland (85 miles north of Sydney) he was given a three month sentence of hard labour (for an unspecified crime); at that time he described himself as a gardener. Within six weeks of being released he was again in gaol at nearby Newcastle doing 14 days hard labour (again, the crime was not identified).

We next find Bishop in Liverpool in Jun 1860 (where he had briefly been constable 36 years previously) being released, at his own request, from the Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute; why and how long he was there is not known. Possibly coincident with his time in the asylum, his name appeared in the 1860 New South Wales Government Gazette - it being included within the list of letters returned to, and left unclaimed in, the general post office in Sydney in February of that year; the entry states: '*Tofts Bishop Burgoyne, 48th Regt, West Maitland*'. Two things are surprising about this: that it, apparently, gives his full name; and, 36 years after he left the regiment, that regiment is included in the address. This is the only place that Bishop's full name appears - he did not give it to the army, nor did he use it in Australia; could it be that a close relative in England had discovered that he was there and was trying to make contact? We do not know, nor do we know whether Bishop ever claimed the letter.

Bishop's last known prison sentence was five years later in Oct 1865 when he was confined for a month in the gaol at Daringhurst (a suburb of Sydney), once more for vagrancy. He is recorded in the Australian death index to

have died in Liverpool NSW in 1870, at the age of 90; clearly, an overestimate, and perhaps not surprising given the hardships which he would have endured during the latter years of his life. The Royal Chelsea Hospital's register of pensioners states against his entry: '*man died June 1870*', he would have been 73 years old.

Part Two of this article will consider Bishop Tofts' parentage and his predecessors to have been given the name Bishop.

NOTES :

- i An internet search suggests it is the female version of the male name Apolonio, meaning 'of Apollo'.
- ii Except where otherwise stated the records regarding Bishop Tofts were found on Ancestry and FindMyPast.
- iii passengers.history.sa.gov.au/node/1005195
- iv 'Mary Ann Wellington, the Soldier's Daughter, Wife and Widow' by Rev Richard Cobbold (London 1846) - she was the wife of sergeant of the 48th Regiment.
- v The dates of the voyage are taken from newspapers of the time, some of which routinely Recorded arrivals/departures referenced by a combination of the ship's and master's names.
- vi Newspaper, the National Register (London) of 29 Nov 1818.
- vii Within the available army records there is no reference to Bishop being in the 3rd Regiment. The only reference to this is in his petition for intercession to the Governor of NSW.
- viii Reckonable service for a pension was from the age of 18. Bishop is recorded to have completed 2 years' service prior to 18, and 9 years 5 months of reckonable service. The former suggests that he had just turned 16 when he joined up, thus born Nov 1796. The latter applied to discharge date of Feb 1824 suggests he was born Sep 1796.

GEORGE BREWSTER —A SHORT LIFE, FINALLY REMEMBERED

The shameful use of young children as chimney sweeps in the Victorian period was in defiance of the then existing laws—which were meant to prevent it. The death of one poor local boy in 1875, was the catalyst which finally put an end to this child exploitation, nationwide. He was not the first 'climbing boy' to die in a chimney, but he was to be the last.

George Brewster was just 12-years-old when he became trapped in the chimney of a Victorian Asylum at Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire. He became stuck in the narrow flue and was unable to get out. As a desperate measure to rescue him, a wall was pulled down to obtain access. He was removed, barely alive, but died shortly after from the effects of suffocation with his airways blocked with soot. His 'master', William Wyer of Cambridge, was convicted of manslaughter, but received a surprisingly lenient sentence of just 6 months with hard labour. The 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, after reading about the case, pushed a bill through Parliament finally putting an end to children being used as chimney sweeps.

A blue plaque, granted by the Cambridge & District Blue Plaque Scheme, to commemorate the all too short life of George is to be placed on the building where he died. An official for the scheme stated, "*George Brewster died not knowing that he changed the lives of thousands of children across the land - a story of huge historical significance, for not only Cambridgeshire, but the whole country*". <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-60548227>

Memories Of A Fen School in the 1920s

By Diane Clark

In an earlier article [1] I told the story of my father, Fred Tinkler, and his early life growing up in the village of Benwick. When he was about 10 years old, Dad's family moved to a larger farm called Sparrow Hall at Stonea.

Located about 14 miles from Benwick and six miles from the town of March, the hamlet of Stonea consists, even today, of a number of farms and houses scattered along the bank of the Sixteen Foot Drain. In 1926, when the Tinkler family moved to Stonea, the tiny settlement was 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 [2].

Dad's stories from those days focussed around his memories of the school and his admiration of the head teacher, Emma Carter. The school, with its two small rooms, was barely a two-teacher school, run by the headmistress and her niece and pupil teacher, Jessie Collins. Miss Collins taught the "babies" whilst Miss Carter taught everyone else. A formidable lady, Miss Carter was ahead of her time in many ways, arriving daily by motorbike from her home in Manea, about four miles away.

Apart from her teaching skills, my Dad's admiration for Emma Carter was her caring and thoughtful nature. Winters in the Fens during the 1920s were particularly vicious. According to Fauvell and Simpson in their book on the history of British winters, the snowfalls between 1925 and 1928 were, to put it mildly, "notable". Late November of 1925 saw heavy falls in East Anglia with Norwich recording seven inches. There were blizzards in Southern England in 1927-28 with snow falling as late as March 1928 in Eastern England [4].

Small farmers and farm labourers worked hard for little money and their



Emma Carter with her motor bike [3].

children were often sent off to school with nothing more than bread and dripping for breakfast and for lunch as well. The main school room at Stonea was heated by one black, coal-fired, pot-bellied stove. Those of us who remember similar heating in our schools know how much smoke and how little warmth these monsters produced. Aware that many of her pupils arrived at school cold and hungry, Emma, who arrived long before her pupils in order to light the stove, asked the children to bring a scrubbed potato to school every day: potatoes being the staple food in East Anglia in those days. Each child's potato was marked in some way, and placed in the hot coals of the stove. By lunchtime every child had a hot, cooked potato to stave off the hunger pangs and warm the hands.

Fred remembered that he and his friends loved to slide or skate on the ice on the Sixteen Foot Drain that ran along the road in front of the school. Emma was concerned that their enthusiasm would take them onto the ice before it would bear their weight, so she made a promise to the children that as soon as the ice would take their weight, she would take the whole school skating. Dad said she checked the ice on the Sixteen Foot every day until it was strong enough to take the weight of all the children running and sliding. Apparently, they had a marvellous day on the drain having fun. If the school inspector ever complained, Emma was ready to say it was sports day.

Fred only had two full years at Stonea school. His father, Jim Tinkler, was taken seriously ill when Dad was 12 so he often missed school to attend to jobs on the farm. His education ended in 1930 when he was 14, an age when children could legally leave school. As the only boy in the family, he was needed to run the farm.

Dad never lost his admiration for Emma Carter, which became evident many years later, when a co-incidence brought them back together again, at least on every Boxing Day. In 1939 Fred married Phyllis Andrews whose brother Andy had married a girl from Wimblington. Her name was Jessie Collins and her aunt was Emma Lavender. In 1932 Emma Carter had married a corn and animal feed merchant from Manea named Lesley Lavender. Jessie Collins's mother, Miriam, and Emma Carter were sisters. Every Boxing Day for as long as I can remember until 1958, when Miriam



*Jessie Collins,
her aunt, Emma Carter,
and her mother, Miriam Collins.*

Collins died, my parents and I spent the day with the Collins family at Wimblington. Emma and Lesley Lavender were always there at the huge dinner table as well. By the late 1950s, Emma suffered terribly from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and could barely walk. She had also lost most of her hair, indicating that her condition was the extremely painful form of RA – psoriatic arthritis. Both Emma and Jess would tease my father over lunch, using their best “teacher voices”, but Dad just grinned and kept quiet. “And get that cheeky grin off your face” one of them would say. He was a little boy again!

Despite her arthritis, Emma Lavender’s writing was immaculate. Every word was clearly written and she wrote the most amazing letters. Emma was interested in everything and everybody, especially those who had been her pupils. She and I exchanged letters until just before her death in 1977 [5] and she always wanted to know what Fred was doing.

It is clear from the stories that my father told me about his life on the farm in Stonea that the defining moments of his life at that time were based around a tiny two-teacher school and an amazing woman: Emma Carter. To Dad she was always Mrs Lavender. He had forgotten that once she was Miss Carter. What he never forgot was her humanity, her exuberance for life, and her obvious love of teaching and caring for pupils: what a legacy from a tiny school in the depths of the East Anglian Fens.

NOTES :

[1] Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society, The Journal, Winter 2021, Vol 27:4, p.5.

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

[3] Photographs from Author’s collection.

[4] D.Fauvell and I.Simpson, The History of British Winters, <https://www.netweather.tv/weatherforecasts/uk/winter/winter-history>, accessed via Google Search 03-01-2022

[5] England & Wales Death Index 1916-2007, March District, Cambs., 1st Qtr 1977, vol 9, p.1146

Cpl. Margie (3) A follow-up to the short pieces in the Spring Journals of 2020 & 2021—back in April 2020, “Corporal Margie, WRAF” beat Captain Tom Moore to the ‘Big Birthday’ by a couple of weeks—she is now 102!! After somewhat of a rollercoaster ride in recent months following a tumble, “Cpl M” was supposed to have made it home in time for her “Big+2” Birthday. But as they say, despite “best laid plans, etc” we have been delayed a little. Nevertheless, a nice day was had albeit still in the care home to where she had been discharged by local hospital to recuperate, and where she’s become quite the celebrity to the staff for her positive outlook and resilience—and also with the neighbours to whom she waves as they pass by with their dogs and kids.

The Sorry Story Of William Edwin Rodway

by Bill Legge

**William
Edwin
Rodway
was a distant relative
of my wife's cousin**

William Edwin Rodway was born on Friday 7 July 1876 at Tyburn a ward in Birmingham, formerly known as Kingsbury. It is part of the Erdington district and comprises Castle Vale, Fort Parkway in Castle Bromwich, the Pype Hayes area of Erdington, Birch Green and Tyburn Road. William was baptised Monday 25 May 1891 at the Parish Church of Sutton Coldfield, Warwick. An unusual length of time between birth and baptism.

William's parents were Alfred John Rodway and Emily Mary Wellbelove, who married Sunday 13 January 1867; Alfred's occupation from 1881 to 1901 was a Tailor (take note). William's grandparents Edwin Rodway and Mary Ann Ellis, had married Thursday 31 December 1846.

Anyway, to continue on with William's life : in the 1881 census he was living with his family and going to school. Their home was The Dam, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire (officially the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield is a civil parish and suburban town in Birmingham, and lies about 7 miles northeast of Birmingham).

By the time the 1891 census was taken, the family had moved to Parade, Sutton Coldfield. It appears that a number of the family were involved with their father's tailoring business, although it's not recorded that William, being fourteen years old, was involved. I think he was under training when he had time from his school studies. One could mention the rest of his family, but the story is about William.

When the 1901 census was taken William would have been twenty-five years old, but I could not find him in any census in the UK--so where had William gone? Further research turned up in a Petition of Divorce stating that William had arrived in Victoria, Australia in 1899, and there is no question that it is William Edwin Rodway. More to come about William's life.

However, before that, I found more about his divorce. William had married Mary Elizabeth Miller Richie on Monday 30 September 1901, a widow aged forty, in Ballarat, Victoria. She was some fifteen years older than William, with eight children from her first marriage. What happen to all her children I'm not sure, other than that one of her daughters was living with them as

mentioned in the divorce petition papers. I did, in fact, research the Richie family, but that's another story.

In 1902 William and Mary had a daughter, Lydia Mary Kerr Rodway. By 1903 the family were living at Youville Street, Ballarat, famous for its gold mines. Electoral rolls show William's occupation was a Commercial Traveller (of what?). Maybe something to do with men's suit material being his father was a tailor.

For the next 11 years William and Mary travelled between Ballarat and Melbourne, a distant of 120 km. They appeared to have a reasonable life--living at 16 Camp Street, Ballarat from 1905 to 1908, then at 23 William Street, South Yarra, Melbourne from 1909 to 1912, returning to Ballarat 1912 to 1913 at 1216 Sturt Street Ballarat, before moving back again to 23 William Street 1914 to 1916

At the age of 38 William joined The Australian Imperial Force on 13 November 1914 stating his occupation was a Mechanical Engineer. This seems to contradict his working life as a Commercial Traveller, and I think it was possible that he travelled to places as a tailor.

As you will read in the Affidavit for Divorce below, things did not go well for William after he returned from the war in May 1916. Some of the affidavit differs from the records recorded in his electoral rolls.

Transcript of the affidavit :

William Edwin Rodway (Petitioner)

And

Mary Elizabeth Miller Rodway (Respondent)

I, William Edwin Rodway of Glenhuntley Road Elsternwick in the State of Victoria tailor make oath and say: -

- 1. That I am the above petitioner*
- 2. That I was married to the above respondent at St. Peters Church Ballarat in the State of Victoria on the thirtieth September 1901 by the Reverend John William Griffiths a Clergyman lawfully authorized to celebrate marriage in Victoria according to the rites of the Church of England.*
- 3. I was born at Birmingham England on seventh July 1878 and was before marriage and since a tailor, the respondent was born at Warrenheip Victoria in 1868 and was a widow keeping boarders before her marriage to me, before which I was bachelor.*
- 4. I came to Victoria in 1899 and the said respondent and I are domiciled in Victoria.*
- 5. There is one child living the issue of such marriage a girl Lilian Mary Kerr Rodway born in February 1902 Ballarat.*

6. *I was a lodger with respondent at her boarding house Raglan Street Ballarat before marriage and after marriage with her cohabited there with her till 1913, I and respondent then removed to South Yarra in 1913 and in November 1914 I with respondent consent enlisted for the European War and returned to south Yarra in June 1916 invalided home with neuritis and injury to my spine. Except on two occasions in September 1917 and September and October 1918 when I had recurrence of illness to stay at the Caulfield Military Hospital I live at South Yarra with the respondent till December 1918*
7. *During my absence from the war I with my allotment allowed respondent two pounds fourteen shillings weekly reserving only one shilling a day for myself and with my saving I gave her on my return fifty-eight pounds. When respondent received this sum and had used same in September 1916 her attitude and demeanor to me completely changed. Until then she had been kind to me but through my injuries and illness I was only able to get a pension of thirty shillings a week all of which I gave to her. She then said if I wouldn't work she wouldn't sleep with me or in the same room. She told me to clear out I was no good to her. On my return she had slept in the same room as myself, but she removed to another to another room and slept with our daughter and since September 1916 has refused to allow me to have connection with her, although I have frequently asked her to consent to same, and she told me if I wanted a woman I could go elsewhere, she urged me frequently to go elsewhere for a woman. I have asked her over twenty times to permit connection. She would reply, "Give me Three pounds or Four pounds". She refused to speak to me and her only conversation at any time was to ask for money, and as I did not have it she would call me a loafer. Occasionally I was in great pain through my injured spine and asked her to rub it to ease me. She refused and said I could go to the Hospital although sometimes I was in too great pain to go. As she refused to speak to me I wrote several letters to her asking her the cause of her conduct and cruelty but she never replies to any letter. I found she had sold all my clothes and personal belongings and would nor reply to my complaints. My good furniture she had moved to another room, which she occupied with my daughter and my bedroom was scantily furnished without proper conveniences. When asked for proper furniture for my bedroom she refused and said it would furnish a room to let to lodgers, as I was not providing her with money. She frequently told me no man was any good to her unless he could bring in more money than I gave her.*

The respondent and a daughter of hers by her first marriage frequently abused me. The latter said in respondent's presence "Your no good, your no help to mother why don't you clear out. Go".

8. *In December 1918 I left my home in South Yarra and have since lived in Glenhuntly Road Elsternwick but the said respondent has always since received my pension money of thirty shillings weekly.*
9. *That I distinctly and unequivocally deny all collusion or connivance past or present direct or indirect with the respondent or with any person liable to be made respondent.*

Sworn at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this 30th day of October one thousand nine hundred and nineteen before me signed by W.E Rodway

Signed by E.W. Pearcey a commissioner of the Supreme Court of the State of for taking affidavits.

This affidavit is filed on behalf of the petitioner.

So the divorce went ahead, and was reported in The Argus Melbourne of Wednesday 11 February 1920 :

DIVORCE COURT.

In the Divorce Court yesterday, Mr Justice Hood
Granted the following decrees nisi, on the ground
Of desertion William Edwin Rodway 41 years of age
of Glenhuntly road, Elsternwick, tailor,
from Mary Elizabeth Miller Rodway 51 years of age;

There is a scanned copy of a transcription from an article – Truth (Brisbane QLD Sunday 22 February 1920) it is obvious that the paper was hard to translate with many mistakes. The story was entitled “Soldiers Sorrows”, and if anyone is interested, I have a scanned copy.

A couple of things don't match up. Firstly, according to the Warwickshire Baptisms, William was born in 1876 not 1878, and secondly, Mary Elizabeth was born in 1861 not 1868 as recorded both on her Birth and Death Index. And another mystery, Mary was 51 years old in the divorce court records, whereas she should be 58/59 years, and William 41 years should be 43/44.

Mary Elizabeth Miller Kerr (Rodway) died 10 June 1945 at Toorak Stonnington City, Victoria Australia. Why the surname Kerr is partly a mystery. Mary's first marriage was to Thomas William Kerr in 1879, but he died in 1895. After her divorce from William, did she revert to her first husband's name out of spite, as per the death certificate. Also, there is another question about Mary and Thomas' last child who was born in 1898, and died 1899. I think this child was born in 1895 and incorrectly transcribed. However, it really has nothing to do with the Rodway families.

So, William got his divorce and then married Eleanor Edith Ward in 1920 Victoria. In the 1924 Electoral Roll they were living at 64 Fisher Street,

Malvern East, his occupation, tailor.

William had two more children with Eleanor : Lilian Eleanor Mavis born 1 February 1921, at Caulfield Victoria, and William Ernest born 1923 Victoria. I can find no record of William Ernest other than he is mentioned in the probate papers.

Unfortunately, William was not going to see his children grow up as he died on 11 May 1924 at 64 Fisher Street East Malvern Victoria, occupation tailor, and intestate. Probate on 5 September 1924 found that Eleanor would inherit the house and amount of money in the bank.

The National Archives of Australia have three entries for William : two are records his military involvement, the other, an application for assistance to pay furniture debt in 1919. So, his wife ripped him off. Unfortunately, there's no record of William arriving in Australia, other than as reported in the Affidavit.

William and Mary's child, Lydia as mention above, was born in 1902 in Ballarat, Victoria, and in 1936 she married Eric Clark Heintichsem in Victoria. She died 3 August 1982 Cambrian Hill Victoria; her husband Eric having predeceased her 10 June 1945 at Toorak, Stonnington City, Victoria.

Of William & Eleanor's children, their daughter Lilian married Daniel Mannix Murphy on 10 February 1943, and Lilian spent the later part of WW2 in the RAAF enlisted under her maiden name. Their son William, I cannot trace although he is mentioned as the brother in Lilian's application papers to join the RAAF.

So, that's the story.

All research was carried out from my home in Yanchep, Western Australia, and just proves the power of the internet and Ancestry.

1921 CENSUS	WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR 1921 STORIES
successes ... surprises	
difficulties ... failures	
<i>Have <u>you</u> found <u>your</u> family in 1921?? Are they as expected or not—easily found or with difficulty, or perhaps not at all?? Have surprising details emerged—<u>every</u> record of each person has a story behind it ...</i>	

I've Got A 'FULL HOUSE'

*received from
Gillian Forsythe*

The article on page 15 of the Spring 2022 Journal prompts me to write about my great grandfather who was born in 1837 and died in 1926, thus neatly covering the Census years 1841 to 1921.

However, his Census record is by no means neat or straightforward as you can see from the copies.

My first encounter with the Census was in 2010 when I borrowed the 1881 Census on disc from my local History Society. Naturally, I started by looking for my grandfather George HEATH, born in 1868, but could not find him. I can just remember my grandfather and his younger sister so I was perplexed. Eventually I tracked him and his family down under the surname **MARSH** which came as quite a surprise.

Eventually, I had access to all the Census records and followed my great grandfather, John and his family through the years. He was Christened in the August of 1837 just too early to be registered in September of that year. (I am hoping that the 1921 Census will give me his birth month). The baptismal record tells us that he was the illegitimate son of Ann MARSH. The 1841 Census provided the first possible puzzle. Here, since the Census does not give family relationships, it would be easy to assume that young John MARSH was the son of the head of the household rather than the grandson. The presence of a nineteen year old John as well points to the truth. Ann, four year old John's mother, was in service nearby in West Wrattling.

Seven years after John was born his mother married Mr Ambrose Flack HEATH who died within four years. For the Census of 1851 John is with his now widowed mother and his younger half- brother, Charles. He is using his new surname **HEATH**.

In 1861, when he has left home, there are few clues but I assume this is our man. In 1871 he has been given the wrong native village but I guess Martha, his wife was the one who spoke to the enumerator and she just did not know that John was born in Weston Colville rather than West Wrattling. Then there is 1881 with the MARSH surname. Why John suddenly reverted to his former name in 1881 we are unlikely ever to find out. He had been called HEATH since at least 1851 and used this borrowed surname for the rest of his life although it was never formally changed.

I have not looked at the 1921 Census yet. I wonder which surname I should search for. Perhaps John will have another pang of conscience and use his birth name.

Last time I wrote about this family it was to announce that a DNA test had given me John MARSH / HEATH's missing father. I was ecstatic. All the records, coincidences and the DNA results pointed to the same man. Unfortunately, I went on to do more tests just to confirm my findings and doubt has crept in. I await yet another set of results which may prove that John's father was actually Ambrose Flack HEATH after all!

Census search for my great grandfather, John

Census in 1841 resident Pound Farm, Weston Colville

John MARSH	50	Ag Lab	b. in county
Ann "	55		"
John "	19	Ag Lab	"
Charles "	14	Ag Lab	"
Rebecca "	12		"
Sarah "	6		"
John "	4		"

Census in 1851 res. Wrattling Lodge, West Wrattling

Ann HEATH	head	35	Wd	b. Weston Colville, Cambs
John "	son	13	Ag Lab	b. Weston Colville, "
Charles "	son	5		b. West Wrattling, "

Census in 1861 res. 102 Russell Street, Cambridge

John HEATH lodger 23 unem R'way serv b. Weston Colvill (sic)

Census in 1871 res. Greenwood Cottages, Chesterton

John HEATH	head	33	Coachman	b. West Wrattling, Cambs.
Martha "	wife	30		b. West Wickham, Cambs
Agnes "	daug.	5		b. Cambridge, "
Jessie "	daug.	4		b. Chesterton, "
George "	son	2		b. Chesterton, "

Census in 1881 res. Chesterton Road, Chesterton

John MARSH	head	43	Coachman	b. Weston Colville.
Marth. J. "	wife	40		b. West Wycombe (sic)
Agnes R. "	daug.	15		b. Cambridge
Jessie L. "	daug.	14		b. "
George "	son	12		b. "
Sidney Chas. "	son	9		b. "
Bertha M. "	daug.	3		b. "

Census in 1891 res. Alpha Road, Chesterton, Cambs.

John HEATH	head 52	Gardener (dom)	b. Weston Colville.
Martha HEATH	wife 50		b. West Wickham
Agnes HEATH	daug. 25		b. Cambridge
Jessie HEATH	daug. 24		b. New Chesterton
George HEATH	son 20		b. " "
Sidney HEATH	son 19		b. " "
Bertha HEATH	daug 13		b. " "

Census in 1901 res. 47, Alpha Road, Chesterton

John HEATH	head 62	Gardener (dom)	b. Weston Colville.
Martha "	wife 60		b. West Wickham
Agnes "	daug. 35		b. Cambridge
Jessie "	daug. 34		b. Chesterton

Census in 1911 res. 47, Alpha Road, Chesterton

John HEATH	head 73	Gardener (dom)	b. Weston Colville
Martha "	wife 70		b. West Wickham
Agnes "	daug 45		b. Chesterton
Jessie "	daug 43		b. Chesterton
Bertha "	daug 33		b. Chesterton

1950 US CENSUS

Calling anyone with interests in mid-twentieth century America—

it might have just escaped your notice, but on 1 April 2022, a great new records set was added to the stable of online resources provided by Ancestry

With all the interest and advertising which preceded the much awaited release of the UK 1921 Census earlier this year, the US 1950 Census has perhaps crept up on us, somewhat unnoticed. While, undoubtedly, there will be many for whom this will have long been on their calendars, for those of us who only occasionally need to dip into US records, this has come as a nice surprise. It was only while recently following a family found to have emigrated to the US back in the 1880s, that the subject came to mind. A quick google of "*release of 1950 US Census*" soon revealed the imminence of the event—it seems that unlike the UK, the US authorities operate a "72-year rule".

This will present a welcome opportunity for trying to progress research on families and individuals who've "got lost" in recent decades. Unfortunately, later-C20th research is somewhat hindered by the great variations found in the availability of records sets in different states and counties across the US.

However, having now had a look, it appears US1950 is only browsable at present, we'll have to wait a little longer for fully searchable options...

The 'SUPER' Full House-ers Of Cambs & Hunts

*in the last Journal,
we alluded to the idea of
the "Super Full House"
people appearing in
all the censuses 1841-1921
and the 1939 Register*

It might be thought that identifying folk who fit these criteria would be an easy task—not so!! The more we looked, the more potential candidates emerged, as did the number of anomalies across their lives. This whole exercise was to be a salutary lesson illustrating the vagaries of records and resources, and of why it is absolutely essential to check, check, and check again. Had we not been aware of this already through many years of experience, it would soon become evident just what a gulf can exist between “fact” and “truth”.

To try and compile a definitive list, a number of resources were consulted. Each, however, produced a different list of names and (often conflicting) details. Despite being derived from the same record sets, different providers can bring differing interpretations to the table. Some names were in common, others unique to particular record sets or resource providers. All were collated and checked out for consistency and truth (whatever “truth” is).

A simple search of various online resources produced lists of those matching the criteria by potentially appearing in both the 1841 Census [41Cen] and the 1939 Register [39Reg]. However, on closer examination all was not necessarily as it seemed, and what was in the records was not always true. Many of the search methods we work with take a person’s age as converted to “birth year”; ages in a record, however, were often reported by someone else, especially for women (as in a census, or at their death), therefore correlation of records across peoples’ lifetimes often threw up discrepancies.

Of the dozen or so “*Super Full House*” candidates who have turned up in Cambs and Hunts, a number can be discounted as “imposters” (mostly for reasons as outlined below), others, however, can be shown to be “genuine”.

- ◇ deaths after 39Reg—*searched by age and registration quarter, but not all ages are accurate nor did the death occur before the 39Reg in that quarter year*
- ◇ ages in 39Reg—*birth year not always listed in full, perhaps just as '38 (could be 1838 or 1938 despite context), sometimes mis-interpreted or mis-transcribed (b.1838 “child under school age” or “b.1938 “pensioner”) eg : Clara HOLE (d. Dec Qtr 1943,105yr) was recorded in 39Reg as “born '38” and a “widow, of private means”—however, it’s transcribed as 1938 and is not the description/occupation expected for an 18-mth-old!!*

- ◇ births before the 41Cen—searched by age and registration quarter, but not all ages in later life were accurate, nor did the birth occur before the 41Cen in that quarter year; also, not all births were registered at that time
- ◇ life-course records—the compilation of a person’s biography might throw up mis-recorded ages (whether by intention, or because the “truth” was perhaps not known) but seems to be mostly found in later life, and, may stem from the celebrity associated with being thought of as “very old”

It could be said that ages might have been consciously exaggerated in order to claim old age pensions—this, however, is perhaps unlikely here. Old-age pensions were introduced for 70yr-olds on 1 January 1909, and the ages of most of the candidates in 11Cen have been found to be fairly accurate; age inflation, here, seems to be mostly in later life, after 11Cen. Age inflation to claim pensions was apparently an issue in Ireland!! www.irelandsown.ie/the-old-age-pension-scam.

Flora Thompson helped administer the first pensions whilst a post mistress, and notes the impact for elderly folk in “Larkrise To Candleford”

It has to be asked whether so-called “imposters” consciously knew of and participated in actual deception, or did they just go along with presumptions made by others—as might happen if they attained a degree of local celebrity or because of the local papers picked up on their story—who’s to say!!

So, who are the potential Super Full House-ers found in Cambs & Hunts, and how do their stories stand up to scrutiny ...

Sarah FEEKINS/FEAKINS happened to be first out of the bag, and can be shown to be a genuine Super Full House-er quite easily. She died in St Ives District in Dec Qtr 1942, aged 102yrs, which suggests a birth c1840. The 39Reg has Sarah listed as living at Pidley with Frederick and Ada Johnson (Ada turns out to be her daughter); her birth date was recorded as “19 Dec 1839”. So far so good—and following the census listings for Sarah couldn’t be more straight forward and conclusive.

As Sarah COATES, she married Thomas FEAKINS of Fenton in 1866 and went on to spend her whole married life in Pidley (cum-Fenton). Thomas died in 1886, aged just 44yr, leaving Sarah a widow with seven children. While Thomas seems to have lived and worked in Pidley-c-Fenton his entire life, first with his parents and then with his wife, Sarah was not a local. 1861 found her as a dairy-maid living at Haddenham, and it could be speculated that, perhaps, she might have met her future husband at St Ives market. Across her whole life, Sarah’s census ages and birth places are consistent, and all indicate a birth c1839 at Barton Mills near Mildenhall, in Suffolk. A search of earlier censuses finds her there with parents James (a carpenter) & Elizabeth, and numerous siblings. Listed as aged 11yr in 1851 and 2yr in

1841, and with a birth registration in Mar Qtr 1840—this definitely makes Sarah FEEKINS/FEAKINS a genuine Super Full House-er.

Keziah THOMPSON on the other hand, has perhaps the most convoluted story of those investigated thus far. The 39Reg lists her living at Cottons Common, Friday Bridge with (daughter) Ada, and a birth date listed as of “6 December 1839”. Her death is registered three months later in March Qtr 1940 in Wisbech District, aged 100yr; the ‘Lynn Advertiser’ of 22 March 1940 carried a summary of her long life.

But, how does her story check out??

From the article, her marriage to James THOMPSON some 65yr earlier is supported by the marriage registration in Dec Qtr 1876 in Wisbech District of a “James THOMPSON & Keziah BENNETT”; CHFHS Transcripts of marriages at Friday Bridge adds : “James THOMPSON, 44yr,

wid, lab, s/o Matthew; & Keziah BENNETT, 33yr, sp, d/o Elizabeth, wid” (no father listed). Already there are anomalies in the story—in that 100yr-old in 1940 equates to being born in 1840, whereas being 33yr-old in 1876 equates to c1843. Census entry ages back across her life are fairly consistent to being born c1841 or later : 1921 index “b.1841”; 1911 69yr; 1901 58yr; 1891 48yr; 1881 38yr; 1871 28yr; 1861 20yr; 1851 9yr; 1841 has not been located.

So, what is actually correct? There’s a baptism record at Wisbech St Peter in 1843 of “Keziah, d/o William & Elizabeth BENNETT, of Workhouse” (no age or birth date is listed), but with no tallying birth registration at the time. This, however, turned up in Wisbech District Dec Qtr 1841 “Kazia BENNETT (mother’s surname SMITH)”. To cut a long story short—further information derived from the systematic following of William and Elizabeth (via her three marriages as COPELAND, BENNETT, DAVEY), and her proven associations with others of these surnames, suggests that this is Keziah’s birth.

Without purchasing the birth certificate, Keziah’s actual birth date remains a mystery, or does it? Whilst ages or birth years might become confused over time, birthdays are perhaps less likely to be muddled, and the “6 Dec” listed in 39Reg is quite probably correct. And, if true, it looks as though Keziah is an imposter from a Super Full House perspective, as her birth can shown to have been a few months after the 41Cen. The moral, here, is to collate details from a variety of sources, to do the sums, and to question everything!!

We’ll look at the stories of more “candidates” in the next issue ...

OUTWELL.

CENTENARIAN’S DEATH.—The funeral service took place on Monday at the Church-drove Methodist church, Outwell, of Mrs. Keziah Thompson, Fridaybridge, who died on the 14th inst., three months after her hundredth birthday. Mrs. Thompson was born at Upwell, and went to what was known as “Jude’s School” in what are now the Parish Rooms. On her marriage to Mr. James Thompson 65 years ago she went to live at “The Cottons,” in the house which she occupied up to the time of her death. Her husband died 28 years ago. Of the family of five sons and three daughters, seven survive. Two of the sons are abroad.

Celebrating The Life & Work Of PERCY SALMON

*Our thanks to Ray &
Janice of CALH for this
release about these events*

**CALH
Cambridgeshire
Association for
Local
History**

Cambridgeshire photographer and writer celebrated by The Royal Photographic Society

The Royal Photographic Society is celebrating the life and career of a former Cambridgeshire resident this month (March) with an online talk and an exhibition at Cambridge Central Library.

Percy R. Salmon, a fellow and member of the RPS for more than 60 years, was born in Waterbeach, spent his childhood and teenage years in Cambridge and later retired to Melbourn.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth on 12 March 1872, the society has commissioned an online talk about his career as a successful photographer, journalist, and author.

Among his achievements, Mr. Salmon was:

- * a travelling photographer for the eminent photography firm of Lévy & ses Fils of Paris including a 6-month trip to Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, and Greece in 1898.
- * Editor of the weekly paper *Photographic News* at the age of 28, a post he held for five years.
- * a successful freelance journalist who supplied articles to 70 different titles and publications.
- * author of many popular books, notably *All About Photography: How to Make Good Pictures* published in 1925 by Ward, Lock & Co.

The RPS talk is the culmination of research into his life by members of his family, notably his great nephew Stephen Martin and great-great niece Helen Barber.

It includes details of Mr. Salmon's early life in Waterbeach and his family's move to Cambridge where his father served as a police constable for 25 years.

As a teenager, Percy Salmon was a member of the domestic staff employed by Professor EB Cowell, Cambridge University's first Professor of Sanskrit.

In retirement, Mr. Salmon lived with his wife Eliza in Melbourn where took 500 photographs that captured the changing face of the village during the 1930s. He died in 1959 at the age of 87.

An exhibition featuring his photographs and ephemera held by the Cambridgeshire Collection will be on view at Cambridge Central Library in Lion Yard, Cambridge from 7th March.

Local Studies Librarian, Susannah Farmer, said: The Cambridgeshire Collection is such a wonderful resource for local information, and we are very lucky to have such a wealth of resources relating to local people. We are delighted to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Percy Salmon by highlighting the materials in our collection. We are especially grateful for personal collections like this that have been deposited by the family so that all can study and enjoy them.

**An illustrated talk about Percy R. Salmon, presented by photographic historian Dr. David Barber, will be available on the RPS YouTube channel from Saturday 12 March 2022 - [The Royal Photographic Society - YouTube](#)

A few additional biographical details to add to the above :

1881 saw Percy's parents, William & Rebecca Salmon and their family of four, living in Bradmore Street, off East Road (now mostly under part of the Anglia Ruskin University site). Although a labourer in Waterbeach before moving into Cambridge, William was by now a police constable.

By 1901, Percy was lodging in London, and described as an author/editor. He married in the summer of the same year, back in Cambridgeshire, to Eliza Dickerson of Little Abington; Eliza was nearly ten years his senior.

1911 found the couple living in Catford, London, with no children; Percy's occupation described him as a journalist (and similar in 1939, by when he and Eliza were living in back in Cambs, at Melbourn). Of interest is that none of the "standard" genealogical records appear to make any reference to his involvement with photography—a whole aspect of someone's work can be missed if unrecorded in records where occupations are noted.

William remained in the police force, but by 1901, he and Rebecca were keeping 'The Railway Tavern' at Waterbeach. They are probably the deaths registered in 1910 and 1913, respectively. Both came from Waterbeach and, curiously, had the same surnames—were Percy's parents related? It seems the pair were likely to be first cousins, as their fathers appear to be brothers!!

Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

AGM 2022

Saturday 14 May 2022 at 1.00pm

By Zoom

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Acknowledgement of member organisation representatives
- 3) Minutes of the Virtual AGM held on 8 May 2021
- 4) The Chairman's Report
- 5) Financial Report for 2021
- 6) Election of the President
- 7) Election of the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee (Trustees)
- 8) The appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Charity's Accounts for the forthcoming year in accordance with clause M3
- 9) Annual Subscription
- 10) Discussion and decisions on any submitted motions (Motions for submission to the AGM shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen clear days before the Meeting, not counting the day of the Meeting)
- 11) Any other business, at the discretion of the Chairman

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2022 AGM

**The 2022 AGM will be an online event via Zoom,
and will take place at 1pm before the talk at the Saturday meeting**

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

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

*If you wish to participate, but don't do Zoom, please contact David Copey
or all the CHFHS answer phone to raise your point (phone number on p52)*

Cambs & Hunts FHS Provisional Accounts for Year Ending 31st December 2021

*audited accounts will be published on the website
prior to the AGM (thanks go to our Treasurer, Les)*

INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions		11,884.40
Donations		100.00
Sales CD's & Downloads		16,924.75
Value of Closing Stock		41.80
Royalties		8,637.49
CCLA Interest		7.82
COFI Accumulation Gain / (Loss)		1,114.08
Recycling Income		15.50
TOTAL INCOME	£	36,414.08

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021		
Fixed Assets		-
Current Assets		
Stock	931.70	
Bank account 1	8,845.83	
Bank Account 2	9,114.47	
CCLA 1	65,927.10	
CCLA 2	26,779.55	
Paypal	944.48	
Petty Cash	14.70	112,557.83
	£	112,557.83
Capital & Reserves		
Reserves b/f		109,469.08
2020 Surplus / Deficit		3,088.75
	£	112,557.83

EXPENDITURE		
CHFS CORE ACTIVITIES		
Journal Printing & Distribution	8,648.74	
Family Fairs	100.00	
Subscriptions	791.49	
Cambridge Speakers	280.00	
Cambridge Room Hire	-	
Huntingdon Speakers	460.00	
Huntingdon Room Hire	-	
March Speakers	295.00	
March Room Hire	-	
Ramsey Speakers	265.00	
Ramsey Room Hire	-	
Donations	7,890.00	
Goods for Resale	198.00	
Research Material	-	
Membership Subscription Refunds	129.00	
Palpay / CoCardless Commission	726.10	
	£	19,783.33

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Travel Expenses - Mileage	105.30	
Travel Expenses - Other	-	
Stationery	104.43	
Postage	440.53	
Depreciation / write-off	-	
Misc Expenses	43.45	
	£	693.71
IT & ACCOUNTANCY		
Computer Hardware & Software	298.02	
IT Server & Maintenance	11,520.00	
Fasthosts	250.27	
Accounting	780.00	
	£	12,848.29
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£	33,325.33
Net Surplus / -Deficit	£	3,088.75

Here To Help ...

St IVES RESEARCH SURGERY

The 2nd Wednesday in February saw the inaugural session of our new research surgery at The Norris Museum in St Ives. We have been given the use of the Museums' Research Room, a lovely little space overlooking the pretty court-yard garden. We'll be there again in June, Aug, Oct , etc ...

After a few teething-troubles over passwords for access to the in-house internet, Muriel, Joan, Wendy, John and Caroline were ready for business. At this first session, five visitors brought a variety of queries which included :

- A south London household seemingly "missing" from the 1921 census—the enquirer had been unable to spot any of the family members at all. They were at the address in 1921 electoral registers and we found the family to be still there in 1924—however, a 1921 census address search proved negative. Through comparing electoral register names/addresses with the 1921 address search facility and street maps, it was to become evident that a whole block of addresses between two side-streets did in fact appear to be missing from the 1921 database (along with all the residents). The conclusion was that perhaps these addresses were either actually missed out during the enumeration (not unknown to happen), or that a batch of pages had been missed in the transcription process. The enquirer was advised was to take up this query with FindMyPast.
- Closer to home, a query from a pair of researchers picking up their work after a lull, sought a man who'd married in Stukeley and later moved to Ramsey. However, their earlier work had failed to find him prior to that; there were also two apparent siblings found in Ramsey, whose existence had only been deduced through family hear-say. Despite all their later-life census birthplaces being consistent to the same villages in Bedfordshire, there was no trace of any one them either in birth registrations or earlier censuses. The query was whether any obvious clues had been missed first time round, and although many possibilities were discussed, we were unable to find anything conclusive or new from the resources at our disposal on the day. The enquirers were advised to look at these siblings in more detail to see what their marriage certificates said about 'father' (was the same name given for all) and at the witnesses, to consider visiting Bedfordshire Archives to browse parish registers and non-conformist records, to look at other records relating to the apparent birth-parishes, and to consider name-changes because of illegitimacy or remarriage.

We look forward to working with the Norris Museum to help research in the Hunts area—or people can just drop in to say hello and have a chat.



Local museums are an untapped resource for family history research.

Documentary records provide us with the raw facts about the people in our families. However, to build a rounded picture of their lives, we need to look to the history and environment of where they lived—this is where local museums can help us gain at least broad insights into what their lives and times might have been like, as well as revealing the story of the place / local area.

Located on The Waites, the riverside area at the western end of town near the parish church, the Museum grew out of the personal collections of a local man, Herbert Ellis Norris (1859-1931)

The Museum website says this :

“The Norris Museum opened in 1933. Its original diverse collection of Huntingdonshire’s history was lovingly acquired over many years by St Ives born amateur historian, Herbert Norris.

The museum and library were opened in 1933, showcasing the many treasures, and continuing to collect and preserve them for future generations. The collections have grown steadily since then and the museum continues to collect from within the old county boundary. There are just over 33,000 items.

The museum buildings, set in an attractive riverside garden, are a major asset to the town and local area.”

The Museum also has a large Library of over 6,000 local documents, books, photos and ephemera from across the county freely available to consult—take a look at the catalogue via their website. To avoid disappointment, please note that 48hrs notice is currently required to book a seat in the library

Anyone with Huntingdonshire ancestors may well gain something from a visit to the Norris Museum at St Ives, where they will receive a warm welcome from the team (open Mon-Sat, free entry)—
—or, take a look at their website for further information, search the library catalogue, and check out the latest exhibitions and events.

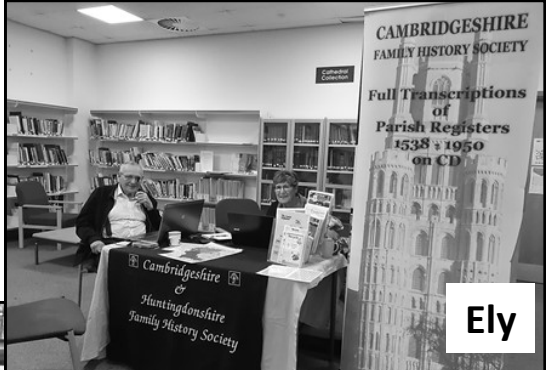
<https://www.norrismuseum.org.uk/>
www.facebook.com/The-Norris-Museum

Here To Help ...

Ely, Bar Hill & Cambourne Research Surgeries

January and March saw Muriel and John N restart their research sessions at Ely Library, and Caroline return to Bar Hill in March; John B has taken up the research reins at Cambourne. It's good to be able to get out again and see drop-in enquirers in person—word is getting around and a steady trickle of visitors kept us all busy.

Ely brought us a variety of topics, including a couple of general enquirers who said they'd get their notes together and return another time, and a holiday-maker from the north who took the opportunity to ask about some early-C19th ancestors in the Wisbech area. More thought was needed to come up with suggestions for another enquirer seeking information about overseas records to find more on a relative who had married out in India, and another who married a Canadian serviceman during WW1, gone to Canada, only to return home a few years later (date unknown). The biggest challenge of the day, however, was one we took home to peruse more leisurely. We were "tasked" with finding the link between a family in the Wirral and a same-name person in Ely. An assumption had been made that they were related and all that was needed was the missing link—that was to be our job-of-the-day. After much consideration, we concluded that this was a classic "red herring", and a fine example of right ages and right names, but the wrong family and wrong place. The mystery was eventually solved with some lateral thinking, and had nothing at all to do with Ely!!



Bar Hill was visited by a couple of enquirers looking to take it further to put their research on a firm footing after becoming interested during lockdown. Hopefully, they will return to future sessions after collecting together some basic information on known family.

**EXTRACT from an exchange between
David Copey and Ian Stephenson
following the latter's contribution in last journal**

David C to Ian S :

"I was interested to see your numbers of direct ancestors in the latest CHFHS journal.

I may have mentioned that many years ago I was fascinated by the Bouwens 1935 book, *A Thousand Ancestors*, where the brothers attempted to trace all their ancestors back to the time when parish registers began in 1538. In their case, this was their 7th great grandparents i.e. 1024 ancestors. I have been trying the same approach - harder because they had some well-known ancestors, easier because I am about two generations later and unlike Bouwens, most were born in England.

For the record, here are my numbers to date -

3rd great 30;
4th great 60;
5th great 96;
6th great 128;
7th great 167 (out of 512).

I am currently working through each generation and looking at direct ancestor siblings and their own children. This takes ages as there are several hundred for each generation, and thousands for earlier generations, but it does link to new evidence and can confirm relationships. I am about to start on 5th great grandparents - there are 294 siblings to date in my 4th great grandparents generation (potentially 64 direct ancestors)."

EDITOR : If anyone is interested, a digitised copy of *A Thousand Ancestors* is available to see via the Internet Archive (*the preface of which gives some interesting insights into how research was conducted, back in the day*) :

<https://archive.org/details/thousandancestor00bouw/mode/2up>

1930 CENSUS CANADA

Canada works to a 92-year-rule !!

So we'll have to wait until 2023 for access ...

We are pleased to announce that Research Surgeries are once again becoming possible at most of our venues, and we look forward to the return of welcoming enquirers back in person.

Unfortunately, there are still restrictions on numbers allowed into the Cambridge Central Library meeting room, which continues to makes the holding of Saturday face-to-face meetings and help sessions there impractical.

We are continuing to exploring a number of possibilities to enable us to return to live meetings in Cambridge

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	drop in between 10.00-4.00
Norris Museum St Ives	2 nd Wed alternate mths	A NEW VENUE FOR '22 Feb / Apr / Jun Aug / Sep / Dec	drop-in between 10.30 & 3.30
Bar Hill Library	3 rd Mon <u>every</u> mth	SESSIONS RECOMMENCED 21 Mar / (not April—Easter) 16 May / 20 June / 18 July	drop-in between 1.30-4.30
Cambourne Library	3 rd Mon alternate mths	SESSIONS RECOMMENCED Jan / March / May July / Sept / Nov	drop-in between 1.30-4.30
March Library	<p>Cambridge Central Library Saturday Research Surgery & March Library Research Surgery</p> <p>continue to be closed owing to on-going restrictions</p>		
Cambridge Library			

The WisMus & Hunts Projects—newly added records

A further 18 new files have been added to WisMus since the last (Spring 22) issue, and 4 further Hunts parishes are fully complete

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

WinMus Parishes :

Wisbech			Wisbech		
St Augustine	Banns	1968	St Mary	Mixed	1750
St Augustine	Baptisms	1914			
St Augustine	Marriages	1965	Elm	Baptisms	1653
Wisbech			Leverington	Banns	1824
St Peter	Banns	1813	Leverington	Marriages	1837
St Peter	Banns	1905	Leverington	Mixed	1662
St Peter	Marriages	1787	Outwell	Banns	1754
St Peter	Marriages	1965	Outwell	Burials	1813
St Peter	Marriages	1974	Outwell	Mixed	1667
St Peter	Mixed	1770	Upwell	Banns	1754

Project co-coordinator, Terry, updates progress of WisMus

Now that the Norfolk registers have been removed from WisMus, and to be handed to Norfolk FHS & Fenland FHS, the numbers of registers that need completing have drastically fallen.

The registers left are either early 1500, 1600 & 1700 which start off in basic Latin and require experienced volunteers or they are after 1950 and these ones are a lot easier to read.

If any of the old volunteers, or new ones, would like to help with the final push to completion—please do get in touch with me via my Projects e-mail address.

HUNTS PARISHES :

currently in progress are :

Hartford
Little Stukeley
Leighton Bromswold

**now available to search via
AncestorFinder & NameSearch:**

Bury
Brampton
Broughton
Connington

... an additional 45,000 names

MARCH BRANCH PROGRAMME		NB: 1 st <u>WEDNESDAYs</u> at 2.00pm
Wednesday Face-2-Face Meetings		March Library, March
		enquiries : march@cfhs.org.uk
By popular opinion, the meetings will continue on Wednesday afternoons		
Wed 6 April	“Elizabethan England” <i>music, literature, dance, sports and drama</i>	with Sarah Doig
Wed 4 May	“Did He Do It ??” <i>the evidence for & against a murder at Sutton from 1630</i>	with Gill Shapland
Wed 1 June	“Attitudes To Victorian Death” <i>just how did our ancestors cope with death illness and death</i>	with Tom Doig
Wed 6 July	Summer Outing To Ely Archives (to be confirmed) <i>watch the newsletter & website ... booking likely to be necessary</i>	

HUNTINGDON BRANCH PROGRAMME		<u>3rd Wednesday</u> of the month at 7.30pm
Live & zoom (register via website)		Zoom & WI Hall, Walden Rd., Huntingdon
		enquiries : huntingdon@cfhs.org.uk
Wed 20 April	“Bastardy, Bigamy, Brawling & Brothels” <i>our ancestors mis-doings revealed through a variety of records</i>	with Gill Shapland
Wed 18 May	“Migration : internal, immigration & emigration” <i>tracking that elusive ancestor with this popular expert speaker</i>	with Colin Chapman
Wed 15 June	“Secrets Never To Be Told” <i>a talk based on Fiona’s recent book of the same title</i>	with Fiona Anderson
Wed 20 July	“Only One Egg” <i>WW2 for those of our ancestors who were left at home, life was hard with the effects of the Blitz, food and clothes rationing and limited entertainment. Many of the audience will have first-hand experience, but this talk looks at the trials encountered by the family and the important role women played at home.</i>	with Ian Waller

**CAMBRIDGE BRANCH
PROGRAMME**

2nd Saturday of the month via Zoom
at 14.00
enquiries : programme@cfhs.org.uk

APRIL 9 Sat : Zoom

14.00 The Fens At The Time Of King John with Diane Carlton Smith
A look at the fens in the 13th C
Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

Cambs & Hunts FHS AGM will take place at 1pm ahead of the talk
Joining details & documents will be made available nearer the time

MAY 14 Sat : Zoom

14.00 River Cam : History & Commerce with Mike Petty
Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

JUNE 11 Sat : Zoom

12.00 Writers' Workshop with Mary Naylor
14.00 Witches, Ghosts & Demons Of The Fens with Eleonora Gardner
Some insights into origins and manifestations of local spooky tales
Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

JULY 9 Sat : Zoom

14.00 Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey with Emily Deal
Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website

AUGUST 13 Sat : Zoom

14.00 Hills & Saunders : Victorian photographic studio in Cambridge
with David Copsey
Similar arrangements to previous events—please self-register via the website



Fri 11 & Sat 12 Nov 2022

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

*an online event from
the Family History Federation*

visit Cambs & Hunts FHS with your research query or just for a chat

We are pleased to publish these comments, compiled by one of the regular contributors to 'The Journal'—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 :

It was around 1980, and I can pin-point the moment my interest was sparked. My grandfather's last surviving sister gave me their father's signet ring—with the story that he and it had been in the Crimean War (the jury, however, is still out on that 'story' !!). As it happened, this coincided with Don Steel's book "Tracing Your Family History" and the accompanying TV series of the same name fronted by Gordon Honeycombe. From thence forward, I was well and truly hooked ...

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

I have all 64 of the 4x great-grandparents generation, and a fair few of the 128 from the next generation. Beyond that, the numbers tail off rapidly, although 4 families can be followed to people who would have been born c1580-1590—mostly down to the luck of records' survival.

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

My paternal side is solely Scottish—mostly west coast. Maternally, it is central / east Midlands (with Lincs the most significant "area of interest"). Two families come from Somerset and Scotland (via Yorks). Branches/descendants can now be found in virtually every county.

Any interests abroad, and where :

Like other contributors to this feature have found, online research has allowed siblings and cousins to be found across America and Canada, Australia and New Zealand; and a Scottish branch who went to Sweden in the 1860s. Most of them would be totally unknown were it not for the massive databases of records now accessible online.

Which family line have you had most success with :

Most of them to a certain extent. They were all very much ordinary people who did what all the other ordinary people did, and (luckily) had their life-events properly and well-recorded so that we might find them. These days, the greatest success tends to be with the families' whose records are most readily accessible.

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

The "Scottish via Yorkshire" family is perhaps the most interesting. Many of them have been found to enter the minor professions and therefore they often feature in sources and resources above and beyond just the basic genealogical records. Descendants now include some names once prominent in the medical profession and a present-

day rock star. A number of individuals have also been found to have “they were there” associations with well-known historical events.

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

Family History Magazine from the first issue (coincidentally, FTM was launched just after I became interested), and WhoDoYouThinkYouAre

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

CHFHS (and founder member of Hunts FHS), Lincolnshire FHS, the Society of Genealogists, Guild of One-Name Studies.

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

Not many archives recently. Much of my basic research was through many years of archives’ visits. I’m still consolidating all that, and using online resources to fill in the many gaps, and to plan future archives’ visits to the best effect (when time and opportunity will permit). The Fair experience has changed—online events reach new audiences and are likely here to stay, but can’t replace the buzz at live events (will big live events attract enough supported to ever be run again ??)

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

To be honest, mostly paper-based. I think a lot can be missed if facts are detached from the context of source/event/family and inserted into a person’s biographical record “page”. Besides, I like shuffling paper!!

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

With caution. I was “stung” by a then-collaborator, and have found awful errors with trees which their researchers won’t acknowledge.

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

Owing to the spread of my interests, I find FindMyPast and Ancestry are equally helpful. It’s also useful to tap into alternative versions of records which are common to both—transcripts do differ, as do their search systems (which can produce different results). FamilySearch has perhaps become somewhat over-complicated and restrictive in recent years. I dip into other providers, ad hoc, as the occasion arises.

If you would like to contribute your response “tweets” ...

just write, or email editor@cfhs.org for the questions template

25 March 1898 — “Saturday was about the worst Boat Race Day on record. The weather was vile in the extreme, and the race was simply a procession. As it turned out, however, the winning of the toss gave an immense advantage to the Dark Blues, and before the race had been in progress for three minutes the Cambridge boat was full of water. They rowed on pluckily, and succeeded in getting to Mortlake without being capsized”.

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** : THE LIBRARY'S RESTRICTIONS ON NUMBERS PERMITTED IN THE ROOM CONTINUE TO MAKE NORMAL FACE-2-FACE MEETINGS UNVIALE—ZOOM SESSIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING
- **MARCH** : USE OF THE MEETING ROOM HAS NOW BEEN AUTHORISED, & BY POPULAR CHOICE, MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
- **HUNTINGDON** : WI HALL IS NOW AVAILABLE AND WE'RE TRYING THE SO-CALLED 'HYBRID' FORMAT OF F-2-F WITH ZOOM TO FACILITATE BOTH IN-PERSON AND REMOTE ATTENDANCE ... **WATCH THIS SPACE!!**

1921 CENSUS

WITH PAUL NIXON
(ONLINE : JAN 22)

Paul Nixon, the Head of Licensing at Find my Past, gave a Zoom talk to three local family history societies – ourselves, Fenland and Peterborough and District. The talk was chaired by Steve Manning, chair of the Family History Federation, and had been arranged by Michael Kennelly from Peterborough Society.

Paul explained that he had led the successful competitive bid to digitise the 1921 census for England and Wales, as he had done with the 1939 register. The project was awarded to Find My Past in 2018, and public access to the 1921 census was launched on time on 6 January 2022. A large worldwide team worked to digitise and transcribe all 18 million images and 38 million names. Weekly post launch updates make the content clearer particularly for place of birth and take account of errors that have been found. Everything was photographed including fragments of paper (some have now been matched), and indexed.

The census was held on 19 June, the date was postponed from 24 April because of industrial action at a very difficult time, just after the first world war, and the Spanish flu outbreak when unemployment was high. Some of the questions from 1911 were not asked – length of marriage; number of surviving children, infirmity, but others were added for the first time. Age is given in both years and months, military people serving overseas are included, those living in orphanages were asked whether their parents were

alive, divorce, and the name of the employer and workplace is given. This means for example that you can find a list of work colleagues, or more precise dates for those born before 1837.

Paul used examples from his own family and from named people in documents in his own collection to demonstrate how to search the census. Searching is free, and the clicking on the transcript icon shows names of two other people in the same household, and the total number in the household. A second free search using one of these other people may then show further names from the same household. There are detailed help pages on Find My Past, and searching can include address, institution, occupation code, employer, place of birth and many other fields. The demographic breakdown at a time soon after so many early deaths is particularly interesting.

The census can be viewed free of charge at the National Archives, Manchester Central Library, and Aberystwyth, but elsewhere there is a charge for viewing each image of £3.50, and £2.50 for each full transcript, there is a 10% discount for Find My Past pro members. Paul explained that at some time in the future, the 1921 census would be included in the subscription, but no decision has been made as to when this will be.

For a small number of places, some records have been lost or damaged before digitisation work started – these include parts of Sheffield, Rochdale, Barnsley, most of the places in Paul's list are in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

ScotlandsPeople are releasing the 1921 census for Scotland this coming Autumn, and the Irish census did not take place.

A recording of Paul's talk will be on the members section of our website, and you can use this to get the code for a 21% discount on Find My Past subscriptions for both new and existing members, but only until May 2022.

Reported by David Copsey

THE 'RAILWAY MANIAS'
WITH DON CHISWELL
(MARCH BRANCH : FEB 22)

Don Chiswell was welcomed at the February meeting. His presentation was entitled 'The Railway Manias'. Don talked about how railways changed the lives of the population from 1825 until the 1850s when the 'mania' subsided. Early railways were wooden rather than made from iron. They were used in mines and quarries where ponies pulled carts with wooden wheels. 1805 saw the Surrey Iron Railway built. This toll plateway linked Wandsworth to Croydon using horse traction. George Stephenson – a self-taught engineer, was recruited by the Pearce family (Quakers), he was convinced that steam was the way of the future. In 1825 he drove the first train on the Quaker Line

that linked Stockton and Darlington carrying coal, flour and a coach of dignitaries. Stephenson developed his famous 'Rocket' in 1829.

Railway systems with main lines and branch lines continued to be developed all over the country, often with opposition. Many railway companies and towns connected by railways became wealthy changing the lives of all who lived and worked in them. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was an engineering genius. He was a very hands-on civil engineer in charge of the construction of a network of tunnels, bridges and viaducts taking the Great Western Railway through some difficult terrain ensuring that the railway network was functional. Rock had to be blasted through, but most of the digging was by hand. Gangs of 'Navvies' followed the construction of the railways, living in camps, moving from one place to the next and developing essential skills.

Daniel Gooch, a very young engineer (under the age of 21), who had worked under Robert Stephenson, made a proposal to Isambard Kingdom Brunel that an engine works should be built at Swindon. Even though there was no skilled labour in the area or adequate housing, the works still went ahead and a whole new industrial town was built. The Swindon works became key in the development of the railways. Gooch worked to produce better locomotives including the North Star in the 1840s.

Coalfields of Scotland, Wales and England were linked, powering the Industrial Revolution and towns. There was no overall planning of a countrywide railway system. Different gauges were used in different places. Isambard Kingdom Brunel developed a broad gauge (7ft), whereas standard gauge (just over 4ft and based on the width of a cart axle) was used in the south west. The two gauges met at Gloucester. Eventually the government rejected broad gauge in favour of standard gauge.

The railways were open to fraud on a massive scale. Huge dividends did not materialise, some railways were not built. Investors on all levels of society were caught up in the mania, many lost money.

By 1846 the railway system had come to East Anglia. George Hudson, known as 'The Railway King', financier and politician controlled much of the system. One of his schemes was the line from Peterborough via March to Ely. Other lines included Wisbech, Cambridge and St. Ives. By 1849 things had started to go wrong. A viaduct at Peterborough and a 2nd railway line ran out of money. Shareholders of the Eastern Counties Railway and others set up a company to look into his financial management. Hudson's methods were exposed and he was made bankrupt. Hudson was forced to live in France to avoid arrest for debt.

In 1801 the population of Peterborough was about 3,000, by 1851 it was 17,000 and by 1881 it had grown to 35,000. A lot of this was due to the

railway linking it to other parts of the country.

By the 1850s the mania began to subside. 6,000 miles of railway had already been built and most areas were covered but not the Highlands of Scotland, central Wales and the South West. Time had to be standardised to ensure that the whole country was working to the same timetable. The railway enabled football and cricket teams to travel away, Dickens held recitals in different parts of the country, people could go shopping by train, troops were deployed all over the country and people could move to a different area for work more easily.

Reported by Linda Peckett

BY THE VISITATION OF GOD
WITH MICK RAWLE
(MARCH BRANCH : MARCH 22)

Mick Rawle travelled from Melton Mowbray to provide an interesting and intriguing presentation entitled 'By The Visitation of God'. He started by explaining that this related to his research into his ancestor Samuel Rawle, a journeyman hatter born in 1790, and that the meaning title of the talk would be revealed later.

Samuel Rawle's body was possibly found in the Lake District at Shapfell. As a journeyman hatter Samuel was likely to have travelled the length of the country and into Scotland finding work and selling hats. He would have walked from place to place finding shelter where he could. People gave food and shelter freely to stranded travelers. Samuel was born and lived his early life in Launceston, Cornwall.

In his research Mick had found that when Samuel's father died, the bequests in his will totaled over £600 which Mick thought to be a lot of money for a working class man. Researching further he found that the National Archives state he left less than £200. In 1807, at the age of 12 Samuel became an apprentice felt maker which lasted for 7 years. Records show that his father had paid a fee of fifteen shillings.

The next document Mick had was Samuel's marriage at St. Saviours Southwark (now a cathedral) in 1822 to Mary Leger who was baptised in Kent. Their children, William 1823, Maria 1824, were baptised at St. Saviours, other children were Samuel junior and Jane. Samuel's mother Elizabeth died in 1836 leaving him £15. According to the 1841 Census William was a leather cutter and Maria a hat trimmer and Samuel junior, a rope maker. Samuel senior does not appear on the Census. Mary is listed as a wife, not widow. William married Catherine Kelly at a non-conformist church in 1847. On the 1851 Mary is listed as a widow living with her

daughter Maria and her husband Thomas Newman – a book edge gilder. Jane – a cloth cap maker is also at the address in St. Mary, Lambeth. Mary widow of Samuel Rawle died in 1869 in the St George District of Southwark. William's first wife Catherine died in childbirth in Glasgow. He later married Ann Braithwaite in 1874; Mick is descended from them. It does not state that Samuel Rawle (William's father) is deceased on the marriage record.

A journeyman hatter is a qualified worker having served a full apprenticeship, but works for others. Samuel would have made trilby, bowler and top hats as well as hats made from felt, beaver fur and rabbit fur. Mick showed pictures from the Stockport Hatting Museum. These depicted various processes of hat making, including fur preparation. Inferior furs were treated with urine and water, mercury and salt, the process was called carroting. The term 'Mad as a Hatter' comes from hatters suffering from mercury poisoning causing paralysis, tremors, loss of memory, mental derangement and death. Other processes included Bowing (like a large violin bow 6-7 feet in length) and Planking – a kettle of sulphuric acid and water, which eroded the skin and hands causing deformities. Wool was heated to 60 degrees and fur was brought up to boiling temperature. Hats were then blocked in a similar way as they are today, the crown and brim shaped. Buildings where hat making took place were dark, dangerous and dismal.

Back to Samuel Rawle's death—

No certificate was issued and he cannot be found in the GRO. Mick eliminated others through one name studies. The 1841 Census is inconclusive. There is no record of a burial in the Kendal/Shapfell area between 1835 and 1853 of a Samuel Rawle. Mick found a report in the Westmorland Gazette stating that a man had died in an October blizzard at Shapfell. Is possible that Samuel could have walked along the valley in that area? Had he been walking to, or returning from Scotland where his son lived? A record shows a burial of a Thomas Cook, hatter on tramp at Forest Hall near Shapfell, aged 60 years who was found on the roadside. A burial took place on 9th May 1837, just before General Registration, at Selside church. The newspaper report states that Thomas Cook was identified by documents in his possession. People at Forest Hall reported giving a stranger a bed for the night, he was suffering from fatigue and exhaustion. Other articles mention atrocious weather conditions and the snow lying for 9 months from October. Mick read out a Coroner's report from 1837 stating that the man's name appears to be Thomas Cook, he arrived at Forest Hall in a distressed state, could not eat much. The people offered to send for a doctor, he refused. He was offered a breakfast of tea, bread and butter in bed, later he was found dead, slanted across the bed without eating the breakfast. The Coroner stated he did not appear to have died from a disease or sickness – verdict 'Died by the Visitation of God'.

Was Thomas Cook Mick's great, great grandfather Samuel Rawle? Mick gave the reasons why he thinks he could have been. Hatter on tramp, died before 1837(?), he did not give his name to the people at Forest Hall, the paper in his pocket with Thomas Cook written on it is inconclusive, it could have been the person he was going to visit? But, it can't be proved.

Reported by Linda Peckett



BURWELL MUSEUM

WITH ALISON GILES

(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : MARCH 22)

We were pleased to welcome Alison Giles to give a brief introduction to the Burwell Museum & Windmill, and provide some insights into the exhibitions.

The Museum is next to the Burwell Windmill, which is more than 200 years old but incongruously now lies within a housing estate. The museum itself is housed in an old timber-frame barn dating from the 17th century, which was bought for £5 and dismantled from a site at Streetly End, and then re-assembled next to the mill.

The museum is filled with a vast collection of objects dating from roughly the 1860s to 1960s. There are permanent exhibitions set up in the style of recreated rooms to display many of the objects in their historical context, and also to help explain the purpose and use of tools and equipment from a by-gone age which are unfamiliar to modern eyes. Alison showed a number of slides to illustrate a selection of the recreated rooms. The museum's website carries a fuller description of various galleries—which include house rooms (kitchen, wash room, living room and child's bedroom); a Nissen Hut dressed with articles from both wars; a village shop; a mechanical telephone exchange; a school room; a shepherds hut; and a forge and wheelwright's shop where demonstrations are periodically held.

The collection of vintage vehicles includes the last remaining Burwell & District bus. The Barn and Wagon Sheds also house a collection of historic carts, farm machinery, and agricultural tools and implements

Of particular interest to those with local family connections will be 'The Hub', a local history resource room—essentially, a mini-archive containing an extensive collection photos of Burwell and its residents from the 19th and 20th centuries, oral history recordings, old local documents and maps, newspapers and local studies books, together with a large collection of past parish magazines. They also run a programme of talks and temporary exhibitions throughout the season.

The Museum has been closed owing to Covid restrictions and is due to reopen at Easter for two days a week (Thursdays and Sundays) plus Bank Holidays), through until October. Take a look at their website for a fuller description of the site, a brief history of the windmills and the three families of millers who have run it between the 1820s and the 1950s (the Carters, the Masons, and the Stevens **), the events to be held throughout the season, and directions on how to get there.

**** do any of these families feature in your family trees—can you add to their stories**

<https://burwellmuseum.org.uk/>

**THE PRIVATE LIFE OF OLIVER CROMWELL :
SOLDIER & STATESMAN**
WITH STUART ORME
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : JAN 22)

This was our fourth hybrid meeting in the WI Hall in Huntingdon with our speaker, Stuart Orme, presenting from his home via zoom. There were about 36 people viewing on zoom and a further 12 people in the Hall.

Stuart Orme has been the curator of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon for four years, and he started by giving a brief review of the museum which must be one of the smallest in the country whilst being one of the most internationally renowned. It is housed in the oldest building in the town.

Stuart explained that Oliver Cromwell is well known as an English general and statesman who, first as a subordinate and later as Commander-in-Chief, led armies of the Parliament of England against King Charles I during the English Civil War, subsequently ruling the British Isles as Lord Protector from 1653 until his death in 1658. However, it was Stuart's intention to look at the man as a 'real' person – his family, his character and the key events in his life, and to dispel some of the myths surrounding him. He was also clear that Cromwell was a divisive character and people tend to view him in black and white – you either love him or hate him. Stuart hoped that his talk would provide more insight into his private life to help us to make up our own minds

Stuart began with the first myth based on the iconic image of Cromwell always being dressed in black, the dress of a dour puritan of the age, which has been reinforced by depictions in films and TV. He dispelled this by showing contemporary paintings of him from the museum collection where he was dressed in more colourful clothing. Although a puritan he was not a strict follower in all the customs.

He then looked at his family and ancestors in some detail. His great great-grand-uncle was Sir Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540), chief minister to Henry VIII and later executed. His nephew, Sir Richard Williams (1510-1544) was knighted by Henry VIII and took the name Cromwell in honour of his uncle, and the name Cromwell then passed down through Sir Henry (1537-1604), and Robert (1560-1617) to Oliver (1599-1658). Sir Richard Williams was given the monastic site at Hinchingsbrooke and his son later built Hinchingsbrooke House so beginning the long relationship with Huntingdon and surrounding towns. The eldest son of Sir Henry Williams (alias Cromwell) was Sir Oliver Cromwell (uncle to our Oliver) who was knighted by James 1st and supported the Royalists during the civil war which split the family.

Oliver was christened in 1599 in St Johns Church, Huntingdon. Stuart highlighted the fact that the entry in the parish register had subsequently been defaced and then corrected again showing the widely differing views of the man over time. Indeed, many myths emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries as growing fascination with Cromwell grew, but no real facts survive about his early life except that he went to school in the building that is now the museum.

Oliver then went to Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge (a puritan college), probably because it was a new college and therefore relatively cheap! He stayed for just a year and returned home to Huntingdon when his father died. In 1620 he married Elizabeth Bouchier in Cripplegate, London. This marriage was a very strong and loving relationship and produced four daughters and five sons. Eventually his third son, Richard, would follow him as Lord Protector.

Stuart looked at the idea of Cromwell as a saturnine man. It is true that he didn't want music in church but he had outside interests such as horse racing that did not fit this image. Financial pressures led him to sell his properties in Huntingdon and to move to St. Ives where he became a tenant farmer. Religious faith was a major part of his life and St. Ives had several non-conformist churches with which he became deeply involved.

In 1636 his uncle left Oliver property in Ely (now Cromwell's House and open to the public) and his fortunes revived. He became an MP for Cambridge; not a significant figure in the House but he was good at drafting policies and committee work and fell in with a group opposed to many of the policies of Charles I. This conflict led to the civil war in the summer of 1642 and Oliver became a soldier as a junior officer.

Oliver learnt to be a successful military commander on the job and this led to his increasing importance within Parliament. The fact that Peterborough

Cathedral was damaged during the war has been used to show that Cromwell was an iconoclast but as Stuart pointed out, Cromwell didn't do the damage or order it. In 1645 the New Model Army was set up by the Parliamentarians – not by Cromwell and it was led by Sir Thomas Fairfax, culminating in the battle of Naseby during which Cromwell did play a significant role.

The King had been captured and the army wanted a greater say in Parliament but Cromwell's role was in the background chairing meetings and he was not necessarily an advocate of democracy. Eventually the King was put on trial and found guilty of treason and executed. Though Cromwell was one of the signatories he would rather have accepted a deal.

Stuart moved on to perhaps the most controversial part of Cromwell's career. In the Spring of 1649 Cromwell was commissioned to end the war in Ireland between the Royalists and Catholics and Parliamentarians. He was very successful in quashing the rebellion but many thousands of Irish were killed including citizens and he certainly pushed the limits of what was allowed in war.

He returned to England as the civil war restarted with the Scots joining the Royalists who he defeated leading to the famous story of Charles II hiding in an oak tree.

In the late 1640's England was a republic. Puritanical legislation banning Christmas, Easter and other religious activities led to riots but Stuart noted that Cromwell did not have direct involvement in these actions. In reality the government kept passing laws but with very little enforcement in the rural communities.

By 1653 the country had gone 13 years without an election as MP's were afraid of losing their seats. Cromwell finally lost his temper with them and ordered in troops to clear Parliament and uttered his famous words "...in the name of God go".

In the following nine months there were many attempts to form an assembly to try and govern the country but no agreements were reached. Eventually John Lambert produced a framework for government which became the first written constitution in the world. There would be a Head of State - the Lord Protector, and Parliament was the legislature to set laws.

Despite other Royalist uprisings which failed, the country was divided into military districts. Cromwell can be seen as a benevolent dictator preferring discussion to throwing perpetrators in the tower. In 1657 it was suggested he take the crown and become king. He prevaricated but turned it down as

God's judgement. He may not have accepted the title but lived as a king in all but the name.

Stuart argued that Cromwell's lasting achievement was the relaxing of religions; the necessity to attend church, civil marriages, individual faiths in villages including Quakers and Baptists, Catholicism was even permitted if practised quietly at home and the Jewish community was allowed. Cromwell forced through his ideas against much opposition.

Cromwell died in 1658 suffering from several ailments and he was buried in Westminster Cathedral. The Lord Protector title passed to his son but a military coup removed him after nine months. Charles II came back from exile and became king. Those who were involved in the trial of Charles I were hunted down and executed, with the corpses of Cromwell and others exhumed and hung in London and his head hacked off and displayed on a spike outside the Houses of Parliament for twenty years. By 1960 his head was buried in the grounds of Sidney Sussex College.

Stuart had shown how Cromwell had been reinvented many times from the 18th century onwards. The Victorians, for example revered him and erected statues, the Irish hated him, in the twentieth century some saw him as a great socialist, standing for religious freedom, democracy. There are many shades of grey, love him or hate him, he cannot be ignored.

Reported by John Bownass

FROM PLOUGH WITCHING TO CHRISTMAS WAITS : CAMBRIDGESHIRE CALENDAR CUSTOMS

WITH MAUREEN JAMES

(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : FEB 22)

Although this was our fifth hybrid meeting in the WI Hall in Huntingdon it was the first occasion when we had our speaker, Dr. Maureen James, also present in the hall, with a live audience of seven. About 35 members viewed in via zoom. There were some technical problems with this zoom session which are explained at the end.

Maureen gained her Ph.D in folklore and is passionate not just about her main research area but also other historical periods and people, in particular Calendar Customs, Witches, Eighteenth & Nineteenth century Radicals and the Fairy Folk. She has over 30 years of experience working in a number of fields including historical interpretation, living history, historical storytelling, lecturing, writing about the subject and presenting to local history groups.

This particular talk has been given before to people of our and other local

groups but as Maureen explained, it is forever evolving as she adds new information from research and anecdotes picked up from the audience. It also covers a longer time period than previous presentations but Christmas is not included as this subject commands a talk on its own.

Maureen's stated aim was to explore the customs that played a major part in the social life of local communities and, it could be added, having fun and raising money. She did this by following the calendar throughout the year. I have not attempted to include the details here as there were so many customs and events that Maureen was able to tell us about so here is a simple list:

- Straw Bear festival - man dressed in straw followed by children.
- Plough Monday (first day after Christmas period) – plough kept in church, boys go out collecting money.
- Plough witching including Molly dancing – dancing wakens the earth ready for a new season.
- Fen skating when shallow field water freezes to allow skating races to be held.
- Badger's day (Candlemas Day) do not need candles anymore, Groundhog day in USA similar.
- Valentine's day (14th February) – children given apples.
- Shrove Tuesday – people often given afternoon off.
- Mothering Sunday – when children working away from home were allowed time to return to family.
- April Fool's day (1st April) – many example of tricks, e.g. ask for a glass of "pigeon's milk".
- Easter races, bonnets, eggs – day for dressing up, decorating eggs as gifts.
- St. George's day – public holiday from 15th to 18th century and being celebrated more often again.
- May day – last day of having a fire at home.
- May galas – performances including maypole dancing, garlands displayed and money collected.
- Rogation day (three days before Ascension day). Puritans stopped the land blessings and instead boys went round marking the boundaries of their villages.
- Oak Apple day – to remember when King Charles hid in an oak tree. Children had to wear an oak leaf to school and were stung on the legs with nettles if they didn't.
- Midsummer day (13th July) - Dumb cake, village feasts, oxen roasts, make cushions.

- Hospital Sunday – procession led by a band through towns to raise funds for hospital.
- Harvest gathered in - celebrations, festival, dinner, children rode on top of last cart loaded, corn dollies for protection.
- August Bank holiday - Statute fairs, trip to seaside especially Hunstanton.
- Michaelmas geese – 20,000 geese from East Anglia fattened up and sent to Nottingham goose fair.
- Guy Fawkes (5th November) – carry lanterns made from hard vegetables unlike pumpkins today.
- St. Andrew's day plus 10 (11 December) – Mummers play put on by Morris/Molly dance troupe. Somewhat different idea from Peterborough where men and women swapped clothes on this day.
- St. Thomas (21st December) - the shortest day when old women went out gathering goods to see them through Christmas.
- Christmas Waits – carol singers went out six weeks before Christmas often staying out to the early hours.
- Boxing day (26th December) – widespread begging.
- New Year's Eve (31st December – fireworks, parties, church bells ringing, village fiddlers playing. Bringing salt and coal into the house at midnight for good luck in the new year.
- 12th Night (6th January) – most important day for celebrations over the Christmas period during which the decorations are taken down.
- Distaff day (7th January) – Spinsters start spinning signalling things getting back to normal.

Maureen described each custom in great detail and with such enthusiasm for the subject, liberally sprinkled with rhymes and songs, that one could almost imagine taking part in them.

The audience in the hall with Maureen were treated to an excellent show due to Maureen's undoubted story-telling talents and ability to paint such vivid pictures not only with words but sometimes song!

Unfortunately, the home audience viewing via zoom had a lesser experience as we could not transmit the presentation slides directly from Maureen's laptop because it was not connected into the zoom network. Instead we had to use another laptop camera to show both Maureen and the slides projected onto the wall, but luckily the microphone was able to pick up Maureen's voice which, as Maureen said, was more important than being able to see the slides clearly....another learning point for holding hybrid meetings.

Reported by John Bownass.



LAST WORD

US Records

A recent foray into American records to see what could be found about a family (who had emigrated in the 1880s with twelve children) had been quite successful—up to the 1940s! Folk in the US 1940 Census seemed quite difficult to follow any further because of great variations in availability of state/county-level

records as the C20th progresses—so, hurray for the 1950 Census!! I was, however, very surprised at what can be gleaned from resource sets which are readily accessible (eg. via Ancestry, and external links). These records often provide facts about events, dates/places, births/marriages/deaths, addresses/parents, etc., which are not explicitly linked together. However, there often does appear to be sufficient information to enable deductions to be made—which might just help clarify peoples' identities by associations with others, stated family relationships, women's surname changes by marriage(s), etc.

Found to be of particular use are :

- Social Security Applications Index 1936-2007, and Death Index 1935-2014
- Many men would have served in the military, and thus might feature in :
 - ◊ Depart of Veterans' Affairs Deaths 1850-2010
 - ◊ Burial Registers, Military Posts & National Cemeteries 1862-1960
 - ◊ US WW2 Draft Cards 1940-1947, and Army Enlistments 1938-1946
 - ◊ US Veterans' Gravesites 1755-2019
- US Cemetery & Funeral Home Collection 1847-date (i)
- Newspapers.com (link to external subscription website) (i)
- Find-A-Grave.com (links to external free-to-use website) (ii)
- US Phone & Address Directories 1993-2002; US Public Records Index 1950-1993; US School Yearbooks 1900-1999 (iii)

(i) both might list other names extracted from the original record which, by being associated with the primary person, suggests they might be connected to them

(ii) potentially, very useful : linked graves might be found (eg. spouses, parents, children); many women are recorded with maiden names; the contributor might have included additional biographical information or details from local resources

(iii) perhaps less useful, but may enable locations in later years to be confirmed

Once a town or county has been identified, search for any local newspapers from Ancestry or, for free, at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>

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 available pages.

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

The Editorial Team

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- # 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)

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