



THE JOURNAL



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS: NED WAYNE & CAROL NOBLE

A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION

REGISTERED CHARITY No. : 278815

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

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

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

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

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

WATCH THE WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER & FACEBOOK

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

All general correspondence via the Secretary, please :

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

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CAMBS & HUNTS FHS JOURNAL

VOL 28 : 3

AUTUMN 2022



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the CHFHS Journal—has anyone tried looking at the 1950 US Census yet—any better luck than with our own 1921 Census?!

This issue opens with Ian S continuing the account of the unusual forenames found in his family from the Linton area; Jim B tells of his forays into the 1921 Census and the problems encountered in finding what was wanted; and Vicki S recounts the story of her family from the Bourn area. Melanie W describes the involvement of her with a 17th century petition, and we tell the story behind one more of the genuine Super Full House-ers associated with the county. We've received several letters/emails for this edition : to re-home a family bible, the Soham rail explosion, a family from Benwick, and about some former residents of the contributor's own home.

NB: Cambridge meetings will be recommencing from Sept (new venue—see p34)

Most of the regulars features are to be found dotted throughout—incl : projects updates, research surgeries and meetings' diary (zoomed talks to enable for a wider participation to continue); 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 photo : The Ablett Family of Hills Lane Ely, c1900 *thanks to ely.ccan.co.uk*

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A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



Cambridge St Andrews Baptist Church, our new meetings venue

Meetings in Cambridge have always been an important part of our work; we staffed regular surgeries and help desks once a month on Saturdays in the library; displayed many publications and products, recruited new members, and also used the library for speaker talks. All this was of course not possible during lockdown, and we have been looking at resuming this pattern as soon as we are able to do so. The library limitation on numbers would have meant turning members away, so we have looked at alternative venues.

Thanks to careful research by Muriel Halliday and Mary Naylor, we have been able to find a new venue to continue our work in Cambridge, the Baptist Church in St Andrews Street, CB2 3AR. Our first monthly meeting there will be on Saturday 10 September, when our President, Elizabeth Stazicker, will be the speaker, and we will also use the small meeting room for drop-in sessions to answer your family history questions. The church has wi-fi, so the speaker talks will also be available for those unable to come to Cambridge. Our new venue is in the centre of Cambridge, close to the bus station and park and ride stops, and close to the library. Full details of forthcoming meetings in Cambridge and elsewhere will be on our website and in the newsletter.

Speaker talks and meeting patterns

We currently have three talks each month; one a face-to-face meeting at March library; one a hybrid meeting at the WI Hall in Huntingdon; and one a zoom only meeting for our Saturday Cambridge time. We are very aware that distant and overseas members appreciate the chance to take part in speaker talks online, and that members appreciate the chance to meet and talk with each other over a cup of tea or coffee. The most inclusive meetings format is hybrid, so everyone can take part, and recordings with the speaker's agreement allow those unable to attend, to watch at a later date. Recordings also give members the chance to revisit the talk and think further about the content. Hybrid meetings are the most technically challenging, with the speaker in the room or at a distance, and sometimes with more than one

laptop. We try to sort out the technology before zoom members are admitted, and sometimes have to pause to sort out an issue as the speaker starts their presentation.

By the end of the year, we should have hybrid meetings at all our three talks venues, but a recent analysis has suggested that only just over 20% of participants come to the venue, the rest watch from home. There are many reasons why this might be, and some other organisations have similar experience; others have found that people are pleased to resume their pre Covid pattern. I'd be very interested in your views about this, please get in touch with me about why you prefer coming to meetings, prefer to watch from home, a combination of both, or never choose to take part.

Choice of speaker and topic: please help us

One other factor that influences the numbers taking part is the speaker and their chosen subject. Both Linda Peckett at March, and Muriel Halliday, at Huntingdon and Cambridge, have done an excellent job to put together an interesting and varied programme, but, some of the speaker sources such as Conduit, have not been published for some time. Muriel will be pleased if members are able to help her; she does so much work for the Society, that sorting out a speaker programme is something that she would like to pass on. If you can help, or want to find out more, please contact either Muriel or me. This important work does not take a huge amount of time, and can be fitted around other commitments, but it plays a key role in what the Society does for its members. The work can be done from home and is suitable for either distant or local members. You also get to choose the topics that you think will be of interest! If you know of potential speakers, topics, or can offer talks yourself, please again contact either Muriel or me. Speakers are paid for their time, and expenses.

Project progress

We have now seen a draft agreement with Ancestry, and plan to sign the final agreement in the near future, so the digitisation of all the Parish Registers held in the County Archives, and the matching work to our transcripts can begin. It is a big project as we have around 2.7 million records that will be included.

We are adding new parishes to our Huntingdon searchable transcripts; my thanks to everyone involved with this. However, the work to complete the Wisbech and Fenland Museum Cambridgeshire parishes is now only progressing slowly. We are nearing the final stages, but some past volunteers have dropped away, so please contact Terry Garner, to help with

the transcribing and matching. projects@cfhs.org.uk.

Our new website is also steady making progress thanks to the meetings with Beachshore.

Zoom calls with family

I have recently taken part in a zoom call with my second cousin and his brother; they both live in Canada and we have never met. Apart from my immediate family, they are my closest relatives. We have been emailing for many years, but the chance to talk face-to-face added so much. The call was a great success, and next time their sister will also take part. Have you considered zoom calls with others interested in your shared family?

Revisiting websites

We all know that new records and data are added online on a regular basis. I've recently started looking again systematically at my family tree on a year-by-year basis, starting with those born in 1837, then 1838 etc, and trying to fill some of the gaps from published sources. This yields surprising and welcome results, as well as things that still cannot be found. I hope you are able to further your own interests in similar ways.

Stop press: local exhibition

The University Library has a free exhibition in the Milstein Room about Charles Darwin. Although he lived in Kent, the exhibition includes fragments of letters and how these were analysed, dated and the writer discovered.

The techniques the library used are very similar to our work as family historians: the exhibition runs till December.

David Copsey

**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**

The Society offers condolences to the families of :

Janette Pfeifer	840
Dave Valentine	6312
Brian Thompson	6192
Douglas Crame	3855

**Unusual Given
Names (2)**
*some Bishops of
Linton & Cambridge*
by Ian Stephenson

In part one of this article I described the life of Bishop Tofts (1796-1870) of Linton who, after joining the army at the age of 16, spent most of his life in New South Wales. Part two considers the other four members of the family to be given the name Bishop, and how Bishop Tofts fits into the family tree.

The earliest of my ancestors to be have the given name of Bishop was Bishop Burgoign who was baptised in Linton on 4 Mar 1699, the son of John. Whilst by the end of the 18th century the spelling of that surname had by and large coalesced to be Burgoyne, earlier it is found spelt variously: Burgoign, Burgoine, Burgoin, Burgain, Burgan, Bergin (and no doubt there are other variants). It is unfortunate that Bishop's baptism record does not include his mother's name. Around that time there were four other Burgoign baptisms at Linton to a father named John, each with the mother named (mostly Ann/Anne, but also an Ellen). Two of those baptisms in July 1702 were within 2 days of each other and the parish priest recorded the fathers as being John sen and John junⁱ. For various reasons (each of which is quite speculative and may just be coincidences, and even collectively cannot be considered conclusive) I tend towards Bishop's father being John jun (possibly born in West Wrattin in 1763) and his mother being Ellen Webb. There appears to be no record of where the name Bishop came from; however, if Ellen Webb was his mother then since the marriage of Ellen's parents has not been identified and her mother's name is only given in Ellen's baptism record as Elizabeth, it is possible that her surname was Bishop (although, a record of an Elizabeth Bishop at an appropriate place and time has not been found).

Bishop Burgoyne married Anne Hammond, of Linton, on 11 Oct 1724 at St Benedict's, Cambridge (his surname being spelt Bergin); they lived in Linton where eight children were baptised. In 1752 a freehold messuage with livery was transferred from a Philip Webbⁱⁱ to Bishop, identified as a labourer; Bishop in turn transferred the property in 1778 to his younger son, Robert, described as a 'singleman' of nearby Hinxtonⁱⁱⁱ. The indenture which records the transaction identified that it was made *'in consideration of the natural love and affection which he the said Bishop Burgoyne had and bore for and towards the said Robert Burgoyne his son also of the several and divers sums of money which he the said Bishop Burgoyne had from time to time*

received from the said Robert his son'; in addition, a 5s payment was made with the transaction. The indenture was signed by Bishop (spelt 'Bisop') in a very shaky hand - perhaps an indication of his frailty, or that that was the limit of his writing ability. After his wife died in 1776 perhaps Bishop decided that his best option was to live out his days with his younger son and daughter-in-law; as we shall see his elder son was no longer living in Linton. Bishop died in Linton at the age of 83 in 1782.

The property that Bishop owned and passed on to Robert is described in 1820 to have abutted the street leading from Linton market place to the manor of Barham (half way to the hamlet of Bartlow) and most likely fronted onto what is now Horn Lane; it was large enough to have been divided into two cottages by the later date. Robert, who had returned to Linton, went on to be the victualler of the Crown Inn on Linton market place in the year following Bishop's death, and remained as such until he died four years later in 1786 when his wife Jane took over the inn^{iv}; they had no children. Robert in his will (in which he described himself as an 'Innholder') bequeathed the freehold Linton property, formerly belonging to his father, to his wife Jane for her use during her lifetime^v. On her decease it was to pass to his nephew, Thomas Burgoyne, the younger son of Robert's elder brother. Jane also received copyhold property from Robert's estate which in her will she bequeathed to two nieces and a great-niece all in Northamptonshire, rather than to any of the Burgoynes.

I am descended from Bishop's third daughter, Jane Burgoyne (1729-1814) who married Richard Tofts (1726-1772^{vi}) in Linton on 18 Feb 1750. Jane is a good starting point to navigate to all the Bishops. As we have seen, the first Bishop was her father; the second was her elder brother; the third his son, Jane's nephew; the fourth Bishop was Jane's son, and the fifth her grandson.

Bishop and Anne's elder son (the brother of Robert) was baptised on 9 Jun 1728 at Linton; he was the second in the family to be named Bishop. This Bishop (the 2nd) moved to Cambridge where in 1759 at All Saints he married Anne Tawney, they subsequently had two sons. In 1761 he is recorded^{vii} living in a property in the vicinity of Peas Hill, to the south of the town. The 1774 marriage licence for a possible second cousin, John Burgoyne farmer of Hildersham^{viii}, has Bishop as his bondsman and he is described as a yeoman (presumably farming on the south edge of Cambridge). The following year his wife was a beneficiary of her mother's will^{ix}. The 1780 poll book shows that Bishop was one of 152 freeholders in Cambridge, so we may assume that he was fairly successful. He died in 1789, aged 60/61.

The elder son of Bishop and Anne, nee Tawney, was the third and last, Bishop Burgoyne; he was baptised on 26 Oct 1760 at St Edwards,

Cambridge. In the register of duties paid for apprentices' indentures Bishop (the 3rd) is found to be apprenticed in 1774 to a Robert Bishop, a Cambridge tailor. He married Sarah Crisp at St Clement Danes, London in 1788 and returning to Cambridge where they had two daughters, Sarah and Ann. Bishop was pre-deceased by his younger brother Thomas who died unmarried and intestate in 1789, thus the Linton freehold property originally belonging to their grandfather, the 1st Bishop, would pass to this Bishop on the death of his uncle's wife, Jane. Bishop died in 1804, aged about 44. In his will he bequeathed his estate, including property in St Benedict's parish Cambridge, to his wife and after her decease to his two daughters, Sarah and Ann, to hold in common^x. Here we return to the Linton freehold property which was in the possession of Sarah and Ann's great-uncle's wife Jane until her death in Linton in 1817 at the age of about 88. In 1820 Sarah and Ann Burgoyne, together with their mother and Sarah's husband, Robert Hunt a carpenter, sold the Linton freehold property to a Land Nichols^{xi} (another example of an unusual given name). As part of the process to secure the sale in 1820 an Abstract of Title was produced to verify the ownership of the property and included summaries of related documents^{xii}. At that time Sarah and her husband Robert Hunt were also selling off other property (a total of six messuages) and land in Linton and St Benedict's Cambridge to Land Nichols with a total value of £200^{xiii}.

The fourth Bishop was Bishop Tofts baptised in Linton in 1765, a son of Richard Tofts and Jane, nee Burgoyne, and first cousin to Bishop Burgoyne (1760-1804). This Bishop Tofts, however, did not survive childhood, dying in 1769.

And so we come to Bishop Tofts (1796-1870) - the subject of part one of the article. The earliest record of him is aged 16 with his army attestation papers which gave his birthplace as Linton. A baptismal record has however not been found, so there is uncertainty as to who his parents were. Bishop had been a given name in the family in Linton for the three preceding generations and, as we have seen, there was a Bishop (albeit briefly) in the Tofts family in the previous generation; furthermore, his full name of Bishop Burgoyne Tofts (given on the letter that awaited him at Sydney general post office in 1860 - see part one) gives weight to him being part of the Burgoyne-Tofts family lineage. With the timing, it seems reasonable to suppose that this final Bishop was a grandson of Richard Tofts and Jane Burgoyne. In the 1790s the only Tofts to be baptised in Linton were the children of William (son to Richard and Jane) and his wife Ann, nee Collet. However, the baptismal record of their youngest child, Sarah, has her born on 24 Apr 1796 which if that date and Bishops' age at attestation are correct means that Bishop could not have been Sarah's sibling. An alternate possibility is that the parents were William's elder brother Thomas and his wife Mary, nee Livings. They

had children baptised at Linton between 1777 and 1787, and Bishop might have been a late addition when Mary was in her late-30s or early-40s. Otherwise, there are Tofts baptisms in a number of neighbouring villages, perhaps after Bishop's birth in 1796 his parents moved away from Linton; however, no obvious candidate parents present themselves for this scenario. So we are left with, what I consider to be a reasonable conclusion that, Bishop Burgoyne Tofts was a great grandson of the first Bishop Burgoyne (1699-1782), but that it is not possible to identify his parents with any degree of certainty - although, I consider Thomas and his wife Mary, nee Livings, to be the more likely.

NOTES :

- i Since there was only 14 years between the marriages of these two Johns (in 1684 and 1698) it seems unlikely that John jun was the son of John sen; although it is quite possible that they were more distantly related.
- ii Whether this Philip Webb was related to Ellen Webb has not been established.
- iii Cambridgeshire Archives Ref 714/T2 is the indenture of feoffment of the property from Bishop to Robert in 1778; an attached note written by Robert identifies that the feoffment of the property to Bishop in 1752 was missing. Note, feoffment is the term for the transfer of possession of freehold estate.
- iv Cambridgeshire Victuallers' records
- v Cambridgeshire Archives, Reference: 714/T3 - will of Robert Burgoyne of Linton, innholder. His will, and that of his wife Jane, are both available on Ancestry.
- vi Although some family trees on Ancestry have him as living until 1824.
- vii Cambridgeshire Archives, Reference: CB/2/CL/17/4 page 180. An indenture relating to ground adjacent to Bishop Burgoyne's tenement.
- viii Cambridgeshire Archives hold a number of other documents relating to John Burgoyne of Hildersham and his relatives.
- ix Cambridgeshire Archives, Reference: VC 44:74 1785. Found through CHFHS Cambridgeshire Wills database.
- x Cambridgeshire Archives, Reference: 714/T4 - will of Bishop Burgoyne of Cambridge, tailor.
- xi Land Nichols was the Crown Inn's victualler from 1812 to at least 1828 (when the known Cambridgeshire victualler records end).
- xii Cambridgeshire Archives, Reference: 714/T5 - Abstract of Title of Ann Burgoyne, Sarah Hunt (nee Burgoyne) and Robert Hunt, her husband, to land in Linton, dated 1820. This document contains a diagram of the pedigree of Sarah and Ann Burgoyne, no doubt included to help clarify the relationships of the individuals involved in verifying of the ownership of the property. At the top is the first Bishop Burgoyne (1699-1782) and whilst it includes little information that cannot be gleaned from other records, it is of interest as there are (I would suggest) few family tree diagrams dating from 200 years ago which represent an ordinary family. It should be noted that because of the context the second row only shows the male children of Bishop; furthermore, this is the only record of Bishop's son Thomas Burgoyne who died a minor, as he does not appear in the baptismal record.
- xiii Cams Archives, Ref: 714/T9 - Fine levied in the court of Common Pleas related to the sale.

1921 CENSUS	WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR 1921 STORIES
successes ... surprises ... difficulties ... failures	

1921 Census

*received from
Jim Barton*

Have you found your family in 1921?? Are they as expected or not— easily found or with difficulty, or perhaps not at all?? Have surprising details emerged— every record of each person has a story behind it ...

In response to this appeal for stories in the last issue—Jim contributed in this

Successes... failures ... difficulties ... surprises? Where to start?

I'm pleased to report that I've achieved all four of the challenges and more!!

Difficulties: *the 98.5% accuracy claim by FMP.*

98.5% accuracy rate means 3 errors in 200. For one of my great grandfather's the census record has 532 words, so I have to expect about 8 words to be wrong. How many letter errors could that be? If the average word is 6 letters, then something like 50 letters are expected to be wrong. My Great Granduncle's transcription (5 people) had errors in 10 fields. I have submitted more error reports relating to the 1921 census than for any other.

Difficulties: *Hunts is not Hants. Cambridge can mean 'town' or 'county.'*

FindMyPast must have used non-English, or non-geographically aware transcribers. Far too many of my ancestors were, according to FMP, born in Hampshire. That means if I had been searching for someone born in Huntingdonshire, or (Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire) as FMP likes to put it, they'd NEVER be found.

Difficulties: *Somersham is not Somerset*

One side of my family were born and bred here. There are some interesting transcriptions. The most cumbersome spells everything correctly but remains wrong: "*High Street Somersham St Ives Hunts, Somersham, Huntingdonshire & Cambridgeshire, England*"

Expense: Because of the transcription issues I found from my very first search, I was loath to spend the money only to have to correct the FMP record. If they would! One of my earliest error submissions – by email as I had not paid for the abysmally incorrect transcribed version, only the image – was rejected with the response:-

"When transcribing any dataset, FMP's approach is and can only be to ensure that transcriptions are loyal to the original document, and on this occasion what we have transcribed is what is shown on the original entry"

I resubmitted it with screenshots of the census forms and their offending transcriptions, and this time those 3 glaring errors were accepted for correction.

I have not found a single household without at least one error.

Since then, I had in most cases just done my research using advanced search, and the pop-ups of names included on the form, noted that they were on the census and where, and created a list to go back when it became free. In this manner I'd identified my maternal grandmother Smith at home with her parents and siblings. Since the 1911 census, her father had changed his first name from Samuel Joseph to Henry. We've no idea why, but luckily I'd previously found his probate record which gave his name and alias, so I had known to search for that.

Success: Initially I was at a loss, because Great-Grandfather Gotobed was not at home in Somersham in 1921. He was 64, and widowed. Two daughters and a son were at home managing the family farm, and had signed the form stating it was "on his behalf" which seemed a bit odd. By searching just for his name, and widening the age range, there he was on holiday in a hotel in Brighton. His birthplace was transcribed as Cambridge, Streatham, though clearly written Cambridgeshire, Stretham. BUT the searchable index had him down as born in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. His place of work was transcribed as The Chester Nuts, rather than the Chestnuts. 3 fields wrong out of 49, which is a paltry 94% accuracy. To make finding him harder, his age had been written as 66 though he was 64.

Surprise: The biggest surprise so far is my maternal grandfather, Robert Carey. I already had him in London on 1921 and 1922 electoral rolls. He was London born and bred, and the family had lived there for 20 years. But I could not find him on the 1921 Census. When last seen, he was an acting Captain in the army during the war, and then in the OTC in 1920.

Half Price Weekend: I decided to have another go at the ones on my list of 'find when free', and bought my grandmother's census images. There was my grandfather – a Visitor, two years before they married. But why was he in Leeds, and why here? The house was on the North-Western edge of Leeds. Henry was a department manager for a wholesale clothier in Leeds. Three children worked locally. Robert Carey was a Commercial Traveller for a timber merchant in Nottingham! How did he even get to their home? There was enough family income to not need paying visitors.

While I'm writing this, I recall a family story about my gran's sister introducing my grandad to her on a double date. My gran eventually married, her sister died unmarried.

Failures: I cannot find my Great Grandmother Annie Maria Barton. I've found her family and she is not on their forms. I know that she moved from Hemingford Abbots prior to updating her will in March 1921 when she was living at Wigan House, St Ives – so it should be easy. She died in 1922,

which we knew from probate. I've searched for her full name, her initials, just her first names or just her surname. I've searched with and without DOB, place of birth or 1921 location. I've tried widowed people born in Hamerton, Huntingdonshire. I've tried just Wigan House in St Ives, and even looked though female heads of house in St Ives. Nothing. There aren't even many Annie Maria Bartons in England. Eventually I decided she cannot have completed a form.

Surprise and Sadness: But that led me to try and find out where Wigan House was in St Ives. It wasn't shown on the OS maps of the time. I tried the British Newspaper Archive. Initially nothing, but I did what I'd done for the 1921 census and searched with various minimal bits of information. With a liberal sprinkling of fairy dust, it appeared. Wigan House, The Quadrant, St Ives. There was one possible article from the Saffron Walden Weekly News - Friday 20 October 1922! That is in Essex, not Huntingdonshire; a good 30 miles from St Ives, amazing that there was a local news section for St Ives. The sadness is that it was a report of an inquest on an old lady knocked down by a passing motor cyclist. It seems that after a car had passed, she either hesitated, stepped backwards, lost her balance or similar. A motorcycle following the car caught her with its wing mirror just enough for her to fall. She hit her head and within an hour, had died. Ruled a tragic accident, passers-by said the motorcyclist had no blame. Her funeral report had almost a column of attendees, so she must have been well thought of and well known.

Using variations of the search criteria, I found two other articles, in that paper and the Peterborough Standard. One referred to the previous week, so I browsed the paper to find that article. Utter gobbledegook in the transcription! I despair of the transcriptions in BNA, having spent an hour correcting names and locations and key information in just these four.

My searching made me realise we've been badly done to by the BNA. There was nothing from the Cambridgeshire papers, because there are none for that year. Cambridgeshire does not really have coverage when you look at the list on BNA <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/home/NewspaperTitles>. The major paper the Cambridge Chronicle and Journal only covers 1804 – 1900. Two others show as covering this period but in reality only have the single year of 1920 from this decade. It seems that I might need to repeat some of my previous searches and not include the county of Cambridgeshire!

Since then, I have now also found an entry in CALM of sale particulars of the house being sold following her death. More to investigate to bring her back to life a little.

Isn't genealogy a fascinating subject!

My Ancestor Signed A Petition in 1659

by Melanie Winterbotham

It is not easy to find much about our ancestors at the time of the Commonwealth, especially the women, so it was quite a thrill to find an ancestor in the index of the 'Quaker Women's Petition' (now searchable on FindMyPast).

This petition in 1659 was signed exclusively by women, most of whom appear to have been Quakers, and asked the Government to abolish the levying of tithes by the Church of England ¹. Needless to say, even if they could have prevailed against the powerful influence of the C of E, any chance of success collapsed with the Restoration of the Monarchy the following year.

My bold ancestress was Elizabeth Nun, whom I knew to be a Quaker in Littleport. I don't know her origins, but she lived in Littleport with her husband Joseph Nun, and may well have been from one of several local families who joined the Society of Friends in the 1650s. Joseph had been born in 1622, the son of John Nun, a Littleport ropemaker, and of Joan Westfield who lived previously with her first husband (Thomas Crosse) in Ely. His father John (who died in 1643) probably belonged to a non-conformist sect, as his will refers to the resurrection and "the Holy Ghost the comforter who sanctifieth me and all God's elect."

Elizabeth and Joseph's commitment to their principles remained strong. In 1665, they and four other families had goods and cattle confiscated ². They may well have suffered in 1670, when "several persons" had property distrained to the value of almost £55, and endured physical violence when local J.P. Edward Patrick attacked their meeting with his drunken mates ³. In 1683, there were more confiscations and some Quakers were imprisoned ⁴. By then Elizabeth and Joseph had died, and their daughter Margaret had joined Friends at Snarehill near Thetford, but their son Thomas and his wife Elizabeth remained in the Littleport meeting, as did their eldest daughter Elizabeth and her husband George Payn.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Littleport nurtured dissenters. The Victoria County History (VCH) recounts that back in 1381, two Littleport men had led rioters who burnt the Bishop of Ely's Court Rolls; recently in 1638 there had been a riot at Whelpmore Fen, and towards the end of the century, discord prevented the parish authorities from collecting much of the poor rate. The VCH also suggests that Littleport was experiencing something of an economic and population boom in the mid-seventeenth century. The biggest

riot was well after this time, in 1816, when, sadly for genealogists, the parish registers were burnt ⁵ .

There was already a Baptist congregation in Littleport, to which the Nun family almost certainly belonged, when in 1655 Quakers (probably itinerant preachers) moved out from Cambridge and converted many of the Baptists to their faith ⁶ . The next year, luckily for me, the birth of Elizabeth's daughter Margaret (who continues my line) appears on the first page of the Quaker birth register.

Sixty-two women in Cambridgeshire are recorded as signatories. I don't know if Elizabeth signed in writing or with a mark, but she certainly wanted her voice to be counted.

NOTES :

1 Find My Past has this description: "These several papers was sent to the Parliament the twentieth day of the fifth Moneth [sic], 1659, Being above seven thousand of the names of the Hand-Maids and Daughters of the Lord And such as feels the oppression of Tithes, in the names of many more of the said Handmaids and Daughters of the Lord, who witness against the oppression of Tithes and other things as followeth. London Printed for Mary Westwood, and are to be sold at the Black-spread Eagle at the West end of Pauls, 1659."

2 Joseph Besse, *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People called Quakers, London 1753*, vol.1, chapter 6.

3 *ibid*

4 *ibid*

5 T D Atkinson, Ethel M Hampson, E T Long, C A F Meekings, Edward Miller, H B Wells and G M G Woodgate, 'Ely Hundred: Littleport', in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 4, City of Ely; Ely, N. and S. Witchford and Wisbech Hundreds*, ed. R B Pugh (London, 2002), pp. 95-102. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol4/pp95-102> [accessed 15 April 2022].

6 Kate Peters, 'Print culture and the early Quakers', Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp 79-82

RECEIVED FROM : Julie Hughes (6443)

I was thrilled to see Benwick mentioned in the latest journal. My great great grandfather Peter Nightingale was born in Benwick in 1829. His father William was also from Benwick and farmed 10 acres of land I believe. William married Mary Barnes and Peter married Rebecca Behoe. I am descended from Peter and Rebecca's eldest daughter Mary Jamina (Jane) who was born in Ramsey. Rebecca's mother was a Garner.

I always look forward to the journals. Does anyone know of any literature available about Benwick from 1600s -1800s?

[We've sent Julie a variety of ideas for Benwick history—Editor]

Bodgers of Bourn & beyond ...

By Vicki Salkin

On a bright sunny autumn day in October 2020 I made the journey to Cambridgeshire to visit the places where my Bodger predecessors came from. I am Australian so they (and I) had come a long way!

My journey on that bright autumn day took me to Bourn, Kingston and Cambridge. I would like to have gone to Wimpole, Great Gransden, Great Eversden, Orwell, and other places where my research showed my ancestors were from, but I was limited by the bus route and how far my feet would take me.

I can only say that I now understand a little more of where my family lived and something of their conditions of life. Owing to the limited information in records of the 1700s in particular, a lot of their history has to be filled in with the imagination, and some educated guesses. I have been helped significantly in this by the Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Family History Society (CFHS), Muriel Halliday, and other members of the CFHS. Suffice to say – life in a village must have been very different to life in London, where at least one family member had migrated. And different again to life in Australia!!

Nevertheless I feel much more informed, and grateful for the understanding I do have, which I would like to share.

Bourn

The core part of my Cambridgeshire family were Bodgers from Bourn. There are Bodgers in Bourn from the early days of parish records. For example in 1652, on 19th September there is a baptism of Thomas Bodger 'son of Tho' (CFHS download). The first year for which Bourn baptism records is available is 1563.

Bourn is a small village with a stream ('bourn') flowing nearby. On that autumn day I went to the village church, St Helena and St Mary, which was open on the day. I also scrutinised the cemetery, and there I found the Bodgers! There were 3 fairly large headstones of 3 generations of Bodgers, near an entrance to the church. They were all ones I knew, so I felt very satisfied with the find. I am not sure about other churchyards, but in this one families were located together, so once I found one Bodger, I looked nearby for others, and there they were!

In this article I am following the direct line of our ancestors, who are:

Edward	(4th generation)	1720 (approx)-1778
Edward	(3rd generation)	1756 (approx)-1838
Thomas	(2nd generation)	1788-1861
William Dennis	(1st generation)	1816-1907

Bodgers in Bourn

Isn't it interesting how we sometimes discover previously unknown facts about our family? I'll never forget sitting in front of a computer in a library in Melbourne (Australia, not Melbourn, Cambridgeshire!) looking at a public family tree on *Ancestry* created by Melissa Bolger, and seeing that before my Bolger ancestors came to Australia, they were Bodgers! What caused the 'd' to become a 'l'? We had always known our family to be Bolgers. We do not have the shipping records to show what name was used for the journey to Australia, which was in about 1852. Possibly the long journey by ship gave much time for thought. Probably the term 'bodge' was already used as a derogatory term in England. Or possibly when they arrived in Australia and saw the term 'bodgy job' (meaning a job badly done), they decided to change their name. The problem with that theory is that most dictionaries claim that the origin of the term 'bodgy' is 20th century, from the word 'bodge'. We may never know, but it seems clear that the Bodger who migrated to Australia, William Dennis, being a builder by trade, did not want his name associated with dubious work quality.

Nevertheless, historically Bodgers were craftsmen and artisans, going into forests to turn green wood into legs and other parts of chairs. Not that any of the Bodgers in my family line seem to have engaged in that craft as far as I am aware. But many did become builders, right up to the very current generation of Bodger descendants in Australia - the great etc grandchildren of the Bourn Bodgers.

I have grown to have respect for my Bodger family from Bourn, as I have looked through the historical records, especially the parish registers. I have found them to be on the whole steady and faithful people. So let me fill you in on some details, which I have garnered essentially from the parish records. This research spring-boarded from some excellent work by an Australian genealogy expert, which had built on the family tree from *Ancestry* and my mother's research on our family.

Edward Bodger, 4th generation, married 1741, St Benedict's Cambridge

Edward Bodger (4th generation) was born around 1720. He married first a Sarah Peppercorn from Kingston, and after she died an Anne Jackson from

Great Gransden. Our direct line comes through Anne, with Edward (3rd generation) born to her in about 1756. As previously mentioned, essentially I have stuck with the direct line of our family. I was however intrigued when I discovered that Edward Bodger had married Sarah Peppercorn by licence at St Benedict's church in Cambridge in 1741. This amazed me because that was the very church which I had visited as a tourist several Christmases before, with a friend who was visiting the UK. We walked into this beautiful old church, sat and read the hymn books and prayed. Then to discover a few years later that my ancestors had actually married in that very church took my breath away.

Also, I could not resist discovering a bit more about Sarah Peppercorn (apart from anything, I love her name!) So on that lovely autumn day, with blue skies and fluffy clouds, with birds of prey flying over the countryside in search of field mice, I took the walk from Bourn to Kingston. According to the marriage licence, this is the village Sarah Peppercorn came from. It was a nice walk through the countryside, and also gave me some idea of what life would have been like without modern-day transportation. In Kingston I could easily have been in 18th century Cambridgeshire - I experienced friendly hospitality from villagers, as I was looking for the local parish church, which was hidden away in a back street.

Edward Bodger, 3rd generation, tailor

Our Edward of the 3rd generation was born in about 1756 to Edward and his second wife Anne (nee Jackson). I say 'about', because there is no infant baptism recorded for him, although there is a fascinating entry in the baptism section of the parish registers for 1771: 'Edward, son of Edward and Ann, received into the Church said to be between 14 & 15 years old'. This has been the subject of speculation between Muriel and myself. Muriel informed me that baptisms later in life were not uncommon for various reasons, including participating in the social life of the church, or to be married in the church. Whatever the case, it seems clear that Edward was keen to participate in the life of the church, and therefore made a decision to be part of the church through baptism.

Edward was a tailor, according to an apprenticeship record which fits his description, and another document found by Cambridgeshire Archives. Interestingly Cambridgeshire Archives also found a document which revealed that Edward's mother, Anne (nee Jackson) had been a spinner of wool. She was probably an outworker in the worsted industry which was flourishing in the mid-18th century. I find it fascinating to think that Edward

may have been inspired to be a tailor while at his mother's knees as she was spinning yarn.

Edward's first wife (Ann Bass) died young, sadly, but his second wife (Elizabeth Pate) lived to be 90 years old. She survived her husband by many years and had between 12 and 14 children, depending on the records consulted. Sadly many died young, but those who survived, particularly 3 of the boys, went on to have productive lives. John as a gamekeeper, Thomas (in our direct line) as a builder and David as a carpenter.

Thomas Bodger, 2nd generation, brothers and son

It was Thomas (2nd generation) who moved to London. We think he did this via Eaton Socon. This has been difficult to prove, as the only evidence we have is a marriage record showing his marriage to Elizabeth Allen in 1815. Nevertheless, all the circumstantial evidence points to it being him. Thomas had every reason to go to Eaton Socon from Bourn; it was on the Great North Road, stretching all the way from Scotland to London and in its heyday was fully equipped with at least 5 coach houses. This information came from the late Sue Jarrett, who helped me enormously in understanding life in Eaton Socon, and why a young man from a rural village would have passed through there on his way to London. It is still sad to think Sue is no longer with us.

In London Thomas firmly established himself as a builder, and carried on the family tradition of being a regular part of a church. It was in St Andrews Holborn that all of his children were baptised, between 1816 and 1830. His brother John stayed in Bourn, where he worked as a gamekeeper, married Hannah (nee Offley), had children and was buried in 1867 at 72 years of age.

Another brother, David, moved to Cambridge, and in the 1851 census he is to be found as a carpenter, with his wife Caroline (nee Simpson), and four children, in Falcon Yard, Great Saint Mary's. This is about where the Grand Arcade now stands.

Thomas's first son William Dennis then made the one-way journey to Australia in about 1853, with his wife and children, where he established himself and did well as a builder.

Conclusion

The Bodgers of Bourn who are in my direct line, and whom I have had the opportunity to research, come out of the records as being, on the whole, reliable, loyal, trustworthy people.

They love family, and value children. For example, the parish registers for Bourn record a burial in 1839 for Thomas (son of 2nd generation Thomas). Sadly this Thomas died as a 16 year old. The Bourn parish registers reveal that young Thomas came to Bourn from London, his father's residence, just before his death, and was buried in Bourn. I have speculated with Muriel as to why he returned to Bourn just before his death. The most likely scenario is that he came to be cared for by his family, and as it turned out to die and be buried in the ancestral village. To me this shows a family which cares for each other, and has an attachment to the place they came from.

They also value church. The ritual of baptism was regularly observed by all generations. The move to Australia created some disruption in this, but they carried on the family tradition as much as they could. Edward (baptised in 1771 at 14-15 years old) was in particular dedicated to the church. He may have been a churchwarden. He was a witness at 6 weddings between 1786 and 1803. Was he particularly popular, highly regarded, a good friend, socially minded? Perhaps as a frequent attendee at church he was regarded as a person who could be called on to be a witness? Speculating again with Muriel, it is quite possible that all these may apply. Some names appear as wedding witnesses regularly in the 18th and 19th centuries, and those are likely to have been a churchwarden or such.

I have every respect for my Bodger ancestors. The women who would have worked so hard in the home, caring for children, and at least one of whom was a spinner. I also respect the men, who would have also been working hard in their occupations – tailor, carpenter, gamekeeper ... It has been a privilege to get to know them a little better.

Some of the sources:

- Ancestry and FindMyPast
- Bourn Download, Cambridgeshire Family History Society
- Cambs & Hunts FHS, Secretary Muriel Halliday and others
- Cambridgeshire Archives
- Melbourne genealogist
- Oxford English Dictionary
- Wikipedia, Bodger
- 'A Bodger not a Botcher', by Rachel Reynolds posted on 16 September 2011: <http://www.potterwrightandwebb.co.uk/wood-2/a-bodger-is-not-a-botcher>
- 'Bendigo woodturner makes an impression', by Dawn Rasmussen, 25 December 2015, *Bendigo Advertiser* <https://tinyurl.com/y5kktajt>

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

*in recent Journals,
we've alluded to the idea
of the "Super Full House"
people appearing in
all the censuses 1841-1921
and the 1939 Register*

Of some of the other potential Super Full House-ers found in Cambs & Hunts, and how do their stories stand up to scrutiny ...

Clara HOLE — as briefly mentioned in the last issue, Clara's story proved to be an excellent example of one of the common mismatches we might find, that is, between the truth and what appears in records and resources used for searches. The record made on the day is mostly made in good faith, however, the written word can then be misinterpreted on transcription especially if the context is not taken into account. This in turn can lead to the searchable database of the records' transcriptions not returning the correct person if, say, the person was sought using truthful facts as might be known to the researcher from other sources. The correct process for making a transcription is that a faithful reproduction of the original is made, character-by-character, warts and all, as best as the transcriber can do using what's in front of them, only. Hindsight and drawing on wider information shouldn't enter into the process. Therefore, the end result can be down to interpretation, by that transcriber, of what they see on the page, regardless of how "wrong" the result might seem to someone else, or to a researcher with "insider knowledge" about that particular person or family.

So, if you can't find what you seek, success might lie in considering the possibility of every conceivable error which might have occurred, and systematically, to take these into account when designing searches. In the case of Clara—at the time of the 39Reg, she was aged around 101yr with a birth year of 1838. However, the birth year was recorded as the abbreviated "38" and then interpreted as 1938. Despite she being listed as a "widow" and of "private means", itself hardly the description of an 18mth-old child, but this is how the provider's database has her listed, "born 1938". The moral here is to remember that most searchable online resources oblige us to search via indexes/databases as a necessary step to finding either a full transcription of the record or a digitised image of the source documents.

Errors are possible at any stage of this process, no matter how illogical the resulting words might seem—so, think it through, and take even the wildest of possibilities into account when designing your searches. Or, try searching

using various combinations of individual fields, rather entering something in every available field all at once because it's not known where the error(s) lie!!

The example of Clara was chosen completely at random, and has proved to be a clincher for one reader. The wife of Clara's great grandson got in touch with CHFHS shortly after publication of the last journal. CHFHS wondered whether Clara's relatives would be willing to contribute more of her story—however, it was to be the other way round. Our correspondents actually knew very little, and were keen to know what we had found. It seems that despite Clara's granddaughter, Nancy, having spent her final years living with them, Clara's latter years have been somewhat "lost" to that branch of the family today. Nancy herself had also enjoyed a long life and was in her late nineties when she died just a decade ago, and we are told, she would speak of Clara as "Little Granny" probably owing to her small stature. The family last knew of Clara whilst she was living in the Evesham area—her link to Cambridge was unknown, and a came as a complete surprise. CHFHS has supplied references to all the documents used to investigate Clara as a potential "Super Full Houser-er" linked to the Cambs/Hunts area.

So, the outcome is that Clara is definitely and unquestionably a fully paid-up and bona-fide member of the "Super Full House Club", born before and died after the milestone records of 41Cen and 39Reg. But how did her qualification for inclusion in this elite group emerge, and what story can be told about her long life from available records—

The initial presumption was that there would be a number of people out there who fitted the criteria of spanning the years between the 41Cen and 39Reg, the problem as previously explained, was in conclusively identifying them. It wasn't a simple matter of age, for although the criteria would include anyone still alive at the 39Reg aged over about 98½, the difficulty comes in proving it (with available records for either or both of their actual birth or actual death, plus the fact that many records give us just snapshots of "age as reported" with varying degrees of accuracy). Many of those encountered turned out to be either victims of inaccurate recording of age at some point in their life or were "imposters". The imposters are a curious bunch—some are no doubt accidental with their true birth date or age perhaps unknown to relatives or acquaintances, or even themselves—others are perhaps rather more blatant and the person becomes something of a local celebrity for their great age or for "attaining 100 years", when in fact their age has been inflated either in their later life or through creep across their whole life.

So—what of Clara—death registrations after the 39Reg turned her up as a good candidate fitting the criteria as she's listed as "105yr" when she was

registered in Dec Qtr 1943, which if genuine, would suggest a birth around 1838; Clara would be in the 39Reg, with hopefully a full date of birth. However, it took a while to identify her for the reason already outlined—the interpretation of the written record by the database transcribers. Both records providers (Ancestry and FindMyPast) list her as “b.1938” in their search indexes. But there she was, at Dorsier Road, off Hills Road, in Cambridge, living with a family of the same surname, and with a birth date given as “23 Sept ‘38” (1838 of course!!). Once this issue had been resolved, it was quite a straight forward trail back 1841, and then to confirm her pre-1841 birth.

Working backwards in time through the range of readily available life-course records, the 1911Cen turned up a promising “candidate” for Clara Hole in the person of a “widow aged 72yr”, living alone with servants in a 12-room house at Evesham. This lady is listed as “b. London, St James”, and as having been married for “37 years, with 3 alive children” which would suggest a marriage around 1874, give or take. But, this is quite a leap of faith, Evesham to Cambridge 25 years later—is it the correct Clara—can enough conclusive links be found to prove (or disprove) identity??

With nothing else to work with at this stage, attention turned to same-surname householder with whom Clara was living in 1939. Despite having the same surname, the exact nature of their association is not evident from this record alone, the same person also seems to be executor of Clara’s will as well suggesting he was very likely a close relative. So, who exactly was this “Frank B Hole, b.1874” with wife Aileen? A birth registration search offered up just one candidate, in the Richmond area of Surrey, and showed a mother’s surname of Faulkner. Pairing the surnames in a marriage registration search again returns just one candidate event : for a Samuel Hole and Clara Faulkner in Wandsworth District in 1874. The digitised image of the certificate happens to be available, and names “Clara Faulkner, of full age, d/o Henry, gentleman”. 1881Cen and 1891Cen finds the couple with three sons (including a “Frank B”) at Bridge Street in Barnes, Surrey.

Later life-course records show that Clara was widowed in the mid-1890s (Samuel died at Bromley in Kent), and by 1901, she was living in Evesham in furnished rooms with her youngest son, and described as being of “private means”. As has been already noted, she was still in Evesham a decade later. The basic index of the 1921Cen seems to have Clara, by now into her 80s, residing at Sandown on the Isle of Wight. It’s not possible to readily see further details at this stage (neither the address nor the identity of the three others listed in the same household—relatives/servants/visitors perhaps?).

What of Clara Faulkner’s earlier life prior to her marriage—to a certain extent she appears to have been somewhat of a stay-at-home daughter, or perhaps

Mr Right only came along, in the form of Samuel Hole, when she was well into her thirties—who knows!! Both the 71Cen and the 61Cen see her residing with her parents, Henry and Joanna—latterly not far from the what is now the All England Club near Wimbledon Common, and in Bridge Road, Barnes, before that. 51Cen finds her resident in boarding school in the Richmond area along with her sister; at the same time, their parents are at Bridge Road, Barnes—quite possibly just across the road from Samuel Hole and his family!!

A 2yr-old Clara appears in the 41Cen, and therefore if accurate, she should in theory have a birth registration (in theory at least, as it's well-acknowledged that there was significant non-registration of births in the early years of the system). Here however, a birth registration from Dec Qtr 1838 in the St James Westminster District is very probably she (mother, Greenhill). As genealogical luck would have it, a tallying baptism in October 1838 can be found in St James Piccadilly which records "Clara d/o Henry, a builder, and Joanna"—with the birth date included—23 September 1838!!

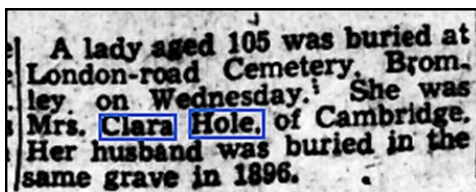
So, for the purposes of this exercise, Clara can be confirmed as a "genuine" Super Full House-er. The records have come full circle—the same birth date cited in both a baptism record in 1838 and the 39Reg, 101 years later. She was, however, not a "local" to Cambridgeshire by any means—quite the reverse, if anything. She just happened to be living with the family of a son, who themselves just happened to be in Cambridge for a period around that time; Frank was in Melton Constable, Norfolk, in 1911, Lewisham in 1921, and appears to have been back in Surrey by the 1950s.

Although many of us find our families might remain in the same village(s) for generations, and that their relatives mostly don't stray much beyond the same small area—others among us can find our stories are very dynamic in nature. We find that family groups disperse especially as the children leave and marry, homes can be set up in numerous places across family/individual lifetimes and their life-course records reflect these moves. This can make it very difficult to find people sometimes, and for it to be concluded that the correct person has been found. It can be quite a task to keep track of the paper trail they left behind—we need to try and find people in at least all the available key records so as to be absolutely sure that it is the same person who has turned up half way across the country. It's also quite likely that additional homes might have existed between those in key "records", and for other life events to have occurred in the family and gone unnoticed by researchers (eg. spousal death and remarriage; other children born/died between censuses; other children born/survived but just not at home in subsequent censuses; deaths but no local burial because the person has been taken back to a previous home place). We might have to follow our

ancestors and their relatives back and forth across the country, and perhaps further afield.

In the case of Clara, this is just what happened. As a child/young woman with her parents, she first lived in St James' London, then Fulham, Barnes and Wimbledon. With her husband, home was in Barnes and Bromley, and were it not for husband Samuel's death and probate being recorded in the Bromley area, the family's time there might have gone unknown. As a widow, she appears to have upped sticks from the London area, and after a time in the Isle of Wight, settled in Evesham (why Evesham—perhaps further research would show other relatives were already in these place—perhaps our correspondents might know?). In very old age, Clara's home was with relatives in Cambridge, and this until now was unknown to the present-day family. Looking at the wider family often reveals why people were they were, and helps set the scene for what individuals records have to say.

PS: Although not part of the remit for this exercise directly, I did become curious as to where Clara was buried. I wondered whether a burial record might help clarify her true age/birth. At the outset, there was nothing to suggest she wasn't a "local", but searches within Cambridgeshire proved fruitless—nothing in either the CHFHS MIs Collection or Burials Index, nor the National Burial Index, and the DeceasedOnline website (hosting the records for Cambridge City Cemetery & Crematorium) also drew a blank. With Clara's great age, it might be presumed that there would be something in the local papers. Unfortunately however, Cambs local newspapers for the 1940s aren't accessible online as yet **, and an initial search only turned up the general reporting of Clara's will when published in 1944. This did reveal something new, however, in that as well as having lived in Cambridge and Evesham, she had also lived in Bath. The 1921 index has already shown that she was in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, for a time too.



A lady aged 105 was buried at London-road Cemetery, Bromley, on Wednesday. She was Mrs. Clara Hole, of Cambridge. Her husband was buried in the same grave in 1896.

Bromley & West Kent Mercury 17 Dec 1943

A more creative search of newspapers eventually solved the mystery—a few untitled lines at the bottom of a page in the Bromley & West Kent Mercury of 17 Dec 1943, which fortunately flagged up, and held the answer. She was buried, not in Cambridge, not in Evesham or

Bath, but with her late husband, Samuel, back at Bromley in Kent!

** a visit to local newspapers at the Cambridgeshire Collection might add more watch this space ...

We'll look at the stories of more "candidates" in the next issue ...

Annual General Meeting : Chair's Report 2021/2022

1 Overview

The Society has continued to provide the full spectrum of its activities to its members, and during the past year, we have been pleased to resume face to face meetings as we work with changing national developments and local regulations. Again, I must thank you all, and particularly our project volunteers and our committee members, all of whom have a key role in ensuring that the Society continues to be seen as a leading organisation in family history. The Society does not employ any staff, so the huge amount of time, energy, expertise and hard work that our volunteers all give deserves public recognition. I have used the same headings for my report as last year.

2 Meetings and surgeries

It is very pleasing to report that we are now largely back to the pattern of meetings, talks and surgeries that we had three years ago. There is, however, one significant difference – we can work more closely with our distant and overseas members through Zoom, and therefore have a wider audience and a more inclusive participation. Partly through circumstance, and partly through experimentation, we have three differing patterns for the monthly branch meetings and talks. At March, there has always been a strong social meeting element at the talks, helped by refreshments, so these are now taking place in the library with the speaker able to talk individually with those attending as well as answering questions. At Huntingdon, we have used the WI Hall to hold hybrid meetings, some members in the Hall with refreshments served, and some taking part by Zoom. This has been technically challenging, sometimes with the speaker in the room, and sometimes with the speaker elsewhere, but it has been a valuable learning experience, and something that points the way forward. At Cambridge, the very low capacity of the meetings room that we use made it impossible to hold face to face meetings. These are therefore Zoom only meetings. Although room capacity has just been increased, it is still much lower than it was, and there have also been significant increases in hire charges. We are currently looking at alternatives. Both face to face meetings and Zoom meetings have advantages and problems, and the Society needs to balance these to provide the greatest benefit to everyone. There is a growing resource of past talks on the members' section of our website, many are now recorded with the speaker's agreement, and provide the chance to see what you have missed, or to recheck the details of things you want to explore further.

Our surgeries allow both members and non-members to come with individual questions and problems and spend time looking at how to solve these. Sometimes, the answer is easy to find, sometimes it is more difficult, and sometimes, there are no obvious avenues as the records never existed, have not been kept, or are not accessible. Our surgeries at Bar Hill, Camborne, Ely, March and a new venue, the Norris Museum at St Ives, are now all back in operation, dates are advertised on our website and members of the committee staff each venue on the surgery days. We are looking to resume the Cambridge surgeries which are normally linked in with our talks.

We are very mindful that many of our members are still wary of going out and attending meetings. We keep a close watch on national guidance and have to fit around the local arrangements for each venue we use, so that we can work in a safe manner. I should like to thank all the venue providers that we use, they provide a key resource for Society activities. I do hope that those of you who have missed attending meetings will feel able to get back to coming out, meeting others safely, and enjoying yourselves.

3 Projects

The integration of the Huntingdonshire parish and other records continues, and a growing number of parishes can now be searched on Ancestor Finder. New parishes are highlighted on our website. The search and retrieval capabilities of our data is one thing that sets our Society apart from many others. The assizes cataloguing project at the University Library has been completed, and we are hoping to hold a publicity event in the coming months.

The image and transcription matching work for the parish registers in the Wisbech and Fenland Museum has always had a significant anomaly; half of the parishes in the collection are in Norfolk. We therefore excluded these from Ancestor Finder to avoid confusion. We have now made the decision to hand over the images and our transcript work to date to both Norfolk and Fenland Family History Societies. Both confirmed their interest, and the data has now been given to them, allowing us to concentrate on the remaining Cambridgeshire parishes; most of the work still to be done is on the early registers.

The second year of our schools project in partnership with HistoryWorks will be with children, teachers and parents at Stretham School. The work was postponed from 2021 because of the national situation. The opportunity to look at census house and people data in relation to the local community developed a great interest amongst everyone involved in the first year of the project in Cambridge, and I feel sure that there will be similar interest in Stretham.

There have been further additions to the parish register and other content of the Find My Past website from our earlier projects, and the Society continues to receive regular payments for the use of our data.

4 Partnership work

The County Archives service has plans to digitise all the parish registers in their collections at Ely and Huntingdon, and to link these with searchable transcripts. The work will be undertaken in partnership with Ancestry, and I attended an initial meeting recently to start looking at implementation. The Society has provided examples of its transcript and matching work to Ancestry as well as some income details, as future publication on Ancestry will have a significant impact on family history work across Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Both Ancestry and Archives recognise that the Society will need to have personal and financial recognition for its work. The project is still at an early stage, and further details will become known over the coming months.

The Society plays a full role in the national Family History Federation. Regional meetings are held twice a year with the other societies across East Anglia, there

are around ten in all, some local, some county wide. The various societies covering Cambridgeshire joined together to hear a talk soon after the launch of the 1921 census. We also take part in the regular FHF coffee mornings, although these are normally held in the afternoon or evening! Some of the meetings are themed, others more general, but all provide the chance to share experiences and learn from others. The Federation also provides us with insurance for our activities, an important safeguard.

We look regularly at ebay for potential purchases of local interest, and our successful bids result in new deposits for the Archives collection. The Society has provided funding to the Archives Service to begin the cataloguing of the Duke of Manchester papers, an important resource both for its local people, and for its wider role nationally and internationally. Archives are identifying further funding sources so that a cataloguer can be employed.

We have paid for a copy of the Doddington Manor 17th century map which includes names of landowners held in March Museum and associated posters. This will make the map more accessible and easier to read. We took part in the Heritage Open Day events at Cambridge library.

5 Exhibitions and shows

The number of events is increasing as there are lower costs and fewer venue issues for the organisers. The Society has been selective in choosing which events to attend, concentrating on those that provide the best opportunities for sharing what we do and recruiting new members, notably the FHF Really Useful Shows. Each event has different technical issues for those staffing our booths to learn, and the opening hours for virtual shows tend to be much longer, so we have rota timetables to share the work.

6 New website

We had to look again at commissioning a new website and invited several companies to tender. Two companies gave online demonstrations to committee members, and we have now begun work with Beachshore to develop a new website and data searching. Beachshore have developed websites for other family history societies, and we are working in partnership with Norfolk FHS as they have similar requirements; this will reduce the costs we pay. We have also been looking at publication cut off dates for personal data and have agreed to the 100/70/0 model for newly published baptisms, marriages and burials.

7 Membership rates

We are again not proposing any changes. Our membership numbers remain healthy, and the change to an A5 journal size to save on postal charges has been well received. Postage rates are again being increased, so we will need to keep a close watch on our bookstall charges. Please make sure your membership details are accurate and make any changes to your website entry. If you do not already receive notifications of our monthly newsletter and latest events, you can add this to your preferences. This will ensure that you are aware of the latest talks, surgery dates and other events.

8 Accounts and Independent Examiner for 2022

Our Treasurer has prepared the 2021 accounts, and these are independently examined by Peter Rasberry from Clenshaw Minns. We are proposing that Peter Rasberry continue as our independent examiner for 2022.

9 Honorary Life Memberships

We have just over 20 HLM's in recognition of the significant and long last lasting work that they have done for the Society. This year, we are not proposing any new HLM's.

10 Committee nominations

Each of our committee members has a key role in Society work and has confirmed their willingness to be nominated and seconded. The split between nominated and co-opted members fits the structure of our constitution, but all committee members have full voting rights. There are no changes to our constitution.

11 Five-year plan

We received a number of suggestions for our five-year plan and some offers of help, both much appreciated. Our future work will include rationalisation of non-conformist and cemetery records; recruiting more volunteers, especially from younger age groups; further work on wills and digitisation.

David Copsey

— — 000 000 000 000 000 — —

VISITING CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Now that 'stay-cationing' is a holiday-of-choice for many of us, David Copsey (Chair CHFHS) reminds us about the arrangement between CUL and Cambs & Hunts FHS regarding readers tickets for our members. Perhaps a visit for research might be considered?!?

Just to recap—a joint project with the CUL to catalogue records of the Ely Assizes resulted in CHFHS members being offered CUL Readers Tickets free of charge (see Journals articles from 2020/2021 detailing "The UL Project" for more information). C-19 rather got in the way of being able to visit Cambridge and take advantage of this offer, but it still stands for anyone who is interested in the opportunity.

In advance of visiting—you'll need to apply for a readers ticket online at **www.lib.cam.ac.uk/register** for three years membership, **and** also ask CHFHS Membership Secretary, Joan, for a letter to take with you on your first visit, to confirm your membership of the Society—the ticket should be waiting for you a few days later. There's no need to book access to the Library itself, but seat booking is necessary if you want to make use of original documents in the Manuscripts Dept.

1930 CENSUS CANADA

Canada works to a 92-year-rule !!

So we'll have to wait until 2023 for access ... not long now ..

Huntingdon, Bedford & Peterborough Gazette 13th April 1830

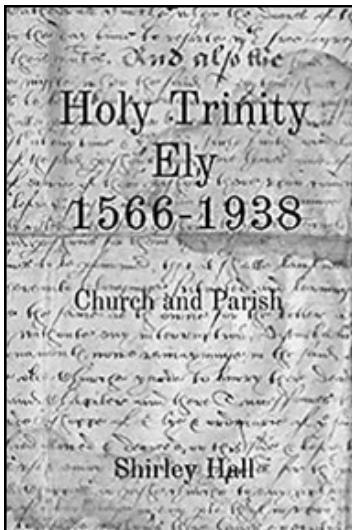
Huntingdon The wretched father of the unfortunate youth **Walton**, (who was removed from our County Gaol on Tuesday se'night in company with **Hollingshead**, the bank robber, as stated to be transported for 14 years), died on Friday last with a broken heart. It is said the poor man never looked up since his son was sentenced.

Thanks to Mike Stephenson for this and the other Hunts snippets

Holy Trinity Ely 1566-1938: Church and Parish by Shirley Hall

Holy Trinity was the senior parish of Ely until the creation of an all Ely benefice in 1938. The book tells the story of the church, its churchwardens and congregation for the period their church building was the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral.

The narrative includes: the story of how the people were affected by being a garrison town in the Civil War; arguments about re-pewing the church which divided the whole town; trying to deal with the Littleport (and Ely) rioters; constant problems with an overflowing graveyard; coping with a World War; the reasons for the final closing of the church. The churchwardens were the Poor Law officials for the parish, and the second part of the book tells of their work in the Georgian period, in particular, using their lists of settlement certificates, bastardy bonds and apprenticeship papers and details about the parish workhouse.



Using a variety of other sources, the parish's role in local education, health and sanitation is also summarised, as well as details of charities associated with the parish. The book includes many well-known Ely names from the period, but a comprehensive coverage of all those who appear briefly in the churchwardens' papers was not possible.

If any family historians with Ely links would like a name check to be made for their ancestors in the period 1566-1770, you can email the author : shirley377@btinternet.com

The RRP for this book is £14.99p
and it can be purchased from
Ely Cathedral shop,
or online at Amazon

RECEIVED FROM : Gill Dishart (#2384)

We were travelling home from Norfolk to Derby and happened to make a stop at March Museum, where a display concerning Benjamin Gimbert caught my eye. Gimbert, an engine driver with the LNER, was awarded the George Cross for bravery when he and his fireman James Nightall GC, (whose award was posthumous), took action to uncouple the leading wagon of a heavy ammunition train at Soham Station. A fire had broken out on the leading wagon, and they were driving it away when its cargo exploded. The massive explosion blew out every window in Soham. The awards recognised that their bravery had prevented further damage which would have happened had the rest of the train exploded.

My great-grandmother, Anna Mison, lived in Soham at the time, so I flicked through the files of documents collected by the museum. I learned of a fund set up to help the people financially following the destruction, and the completed application forms were filed there. One applicant listed her Sunday best set of crockery and some heirloom glass vases and asked for "As much as you can spare" by way of restitution! I was lucky to find my great grandmother's application, and even her signature, and the fact that she was awarded £3 in compensation, several week's wages at the time.

It is good to be able to fill out something of the detail of the lives of ancestors, who are often little more than dates on a spreadsheet. Others with family in Soham in 1944 may find information in March Museum too.

Katrina E

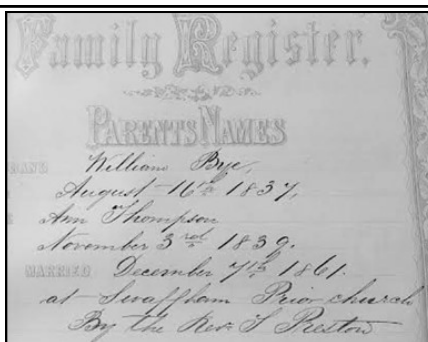
RECEIVED FROM : Katrina Ebeling

FAMILY BIBLE—I have an old family bible from, I believe around the 1860s (one of the catches is missing). The bible has pages in the middle for a family register, but unfortunately there are only a couple of entries.

I am a descendant of the Thompson family from Swaffham Bulbeck and Prior. I have many in Cambridgeshire, ancestors especially around Swaffham Prior and Bulbeck, Bottisham, Stow cum Quy.

One record is the marriage of William Bye and Ann Thompson 1861 in Swaffham Prior. I believe Ann was the sister of my GtGtGrandmother, Rebecca Thompson.

I do not want to just get rid of it and would very much like it to go where it will be appreciated—Katrina can be contacted via the CHFHS Secretary.



Here To Help ...

Research Surgery Reports :

Ely, Bar Hill, Cambourne, St Ives, March

Word is getting around that we've restarted five of our research surgeries—with Cambridge hopefully recommencing in September. Despite the hot weather, we welcomed visitors both old and new with a variety of queries about the county and further afield ...

... here are summaries of a selection of the problems we received

- **Bar Hill**—on the hottest day “ever”!! A return visit was made by a couple whom we first met some 3-years ago. Perhaps typical of their generation—one where children were seen and not heard, where folk didn't ask questions because it wasn't the done thing, and where many now of an older ago know very little of the grandparents let alone anyone else in the family—and yes, although there perhaps were many “aunts” and “uncles” and “cousins”, their true identity and how they fitted in to the wider family (or even their real names) might often be a complete mystery. Such is the case here, and our visitors are looking to pick up the trail of their grandparents and earlier family now that Covid has eased. The immediate family was from Kent having moved out from the St Pancras area of London, and were soon picked up in BMDs and censuses, and the direct ancestral family fairly readily. Along the way, numerous siblings turned up (bringing plenty of opportunities for further work in the future), as did a few surprises through the wives' origins—all the women who married direct ancestors were “non-London born”, and will take our enquirers on to further investigations in Herts, Beds, Norfolk, Oxon—quite apart from the earliest direct ancestor, born c1795, appearing to be from Scotland!! So much for the belief that family were “Londoners through and through” ...
- **Bar Hill**—this particular session was rather disrupted by electricians replacing the ceiling lights as they had to keep repositioning their climbing frame to reach between the exposed roof trusses. Nevertheless, we had one visitor who's interest was in the West Country. The problem pre-dated civil registration and censuses, and revolved around trying to sort out a number of people with same/similar names in the parish registers of adjacent villages—a case of who's who. Perhaps not being used to working at this period, the enquirer was unaware of the sort of records which might help, or how to find them—most would be at the local archives—and it was stressed that the survival of many “other” records for a particular place/period is very much a matter of luck. It was also suggested that others researchers be sought to compare notes—the relevant FHSs—and that the possibility of online trees be investigated (and treated with certain caution).

PRESS RELEASE RECEIVED FROM 'Pen & Sword'

A nationwide search for untold stories about the Battle of Britain has been launched by renowned author and historian Dilip Sarkar MBE as he sets out to write the ultimate book about the event that changed history.

The author of more than 50 books, many about the Battle of Britain and the men who fought it, is planning a comprehensive, seven-volume history of the 1940 aerial conflict that saw the Royal Air Force deny Hitler's invasion plans.

The work is being published by Pen & Sword in association with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, custodians of the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne in Kent, with the aim of including previously untold stories from around the country.

"The central story of the Battle of Britain, when fewer-than 3,000 aircrew stopped Hitler in his tracks in the summer of 1940, is relatively well known, but it goes much wider than just the bravery of the men who took to the skies to defeat the Luftwaffe," Dilip explained. *"The aim of Battle of Britain: The People's Project is to unearth all the other stories. Tales of ground crew, of volunteers, of factory workers and family members who 'did their bit' on the ground while the fighters tackled the threat in the air. These are stories I want to tell as part of a comprehensive history of perhaps the most important battle fought by this country in the whole of the 20th century."*

Dilip was inspired in part by visiting the family of Squadron Leader Tom Gleave, a Hurricane pilot based at RAF Kenley with No 253 Squadron in 1940, while researching another new book.

"Although I clearly knew the Tom Gleave story, during my visit I was shown a wealth of unpublished material and photographs, which made me wonder what other material people have tucked away in attics and cupboards," he explained. *"After, all, if such a huge amount of material relating to someone who was once as famous as Tom Gleave could stay undiscovered for many decades, then what else is out there? There must surely be many untold stories, particularly about less well-known aircrew, ground crew and civilians who found themselves caught up in this incredible story. I'm looking for anecdotes and family stories that highlight the bravery, the sacrifice and the determination shown by those who may not have flown a Spitfire or Hurricane but were an integral part of the Battle of Britain."*

Those with stories to tell or material that could be included in the ultimate Battle of Britain reference work should visit the Battle of Britain: The People's Project website : <http://battleofbritainpeoplesproject.com>

"The headlines may have been written in 1940 at airfields like RAF Kenley, but the stories are still being told today. Please help make this work as comprehensive as it can be," Dilip concluded.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY BATTLE OF BRITAIN STORIES IN YOUR FAMILY—
THE PROJECT ORGANISERS WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU—**



The WisMus & Hunts Projects— newly completed registers since the last journal

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

WisMus Parishes :

Elm	Marr 1961	Wisbech St Peter	Bns 1957
Elm	Marr 1967	Wisbech St Peter	Bns 1973
Guyhirn	Bns 1981	Wisbech St Peter	Bapts 1928
Murrow	Bns 1871	Wisbech	
Outwell	Mixed 1777	St Augustine	Bns 1960
Tydd St Giles	Marr 1974	St Augustine	Bns 1964
Tydd St Giles	Marr 1979	St Augustine	Bns 1978
Tydd St Giles	Marr 1987	St Augustine	Bns 1983
Wisbech St Mary	Marrs 1990	St Augustine	Bapts 1967
		St Augustine	Marrs 1972
		St Augustine	Marrs 1980

Project co-coordinator, Terry, updates progress of WisMus

The end is in sight at last, but the remaining registers are throwing up a few problems for our volunteers team. These registers are mostly “early” ones and either of poor quality and/or in Latin. But, nothing which can’t be overcome with time and patience.

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 :

Ramsey
Alconbiry
Warboys
Somersham
Gt Staughton
Woodwalton
Colne

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

Lt Stukeley
Lt Gidding
Hartford
Leighton Bromswold
Buckden
Buckworth (in final preparation)

... an additional 100,000 names

***** CAMBRIDGE MEETINGS *****

RECOMMENCING AT A NEW VENUE

**At the time of writing (late July) we are in the final stages of
arranging to hold hybrid-style meetings
at the St Andrews's Street Baptist Church : the 'upper rooms'
St Andrew's Street, Cambridge (just up the road from John Lewis)**

**We are looking at running from 12.00 to 3.45
help desk from 12.00 & a talk at 14.15 (with zoom)**

WATCH OUT FOR CONFIRMATION & MORE VENUE INFORMATION

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	1 st Tues <u>every</u> mth	SESSIONS RECOMMENCED once a month for the time being but likely to be increased	drop-in between 10.00-4.00
Cambridge St Andrews St	2 nd Sat each month at meetings	SESSIONS RECOMMENCED at the monthly speakers meetings NB : NEW VENUE	drop-in between 12.00 & 3.30

**MARCH BRANCH
PROGRAMME**

Wednesday Face-2-Face Meetings

NB: 1st WEDNESDAYS at 2.00pm

March Library, March

enquiries : march@cfhs.org.uk

By popular opinion, the meetings will continue on Wednesday afternoons

Wed 3 Aug	Outing to Ely Archive
Wed 7 Sept	“American Cultural Influences After WW2” with Jim Stebbings <i>Things the Americans introduced the British to—including music!!</i>
Wed 5 Oct	“Back To The Land” with Gill Blanchard <i>National Farm Survey, Revenue Survey, Tithe and Land Taxes</i>
Wed 2 Nov	“A Chip Off The Old Block” with John Vigar <i>Life and work of Queen Victoria’s nephew, Prince Victor—his career in the Navy and as a sculptor, and with his family</i>

**HUNTINGDON BRANCH
PROGRAMME**

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm

Zoom & WI Hall, Walden Rd., Huntingdon

Live & zoom (register via website) enquiries : huntingdon@cfhs.org.uk

no session Aug	
Wed 21 Sept	“A Grandmother’s Legacy” with Jennie Mallin <i>My ancestors’ professions in The British Raj</i>
Wed 19 Oct	“Monasteries In The Fens” with Mick Napier <i>How their presence shaped life/economy of fenland communities</i>
Wed 16 Nov	“Tales From The Riverbank” with Liz Davies <i>A look at how the River Great Ouse has played a central role in local life of the St Neots area from pre-history through to today</i>

**CAMBRIDGE BRANCH
PROGRAMME**

2nd Saturday of the month
enquiries : programme@cfhs.org.uk

at the time of writing (late July), we are intend to start holding hybrid meetings on Saturdays in Cambridge from September

at the St Andrew's Street Baptist Church

a face-2-face talk at 2.15 also to be zoomed out to a remote audience

PLUS : an in-person "here to help" enquiry desk 12.00-3.30

PLEASE WATCH NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK FOR CONFIRMATION

AUGUST 13 Sat : Zoom

12.00 Hills & Saunders : a Victorian photographic studio in Cambridge
*Using examples of early photos from this studio,
we'll look at clues which can help with your research*
with David Copsey

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

SEPTEMBER 10 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom

14.15 Who Got Involved In Draining The Fens? with Liz Stazicker
*Who organised it, who financed it, who did it?
Who were the winners? Who were the losers?*

For zoom attendance—please self-register via the website

OCTOBER 8 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom

14.15 A Brief History of Enclosures with William Franklin
How might your family have been affected?

For zoom attendance—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

free access to societies' booths on the Friday evening

PLUS : extensive programme of talks & workshops on Saturday

visit the show website for further details and tickets

MEETINGS REPORTS



THE MAYFLOWER PROJECT

WITH ADRIAN MOSS

(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : MARCH 22)

For our sixth hybrid meeting in the WI Hall in Huntingdon we reverted to having our speaker, Adrian Moss, presenting via zoom from home. In attendance at the hall there were seven members and about 25 more on zoom.

Adrian's background was with an audio-video production company with a world-wide customer base whose requirements included historical and educational subjects. Adrian's remit in the Mayflower 400 team was to find the most appropriate tools to engage the widest possible audience in the story of the Mayflower.

This talk described how the team of experts was brought together with the idea of looking at every detail of the Pilgrims sailing on the Mayflower in order to produce a comprehensive view of the momentous events and make that information available to all via education programmes, visitor attractions and in the on-line world. Multiple people and countries were involved with each location pulling together a local team; Adrian was part of the Southampton group from where the Mayflower sailed.

The original plan was for two ships the Mayflower and the Speedwell to sail together from Plymouth to the New World. The Speedwell arrived from Leiden with the Separatists escaping religious persecution, but unfortunately it was not able to sail any further and had to be abandoned in England. The Mayflower had the capacity to accommodate many of these Dutch passengers and so set sail with the two groups, the Separatists and the mainly fee-paying passengers from London. Many of the merchants took servants with them. Amongst them was John Howland from Fenstanton who married a fellow passenger and started one of the largest family groups in America today.

Adrian explained how the results of all their studies have been brought together as a living archive including recordings of all the interviews, available on a set of three DVDs or on-line, and went on to describe some of the many people and areas they visited, including:

- Local native Americans and their oral histories
- Dutch experts in ship building
- Blacksmiths and living museums
- Separatists
- Drapers Hall looking at the Howland family history
- Experts on the impact of the reformation and church design

In each case they were looking for the key factors which influenced the pilgrims to leave England for Holland and then on to America, and clearly religion was at the heart of it. Adrian explained how the religious climate in England and Europe changed over the 14th to 16th centuries, driven by the Royal families initially, but with greater influence gradually being exerted by the wealthy merchants and prominent free-thinkers with progressive views. By the early 1600s the Puritans were largely tolerated but the Separatists were still being persecuted for their beliefs and sought a more tolerant country to practise their religion.

It was also a time of exploration overseas with many European countries seeking trade in far off ports so the time was conducive for the Pilgrims to travel to America and the Separatists were given permission to sail to America in the Speedwell, alongside the larger Mayflower. As already explained the Speedwell was unsuitable for such a journey and so most of the Pilgrims transferred to the Mayflower. In the following years many people emigrated, and by 1630 eleven ships sailed to America in one year. Adrian finally touched on local links that had come to light during the three-year study, including:

- Wren Library, Lincoln : the first English language bible printed in America
- Huntingdon Library : a Geneva bible as favoured by the Separatists
- Fenstanton : where many of the Howland family were baptised and buried
- Wisbech Guyhirn Chapel of Ease : one of the best examples of a Puritan church favoured by the Separatists

Adrian certainly gave us a detailed explanation of the Mayflower 400 Project but could clearly only scratch the surface of the very exhaustive and extensive research that went into it.

I commend the reader to check out the web site better to understand the Pilgrims' emigration to America aboard the Mayflower in 1620 at :

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/learning/plymouth-mayflower-400-citizenship-project/>

Reported by John Bownass

**BASTARDY, BIGAMY, BRAWLING & BROTHELS :
TALES FROM THE ISLE OF ELY
QUARTER SESSIONS 1726-75**

*WITH GILL SHAPLAND
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : APRIL 22)*

For our seventh hybrid meeting at the WI Hall in Huntingdon we had our speaker, Gill Shapland, in the hall with eight members attending, and about 48 people on zoom from home.

Gill worked for a number of years at Cambridgeshire Archives and is one of our Committee Members. She has worked on many projects for the Society and also at Cambridge University Library. It was while cataloguing the Isle of Ely Quarter Sessions that she found many fascinating snippets from times gone by that now formed this interesting talk.

Gill gave a breakdown of the types of cases described in the court records and then talked about the details of some of the more interesting examples in these categories. The documents under discussion only defined the case presented to the court and did not include details of any judgements or penalties imposed. All content was from the five Hundreds making up the Isle of Ely in the mid 1750's.

The examples Gill illustrated showed not only the problems and conflicts arising in the rural communities of East Anglia in the 1750's, but also how some crimes are still prevalent today.

We heard about:

- Test Acts. The confirmation by the church that the person had taken communion twice before being eligible to take public office.
- Recruiting Sergeants and the automatic assumption that if the King's shilling was taken, then that person was now in the army.
- Bankruptcy. The time spent in jail was also charged to the bankrupt making it very difficult ever to pay one's increasing debts.
- Bigamy. A case where the village of Leverington wanted to expel both parties for poverty, but the recipient village of Pinchbeck would only accept one of them as the man was already married there to someone else.
- Affray. Almost always concerning excessive drink.
- Coroner's report of cause of deaths. One example was 'run over by a cart'; at this time the person responsible for the death is therefore the owner of the cart, not necessarily the driver.

Other topics included Bastard children, Vagrancy, Brothels, Vandalism, Travel Passes.

Gill used each case she chose to illustrate the very wide range of issues covered by the Quarter Sessions in her own inimitable style, enthusiastically and always with humour.

She closed by reminding us that members of the CHFHS can get free membership of the Cambridge University Library with a letter of introduction from Joan our membership secretary, and also that the Library's online catalogue had a description of the documents that she had used for this talk.

Reported by John Bownass.

MIGRATION : INTERNAL, IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION TRACKING THAT ELUSIVE ANCESTOR

*WITH DR COLIN CHAPMAN
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : MAY 22)*

Colin drew from his scientific background to show that migration has many meanings and applications, but his talk would focus on migration of people. Ship advertisements encouraged people to move overseas, and their belongings would be transported across land by bullock carts.

Vertical migration includes social and financial change; horizontal migration includes occupational and geographical change; emigration is moving out of a country or region; immigration moving in. Moving a distance offered opportunities that were not previously available. Passenger lists are online at FindMyPast, and there are many other sources, both in the area that people left and in the place they arrived. His own book, *How heavy, how much and how long? Weights, money and other measures used by our ancestors*, gives an indication of a day's journey. People would normally have to take their own provisions and a long sea journey could take several months. Paterson's *Book of Roads* gives lists distances for routes across the UK in 1746.

People migrated in search of food, work, a spouse or change. Local markets provided a good opportunity to meet a potential spouse, so maps showing the nearest market town with easy access can suggest likely routes. Sometimes the change can be imposed for judicial, political or religious reasons, the origins of Pennsylvania have clear links to the Quakers. Peter Coldham has written many books on migration, particularly to America.

Many organisations kept records of migration of individuals, including parish vestry minutes; poor law unions; home and overseas governments; religious groups; emigration societies. Some focussed on helping women and children. Immigration to the UK records are held in the National Archives, some have been digitised. People would move on foot, horseback, by road, canal, rail, sea, air. Overland routes often use high ground and not all roads

lead to London.

Evidence of place of origin can be found in such sources as apprentice records; monumental inscriptions; authorisation to travel; censuses. Marriage licences were taken out for people from different dioceses. Other useful sources include school registers which can list subsequent careers; military records; heraldry coats of arms show how two families have come together; newspaper reports; stray indexes; research interests; the Guild of One Name Studies; websites and blogs all can provide potential clues.

Questions and comments for Colin included details of records kept and records missing for migration to America; diaries kept by individuals and now deposited in local archives or elsewhere, including the Mormon church.

Many of the examples Colin used included reference to Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. This clearly constructed talk by a recognised international authority gave us all plenty to investigate, and a wide range of sources to follow up.

Reported by David Copsey

**SECRETS NEVER TO BE TOLD :
FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO VANCOUVER, HOW RESEARCH
UNRAVELLED AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY
WITH FIONA CHESTERTON
(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : JUNE 22)**

This was our ninth hybrid meeting in the WI Hall in Huntingdon, and we had the pleasure of our speaker, Fiona Chesterton, presenting in the hall with 11 members and 2 guests present, and about 29 people on zoom from home.

Fiona has lived in Cambridge for the past six years, having lived before that for twenty-two years in a small village near Huntingdon. She had a long career in television, having been a journalist, producer and commissioning editor for the BBC and Channel 4.

Fiona's story started with a letter from Vancouver informing her of a share in an inheritance from a William Underwood who was the illegitimate son of Jessie Heading, who herself was illegitimate, and born in Cambridge but given away to another family.

This name was totally unknown to Fiona and not included in her family tree at that time, but it made her very curious to find out more. It had taken the Canadian authorities 17 years to trace anyone entitled to inherit the estate and Fiona, having decided it was not a scam, started her research.

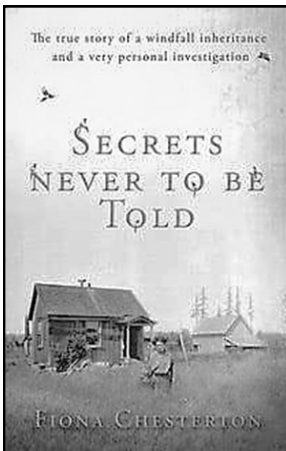
Fiona joined the CFHS in 2015 and recognised the help the society had given, but it was also her experience of history research and a Canadian contact that enabled her to uncover the secrets. She was sent some

memorabilia from Canada that included a card announcing William Heading's death in 1903 and he was Jessie Heading's GF and in turn Fiona's GGGF – so here was the connection.

Fiona told the long and complicated story of how she traced the life of Jessie and her 'adopted' mother Harriett Rooke and her son around various Cambridge locations using many research sources, some familiar and others less so, including the Spalding Street Directory, capturingcambridge.org, cemetery records and the college library.

After Harriett died in 1912, Jessie and William emigrated to Canada in November of the same year and Fiona now set about finding out why. She found Jessie's immigration record which was annotated with "GFF" – the Girls Friendly Society and this led her to the Women's library at the LSE reading room which Fiona described as "a treasure trove of information", including detailed records from Cambridge. The organisation encouraged unmarried women to emigrate to Canada where there were many opportunities for them.

Fiona then moved her research to Canada, first in Halifax where most immigrants arrived and then to Vancouver where Jessie settled. Fiona was full of praise for the help she was given whilst in Canada and the quality of the museums there.



The final piece of this jigsaw was filled in when the link was made from Jessie and her son to the Underwood name. Jessie married George Underwood and William also took the name, however George died within a few months, and it seems Jessie and William, who never married, continued to live at the property on the edge of the Vancouver area. Jessie died in 1970 and William carried on as a farm labourer until his death. Fiona's last pictures showed the gravestones for George and William, but Jessie's grave remains unmarked.

In her closing remarks Fiona summed up "Illegitimacy defined Jessie's life, her son's life and my life" - a closing statement that had the audience stunned for a moment!

This was an extremely well researched family history story and delivered with such passion, that held the audience engrossed from beginning to end. Such was the interest from the audience that the question and answer session went for almost half an hour where Fiona was very open about her own life and the facts she had learned.

Topics included: Canadian records and where to find them, how did the book come about, the value in talking to people, and to always follow up and confirm facts.

It was not a surprise that Fiona has written a book which includes this part of her life, *Secrets Never to be Told*, published by the Conrad Press in November 2021, and is available via Amazon and booksellers.

Reported by John Bownass

ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND
WITH SARAH DOIG
(MARCH BRANCH : APRIL 22)

At the April meeting Sarah Doig gave a talk on Elizabethan England, music, dance, literature, sports and pastimes. At this time things were starting to make a major shift away from the church to secular activities, such as instrumental music rather than singing. Queen Elizabeth I played the lute and is said to have been one of the earliest people to play the virginal – a variant of the harpsichord. During her reign Elizabeth (1558–1603) employed over 70 musicians, all noblemen. She sang and danced to their music. All noblemen were expected to play the lute, if not they became a laughing stock; music was taught in all the large houses. Eventually every town and city had a band of musicians who were expected to be proficient in several instruments as well as singing. Sir Thomas Kytson, the son of a rich London merchant who inherited Hengrave Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, employed a permanent band of musicians for entertainment. In 1575 Queen Elizabeth granted William Byrd permission to print music: this led to amateur musicians being able to purchase published works. Orlando Gibbons, a player of keyboard instruments and an English composer was a member of a musical dynasty. By 1610 he became the leading English composer and organist.

Sarah went on to talk about dance which goes hand in hand with music. Fiddlers and bagpipers played in taverns where country dances were held with as many people as possible attending. Morris dancing is first record in the 15th century, towards the end of the 16th century it had become part of performance and entertainment for the lower class. By the mid 17th century it had become a folk dance. Elizabeth I was entertained by Morris dancers, court music was composed to accompany them. Court dancing such as the Galliard was performed by trained people for display and entertainment whereas country dancing could be attempted by anyone. Dancing was a courtship ritual practiced to reveal if lovers are fit and healthy. Men were agile, performing high kicks. Ladies, although encumbered by skirts were expected to keep up with the men.

Literature. Although printing presses were used at the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century, literature was by no means universal. Literacy was at its height in East Anglia between 1560 and 1580 with 30% of working women and 70% of yeomen being literate. People learnt to read earlier than learning to write. A Broadsheet printed paper cost 1d or less. Verse was popular, sung to popular tunes of the day and ballads. Verses and ballads were printed about sensational crime such as Luke Hatton's hanging and became popular entertainment; cheap woodcut illustrations depicted the stories and religious views were given. The wealthy as well as the poor bought the broadsheets. Subjects written about included the discovery of a new passage to China, the Turk and Ottoman Empires, classics of Homer and Virgil, the Canterbury Tales. Most educated people wrote poetry; 440 volumes were published during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Theatre. William Shakespeare was the most famous writer of the time, others include Christopher Marlow who died during a fight in a tavern at Deptford. The Globe Theatre opened in London in 1599; much theatre was unsavoury. The Globe was open air holding some several thousand people. Performances were mostly in the afternoons as there was no lighting for evening performances. Prosperous women wore masks when visiting the theatre to hide their identity. Female roles were carried out by young boys – only men acted in *Twelfth Night*. There was no scenery, actors described the setting. Costumes were expensive and bright. Actors often wore their own clothes. Ticket prices were not only based on where seated but also on what people could afford. Theatre was enjoyed by all classes in one place at the same time.

Sports. Sport at the time was universally popular, mainly to build strength and fitness in readiness for war. Therefore wrestling, archery and hunting all went together with keeping fit and agile. Sport provided a display of wealth and power with horses and dogs. Wealthy men spent hours hunting. It was a social status to own a deer park. Queen Elizabeth I stayed at the homes of many wealthy landowners where hawking (falconry), hunting and fishing all took place. Football and rugby games took place in different formats than those of today. There were many injuries and fatalities. Phillip Stubbs describes football as a friendly kind of fight. Animal fighting for sport with bears, bulls, mastiff dogs and cockerels was commonplace with betting taking place. Entry to a cock fight was 1d.

Pastimes mainly related to food and drink, ale houses, tippling houses and taverns. Inn signs came about for the less educated to recognise and be able to arrange meetings. A tavern was really a brothel, and by the 1560s smoking became an exotic pastime.

Sarah gave examples of letters of daily life written by Margaret Paston from Norfolk to her husband John about playing cards at Christmas. Robert Burton lists winter games including playing cards, chess, billiards, sightseeing and visiting attractions. People also like to enjoy painting. Places to visit included Royal Palaces and Woodstock: a letter of introduction was needed to enter, horses and carriages could be hired. Whitehall houses many paintings and jewels on display. The Tower of London houses armoury and instruments of torture. The royal menagerie held the last wolf, tiger and porcupine. Large houses had cabinets of curiosities on display including items such as a native Indian canoe and paddles and porcelain from China. Many pastimes were similar than those of today and enjoyed by those who could afford the time and money.

Reported by Linda Peckett

“DID HE DO IT???”

WITH GILL SHAPLAND

(MARCH BRANCH : MAY 22)

The May meeting was rather different with Gill Shapland asking the audience to join in, read some of the character parts and become the jury to decide ‘Did he do it? The subject of the talk was John Bonham of Sutton, near Ely, who, in 1636 went on trial for the murder of a missing child, a boy, aged about 11 years.

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society funded the transcribing of the rolls of parchment from the Isle of Ely Assizes. Seventeen documents relating to the above trial have been found which is unusual as very few records of early court cases survive. Gill has been part of a team along with Cambridge University Library archivists working on the find and cataloguing the papers that have enabled her to put the story together .

The papers tell of human remains being found in a gravel pit in Sutton in 1636 and are amazingly detailed considering the date. John Bonham, a boy aged about 11 years had gone missing about 9 years earlier. His father and step mother were suspected, when villagers jumped to conclusion that the bones must be those of the missing boy.

The Bonham family were in Sutton from about 1572 until 1636, John Bonham was a son of William Bonham. Nathaniel son of John and Grace Bonham was baptised in 1612, then in 1616 another son John was baptized; he is the missing child in the case. They had several other children reported to have run away from home. Grace Bonham died in 1620 and was buried on 9th July. On 22nd August, just 7 weeks later John Bonham married Bridget Westland. They went on to have a further 5 children. Bridget Westland was baptised in 1594, the daughter of William Westland, she had a brother John. The trial

appears to have been investigated seriously. The Justice of the Peace was Sir Miles Sandys, who listed to sworn testimonies of villagers and presented the case to Ely Assizes.

The first witness to be called at the trial was Thomas Day, he confirmed John Bonham to be the only child he knew of to go missing.

John Linwood and Edward Rash – parish constables explained that a child John Bonham junior born in May 1616 had gone missing about 9 years ago and would be about 20 years old if still alive.

Richard Springe (gravedigger) described finding the bones of a child that had not been buried for many years as they were not decayed enough. He was asked to estimate the size of the bones to try to work out the age of the remains. He also says that John Bonham was cruel to the children of his first wife and to Grace herself. The bones were in a earthenware pot in the gravel pit

William Bradshaw, who discovered the pot, had lived in Sutton for 30 years , described the site that the pot and bones were found to be no more than one and a half feet deep. He also testified that Joan Westland, sister-in-law of Bridget Bonham had broken the pot which the bones were in on purpose. When questioned, Joan Westland denied any wrong doing. Another witness testified that she had seen the same pot in John Bonham's house. Phebie Spring claimed that the pot was unusual and that she had not seen another like it.

Several other villagers gave testimonies, all acrimonious with nothing good to say about John and Bridget Bonham. Their accounts read out along with what today would be thought of as hearsay evidence.

John and Bridget Bonham were examined by Sir Miles Sandys. They both denied any knowledge of the remains. John stated that although he had not seen his son for 9 years he had been told of sightings of him elsewhere. Bridget Bonham stated that she was pregnant (a pregnant woman could not be executed).

A discussion took place amongst the audience as to a verdict—

what do you think?!?

Reported by Linda Peckett

Some gooseberries as large as peas are now growing on the bushes in the garden of Mr Bradley of Ramsey.

Huntingdon, Bedford & Peterborough Gazette 20th November 1830



CFHFS OUTING
DENNY ABBEY &
FARMLAND MUSEUM
(CAMBRIDGE BRANCH : JULY 22)

Society members gathered on a sunny day to have lunch in the grounds of Denny Abbey and Farm Museum; the Abbey is managed by English Heritage. Curator of the Museum, Emily Deal, then gave us a brief tour of the grounds, the outside of the Abbey and the Museum, and also drew our attention to some of the more significant exhibits.

Distant and overseas members then joined us in the Education Centre to see Jane Williamson, one of the Trustees, give a detailed and informed account of the history of the Abbey from before the time of the Knights Templars, and highlighting the importance of the site. Jane went on to describe the Farmland Collection, which has been established by the Delanoy family at Haddenham, and how it all came to Denny Abbey when the family were no longer able to maintain it. The presence of the collection helps make a visit a good day out for all the family.

After Jane's talk, Emily showed four objects pulled from the museum collection. My favourite was the diary of a 17 year old girl, Louie Evatt, who was living in the area at the start of the 20th century, which gives a fascinating account of life at time. The diary has been transcribed, and the Museum may publish it in future.

After the talk, we were then free to explore the site so further adding to the details we had been given. An excellent day all round, and thanks to everyone involved in the preparation.

Well worth a visit, especially if you have rural families from the area. Exhibits include recreations of rural industries, a 1940s village shop, a farm workers cottage typical of c1950, displays showing farming history and implements. See the museum website for further information on the collection, opening times and details of forthcoming special events. Note that the entrance ticket gives free entry for all the coming 12 months.



www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk

Reported by
David Copsey
&
Muriel Halliday

RECEIVED FROM MIKE PETTY VIA OUR FRIENDS AT CALH

In 1983 BBC Radio Cambridgeshire produced a documentary about the Cambridgeshire Collection at that time.

Paul Cobley interviewed Mike Petty on many aspects, including the way the Collection was organised and used. He also spoke to :

Bill Jordan, a volunteer,

Sally Purkis a history teacher who spoke about its use with children of the Arbury Road area and

Sara Payne, a journalist producing a series of 'Down Your Street' articles (and a couple of same-name books).

I have uploaded a copy of the recording to my files on Internet Archive and shared it to the Fenland History on Facebook group. you may find it of interest. I append a link.

<https://archive.org/details/cambridgeshire-collection-soundings.-mpc-52>

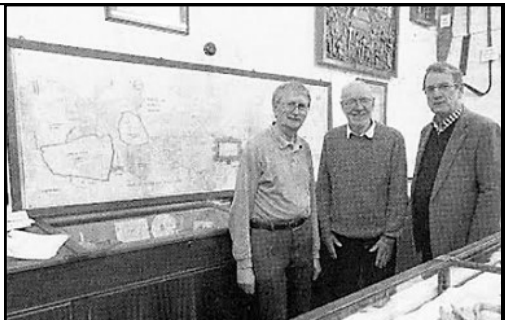
Many thanks for lettings us know about this, Mike. Anyone interested in the county should take a look at Mike's facebook group and pages of local history references on the Internet Archive. Fantastic resources

DODDINGTON MAP

c1600

www.marchmuseum.co.uk

We are please to announce our support of the March Museum in their quest to acquire a new copy of the Doddington Map. The new copy in colour is now on display at the Museum, and replaces a faded black/white one dating from c1930.



David Edwards, David Copsey & Gordon Thorpe with the Doddington Map

The Doddington Map is regarded as the oldest known large-scale map of the area and depicts the parish c1600 (which then included Doddington, March and Wimblington); buildings are marked, as are the names of the freeholders and copyholders. The lands changed hands several times in the late-16th century, before being passed to Sir John Peyton, the then Lieutenant of the Tower of London in 1602—the map date from these times.

The huge original (8'x2') has recently been transferred to Cambridgeshire Archives at Ely. This presented the opportunity for a new and better quality copy to be made for display at March and provide better access to the map.

Reported in the Fenland Citizen, 8 June 2022

LETTER : received from David Rule (from Hampshire)

Dear Editor

Summer 2022 Journal page 37 : Boat Race piece

As soon as I read this piece about the 1898 Boat Race I realised I know the story. The explanation is that I have almost completed writing the stories of the owners of my home and their families and I found the son of the man who built our house rowed Bow for Cambridge in that race.

Our house was built in 1905 and is something of a folly. When we bought it in 1996 we received all the old title deeds going back to the late 1800s from which I have been able to record the lives of the families associated with the land and then the house; rather along the lines of the TV programme "*A House Through Time*".

Characters along the way have included a chef on a Royal Yacht in 1907 a lady who made two returns from different addresses to the 1911 Census, and a pioneer in building the American railroads. My requests to previous owners' families for information have been greeted enthusiastically.

Going back to the 1898 Boat Race the Cambridge bow oarsman was William Brown Rennie, always known as Willie. He was the son of Thomas and Isabella Moorhouse and he lost his father in infancy in tragic circumstances. Father was a Chemical Manufacturer who was found to have died of suffocation from gases in an accident at his chemical works.

Willie's widowed mother then married Dr Frank Rennie who was a medical General Practitioner in Harrogate and both Willie and his older sister Isabella were adopted by Dr Rennie and changed their surname.

Dr Rennie retired from work and the family moved first to Torquay Devon and then to Lymington Hampshire where they settled in the area. Willie graduated from Cambridge and joined the 19th Hussars where he served in the Boer War and later was Aide de Camp to the Governor of Bengal, India. He then dropped rank to train as a medical Doctor and served in Hyderabad, India and in WWI in France where he was awarded the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order. He pursued his Army career and retired as Assistant Director of Medical Services. He was at some stage Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy of India and in WWII returned to active duty.

At some time later Willie moved to the USA where he died in 1959.

Willie's older sister Isabella known as Belle, was a progressive educationalist who was involved in the rescue of Kurt Hahn from Germany and assisted in the establishment of Gordonstoun College; she was also involved in the establishment of Bryanston College and Stowe School.

In 1908 there occurred the Messina and Reggio earthquake and Belle travelled to Naples where she found a seven months old baby girl orphaned

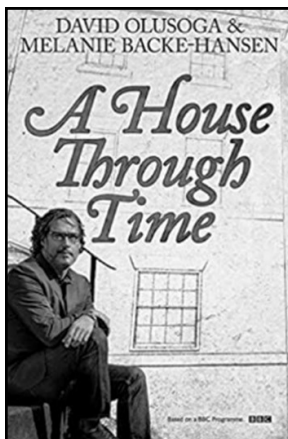
in the tsunami caused by the earthquake. She brought the baby home to England to be adopted by Dr and Mrs Rennie. The little girl was named Feodora and she lived until almost age 100.

When Dr Rennie built our house in about 1905 he named it '19th Hussars Cottage' as his son Willie was serving in that regiment at the time.

This is just a snapshot of the wealth of knowledge I now have of the twelve families who have owned either the land or then the house since the mid-1800s, I urge everyone to get out those old deeds if they still have them and find out more about those whose feet have crossed the threshold and worn down the step, whose hands have clasped the banister rail and whose spirits linger in the home to this day.

Our thanks to David for this tantalizing glimpse into the remarkable lives of some of those who trod the floorboards of his house. Take a look at the book of the series (below) for ideas on how to go about your own research—Editor

PS: *only the other day, I happened to see a TV programme which featured the Messina earthquake, the rebuilding, and that the largely “new” population who moved in afterwards now has little collective memory of before the devastation*

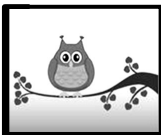


Review from an online bookseller's website :

“In recent years house histories have become the new frontier of popular, participatory history. People, many of whom have already embarked upon that great adventure of genealogical research, and who have encountered their ancestors in the archives and uncovered family secrets, are now turning to the secrets contained within the four walls of their homes and in doing so finding a direct link to earlier generations. And it is ordinary homes, not grand public buildings or the mansions of the rich that have all the best stories.

As with the television series, A House Through Time offers readers not only the tools to explore the histories of their own homes, but also a vividly readable history of the British city, the forces of industry, disease, mass transportation, crime and class. The rises and falls, the shifts in the fortunes of neighbourhoods and whole cities are here, tracing the often surprising journey one single house can take from elegant dwelling in a fashionable district to a tenement for society's rejects.

Packed with remarkable human stories, David Olusoga and Melanie Backe-Hansen give us a phenomenal insight into living history, a history we can see every day on the streets where we live. And it reminds us that it is at home that we are truly ourselves. It is there that the honest face of life can be seen. At home, behind closed doors and drawn curtains, we live out our inner lives and family lives.”



LAST WORD

I've Seen This Name Elsewhere

I wonder how often we miss curiosities in our research through focusing solely and single-mindedly on one particular person at a time—and not noticing, or just forgetting, what else was going on in the wider family ?

Take, for example, people marrying their relatives ... cousins marrying cousins was not uncommon neither was siblings marrying other siblings, or for that matter niece/nephew marrying uncle/aunt across the generation barrier. The highly suspect scenarios of a man marrying his deceased brother's widow and vice versa might also encountered from time to time, as are "other" relationships.

Many instances of far more complicated relationships undoubtedly abound, but perhaps go unnoticed unless the individuals are fresh in the mind—we often simply forget about what we've encountered in earlier research. Names do sometimes stick in the mind, and you realise "I've seen this name before" or it's a case of "I wonder if these same-surname people are related". Three such instances have been recently encountered in the same "G" family—

Frederick G married Jane T in 1905; in 1927 Lila G married Herbert T. Frederick and Lila were uncle/niece and Herbert can be shown to have been Jane's much younger brother.

Work this one out—Albert G married Agnes M, and the widowed Agnes much later married Robert C. Meanwhile, 20yrs earlier, Albert and Agnes' son John, had married Gertrude, the daughter of Robert C and his first wife.

Or perhaps this, a case of 2 brothers marrying 2 sisters—Leslie G and Annie C in 1933 and Harold G and Elizabeth C in 1942. Not an unusual scenario until it's realise that George G, father of the brothers had, in 1931, married Sarah C, the widowed mother of the sisters!! I wonder who introduced who??

&, not from the above family, but encountered in records in Cambridge, this perhaps takes the prize—a widow living with her late husband's family went on to marry the father-in-law, and then had several children with her new husband. Although marrying away from the area, they continued to live in the same street, so their "arrangements" were likely to have public knowledge!

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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The Society offers a regular programme of meetings designed to appeal to the specialist and beginner alike; the quarterly members' journal is now available, if preferred, as a digital download. The UK subscription, due on joining and annually thereafter, is £10, and includes the member's partner. The overseas subscription is £15, which gives airmail postage of the Journal. If you chose to receive the e-Journal, the annual subscription for all locations is £7 (we also offer a life membership for £100, or £70 with e-journal). Subscriptions/renewals may be made online through the CFHS website via debit/credit card or PayPal, or by DirectDebit; alternatively, sterling cheque/etc made payable to *Cambridgeshire Family History Society*, should be sent to the Secretary. Changes of address/email, and members' interests contributions, should be sent to the Membership Secretary. All contact details can be found on p52.

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

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

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

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

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

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