



# THE JOURNAL



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# CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**PRESIDENT: ELIZABETH STAZICKER MA (OXON), DIPL ARCHIVE ADMIN, FRSA**

**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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*For latest news, and updates*

**WATCH THE WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER & FACEBOOK**

**CONTACT US (for additional contacts/services see p52-3)**

**All general correspondence via the Secretary, please :**

**secretary@chfhs.org.uk or by post to**

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

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

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We aim to publish The Journal quarterly : late Jan / April / July / Oct

You can submit material for publication at any time. We will include it in the next available issue (please be patient, space is finite and we will keep you posted)



# CAMBS & HUNTS FHS JOURNAL

VOL 29 : 2

SUMMER 2023



Welcome to the Summer edition of the CHFHS Journal—this issue opens with an appreciation of Lord Hemingford’s long-standing support of Cambs & Hunts FHS. A couple of feature stories tell of the value of DNA in research. Gillian F describes further revisiting a complicated episode in her family story, and reassessing previous findings with the help of DNA evidence. Ian S contributes the account of seeking to resolve a case where DNA matches contradicted documentary research—and of trying to identify the actual people linked by the DNA matches. Next, continuing the story behind her late mother-in-law’s photo album, Diane C illustrates how the question of “who’s who” was unravelled to reveal a complicated web of inter-relationships. The sad life of the son of an Over emigrant in the US, is reported by Rachel L; and finally, Karen O helps a relative explore her Cambridgeshire (and London) grandparent family—who reputedly had a record-breaking 25 children!!!

It’s also that time of the year again! So please do join us via Zoom for the AGM in May—the Agenda and Accounts are published ahead of the meeting.

All the **regulars features** are to be found dotted throughout—projects updates, research surgeries and meetings’ diary (zooming of talks is to continue, to enable a wider participation at meetings); 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 : WW1 VAD Hospital in Cambridge—but where? (see p.8)**

**Nicholas,  
Lord Hemingford**  
1934—2022  
**an appreciation**

*by David Copsey*

An enthusiastic life-long genealogist, Lord Hemingford was the President of the former Hunts FHS from the outset in 1984. Very much a hands-on figure, he graciously accepted the invitation to take on the role of Patron of the joint Cambs & Hunts FHS in 2020, and remained active in Society affairs behind the scenes.

Lord Hemingford's influence was far wider than just family history, and it was in his role as Editor and Director of Westminster Press, that our paths first crossed, although I do not remember that we actually met then. Hastings was a popular venue for trainee journalists to get experience and training, and there were regular groups using the College both to attend short courses, and to gather copy for their articles. The College Library was a good place to meet a wide circle of people, and find stories to publish, and I remember meeting the Westminster Press groups coming on a regular basis. I believe this started in 1984, and Nick and I discussed this when met again in 2019.

His work in the House of Lords as a hereditary peer, his appreciation of Hemingford Abbots where he lived, the closeness of his family, his interest and enthusiasm for new technology, his down to earth manner, were all highlighted at his funeral. The walk across the meadows to collect his daily newspaper is something many of us will have enjoyed.

Family history was an important part of Nick's life. I am unsure when he first became President of Huntingdonshire Family History Society, it may have been in 1985 when the Society was founded, but he was certainly President by 1996, the earliest journal I have seen. He hosted regular social meetings with the Committee in his home and chaired the AGM's. He was also a regular attendee at family history fairs.

When we started talking about merging the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Societies, Nick kindly agreed to be our Patron, and we planned a continuation of committee social meetings with the enlarged Society. The first drinks and nibbles meeting included both the HFHS and CFHS committee members, and the convivial atmosphere at Nick's home is a fond memory. This meeting took place in February 2020 just before the pandemic, and the two of us met over lunch a few weeks before to make arrangements.

Nick and I emailed from time to time during lockdown, the last occasion was his strong support for zoom technology. He will be remembered by all who met him.



## A WORD FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



### **Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual General Meetings are an important part of the Society's work – the Charity Commission, the Family History Federation, and our constitution that sets the framework of how your Society operates, all require a once a year opportunity for all members to review what we are doing and to ask questions. Our next AGM will be held on Saturday 13 May 2023 at 13.00. It will be a zoom only meeting but anyone coming to St Andrews Church for our surgery will also be able to take part. All papers will be available in advance of the AGM. Please try to take part, so you can find out about anything you may have missed, but also to ensure we are quorate.

### **Member subscriptions**

The AGM is the time when subscription rates are confirmed for the following year. We had a long discussion at our recent committee meeting and have made the decision that annual subscriptions need to be increased by £2.00 for all categories of member. The rates were last changed in 2014, and I am sure you are all aware of the increases in costs over the past nine years. The current rates for those receiving the journal in print form no longer cover the cost of the printing and postage, so we are effectively asking those who choose the greener option of receiving their journal online to subsidise those who choose a printed copy. The new annual rates will be £9.00 for those receiving the journal online; £12.00 for those having a posted print copy; £17.00 for those living overseas who receive a printed journal. Increasing numbers of our members choose to receive the journal online, and you may wish to review your own choice. Life member rates will continue to be based on a multiplier of ten for all these categories of membership. After the new rates are confirmed, the changes will take effect from 1 July 2023; please remember to update your bank payment arrangements as necessary.

### **Family history fairs**

Although there have been many virtual fairs held since 2020, I am asked from time to time when we are going to resume physical fairs so that those attending can meet face to face with stall holders, examine products, ask questions and enjoy the day. The organisation of a family history fair requires a huge amount of work covering a wide range of issues including insurance;

road signage; stall holder bookings; electricity capacity and safety; advertising; table space; finance. I was pleased to attend a recent fair in Ipswich hosted by the Suffolk FHS, and everyone attending appreciated the chance to talk at length with others and see the range of products and services on offer.

I am therefore very pleased that the Federation East Anglian Group will be holding a large fair on Saturday 20 April 2024 at the Burgess Hall in St Ives. It will be called the Really Useful Show Live. There are five groups starting to work out the details; please save the date so you can attend, and keep a look out for further publicity.

### **New Publicity Officer**

I am delighted that Karen Orrell has taken on the role of our Publicity Officer. This is an important role including producing the monthly newsletter; monitoring and posting on social media; developing links and contacts with local organisations and communities; and maintaining a high profile for the Society. She brings new ideas and approaches to the role, but please contact Karen about anything you would like her to publicise or any suggestions that you have, [publicity@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@chfhs.org.uk).

### **Research enquiries**

Rebecca Bailey, our Research Officer, has temporarily stood down from the role; many of you will be aware of the thoroughness of her research in answering the increasingly complex and difficult enquiries that we receive from both members and non-members.

We have now recruited a team of six assistant researchers, all of whom are experienced family historians bringing a wide range of knowledge and skills to their work. As enquiries are received, they are then given to one of these researchers in turn, so that they can respond to the enquirer. Many of the enquiries result in people joining the Society or making a donation in appreciation. If you have a family history brick wall or want ideas to help your research, please contact [research@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@chfhs.org.uk). You can also post your enquiry on Coffee Corner.

### **Work with schools and communities**

If you visit the Sturton area of Cambridge, there are now regular displays of blue plaques on many of the houses, an ongoing legacy of the Society funded project that History Works and Helen Weinstein undertook with local schools. There is clear evidence of an appreciation of the historical community amongst the children, their parents, families, friends and neighbours. A new Community Hall will provide a centre for this work; look out for details of opening dates and events. Helen's work with Stretham School is also continuing, and I am sure there will be similar community

developments. The Open University published a series of books for one of their courses – showing how family trees links to family history, community, and research sources, worth reading if you aren't familiar with them.

### **Can you read Latin?**

Many early records are written in Latin, and we would benefit from more people able to transcribe these records. Much of the wording follows standard formats, but we cannot complete the Wismus project and other early work without help from Latin readers. Please contact Terry Garner, [projects@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:projects@chfhs.org.uk).

*David Copley*

## **Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society AGM 2023**

**Saturday 13 May 2023 at 1.00pm**

**By Zoom**

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Acknowledgement of member organisation representatives
- 3) Minutes of the Virtual AGM held on 14 May 2022
- 4) The Chairman's Report
- 5) Financial Report for 2022
- 6) Election of the President
- 7) Election of the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee (Trustees)
- 8) The appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Charity's Accounts for the forthcoming year in accordance with clause M3
- 9) Annual Subscription
- 10) Discussion and decisions on any submitted motions (Motions for submission to the AGM shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen clear days before the Meeting, not counting the day of the Meeting)
- 11) Any other business, at the discretion of the Chairman

# Cambs & Hunts FHS Draft Accounts 2022

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

## Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

### Trading and profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 2022

|                                       | 2022           |                     | 2021           |                     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
|                                       | £              | £                   | £              | £                   |
| <b>Income</b>                         |                |                     |                |                     |
| Sales                                 |                | 34,405              |                | 37,562              |
| <b>Cost of sales</b>                  |                |                     |                |                     |
| Opening stock                         | 932            |                     | 974            |                     |
| Bookstall purchases and expenses      | 91             |                     | 198            |                     |
|                                       | <u>1,023</u>   |                     | <u>1,172</u>   |                     |
| Closing stock                         | <u>(729)</u>   |                     | <u>(932)</u>   |                     |
|                                       |                | <u>294</u>          |                | <u>240</u>          |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                   |                | <b>34,111</b>       |                | <b>37,322</b>       |
| <b>Administrative expenses</b>        |                |                     |                |                     |
| Journal printing and expenses         | 7,927          |                     | 8,649          |                     |
| Printing and stationery               | 279            |                     | 104            |                     |
| Advertising and publicity             | 50             |                     | -              |                     |
| Postage and telephone                 | 416            |                     | 441            |                     |
| Website                               | 14,625         |                     | 12,068         |                     |
| Fairs and conferences                 | -              |                     | 100            |                     |
| Halls, speakers and branch costs      | 2,204          |                     | 1,300          |                     |
| C.R.O. and other donations            | 158            |                     | 7,890          |                     |
| Accountancy                           | 810            |                     | 780            |                     |
| Paypal and gocardless commission      | 556            |                     | 726            |                     |
| General expenses and travel           | 1,072          |                     | 150            |                     |
| Subscriptions, donations and expenses | 729            |                     | 920            |                     |
|                                       |                | <u>(28,826)</u>     |                | <u>(33,128)</u>     |
| <b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>        |                | <b>5,285</b>        |                | <b>4,194</b>        |
| <b>Other income and expenses</b>      |                |                     |                |                     |
| <b>Investment income</b>              |                |                     |                |                     |
| Investment gain/(loss)                | <u>(1,516)</u> |                     | <u>(1,106)</u> |                     |
|                                       |                | <u>(1,516)</u>      |                | <u>(1,106)</u>      |
| <b>Net profit/(loss)</b>              |                | <b><u>3,769</u></b> |                | <b><u>3,088</u></b> |



Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society

Balance sheet  
as at 31 December 2022

|  | Notes | 2022           |                | 2021           |                |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |       | £              | £              | £              | £              |
| <b>Current assets</b>                        |       |                |                |                |                |
| Stocks and work-in-progress                  | 3     | 729            |                | 932            |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                     |       | <u>115,598</u> |                | <u>111,626</u> |                |
|  |       | <u>116,327</u> |                | <u>112,558</u> |                |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                    |       |                | <u>116,327</u> |                | <u>112,558</u> |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b> |       |                | <u>116,327</u> |                | <u>112,558</u> |
| <b>Capital account</b>                       |       |                |                |                |                |
| Brought forward at 1 January 2022            |       |                | 112,558        |                | 109,470        |
| Profit/(loss) for the year                   |       |                | <u>3,769</u>   |                | <u>3,088</u>   |
|  |       |                | <u>116,327</u> |                | <u>112,558</u> |

I approve these accounts and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2023 AGM

The 2023 AGM will be virtual, via Zoom,  
and will take place at 1pm before the talk at the Saturday meeting

To participate via zoom—*please register for the AGM  
via the website (register separately from the meeting's talk)*

*Minutes, accounts and reports are on the CHFHS website, Members' Area  
If you wish to participate, but don't do Zoom, please use the contact details  
on p.52 (emails, society answer phone, postal address) to raise your point*



CHFHS is in the process of upgrading our website to, in particular, provide improved access to the society's database of millions of records for Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire research and to introduce a number of new features.

We have also taken the opportunity to adapt the web address and emails to reflect our name since 2020.

The current web address and emails will remain live for a period of time, but we ask you to note that going forward

**the new website / emails will be in use :**

**[www.chfhs.org.uk](http://www.chfhs.org.uk)**

**<email>[@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:email@chfhs.org.uk)**

**an overview of the key features & facilities of the new website  
will follow once we go live**

### **COVER PICTURE MYSTERY PHOTO:**

**Hopefully, we'll have a fuller account of this story in the next issue.**

But—in the meantime can anyone help the enquirer track down any photos of buildings used as **WW1 VAD hospitals in the Cambridge area.**

The photo is believed to be at one such site. But, it does seem that early in the war, convalescent soldiers were housed in a variety of places, including many of the colleges. **Can you help identify the location??**

# If At First You Don't Succeed ...

*by Gillian Forsythe*

*This is the story of a  
one hundred-and-eighty-five-  
year-old puzzle which  
I believed  
I have finally solved ...*

I have touched on aspects of the story in previous copies of 'The Journal' and even wrote excitedly that I had solved it seven years ago (Vol. 22 No.4 Dec 2016 pages 22 & 23), but new evidence has caused me to re-assess my conclusions. Here then is the whole story from the beginning; it is something of a roller coaster ride or could be likened to a game of snakes and ladders.

In 1975 my father, newly retired, joined the Cambridgeshire Family History Society as member number 41 and embarked on some family research in earnest. He chose to concentrate on his paternal line to start with and drew up, not so much a family tree but a ladder going back son to father. On each of the rungs of the ladder he was able to place a Heath, Heathe, Heeth, Hith; even Heave. The earliest record was of the marriage of William Heth to Ellyn Smytton in West Wrattling, Cambridgeshire on 21st November 1580. His Heath descendants were in West Wrattling for eight generations before moving closer to Cambridge. Then my father felt the ladder wobble.

As a child he had somehow gathered that his grandfather was illegitimate, he must have overheard a whisper of this taboo subject. Now he checked the records. His grandfather John was baptised in Weston Colville, Cambridgeshire on 17 August 1837, mother Ann Marsh, no father's name given but instead the uncharitable statement: 'baseborn'. However, the eavesdropping had also given my father the idea that Ann *had* married John's father; they had simply got John's birth and their marriage in the wrong order. He looked for the record; would they have married a few weeks after John's birth? – a few months? He eventually found the details: Ambrose Flack Heath married Ann Marsh in West Wrattling on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1844, nearly seven long years after John's birth. The ladder swayed.

What other records might help? John was called Marsh in the Census of 1841 but ten years later he appeared as John Heath ('The Journal' Vol.28 No.2 Summer 2022 pages 18,19,20). He stuck to Heath most of his life but registered all five of his children as Marsh. The most telling record was that of his own marriage: John Marsh to Martha Jane Hymus, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1863. If ever there was the chance to claim his father, by putting his name in the space for name and occupation of father, it was now; the space was left blank. My father lowered the ladder and concentrated on other branches of

his family tree.

By 2009 my father had died, I had retired, had joined the CFHS and was happily checking all the records which were now so easily accessed on line. I kept well clear of the Heaths *since we were not related*. By 2015 I had realised how important DNA tests could be. My uncle agreed to do a Y chromosome test with FamilyTree DNA. The result was one match: a Mr P. G. Woollard. This then had to be my real surname. Circumstantial evidence seemed to confirm it. P. G. W's two times great grand-father, James was born one year before Ann Marsh in the nearby village of West Wickham and was already married when John was born. Then I started to test other close family members; P. G. W.'s autosomal DNA matched us all: my uncle, my sister, my cousin, my nephew, and me. I was estimated his 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> cousin while on paper he was my half 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin. Everything seemed to fit.

However, there were some niggling doubts. Why was there only one other person called Woollard in all the autosomal DNA matches? (And his Woollards did not join up with P.G.Woollard's) By now most of my family had DNA results with FTDNA, MyHeritage, Living DNA, Gedmatch and in addition I had done a test with Ancestry. I joined the FTDNA's East Anglian project using my uncle's Y chromosome DNA. There were P.G.W.'s and my uncle's results side by side, closely matching each other. I joined the Woollard project. No match. There are 25 people called Woollard and they do not share my uncle's haplogroup. Next, I found someone who had posted a family tree on MyHeritage. He descended from James Woollard's daughter. He had not done any DNA tests but agreed to do one for me. There were no matches; not with P.G.W, not with my uncle, my sister, my cousin, my nephew and not with me.

About this time, I noticed a match with someone who had a Heath in his family tree. Of course, I dismissed it as a coincidence. But then I came across two more. One was a descendant of Ambrose Flack Heath's grandparents, the other descended from his sister. I could not find any other line where they might share ancestors with me. For the first time I actively searched for Heaths. Here was a man with the surname. Would he mind taking a Y-chromosome test for me? He agreed; the results came back; he matched my uncle and P.G.W. If anything, he was a slightly closer match to my uncle than P.G.W. Can you imagine my excitement? The next thing to do was an autosomal test on R. Heath. I waited for the next sale. The results when they arrived showed matches with my close family again; it really does seem that my father's original decision had put us off the right track for forty-seven years. Mean time a researcher friend and distant cousin (the person who had originally found James Woollard for me) came across an amazing piece of information. Nobody had thought to look for this record before, why

would we since *we were not related to the Heaths*? My friend had found the banns of Ambrose Flack Heath and Ann Marsh, read on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1837 in Weston Colville, not two months before John was baptised. They *had* intended to marry before John's birth. What could have prevented them?

I am now convinced that Ambrose Flack Heath was my two times great grandfather after all. I had been reading the story the wrong way round (understandably, I should say in my defence.) Rather than James Woollard's having fathered a child with Ann Marsh; a Heath, possibly a generation or two previously, had fathered a child who somehow acquired the surname Woollard.

*I am now left with two new puzzles:*

- *how is P. G. Woollard related to me and my family,*
- *what on earth went wrong with Ambrose and Ann's relationship between July 1837 and August 1844?*

## **ReallyUsefulShow Online** **Fri/Sat 17-18 November 2023**

~~ choose from a programme of talks & workshops ~~  
chat with representatives of family history societies  
from across the country & beyond  
more information to follow as details are finalised

## **The Really Useful Show Live** **(FHF EA Regional Fair) Sat 20 April 2024**

**@ The Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs**

*promises to be a fantastic day for all  
aspects of research across the area and beyond*

**watch out for more information on our website & social media  
as arrangements come together over the coming months**

# Family History Found In The Attic (pt 2)

*by Diane Clark*

**Continuing the story of  
identifying members of the  
Willers family from a  
photograph album which  
found it's way to Australia..**

*“Now my boy, since Nellie went what you need to help you look after that little granddaughter of mine is a house-keeper. And I've got just the person for you. My Lois has a niece, just back from London to be with her widowed mother and older sister. She's not in work at the moment. Doing a bit of cooking in the village, but living at home. She's had plenty of experience as a domestic over the years, so she'd make you a good house-keeper.”*

Maybe this is how the conversation went that began the mystery of the stepmothers in my husband's family tree. As I wrote in an earlier article, my husband and I found an album of postcards, birthday and Christmas cards when we cleaned out my mother-in-law's attic. They had been sent in the early 1900s to a Miss Gertie Cracknell. We did not know who this lady was or how she fitted into my mother-in-law's family history or if, in fact, she even belonged. Research into the Willers's family history has unravelled the tangled mystery of Gertie Cracknell. It is a tale worth telling.

My Mother-in-law was Edna Grace Clark, née Willers. She was the only child of Robert Willers and his beautiful young wife Ellen Harriett, née Fordham, from the village of Hadstock in Essex, England. Little Edna Grace, known to her family as “Gracie”, was born on 2 November 1908. That she was much loved, was reflected in the way she always spoke of her parents when she herself was an adult with a grown son.

Sadly Gracie's mother, Ellen, died on 18th April 1917 when Grace was only eight years old. Ellen's death had a profound effect on her small daughter, who had adored her mother. Grace always said her mother died in the post war influenza epidemic but her mother's death certificate – another discovery in the attic – tells a different story. Ellen died of phthisis pulmonalis which was the medical name given to tuberculosis or consumption in the early twentieth century <sup>[1]</sup>.

This finding is unexpected as a photograph of Ellen with her husband and daughter taken about a year before she died does not resonate with the traditional picture of a woman suffering the ravages of consumption. It

appears that there was a form of tuberculosis that, once contracted, “progressed rapidly towards a fatal conclusion, hence the term “galloping” consumption<sup>[2]</sup>. Ellen probably had this form of the disease.



***Ellen Willers  
with her husband, Robert,  
and daughter, Gracie,  
about a year before her death in 1917***

Life must have been very difficult for Robert Willers, trying to bring up his small daughter whilst holding down the responsible job of railway engine driver on the Great Eastern Railway. His situation may well have led to a conversation with his father-in-law like the imaginary one that began this article. We know that some-time between Ellen’s death and 1920, Robert employed Lois Gertrude Cracknell as a domestic servant, presumably to look after the house as well as to care for Gracie. On 29 April 1920, Robert Willers an engine driver of 3 Mill Street, Cambridge married Lois Cracknell, domestic servant of 3 Mill Street, Cambridge<sup>[3]</sup>. Lois Cracknell, known as Gertie, became Gracie’s step-mother and it was Gertie Cracknell that the postcards in the album had been addressed. Clearly, it was Gracie’s stepmother

who had lovingly assembled these beautiful postcards in her album, together with birthday and Christmas cards from her family and friends.

Before she became Robert Willers’s housekeeper and, later, his wife, it seems that Gertie spent time in London at several different addresses. Certainly, there are a number of different London addresses on the postcards inferring that she had moved several times. Messages on the cards also suggest that she may have found work as a servant or lady’s maid, a suggestion that is supported by the 1911 Census. On the night of 2 April 1911, Census night, Gertie stayed with Alfred Whiffen, his wife Minnie, their two sons and a nephew at 47, Bond Street, Vauxhall, London. She is described as a visitor as well as a kitchen maid in domestic service<sup>[4]</sup>.

Research into Gertie’s family showed that it was full of relationships complicated by death and re-marriage. Gertie’s parents were Jephuneh<sup>[5]</sup> Cracknell and Elizabeth Alice Stock of Linton, Cambridgeshire. Gertie, baptised Lois Gertrude on 5 February 1886, may have been Elizabeth and

Jephuneh's first child in a family of, at least, five children. The children suffered the sad loss of their mother, Elizabeth, in January 1894, so Gertie understood from her own experience what it was like to lose a mother. When her father married again in 1901 she was 15 and she learnt what it was like to have a step-mother at a young age. Gertie's step-mother was Alice Whiffen, also of Linton, the widow of Arthur Whiffen. It was the family of Alice's brother-in-law, Alfred Whiffen, with whom Gertie spent Census night in 1911.

The story does not end there. Jephuneh had a twin sister, Lois Bathsheba, who in 1881 aged 18, was working as a domestic servant with a large family in Linton. Lois Gertrude was probably named after her father's twin sister but called Gertie to avoid confusion. Lois Bathsheba remained in Linton for twenty years, working as a general servant for several different families over the years <sup>[6]</sup>. By 1901 she was living at home with her widowed mother and older sister but working as a cook. She was 38 years old and still single. A year later, some-time in the first quarter of 1902, Lois Bathsheba Cracknell married Frederick William Fordham at Linton, Cambridgeshire <sup>[7]</sup>.

Frederick Fordham was a widower of 44 years who lived at Hadstock in Essex with his four daughters and three sons. He was a coal merchant <sup>[8]</sup>. Frederick's children ranged in age from his daughter Florence, who was 29 at the time of his marriage to Lois, to George who was six. The children's mother was Lucy Hill from Linton, whom Frederick had married in 1877 <sup>[9]</sup>. She had died in the autumn of 1899, when young George was only three <sup>[10]</sup>. Maybe Frederick met Lois when visiting his late wife's family in Linton or perhaps the Hill family knew that Lois was living with her widowed mother and was looking for work. Irrespective of how they met, Frederick and Lois married and Lois became step-mother to Frederick's children, the second of whom was Nellie, the family's name for Ellen Harriett Fordham, later Willers.

The story comes full circle: Lois Bathsheba Cracknell became step-mother to the young woman, Ellen Fordham. Eighteen years later her niece Gertie became step-mother to Ellen's daughter, Grace Willers. It seems that the Willers's family photograph does not show Ellen and her family with her father and mother as we always supposed but with her father and her stepmother.

When we place the photographs of Gertie and Lois side by side the family likeness between aunt and niece is very strong.

Finding the place of Gertie Cracknell in my mother-in-law's family has been satisfying but, with the resolution of the ownership of the postcard album, came the need to discover more about Gertie's family history. This in turn led to a tangle of stepmother's which unravelled in quite a surprising [cont'd p16]





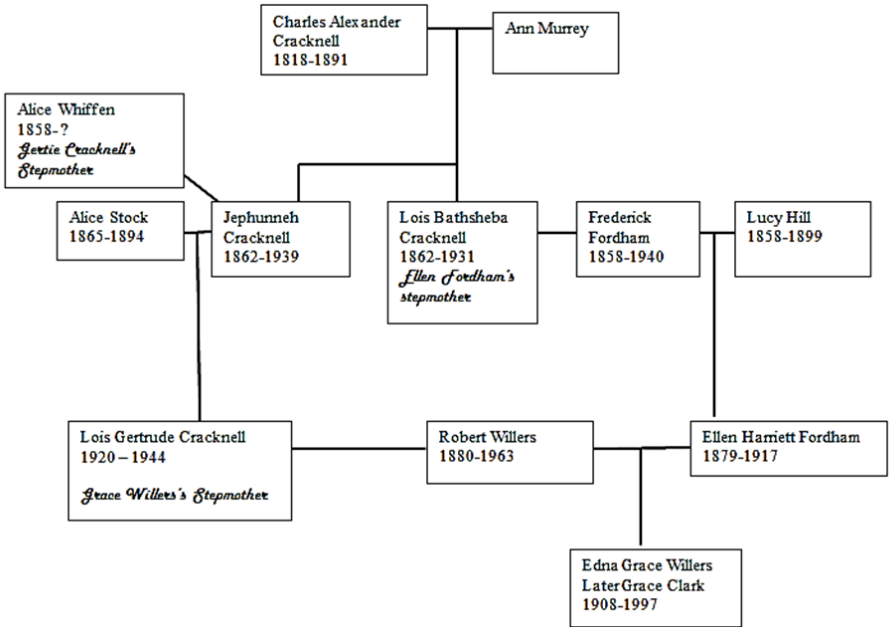
**Frederick Fordham, Ellen Willers,  
Robert Willers, Grace Willers and  
Lois Bathsheba Fordham,  
née Cracknell,  
about 1911**



**Lois Gertrude  
c1920**



**Lois Bathsheba  
c1911**



[from p.14] way. The family tree has been included to help readers follow this complex but fascinating family story.

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

#### References :

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis>, accessed 11 June 2015.
  - [2] <http://www.merriam-webster.com/medical/galloping>: accessed 25 June 2015
  - [3] Cambridge Marriages Transcription, Cambridgeshire Family History Society, accessed through findmypast.co.uk
  - [4] 1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census records.
  - [5] Sometimes spelt Jeppunah, 1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census.
  - [6] 1881 and 1891 England, Wales and Scotland Census records.
  - [7] England & Wales marriages 1837-2008, District of Linton, County of Cambridgeshire, vol 3b, p859.
  - [8] 1901 England, Wales and Scotland Census records
  - [9] England & Wales marriages 1837-2008, District of Linton, County of Cambridgeshire, vol 3b, p1124.
  - [10] England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007, registered 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr 1899 in the District of Linton, vol, 3b, p319.
- 

## ... a 'PS' on Exning Workhouse ...

In response to the article on Exning Workhouse in the last issue, we had a email from a member who had a relative born there around 1904, and whether the Exning Workhouse baptism register (a transcript of which we have) mentions her name. Sure enough, there she was as a 'private baptism'. But, what's more—and completely unbeknownst to the enquirer, she was shown to be a twin, with a brother baptised at the same time. A note in the margin, however, recorded that the boy had died fairly soon afterwards. This revelation came as a complete surprise the enquirer.

On reflection, how would you ever know that a "lost twin" had existed? The answer has to be that you don't unless you check the records just in case, or that there's a clue (such as a time of birth on the certificate of the known twin). In this example, the girl twin was easily found in BMD indexes, and when all the others sharing the same registration references of quarter/district/volume/page were checked—there was indeed another registration to the same surname. Here, there was also a third entry of the same surname so it's important not to make assumptions and take the mother's surnames into account. Mothers' surnames are part of the basic index after 1912, and we need to consult the GRO website for that detail in earlier years. Also, always look at earlier/later pages refs in case one twin happens to be on the next/previous page, and to consider that one might even be mis-spelled.

# A Chance Discovery

*a contribution from  
Ian Stephenson*

## HOW A CHANCE DISCOVERY AND A 170 YEAR SECRET BLEW A HOLE IN MY FAMILY TREE

**This is the story of how a chance discovery led me to uncover a 170 year old secret that in turn blew a hole in part of my family tree.**

**It demonstrates that what may appear to be fact with good providence can unravel in the face of DNA analysis.**

Let me start by telling the story of my 2x great-grandmother, Lydia Sargent (1829-1916), and that of the early life of her daughter Annie Maria Wright, my great-grandmother. Lydia Sargent was the eldest of eight known children to John Sargent and Mary, nee Woodley. Lydia was born circa 1828/9 and baptised on 11 Jan 1829 at St Mary's, West Wickham <sup>[1]</sup> CAM, a small village which lies some 12 miles SE of Cambridge and 3 miles from Linton CAM. At that time her father was employed as a shepherd. In 1831/32 John Sargent seemingly had an improvement in his circumstances for he is recorded in his children's baptismal records as a shop keeper in nearby Ashdon ESS; later he was recorded as a grocer, sometime smallholder, and farmer. Lydia grew up in Ashdon with her two brothers and five sisters, all of whom survived into adulthood.

At the age of 21 on 25 May 1850 at Ashdon Lydia married Edward Wright, a master baker of Linton who was four or five years her senior; he was a member of the Linton Independent Church. They went to live in Linton where Edward had his shop on the High Street - the 1851 census shows them there along with Lydia's twelve year old sister, Sarah, identified as a companion. Shortly after the census was taken their first child, Mary Susannah, was born; she would only live to the age of twelve. Annie Maria was the next child, born in Linton on 17 Sep 1854. That was four months after father Edward had died of a stomach disease which had troubled him for 18 months; he was buried at Linton's Independent Church. We do not know exactly when, but might presume some after her husband's death, Lydia and her two children went to live with her parents, back in Ashdon <sup>[2]</sup>. We find them there in the 1861 census <sup>[3]</sup>, where Lydia is described as a nurse. Included in the family is Lydia's third daughter, also a Lydia, born illegitimate in 1857. By 1871 the family had dispersed: Lydia was working as a cook to the curate, and his family, of St Mary Magdalen in Hastings SSX; daughter Annie Maria, then 16,

was living with her great-aunt Martha Wright in Storey's Alms Houses in St Giles Parish, Cambridge; and daughter Lydia, then 13, was with an uncle and aunt in Hildersham CAM.

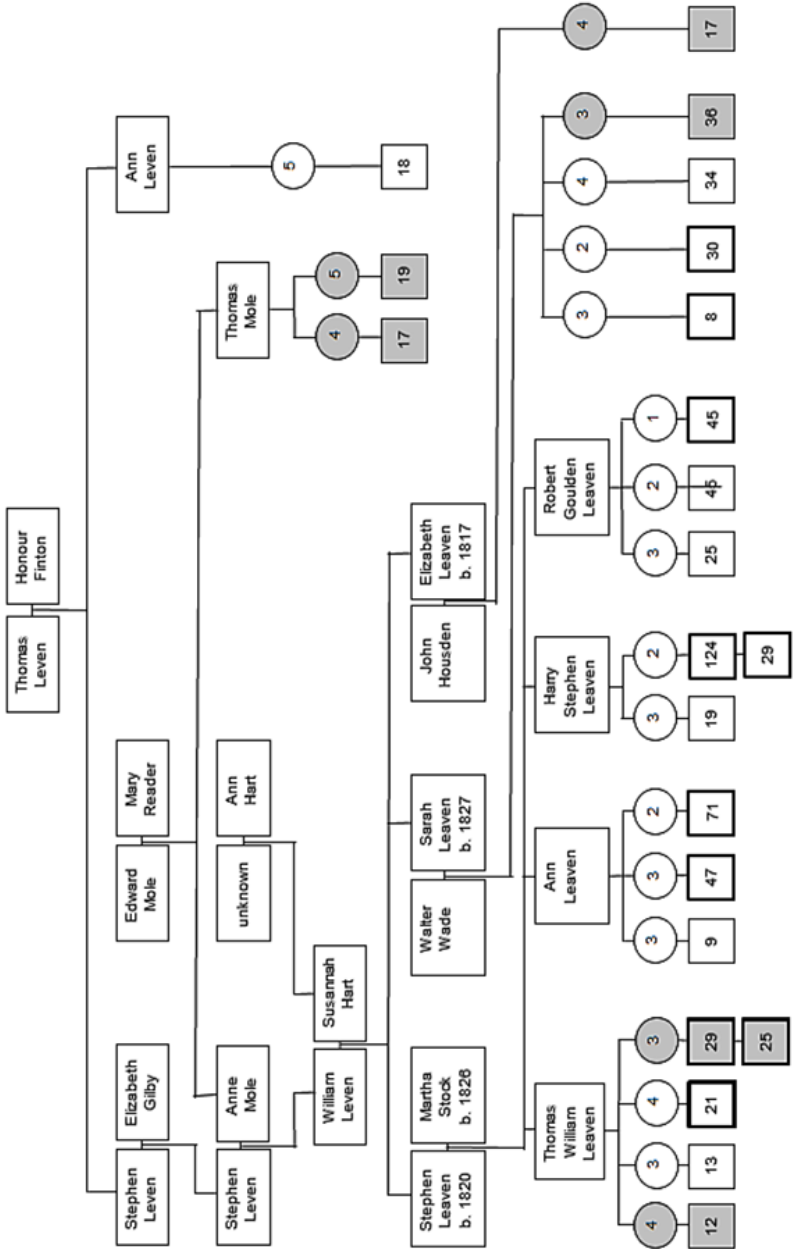
Annie Maria would go on to marry Herbert Julian Peters <sup>[4]</sup>, of Chesterton CAM, in 1880, and we will leave her story there. Her mother Lydia remarried in 1876 in Saffron Walden ESS to widower Joseph Penning, a maltster's labourer who had had ten children with his first wife. Lydia and Joseph would live together in Saffron Walden until his death in 1899. Lydia continued to live there, latterly in Freshwell Street, given as her address in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses; the latter gave the specific address as N<sup>o</sup>12, a two-room alms house tenement that she was then sharing with spinster daughter Lydia. Lydia died in 1916, aged 87; her grave in Saffron Walden Cemetery also contains the remains of the daughter Lydia, who died 6 years after her mother, and is marked with a gravestone.

How then does a DNA test, which I took with Ancestry some years ago, impact on the story? Since Ancestry introduced its *ThruLines* tool, which seeks to use its family tree database to find potential common ancestors for pairs of individuals with a DNA match, it has thrown up a good number of such common ancestors for me <sup>[5]</sup> - I describe these as 'points of convergence' throughout this article <sup>[6]</sup>. Although *ThruLines*, with such points of convergence, has enabled me to break down only one brick wall, there are a number of instances where it has given added confidence to a link where the paper evidence was not strong (generally, these being at the 4x or 5x great grandparent level). Not content with that, I decided to use the search function within the Ancestry DNA match to search for the more rare surnames in my family tree to see whether I could find additional linkages, but with only limited success. I then tried a similar search for some of the villages where some of my ancestors were born. Linton, where I have separate ancestral lines in each of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, was an early target. On trawling through those DNA-matched family trees I rarely found a familiar surname, but I soon realised that the names Leaven[s] and Leven[s] were occasionally re-occurring. Had I stumbled across a distant family connection? A rough and ready construction of a Leavens of Linton family tree showed these matches to be connected, and whilst the tree included two surnames (Wright and Stock) that I had in my family tree in that area of the CAM / ESS border, I was unable to find a link.

On revisiting the Leavens of Linton some months later I found some more Leavens amongst my DNA matches and taking a more thorough approach I drew up the Leavens' tree, a relevant and much simplified portion of which is reproduced in the diagram. At that point I had nine DNA matches linked to the tree: seven converging on Stephen Leaven/Martha Stock and two

**Simplified Leaven of Linton Family Tree Showing DNA Matches with Author**

Notes: 1) See text for explanation of shading. 2) Numbers in circles represent the number of intermediate generations. 3) Squares represent each individual DNA match, with the number of centimorgans identified. 4) Emboldened squares are those individuals with a shared DNA match with known descendants of Annie Maria Wright.



converging on Walter Wade/Sarah Leaven (Stephen's sister). But I still couldn't find a link from that tree to mine. I conjectured that the unknown father of the illegitimate Susannah Hart might have been one of my male ancestors, or a brother or son of such - but how would I progress to identify a likely candidate? Something that concerned me was the magnitude of some of the DNA matches that I had with the Leavens, they were surely too high for such a distant match through Susannah Hart's father. Also, the match at 124cM through Harry Stephen Leven was of concern - perhaps, I had an additional, separate common ancestor with that matched individual; though again none was apparent.

Recently, on a third look at the question I used the Ancestry *shared matches* function to consider all the individuals with which both I and each of my nine known Leaven matches had common shared matches. This produced another six who I could link into my Leavens tree (all 15 are those shown in the diagram unshaded). Furthermore, eight of that 15 had matches with at least one of my closer relatives (three 2C, a 2c1R and a 1C1R)<sup>[7]</sup> with whom I share common ancestors, my great grandparents: Annie Maria Wright and Herbert Julian Peters<sup>[8]</sup> - these are identified in the diagram with emboldened squares. The quantity of matches, the magnitude of some of them and that fact that some also had matches with known close relatives add to a compelling case that I have a link to a Leavens' ancestor through Annie Maria of Linton<sup>[9]</sup>.

At the same time I was separately plotting on my family tree the points of convergence of all my DNA matches. I noted that whereas 15 (of my 16) 2x great-grandparents had at least one point of convergence (and 14 had two or more) amongst their ancestors, there were none amongst Edward Wright's ancestors. And then the proverbial penny dropped. Surely, the only explanation for there being no DNA matches converging to ancestors of Edward Wright, and for there being such a large number of Leavens DNA matches, and for the large magnitude of many of my Leavens DNA matches was that Edward Wright was not Annie Maria's biological father, but that Stephen Leaven was.

But was I unfairly maligning Stephen Leaven and Lydia Wright, nee Sargent? Could alternatively her daughter, Annie Maria, or Lydia's mother have been the mother of the Leaven child within my ancestry? Or might Robert Leaven, the only known brother of Stephen alive at the time of Annie Maria's birth, have been her father?

- Since I have DNA matches with points of convergence with both Herbert Julian Peters' paternal and maternal ancestors that ruled out Annie Maria.

- For Lydia's mother there is no similar evidence on her paternal side to rule her out. That led me to consider the magnitude of the DNA matches; however, the picture is complex <sup>[10]</sup>. I considered the matches through the four children of Stephen and Martha Leaven identified in the diagram. Three had two generations between the person with whom I match and Stephen's children (on the diagram they have '2' in the relevant unshaded circles); these would be my half-3<sup>rd</sup> cousins (if Stephen was Annie Maria's father), or my half-4<sup>th</sup> cousins if one generation earlier. Ancestry statistical data shows that at the lowest value that it accepts of 8cM the probability of a half-3<sup>rd</sup> cousin relationship is only slightly greater than that of a half-4<sup>th</sup> cousin relationship. However as the magnitude of the DNA match increases so the disparity increases such that once the DNA match has reached 50cM the probability of it being a half-3<sup>rd</sup> cousin relationship is ten times that of a half-4<sup>th</sup> cousin relationship - my three match were: 45, 71 and 124cM. A similar analysis for the six (9, 13, 19, 25, 29, and 47cM) potential half-3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed relationships as opposed to half-4<sup>th</sup> cousin once removed relationships (on the diagram they have '3' in the relevant unshaded circles) identifies that once the DNA match has reached 40cM the probability of it being the former is ten times that of the latter. A half-4<sup>th</sup> cousin relationship seems far less probably.
- If Robert Leaven was the father of Annie Maria that would also result in a half-4<sup>th</sup> cousin relationship with the same analysis as identified above; in addition, by 1851 Robert was living some 20 miles south of Linton.

Adding weight to the argument for Stephen Leaven being the link is: 1) it is known that in the 1850s Lydia and Stephen lived in close proximity in Linton (see below), whereas we have nothing to suggest that Lydia's mother ever lived in that village; 2) Lydia would go on to have history, her third daughter being illegitimate. My conclusion from the DNA evidence is that, despite documentary evidence to the contrary, there is a compelling argument for there to be a Leaven in my family tree. Furthermore, I find it difficult to argue for that link to be anyone other than Stephen Leaven; I am confident that he was Annie Maria Wright's biological father <sup>[11]</sup>, and I have amended my family tree accordingly. With the amended tree added to Ancestry another seven DNA matches have emerged from the *ThruLines* function (two of which also shared matches with my close relatives), these are included in the diagram identified by shading <sup>[12]</sup>.

Did Annie Maria's mother Lydia Wright, nee Sargent, know that Stephen Leaven was the father of her second child? We cannot know. If not, she

would at least have been uncertain as to whether he or her husband was the father. It is probably that the Wright family was unaware, for at the age of 16 we have seen that Annie Maria was living with her great-aunt Martha Wright in Cambridge. It also seems highly unlikely that Annie Maria had any idea that her 'father', the late Edward Wright, was not her biological father. DNA analysis has, after nearly 170 years, uncovered a secret that Lydia Wright had apparently kept hidden.

And what of Stephen Leaven? Born in 1820 in Linton he appears to have lived there until 1861/2 when he and his family moved to Cambridge, where he died 30 years later, aged 72. In 1844 he married Martha Stock, born Ashdon in 1826, and had a family of nine known children, born between 1844 and 1865. In Linton he was an ag lab, in Cambridge he is listed as a labourer. The 1851 census shows Stephen and family living in Green Street, Linton, at the same time as when Edward and Lydia Wright lived nearby on the High Street at its junction with Green Street <sup>[13]</sup>. His father, William Leaven, is listed in censuses variously as a scavenger, an ag lab and a road labourer. William was born in Linton and died a widower in Linton workhouse; there is no record to indicate that he lived anywhere other than in that village.

The result of this is that I now have two paternal ancestral lines for Annie Maria, both of which I have less attachment to than for others. For the Leaven biological line that is because Annie Maria had (I presume) no knowledge of them; and for the Wright line because I have no biological link to them and Annie Marie growing up fatherless in her maternal grandparents household probably had little connection with them.

## Reference & Notes :

- [1] All Lydia's census records (apart from one naming Hadstock ESS) list her birth place as West Wickham.
- [2] John Sargent owned a house, yard and garden of just over ¼ acre at Rogers End at the N end of Ashdon on the road to Bartlow, just S of the road to Steventon End; it probably backed onto River Bourne (late-19<sup>th</sup> C map shows no dwellings on the other side of the road). He also owned an acre of arable land about one mile N on the road to Bartlow (see 'Ashdon 1848 Tithe Award' - Essex Archives).
- [3] As well as showing John Sargent as a grocer, the 1861 census listed him as a farmer of 15 acres employing 2 men.
- [4] See article 'Robert Peters of Cambridge part 3' in the Autumn 2021 edition of The Journal.
- [5] Since third party family trees can be error prone, I follow the web-based 'paper trail' to replicate the lineage and validate the match as best I can. Although, I usually have to assume that the person I match with is accurate in their identification of grandparents so that I can start my verification from the 1911 census.

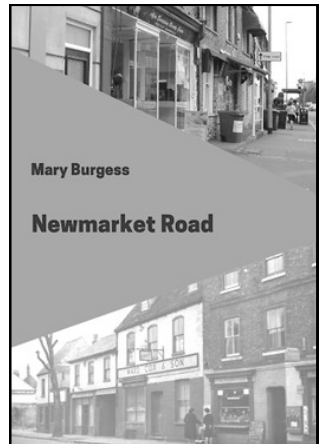


- [6] I am aware that a point of convergence doesn't necessarily give confidence that both the man and woman are genetic ancestors; it could just infer one of them.
- [7] 2C: 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin; 2C1R: 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin once removed; 1C1R: 1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed.
- [8] Herbert Julian Peters' ancestry was Cambridge and Norfolk based, so less likely to be the connection.
- [9] As well as finding the 15 matches into my Leavens tree, there are another 30 matches with either no tree, a very small tree, or a private tree; which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to link them into the Leavens tree.
- [10] The variation in magnitude of the DNA matches at any one generational level demonstrates the difficulty in trying to infer a specific relationship from a single DNA match without any supplementary supporting information.
- [11] Despite Annie Maria Wright's birth and marriage certificate identifying Edward Wright as her father.
- [12] A couple of these new DNA matches had previously been inaccessible in private family trees, whereas others were in small family trees where *ThruLines* algorithms were able to propose connection to my family tree through 3<sup>rd</sup> party family trees.
- [13] Possibly on the site where the Co-op now stands.

## FOCUS ON ... Newmarket Road

A fascinating book from 2021 by Cambridgeshire Collection Librarian, Mary Burgess, takes a tour along Newmarket Road recalling “then and now” views of a wide selection of locations/properties. Away from the tourist areas and the University, this is part of the “real” everyday Cambridge—

*“The book focuses on this often overlooked area of industrial Cambridge, including the brickyards and the gas works. Cambridge was once home to heavy industry.”*



**Browse Cambridge News' photo gallery of 1980s/90s Newmarket Rd at:**

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/gallery/newmarket-road-through-the-years-13682169>

**“Newmarket Road Scrapbook”**—a collection of hundreds of transcribed extracts from local newspapers of 1897-1990. Compiled by Mike Petty, and made freely available to local history researchers via the Internet Archive.

<https://archive.org/details/CambridgeNewmarketRoadScrapbook1897To1990S/page/n3/mode/2up>

# Frederick Hawkes

*received from*  
Rachel Little

I'd like to tell you the sad life story of Frederick Hawkes, born approx. 1867 in Lockport, Niagara County, New York State; and died 12th February 1903 in Gilpin County Colorado.

## **First of all, a little of his family history—**

Frederick was the son of Benjamin Hawkes who came from Over Cambridgeshire, who followed three of his brothers to Lockport, Niagara County New York State, in search of a better life.

Benjamin was in Lockport in the 1855 US Census with wife Mary A, where he was mentioned in the 1860 Census with wife Mary A and daughter Ellen aged 7.

There were many pandemics in Lockport during these years, and Benjamin's first family must have been casualties because the 1870 Census finds him with his second family, wife Julia, daughter Evalina age 5 and son Frederick age 3.

In the 1875 Census Benjamin was living as a boarder in a hotel in Lockport, but children Evalina and Fred were living at "The Home for the Friendless" also in Lockport. There was no mention of younger daughter Mae.

I am guessing that wife Julia must have died before 1875 as the 1880 Census finds Frederick, age 13, living with his grandmother and aunt in Jackson Michigan, but sisters Evalina and Mae were left at "The Home for the Friendless". Benjamin Hawkes, in the meantime, had gone to the Rockies in Colorado in search of gold.

By the 1880 Census, Benjamin was in Russell Gulch, Gilpin County, Colorado, stated as a miner in a gold mining community.

Five years later, in the 1885 Census Fred was also in Gilpin County working as a farm hand for the Hayes family. I haven't found Benjamin but I am hoping that father and son joined up at some stage.

There is only a very limited selection of the 1890 US Census remaining as most was destroyed in a fire—but there are records in local newspapers stating that Frederick Hawkes age 23, married Maude Bryant age 22, on 26th May 1893 in Boulder Colorado.

Frederick and Maude lived in Boulder, Colorado but it doesn't seem to be a happy marriage as a year later headlines in the local newspaper, "The

Boulder Camera”, indicates :

*“Maude Hawkes was jealous”*

*“A fearful tragedy”*

*“She armed herself, and slew her husband’s paramour Trixie Lee”*

After a day drinking in Denver, Frederick Hawkes and his paramour, Trixie Lee, one of Madame Kingsley’s girls, returned back home to Boulder. Frederick and Maude had a massive argument and encouraged by her mother, Mrs Bryant, Maude armed herself and went looking for Frederick and Trixie Lee.

As soon as Maude came upon them, she fired five shots in rapid succession and Trixie Lee fell into the tall reeds at the side of the path. Trixie was barely alive and Frederick was pushed into the reeds by a passer by in order to hide from his wife and mother in law.

Maude reloaded her pistol and on learning that Trixie Lee was still alive was intending on finishing her off.

*“Alive, is she!. Well I’ve got some more balls for her”*

Luckily, Sheriff Metcalf appeared and wrenched the revolver from Maude’s hand and Sheriff, and Knapp escorted Maude Hawkes and her mother to the County Jail. Unfortunately Trixie Lee had since passed away.

The following day it was noted that Frederick Hawkes had taken the noon train out of town.

After reading the testimony of the two ladies in Boulder, Judge Adams decided to hold Mrs Bryant and Maude Hawkes for murder and fixed bail at \$3000 for both.

The trial took place on 12th October 1894 and after several witnesses came forward to say that Maude Hawkes was aggravated that Fred was riding round town in a buggy with Trixie Lee, both being extremely drunk.

Another important testimony by L.C Paddock, who said that he heard Mrs Bryant tell her daughter to :

*“Go get a gun, fill it, and give them all there is in it”*

Maude said *“I will do it”*

and after the shooting told bystanders that *“Trixie Lee has got four bullets in her.”*

Her mother then said *“Don’t give up the gun, get it filled for the other one”* meaning to shoot Frederick next.

It was noted at that time Trixie Lee was still alive, so Maude said *“Still Alive! I have more in here for her”*

The Defence mainly stated that both Maude Hawkes and her mother, Mrs Bryant, were of good character and that *“tin pot gambler Fred Hawkes aggravated them due to his drunken behaviour”*. The Attorney for the defence took the stand that the Ladies suffered from *“emotional insanity”* or *“transitory frenzy”*.

The Jury went out at 5 o'clock to consider their verdict and returned at 6 o'clock with a verdict of “Not Guilty”



I don't blame Frederick for getting out of town. There is no further information about him until 1903, when the following notice appears in the Gilpin Observer February 12th 1903:

*“Fred Hawkes, a miner aged 40 years of age died this afternoon from an overdose of morphine, taken, it is believed with suicidal intent. Of late, Hawkes was out of employment and he drank considerably. He leaves a wife in Idaho Falls and two daughters, whose whereabouts are unknown. He was to have gone to work tonight at C K & N Property on Beacon Hill. Some years ago his first wife shot and killed a sporting woman in Boulder. No deposition has been made regarding his funeral.”*

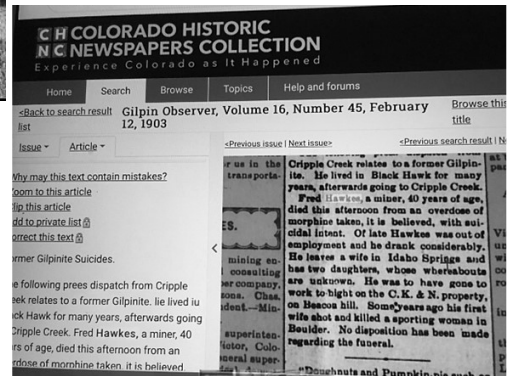
and that *“He had lived in Black Hawk, Colorado, for many years, later moving to Cripple Creek”*

I have recently found mention of Fred's father Ben Hawkes in Black Hawk, as a silver miner, in 1894 so I hope that the family was reunited at some point.

My husband and I have visited Russell Gulch and Gilpin County, initially on the trail of Benjamin Hawkes, and found that there are still gold claims to be mined in the area. Russell Gulch is now an officially designated Ghost town and can be found on Google.

I think my next, probably impossible, task is to find Fred's wife and daughters!!!

All my information about the shooting and the trial can be found in local historical newspapers on [www.coloradohistoricalnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricalnewspapers.org) and it's free.



## 1939 REGISTER

While certain categories of people will never appear (owing to they being official excluded, such as people already in military service), those still alive remain redacted until officially reported as “deceased”.

However, a number of folk such as some men who died in WW2 seem to have been missed as being “deceased” and are still redacted as they are deemed as, theoretically, still alive. They will probably continue to remain redacted, for the time being at least, or until the modern checking process catches up with them. The record of a known deceased person can be unredacted if suitable proof is submitted to FindMyPast.

Updates are periodically released to include those recently deceased, so do check periodically, and ***don't give up hope of finding that elusive relative***

### The Society offers condolences to the families of :

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Sheila YOUNG   | 1895 |
| Alan MAYEM     | 3671 |
| Peter WOODHAMS | 5833 |
| John WALFORD   | 243  |
| Robert HILL    | 6431 |

# 25 Children And Counting ...

by Karen Orrell with  
"Michele"

Compiled with the  
assistance of Michele,  
a descendant of  
Ada Watson

**March 19 was Mothering Sunday so we took a look at Mrs Ada Watson, a Cambridge woman who was mother to an incredible 25 children including 3 sets of twins, born between 1904 and 1931 according to 'The Guinness Book of Records' ... do the records back this claim up?**

Ada was born Ada Smart on 22nd June 1886 in Cambridge to David Smart and Sarah Ann Adams. In the 1891 she is aged 4 and living in the parish of St Giles. A search on FreeBMD tells us her marriage to John Henry Watson in Cambridge was registered in the June Quarter of 1904. The Cambridge Marriage Notices transcriptions held by the Society read thus:



1904 May 6

Groom: John WATSON; 24; bac; bricklayers lab;

Residence: of 76 Victoria Road, Chesterton;

Length of Residence: Month;

District: Chesterton, Cambridge;

Bride: Ada SMART; 18; sp; domestic servant;]

Residence: of 19 King Street, Cambridge;

Length of Residence: Month;

District: Cambridge;

Church: The Register Office for the District of Cambridge;

Notes: Without licence; in margin - 28 May 1904

A search of the GRO website shows that their first child, John Henry Jr was born in 1904 and the Cambridge St Andrew the Less PR transcriptions reveal he was baptised on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1904. His baptism entry lists him as SMART, John Henry, son of John Henry and Ada of 89 Newmarket Road.

A second child, Frederick James was registered in 1907 and baptised 18<sup>th</sup> August 1908 at St Andrew the Less. The family is now living at 22 Gloucester Place. The birth of their third child, Charles Herbert, was registered in 1909

with the baptism taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1909 and the fourth, William Harold was registered in 1910. William was baptised 9<sup>th</sup> September 1910 with a note of his birth date included: 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

In 1911, the family is still living at 22 Gloucester Place and the census return shows that they have had 5 children, only 2 of whom are still living: John Henry Jr and William Harold. But we have found only 4 children so far in the GRO and parish records. Widening the search on the GRO reveals Gladys Maud, registered in the Chesterton District in 1906 who could possibly be the missing 5<sup>th</sup> child.

Frederick James' death was registered in the Sept Q of 1908 in Cambridge and Charles Herbert's in the Sept Q of 1909. Gladys Maud's death has not been found, although a 7 month old Gladys May is buried in Trumpington on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1906.

A search of the Cambridge Vaccination records, reveals that Frederick James, Charles Herbert, William Harold plus 2 more children, Sidney Herbert and Violet Ellen, were all vaccinated and gives us their dates of birth. Frederick James was born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1907, Charles Herbert, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1909, William Harold 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1910 (note his baptism entry states 23<sup>rd</sup> August!), Sidney Herbert 1<sup>st</sup> December 1911 and Violet Ellen 5<sup>th</sup> March 1913.

The St Andrew the Less baptism register reveals that Sidney Herbert was baptised 20<sup>th</sup> November 1912 and Violet Ellen was baptised at St Matthew on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1913 when the family was living at 1 Petworth Street.

There are no more births in the Cambridge area after Violet Ellen in 1913. In 1914, Britain goes to war and in 1918, we find Ada in the workhouse in St Pancras, described as the wife of a soldier, with 4 children: William H, Sidney H, Violet E and Charles A, who was born 21<sup>st</sup> December 1917. Ada's nearest known relative is given as "Mother-in-Law, Eliza Watson of 43 Brompton Road, Haringey". The 1911 census shows that Ada's husband, John Henry was born in London and so it seems that Ada moved to St Pancras to be near his family when her husband went away to war, her own parents having died.

A further search of the GRO shows that Charles Alfred's birth was registered in the March Q of 1918, followed by Albert Edward and Lily Margaret in 1919 (our first set of twins!) and Arthur Thomas in 1921, all in St Pancras.

In the 1921 census, Ada is living with her husband and 7 children in St Pancras. John Henry Jr is a band boy, William, Sidney and Violet are at school and Charles, Lily and Albert are at home.

Back to the GRO and we find Mabel Dorothy's birth registered in 1923, then Elsie May in 1924 and Cyril Alexander in 1925. A George Victor James

Watson is registered in 1925 also, but he was later discounted from being the son of Ada and John Henry.

Margaret Florence was born in 1929 and finally, Alma Ruby in 1931.

But this only gives us 16 children, 15 of whom we know the names and 1 we think may be Gladys Maud. So where are the other 9?

A search on Ancestry of London baptism records further reveals Frank Leonard born 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 1915 and baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1915 & Agnes Ada born 11<sup>th</sup> July 1916 and baptised 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1916, both in Camden but neither appear in the civil registration records. It is possible the Frank Leonard whose death, aged 1, is registered in St Marylebone in the December Q of 1917 is the same Frank Leonard.

So, we now have 18 children, still only 1 set of twins! Where else can we look?

We turned to the death registrations in St Pancras for this period and cross referenced with births. We discovered that an Ellen Louisa Watson died in St Pancras in the June Q of 1928 aged 1 but no corresponding birth could be found. A copy of the death certificate would confirm if Ellen Louisa was one of Ada's children but alas, we didn't have the time to obtain the record before we went to print...

The 1939 Register shows a John H and Ada Watson living at 4 Lea House, Ferry Estate, Harlington Hill, Hackney but there are no children listed with them. As evacuation started before the Register was taken, it is possible that the children had already been evacuated to the countryside and this IS our Ada Watson.

Feeling slightly desperate by now, we searched Ancestry for any public family trees that included this family, which led us to Michele, the granddaughter of Ada.

Michele has been researching her tree for 12 years and very kindly shared with us more details of her grandmother as well as photographs.

She revealed another child, Reginald John, born in 1926 but said that no record of his birth has ever been found. He worked at London Zoo and the zoo holds records relating to him, which Michele hopes will shed some light on his birth. She also told us that Arthur Thomas, or Tommy as he was known, fought in WWII and was killed on D-Day. His brother, Charles Alfred went on to marry Tommy's widow.

John Henry Jr was in the workhouse in 1914 with his nearest relative being given as Mother and from whence admitted given as Lost / 103 Whitfield St.

She also confirmed that George Victor James Watson was NOT the son of Ada: she had bought a copy of his birth certificate to prove this. She had the birth certificate for Gladys Maud as well, proving that she was indeed one of Ada's children. Gladys Maud was born on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1905 so it is highly likely that the 7 month old Gladys May buried in 1906 is the same child.



A family story that Michele had always been told was that Ada had twin girls who got sunstroke after being left out in their pram too long one sunny day! However, she has not been able to find a record of the twins' birth.



Michele also told us that her mother had said she was evacuated during the war, strengthening our theory that the Ada Watson living in Hackney in 1939 is the correct one.

John Henry passed away in January 1951 and is buried at Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington. Ada went to live with her youngest daughter a short time later and Michele remembers her Nana well, a lady who could be “very stern” and had been very poor at times “but would give you her last penny”. Ada lived with her daughter until she died in 1974 at the grand old age of 87.

We’ve found an impressive 19 children, but not 25! Can you find the other six? Let us know and we will pass on your discoveries to Michele. Maybe Ada is in your tree?

**One thing Ada’s story has shown us—**

**—use every source available to you**

## **1931 Canadian Census**

*a welcome addition to the raft of records available  
for research in Canada*

*will that “missing” relative turn up as having emigrated?*

# SEARCHING FOR LOST CONNECTIONS

received from Gill Shapland

Sometimes your research hits a dead end. You've searched every parish in the county but the family or person has just disappeared. Maybe you've even gone 'over the border' to neighbouring Suffolk, Norfolk etc. but what about further afield?

I decided to look around the country for any records relating to Cambridgeshire tucked away in unconnected archives, starting in Cornwall. My aim is to work my way up through the country. My search term was simply Cambridgeshire but of course you can tailor it more specifically if you just want one name. Cambridge causes a slight problem with references to the University and its Press which results in men with no other connection than having studied at the University, or books published by the Press.

However, I did find the following items of interest at Devon Archives:

## **DEVON QUARTER SESSIONS**

Settlement and Removal Papers for the year 1740

Settlement examination of Sarah Horn, 19th March 1740

claiming settlement as Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**...

Removal order for Sarah Horn, wife of Thomas Horn, and Mary their daughter, rogues and vagabonds, 19th March 1740

Settlement established as Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**. Sarah Horn and Mary Horn to be removed from the parish of Colyton to Fulbourn ....

Settlement examination of Robert Brown, 19th March 1740

...Robert Brown declared he was born and served an apprenticeship at Cherry Hinton, **Cambridgeshire**...

Removal order for Robert Brown, his wife Elizabeth and their daughter

Constance, rogues and vagabonds. 9th March 1740

Settlement established as Cherry Hinton, **Cambridgeshire**. Robert Brown, his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Constance to be removed from the parish of Colyton to Cherry Hinton....

Settlement examination of Shedrach Bossell, May 13th 1746

...Shedrach Bossell claimed he was born at Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**. His father was a pedlar.

Settlement examination of Robert Bossell, May 13th 1746

...Robert Bossell claimed to have been born at Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**, and never gained further settlement. He left his wife and five children at Harraday Hill near London, and had been travelling...

Settlement examination of Dorothy Buckley, May 13th 1746

...Dorothy Buckley said she was the wife of John Buckley, and believed he was born in Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**, and had never gained further legal settlement. They had 2 children, Anne Buckley...

I found these of particular interest as I have catalogued numerous vagrants in the Isle of Ely in the same period. There was famine around this time caused by volcanic ash in the atmosphere affecting the climate, causing crop failures.

Will (Copy) of Mary Ground of Kilkhampton, Cornwall, spinster. 31st October 1849

...To Edward Loomes of Whittlesea, **Cambridgeshire**, £950, on trust to pay dividends to brother William Ground for his life. Upon trust to pay the said sum of £950 equally to the children of her brother...

Assignment of lease for remainder of term of 99 years; for £1800. 27 Jun 1653

...Richard Benett of Kew, Surrey, Esq., Thomas Benett of Brabram, **Cambridgeshire**, Esq., and John Benett of Grays Inn, Middlesex., Esq. to The Rt Hon. Arthur Lord Capell, Baron of Hadham, Hertfordshire...

DEEDS FOR THE MANOR OF ALDWICK

Draft deed of separation. 1862

- ...1. The Rev. William de Stuteville Isaacson of Willoughby House, Newmarket, **Cambridgeshire**.
2. Anne Mitchell Isaacson, wife of William.
3. John Rodon of New Grove, Kells, Meath [Ireland] and William...

Gore family papers, volume II, page 10, 14 May 1648

..., to Sir Thomas Hatton, of Long Stanton, **Cambridgeshire**, kt, bt....

Conveyance. 1418 .

.. etc. in Balsham and Wrottynge [Wratting, **Cambridgeshire**] called Oxecroftalle which they had by feoffment of Thomas Fodryngeye, father of the above Gerard. Witnesses: William Alyngton, John Burgoyne...

WALKER-HENEAGE AND BUTTON FAMILY AND ESTATE PAPERS.

COKER COURT

Cornwall records presented a long list of documents relating to Wimpole Hall estate, there because the estate was connected with Lanhydrock House. I have not listed them here, but worth checking if you had family on the estate. Similarly, they hold a collection relating to an estate at Isleham which may be worth checking but no named individuals listed. I hope to continue northwards for the next journal!

*As you can see, I have not included references. If you are interested in following any of these leads, please refer to the relevant catalogues at Devon or Cornwall Archives.*

**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 :**

|                      |      |          |
|----------------------|------|----------|
| Parsons Drove        | 1657 | Mixed    |
| Upwell               | 1740 | Mixed    |
| Upwell               | 1781 | Mixed    |
| Wisbech St Augustine | 1977 | Baptisms |

**Project co-coordinator, Terry, updates progress of WisMus**

The end is in sight at last, and is a little closer, with 18 registers remaining. To date we have completed some 539 registers with over 330,000 records. Some of these remaining registers are throwing up a few problems as the “early” ones are of poor quality and/or in Latin. But, nothing can’t be overcome with a little more time and patience.

**If any of the old volunteers, or new ones (particularly if you have skills with old handwriting and/or reading Latin) 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 : records  
now added to SuperSearch and  
AncestorFinder :**

- Abbotsley
- Alconbury
- Barham
- Bluntisham
- Botolph Bridge
- Brinton
- Brampton
- Broughton
- Buckden
- Buckworth
- Bury-c-Hepmangrove
- Caldecote
- Colne
- Conington
- Denton
- Gt Staughton

- Hartford
- Huntingdon St John
- Huntingdon All Saints
- Leighton Bromswold
- Little Gidding
- Little Raveley
- Little Stukeley
- Somersham
- Wood Walton

**There are now over 150,000 new  
individual records. Currently in  
progress are :**

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Alwalton,   | Bythorn,    |
| Chesterton, | Diddington, |
| Eynesbury,  | Elton,      |
| Ramsey,     | Warboys     |

**Next to be completed :**  
Ramsey St Mary

**\*\*\* CAMBRIDGE BRANCH \*\*\***

**MEETINGS & DROP-IN RESEARCH SURGERY**

**St Andrews Street Baptist Church : the back room & upstairs  
St Andrews Street, Cambridge (just up the road from John Lewis)**

**help desk** from 11.30-14.00 in ground floor room (beyond the café)  
**talk** at 14.15 with zoom (upstairs room, lift available)

**COME ON IN & FOLLOW THE YELLOW DIRECTION ARROWS**

**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@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chfhs.org.uk)

|                                    |  |   |                                 |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Ely<br/>Library</b>             | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed<br>alternate<br>mths   | Jan / Mar / May<br>Jul / Sep / Nov  | drop in between<br>10.00-4.00   |
| <b>Norris Museum<br/>St Ives</b>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed<br>alternate<br>mths   | Feb / Apr / Jun<br>Aug / Sep / Dec  | drop-in between<br>10.30 & 3.30 |
| <b>Bar Hill<br/>Library</b>        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon<br><u>every</u> mth  | May / June / July / Aug<br>Sept / Oct / Nov / Dec                           | drop-in between<br>1.30-4.30    |
| <b>Huntingdon<br/>Archives</b>     | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br><u>every</u> mth  | <b>** NEW SESSION for 2023 **</b><br>April / May / June                     | drop-in between<br>1.30-4.00    |
| <b>Cambourn<br/>Library</b>        | surgery sessions discontinued at Cambourn ...<br>we will be at Huntingdon Archives for a 6-mth trial from Jan 2023 instead |   |                                 |
| <b>March<br/>Library</b>           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues<br><u>every</u> mth   | once a month for the time being<br>but likely to be increased               | drop-in between<br>10.00-4.00   |
| <b>Cambridge<br/>St Andrews St</b> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat<br>each month<br>at meetings   | at the monthly speakers meetings<br><b>end of corridor beyond café area</b> | drop-in between<br>11.30 & 2.00 |

**\*\* NEW FOR 2023 \*\*** a new research session has been set up in Huntingdon. We have been given space in the Archives' Search Room on the 1st floor on an otherwise closed day (so no browsing/research). Many thanks to the staff at Huntingdon for their assistance.

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>MARCH BRANCH PROGRAMME</b>  |   | <b>NB:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> <u>WEDNESDAYs</u> at 2.00pm  |
| <b>Wednesday Face-2-Face Meetings</b>                                  |   | March Library, March<br><b>enquiries :</b> <a href="mailto:march@chfhs.org.uk">march@chfhs.org.uk</a> |
| By popular opinion, the meetings will continue on Wednesday afternoons |   |   |
| <b>Wed<br/>3<br/>May</b>   | <b>Village Friendly Societies</b><br><i>Before the NHS, people had to rely on their own resources in times of sickness and frailty. Village Friendly Societies provided a small amount of financial assistance for those unable to support themselves Death and funeral costs were also provided for.</i> | with Tom Doig   |
| <b>Wed<br/>7<br/>Jun</b>   | <b>Where Did The Money Go??</b><br><i>An explanation of Wills, Administrations and Inventories. Plus, some very interesting concerns of fathers about their children, and examples of wills from abroad</i>   | with Mick Rawle   |
| <b>Wed<br/>5<br/>Jul</b>   | <b>Summer Outing</b><br><i>Cambs Archives at Ely—further details nearer the time</i>  |   |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>HUNTINGDON BRANCH PROGRAMME</b>      |  | <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</u> of the month at 7.30pm                                  |
| <b>Zoom only (register via website)</b> |  | <b>enquiries :</b> <a href="mailto:huntingdon@chfhs.org.uk">huntingdon@chfhs.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Wed<br/>17<br/>May</b>               | <b>NonConformity For Family Historians</b><br><i>In our researches, many of us will come across ancestors who followed a NonConformist religion at some point in their lives, not uncommon in Cambs/Hunts, but find it difficult to make progress. The talk will look at the history, evolution and beliefs of a the leading NonConformist religions, and at the sorts of records they left behind.</i>  | With Alan Ruston  |
| <b>Wed<br/>21<br/>June</b>              | <b>Farm Checks Of The Fens</b><br><i>This talk will present a series of checks (tokens, or unofficial coins) used by farmers, based in the fens, from the 1880s to the 1970s. These checks were used to pay the seasonal workers who often came from the East End of London and stayed on farms or in camps, picking the various crops on different farms as the season progressed. At the end of the week, the checks would be exchanged for proper coins and notes. The checks meant that the farmer did not need to carry large amounts of small change. This is a very localised series of tokens, specific to the Fens, that are purely functional and have very simple designs. Almost 3000 different tokens are now known from 700 different farmers.</i> | With Garry Oddie  |

**CAMBRIDGE BRANCH  
PROGRAMME**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month  
enquiries : [programme@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:programme@chfhs.org.uk)

**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 11.30—2.00

**follow the yellow direction arrows to find our rooms**

**April 15 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom**                      **NB: 3<sup>rd</sup> SAT (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat is Easter weekend)**

**14.15 Vanishing Cambridgeshire**                      with Mike Petty  
*Recalling sight and sounds of yesteryear Cambridgeshire*

**F-2-F & Zoom (for zoom attendance—please self-register via the website)**

**May 13 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom**

**14.15 History of Cambridge's Townscape**                      with Tony Kirby

*A look at the changing built environment of Cambridge from the eve of the Reformation to the present day, The results of the combined, and often conflicting, activities of the Colleges, private developers large and small, architects and local government, together with the railways and the attempts to deal with growing road traffic in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. From the few surviving late medieval houses, through the private affluence and public squalor of the Georgian era, the activities of Victorian/Edwardian developers and the public and private housing schemes of the C20 to the delights of Eddington, Marleigh, and CB1—with a quick trip to Bar Hill, Cambourne and Waterbeach.*

**F-2-F & Zoom (for zoom attendance—please self-register via the website)**

**AGM 2023 to be held at 13.00—zoom—please register separately for the AGM**

**June 10 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom**

**14.15 Oats & Beans & Barley Grow Along the A14**                      with Kate Roberts  
*Over 9,000 botanical samples were collected during excavations on the A14 Huntingdon to Cambridge improvement scheme—analysis has produced evidence of agricultural change and an evolving diet involving bread and even beer. The talk will show some of the finds and the ways in which the evidence is looked at.*

**F-2-F & Zoom (for zoom attendance—please self-register via the website)**

**July 8 Sat : F-2-F & Zoom**

**14.15 Tudor Cambridge**                      with Honor Ridout  
*Insights into the sight and sounds our ancestors might have experienced*

**F-2-F & Zoom (for zoom attendance—please self-register via the website)**

## A UNIQUE NAME!?!?

Of recent decades, it's not unusual for parents to seek out unusual names for their children, or even to invent one. Then as now, some names are also very much a "generational" thing through being popular for a short period of time and then fading from use. But, this is nothing new. In past times, parents (perhaps prompted by the local preacher to do the right thing over their choice of names) sometimes looked to the Bible for names, and the likes of Hezakah, Hepzibah, Kezia, Eli, Ezekiel, Elijah, pepper our families along with the more frequently encountered Sarahs, Rebeccas, Rachels, Johns, Matthews, et al.

A small number of the more obscure Biblical names crop up from time to time—and no less so than has been noted in a Swaffham Bulbeck family of the 1850s/1860s. Tucked away in the records is, thus far, the only discernable example of **Tilgathpilneser** as a forename. Collating details from BMDs, censuses and parish registers, the SMITH family emerges:

Registered in Newmarket District M Qtr 1861, Tilgathpilnesar Smith ("TS") was born to William and Elisheba Smith of Swaffham Bulbeck, and privately baptised there, in Feb of that year. The couple married in 1850 and can be

|     |    |       |  |
|-----|----|-------|--|
| Feb | 13 | SMITH | Tilgarth-Pilneser son of William & Elisheba otp lab privately baptised |
|-----|----|-------|--|

found in censuses through to 1901—both they and their parents all being Swaffham Bulbeck born and bred. TS was the fourth of six children: Seba (b.1851), Ashriel (b.1855), Corenda (b.1859), TS (b.1861), Liliias (b.1865), and William (b.1868). Researchers of the SMITH family might easily miss a child such as TS if BMDs and parish registers are not searched in full. TS never appears in censuses—he was one of those children born and died between censuses, and revealed only if speculative searches are made on the off chance there might be other children in a family. The note against his 1861 baptism is rather a give-away: "privately baptised" is suggestive of a sickly baby who might not survive for very long. Sure enough, there's a death registration in the same M Qtr 1861, and a burial a week after the baptism:

|     |    |       |                              |
|-----|----|-------|------------------------------|
| Feb | 19 | SMITH | Tilgath-Pilneser otp 1 month |
|-----|----|-------|------------------------------|

How unusual are the names in this family? A quick search of all births from FreeBMD reveals: "Elisheba" 50 births; "Seba" 39 births; "Ashriel" 8 births; "Corneda" 3 births (one of whom is in Cambridge District, and turns out to be d/o this Corenda—also noted "Corinda" 44 births); "Liliias" over 2000 births. As for Tilgathpilesar, he appears to be truly unique—there are no others—nil, none, zero, nought, zilch!! *Unless, this is, you know differently ...*



# MEETINGS REPORTS

*Don't forget that many of the talks  
are recorded and available in the  
members area of the web-*



## **SECRET FENS**

*WITH KAREN MERRISON*

*(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : JAN 23)*

This was the first Huntingdon meeting on zoom only and was attended by 55 participants.

Karen Merrison started out by stating she was not an expert about this wonderful area of the country - the Fens - but really loved them and this passion came through during the presentation. She wanted to encourage us to explore the Fens and celebrate them for what they stand for. She explained why she thought they were fascinating because, despite many people thinking that the Fens are flat and uninteresting, they are unique, inspiring, mysterious, beautiful yet misunderstood.

Karen displayed a map showing the area of the Fens, which spreads further than most people think, and although not well defined it extends almost to Lincoln in the north, Peterborough in the west, Cambridge in the south and Kings Lynn in the east.

The presentation started with some interesting slides, beginning with “Who should love the Fens?”. They range from geologists to wildlife watchers - 1500 priority species live in the Fens including 25% of Britain’s rarest wildlife - from historians to sporting folk, architects to archaeologists, and many others, in fact everyone!

Karen’s interest started when her father talked about his family and their farming ways in the Fens, childhood visits to Wisbech castle, stories of folklore, and even muscovy ducks in Ely - all associated with the Fens - which piqued Karen’s interest and inspired her to share with others.

She was a great believer that a sense of place is large part of people’s wellbeing. When walking in towns or the countryside you find out and explore what’s around you and you feel a sense of community and belonging.

Karen asked why we should celebrate the Fens. She featured some of the unique features found there; examples included Moulton windmill – tallest in the country, Catherine of Aragon’s grave in Peterborough Cathedral, the eel

and other country festivals, and the original manuscript of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations in Wisbech museum.

All these ideas were put forward to encourage the viewers to think more deeply about the Fens and were featured in a book that Karen has recently published, titled Secret Fens. In the book Karen describes the process of gathering the information and then how she went about publishing it. She highlighted particular problems surround gaining permissions from the copyright holders and matching the words to the pictures. Also necessary is the need to compare different texts on the same subject and try to get to the original information and verifiable facts.

The title of the talk was Secret Fens but it could just as easily have been called Fascinating Fens, a name which started with Karen writing children's stories and then following with a twitter feed. It grew into a subject to draw in friends with similar ideas spreading the word about the area and encouraging people to explore the Fens through heritage, creativity, nature and wellbeing, and accessibility.



Initiatives have already included:

- Started a celebrate the Fens day in 2020, next one on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Any group can register to hold a stall, exhibition, talks all related to the Fens, must be free or donations. Already proving successful and now across the weekend. Organised walks.
- Fen Folk Fridays meetings once a month held via zoom at present but will become hybrid. Many subjects covered including farming and narrow boating.
- Community Fen Calendar, all pictures from members
- No shortage of ideas for future activities which they want to arrange with other local organisations. A future dream is to have a Fascinating Fens visitor centre.

It was clear that Karen had achieved her aim of showing the audience how special the Fens are she has inspired many of us to go out to discover more and get involved in the promotion of the Fens.

Karen concluded her talk and took many questions from the audience who showed much appreciation for her enthusiastic presentation.

*Reported by John Bownass*

**THE ADVENTURERS**  
*WITH PETER DALDORPH*  
*(HUNTINGDON BRANCH : FEB 23)*

This was our second meeting on zoom only and was attended by 40 participants.

Peter Daldorph's presentation describing the company behind the drainage of the Fens in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was very appropriate as the work transformed the area into the landscape we see today and which was the subject of our last talk entitled Secret Fens.

Peter's talk was based on the transcriptions of *The Adventurers' Minute Books*. He went on to explain that the engineering works which transformed the Fens in the 1650s was financed and managed by the Company of Adventurers. They relied on the hard work of labourers who dug the drains and built the banks; a workforce that included an army of English labourers as well as Scottish and Dutch prisoners of war.

After the civil war in England, an Act of Drayning the Great Level of the Fens was introduced in 1649, and a group of wealthy businessmen from London, led by the Earl of Bedford, set up The Adventurers company. They were amongst the most powerful men in England on the Parliamentary side and were rewarded with 95,000 acres of land in 20 lots in East Anglia as long as it was successfully drained. The estimated cost was just over £100,000 but this was quickly spent and the eventual cost was nearer £200,000. It was a constant struggle raising the money.

The Adventurers rarely visited the Fens but had middlemen to oversee the work who were known as the Takers. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden was the Director of Works but did not attend key meetings and often organised works not agreed by the company. In time there were 15,000 workers supervised by 30 or so officers.

Peter explained that the Adventurers agreed to take prisoners of war as their workers to keep in favour with the State even though there were misgivings. Following the defeat of Scottish soldiers on the battlefields of Worcester and Dunbar in 1651, hundreds of survivors were brought to Cambridgeshire as workers, followed by the transfer of 500 Dutch naval prisoners of war after their defeat at the Battle of Goodwin Sands in 1653. The conditions were harsh and the prisoners suffered brutal marches, and were corralled in insanitary prisoner-of-war camps and separated from their families and homeland without hope of return, under the threat of death should any attempt be made to escape. Food was scarce and it was no surprise that many prisoners refused to work. The whole episode did not go well.

The story of the English labourers was likewise full of complexity and conflict and many riots occurred when they were not paid.

Peter described other issues that affected the engineering works:

- Resistance from the local population due to loss of common land and fishing rights, which led to many local disturbances. In one instance in Swaffham locals filled in newly dug ditches and the troops were sent in;
- Weather which led to burst banks and flooding drainage works already completed;
- Turf cutting was stopped. Peat was used as fuel by the locals but this same land was promised to the Adventurers. Thirty thousand pieces of turf already cut were confiscated and soldiers had to be sent in to force the locals to return the land that had not been damaged;
- The Adventurers were also under the spotlight. Corruption was inevitable and many of the principal company officers did not perform to expectation and were dismissed. Two officers who managed to keep things moving were Jonas Moore, the principal surveyor and William Jessop, the accountant who was sent to audit the work in the Fens. He reported many problems including the fact that the men were often not paid as the Company did not have the money available, and management and logistics failed constantly.

Eventually it was decided that the north end of the drainage of the Fens was successful and by 1653 the southern end was also declared a success. The importance of this was that it allowed the investors to claim the land promised to them but the work did continue for many years to accomplish fully the draining of the Fens.

Peter pointed out that the very lengthy records of the Adventurers are available for download from Ely Archives including a summary of some 50 pages alone. These could prove very useful to Family History Society members as there are more than a thousand names in the records.

Peter concluded his talk and took questions from the audience. One viewer had wondered why their ancestors had moved from London to Peterborough and now thought the answer could be connected to the work available in draining the Fens.

*Reported by John Bownass.*

### **CORONATION STORIES—**

**what recollections of celebrations around previous coronations have passed down your family ... being there, or street parties, or village fetes, or watching on a tiny new-fangled television, or making scrapbooks of newspaper clippings as a school project, or dressing up to re-enacting the ceremony, or ... ???**

## A CONVICT IN THE FAMILY?

CAZ

(WILLINGHAM LIBRARY : MARCH 2023)

CHFHS was invited to give a talk at to the Engage group at Willingham Library—the topic they chose was “A Convict In The Family?”. This was not an instructional talk on convicts and how to research them, per se; rather, a richly illustrated account of how a piece of family history research about a convict who wasn’t a convict, happened to unfold (hence the “?” in the title).

The story came about quite by chance after discovering, through someone else’s work, a passing remark that a very distant relative-by-marriage had married a convict in Tasmania. This would have gone no further were there not an additional comment that the man had apparently originated from Cambridgeshire. The interest was immediately sparked as to whether more could be found as there was nothing else in the originating research—and indeed there was. Local newspapers here, reported in great detail, accounts his mis-doings and eventual sentence of “transportation for 15 years”; Ancestry, Tasmanian Archives records and newspapers carried a number of mentions of him, including the marriage to my distant relative’s cousin.

So far so good, but could more be found to expand on the man’s earlier and later life. It was now that the trail became really interesting, as it was soon evident that things didn’t add up. To cut a long story short—the man who married my relative was not a convict at all, merely someone of the same name who, incidentally, wasn’t even born when the same-name convict had arrived! He was in fact from a prominent local family in Tasmania.

What of the convict? A convincing argument can be made for him being the apparent former convict who crossed to Victoria a decade after being granted parole, and also a man who died at Ballarat a few years later.

The message was to check, check and check yet again, especially if we’re drawing on other people’s work to further your own research.

*Have they got it right!?!?*

acquired by CHFHS for  
Cambridgeshire Archives  
via an online auction

1777 Removal Order  
for Simon & Elizabeth Smith  
(Sawston to Little Shelford)

UPON the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Sawston aforefaid in the faid County of Cambridge unto us whose Names are hereunto set and Seals affixed, being two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the faid County of Cambridge and one of us of the Quorum, that

*Simon Smith and Elizabeth his Wife have*

*come to inhabit in the faid Parish of Sawston*  
*They not having gained a legal Settlement there, nor produced any Certificate owing themselves to be settled elsewhere, and that the faid Simon Smith and Elizabeth his Wife are*

likely to be chargeable to the faid Parish of Sawston thereof, as well upon the Examination of the faid *Simon Smith* upon Oath, as otherwise, and likewise upon due Consideration had of the Premises, do adjudge the same, to be true; and we do likewise adjudge, that the lawful Settlement of *them* the faid *Simon Smith and Elizabeth his wife*

## **YOUR FAMILY BACK TO 1066** *WITH DAVID COPSEY* *(BURWELL LIBRARY : MARCH 2023)*

Despite the chilly weather and sleet that day, there was an excellent turnout at Burwell Library for their “Engage” meeting to hear David Copsey talk on how he was able to discover ancestors as far back as 1066. 1066 represents approx. one’s 28<sup>th</sup> gt-gt-grandparents, give or take a generation or so, but as David stressed, how far anyone can hope to get is a matter of sheer luck.

The starting point for any research has to be what you already know either from relatives or family documents. David went on to illustrate the sorts of clues which can be gleaned from a variety of commonly held family papers such as certificates, photos, newspaper clippings, letters, memorabilia. He also urged the audience not to keep putting off contacting relatives, as the day will come when they are no longer there.

First ports of call for finding information on line tends to be BMD certificates and the censuses, while a whole raft of other sources become relevant in specific circumstances (such as wills, gravestones, newspapers, electoral rolls, and parish registers). There’s more than a fair chance of getting back to 1837/1841 when civil registration and censuses were instigated. Difficulties might be encountered should you come up against illegitimacy, emigration, plentiful surnames like Smith or Jones, frequent moves around the country. Success come with piecing together the clues—meticulous detective work!!

Between 1837 and 1538, many researchers are almost totally reliant on what can be found in parish registers, which at any point, might be insufficient to enable conclusive linkage to the preceding generation. Should, however, you find that you tap into one of the well-documented “landed” families with of the country, then it might be possible to use established records of that family’s lineage, as David has found, to get back to 1066.

David advised the members of the audience of the importance of keeping their own notes—not just the “facts” but the source of each piece of information as well (not just “I found such-and-such on Ancestry”, but that it was, say, “Islington St Mary Baptisms at the London Metropolitan Archives, via Ancestry” or “Girton Burials via Cambs & Hunts FHS transcriptions”. Also mentioned was to be aware that many websites’ holdings are periodically updated with additional or corrected material, and importantly, to understand that records are often not exactly consistent as many relied on the recording or re copying of a person’s information by a third party and errors can creep in. David concluded by saying that we can all learn from others—how do tackle problems or, with caution, see what they have discovered—and to use general history to set ancestors’ lives in their own times.

*Reported by Caz*

## **A CHIP OFF QUEEN VICTORIA'S OLD HEAD**

*WITH JOHN VIGAR*

*(MARCH BRANCH : NOV 2022)*

This intriguing title related to sculpture and in particular Count von Gleichen, Prince Victor of Hohenlohe Langenberg (1833 – 1891), a nephew and Godson of Queen Victoria. His mother Feodora, was her half-sister. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Feodora and Ernst, Prince of Hohenlohe Langenberg (1794 – 1860). After a career in the British Navy, Prince Victor took up a career as a sculptor working mainly from St James' Palace where he lived with his wife Countess Laura von Gleichen. They had four children, three daughters and a son. Prince Victor died in London before his children were obliged to give up their German titles and take on British courtesy titles by King George V during WW1.

His work can be found amongst many collections in Britain and abroad. This includes a statue of Queen Victoria at the Royal Holloway College, Egham, a statue of King Alfred at Wantage and a bust of Mary Seacole a nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, at the Institute of Jamaica. Count Gleichen started a fund for Mary Seacole after she moved to London and was declared bankrupt. Mary Seacole is shown wearing a string of pearls on the 30cm high bust, these were left in her will to one of Count Gleichen's daughters. The bust was sold in the last few years for over £100,000 to a film producer. One of Prince Victor's earliest sculptures can be found at Osbourne House, a home of Queen Victoria. This is a bronze of an Indian girl. Prince Victor's position in the royal family helped his success.

To find information on Prince Victor's life and work, John had been granted permission to work at Windsor Castle library, with access to many personal papers as well as official documents and information on the many statues and busts which were popular during the reign of Queen Victoria. Victor's success as a sculptor was helped by his position within the Royal Family.

Count Gleichen's marriage to Laura, daughter of Admiral Seymour, the Marquess of Hertford of Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, was opposed by both families but went ahead anyway. Count Gleichen had served in the Navy with Admiral Seymour. Queen Victoria was not at all pleased with the marriage, thinking the daughter of a Marquess was not of high enough rank to be married to her nephew.

Prince Victor served in the British Navy, becoming an officer in 1848. During his early time in the Navy he once was ordered to climb to the crow's nest, he fell, land on a sailor and killed him. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant during the Crimean War in 1854. In retirement (1866) he was promoted to Retired Rear Admiral, then Retired Vice Admiral and in 1887 Retired

Admiral. On his retirement he was also given the title of Knight of the Bath, Governor and Constable of Windsor Castle.

Feodora had purchased a house in Baden Baden where she entertained widely. Many of the aristocracy stayed there including Queen Victoria and often used by King Edward VII when racing. Feodora died in 1872, Queen Victoria was heartbroken at the loss of her half-sister.

Prince Victor's work was exhibited at the Royal Academy where he was ranked as a truly great sculptor. His studio was in a building facing The Mall. Robert Lloyd Lindsey, equerry to the then Prince of Wales, commissioned work from him. Lloyd Lindsey, a philanthropist, established the British Red Cross. The Prince of Wales statue at Wantage was unveiled in 1877, he was delighted. The Prince of Wales also commissioned a bronze sculpture for Queen Victoria of two of her sons. This was modelled from a photograph and is now at Sandringham House.

After Prince Victor's death in 1891 he was buried at Sunningdale Church. Although, in his will he left over £4,000 for his personal papers to be destroyed, Queen Victoria would not allow this, hence they remain at Windsor Castle where John was able to carry out his research.

*Reported by Linda Peckett*

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**THE GREAT STINK**  
*WITH DON CHISWELL*  
*(MARCH BRANCH : FEB 2023)*

At the February meeting Don Chiswell gave a presentation on 'The Great Stink – Victorian Public Health'. Great Britain was the first country to become industrialised. The 1800's saw tremendous changes to the lives of British people and the wealth of the country. The population between 1801 and 1851 grew from 10 million to 16.9 million. Those living in urban areas saw an increase in population from 3/10<sup>th</sup> of the population to 5/10<sup>th</sup>. In 1850 there were 2 million people living in Greater London in appalling conditions. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the birth rate exceeded the death rate, although infant mortality was horrendous, overcrowding became a real concern, not only in London, but in all large cities. In Nottingham there were 800 people living to the acre. Not enough housing was being built and the government approach to issues was fragmented.

Pressures on the systems built up. London had over 200,000 cess pits, and there was a lack of burial space. Cholera was rife, resulting in over 100,000 deaths in 1842. Edward Chadwick produced a report for the Royal Commission. He was well aware of the symptoms of cholera, but he thought the disease was airborne. Sanitary measures were not being dealt with. The



water of the Thames was contaminated. The Aldermen refused to clean up and chose to ignore the problem, hoping it would go away. The poet Samuel Coleridge wrote 'Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink'.

Dr. John Snow, an epidemiologist, recognised that although outbreaks of cholera occurred in breweries, workers did not succumb to the disease. Workers here were able to drink the beer rather than water. Snow had all the water pumps locked resulting in a reduction of cholera numbers. Politicians were reluctant to spend money on the problem, saying, 'do we really need it'. There were no contingency plans in place to protect the population from ill health and disease.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1858 committee members in parliament rushed from the room as the 'great stink' was too much for them to work in. Things then began to change slowly. Although by 1862 people were still queuing to collect water and 1865 saw 4276 deaths from cholera. This was the 'tipping point'. Something had to be done urgently.

Although it was 12 years before Dr. Snow's work was recognised, eventually this in turn led to Sir Joseph Bazalgette devising a system of two great intercepting sewers. Eighty miles of sewers were constructed along the Victoria Embankment. Many Victorian built sewers are still in use today. Don commented that it may soon be time for the government to decide if they are going to spend money on upgrading them. Up until the late 1900s people falling into the Thames found it very difficult to survive. Cost of modernising and updating systems is, as always a barrier. Still no contingency plans exist for systems that will become overwhelmed by volume due to the expanding population.

In the Cambridgeshire and Fenland area water sanitation didn't improve until the coming of the railway. Those with the power and wealth to put into the building of railways didn't want the workers dying of cholera.

*Reported by Linda Peckett*

### From Mike Petty's Internet Archive "Newmarket Road Scrapbook", 3 June 1903

The new municipal cemetery, which Cambridge Corporation has prepared on Newmarket Road, was opened for interments. In anticipation of the time when the general public will regard burial more from a sanitary than from a sentimental point of view, a part of the ground adjoining Ditton Lane has been reserved for the erection of a crematorium. The first interment was a child named Alfred Willet Whitmore; the coffin was borne by six young ladies and Mr Ellis Merry was the undertaker.

**Alfred Willet Whitmore**, son of William & Sissy (nee Hinson) Whitmore, a chimney sweep—was born M1902, died J1903, and baptised 30 April 1903 at St Andrew the Less. The family was then living at 1 Coldham's Lane, later moving to High St., Chesterton by 1911. By 1911, William and Cissy had lost seven of their twelve children, including Alfred; two more were born later.

**BACK TO THE LAND**  
*WITH GILL BLANCHARD*  
*(MARCH BRANCH : MARCH 2023)*

Gill provided a wealth of information on where to find records locally, nationally and on-line. The talk was based on four major land surveys, how to use them to further our knowledge of ancestors lives, how and why these provide a picture of the environment at the time and what ancestors may have owned. These are especially useful for those researching a house history. The records were: National Farm Survey 1941 – 1943; Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey 1910 – 1915; Tithe Maps and Appointments; Enclosure Maps and Awards.

Gill commenced with the **National Farms Survey** of England and Wales that took place during WW2, the purpose was to ensure sufficient food was being produced to feed the nation after lessons were learned from WW1. The first part of the survey was from 1940 – 1941 as imports of food and fertilisers had been cut drastically. The area of land under cultivation had to be increased as the country was left vulnerable needing more food to be grown. The result of this initial survey was used to ensure previously uncultivated suitable land was put to use, and farm production improved with an emphasis on moving away from dairy farming to growing more vegetables, soft fruit and grain. Once this data had been used the government conducted a more general survey 1941 – 1943 with a longer term purpose of providing data for post war planning. This was seen at the time as a 'Second Doomsday Book'.

Included were farm holdings, market gardens, fruit farms over 5 acres etc. In all 300,000 farms were surveyed, 6,000 people collected data – many of them volunteers. This survey is only available at the National Archives. It contains a wealth of information on the house/area where ancestors may have lived. Each parish filed their information. Each plot is marked on the map with a reference number corresponding with the written documents.

An example was given of Stuston, Suffolk in 1941. No labour is listed. Gill showed copies of maps divided into areas linked to the documents. She explained that copies of both cannot always be found. Information documented related to tied cottages and where the Land Army was employed. Another example given was for Aylesford in Kent with a document listing the type of crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers, crops (not potatoes), orchards, fallow land and grass areas between trees. The livestock listed were pigs, cattle, horses and poultry. Information had been compiled by the farmer and included the labour – 9 full time men over the age of 21, 2 full time men aged 18 - 21, 1 full time under the age of 18, no female or casual labour. Large farms were both rented by tenant farmers

and owned. The survey contains names and addresses of these plus lists of machinery, tractors etc.; the length of time the farm had been occupied by the farmer, amount of rent etc. All this is valuable information for those seeking information on their ancestors.

**Inland Revenue Valuation Survey 1910 – 1920**, also known as the ‘Lloyd George Doomsday’ as it was the first national land survey since 1086. This consists of 3 documents—a map, field book and register and lists owners, occupiers, plot sizes and ratable value. Some of these records are available at local county records offices and some only at the National Records Office. Increasingly, some are available on-line. The survey took place due to the need to raise money under the Administration Finance Act to pay for the first national pension and plans for the first unemployment benefit.

The first Old Age Pension Act 1908 – 5 shillings per week, was means tested, payable to those earning under £21 per year on a sliding scale up to £31/10/- per year. Those eligible had to be resident in the UK for 20 years and subject to behavioural tests. A person could not deliberately decrease their income, be imprisoned or convicted under the Inebriates Act. The National Insurance Act 1911 provided unemployment benefit for the first time. This only applied to designated cyclical industries e.g. building and was part of wider social welfare reforms.

Large estates paid 20% of the value of their estates as they had increased in value through no effort. This Whole Land Tax was a short lived tax that was abolished following the 1920 Finance Act. The survey took longer than anticipated to complete; in 1912 a streamlining process was ordered. Some of these records, including register books and, maps are available at local records offices if they have survived, and some only available at The National Archives. These have begun to be digitised on the Genealogist Website. Details were recorded in a register/book by local officers; plots were outlined in colour, numbered and recorded in a book along with the reference number, size and ratable value. Any later additions or corrections appear in red ink. 1907 maps are not drawn to scale whereas Ordnance Survey maps are to scale – 25” scale or smaller for large areas and 50” scale for towns and small areas. The maps contain symbols, for example a braced plot could be interrupted by a footpath etc.

*Reported by Linda Peckett*

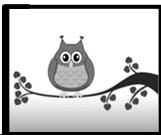


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## LAST WORD

### Coincidences & Serendipity

**Are you a believer??** We could ponder on the chances of being related to a random stranger. It goes without saying that the likelihood is, of course, very greatly increased when peoples' ancestors are from the same area.

The further we dig into a particular family, the more we can come know who our increasingly distant relatives are if, that is, the requisite paper trail has fallen into place. It's certainly not impossible to be aware of present-day descendants from common ancestors in the C17<sup>th</sup> or even earlier. So, although many people's ancestors will have moved away from the "home" area, in each generation many did not and some of their descendants many have continued to circulate around this home area over the subsequent decades. If we did but know it, we could even find ourselves living next door to, say, a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> cousin!! On the other hand, with the wealth of genealogical websites out there, it can be as easy to trace a relatives to the other side of the world, as it is to find a family who disappeared into the depths of London or any of the growing industrial cities whose unprecedented growth initially came about through drawing in workers from rural areas. The difference in fortunes between descendants of "movers" and "stayers" can be quite marked—some as wealthy farmers with others as slum dwellers, perhaps?

The wider we take our researches on the wider families of siblings, and say, something of the families of everyone's spouses—the more we might find coincidences. One such encounter could be the finding that a particular census record is arrived at from two different directions (the "I've been here before" scenario) where, perhaps, a visitor's host family turn out to be relatives, and vice versa. Another frequently encountered situation concerns executors named in probate calendars—while same-surname folk are a bit of a give-away and solicitors or bank clerks unlikely, it can be useful to look into establishing their identities. Many can be shown to be brothers-in-law, nephews, grandsons, married daughters or sisters, nieces, cousins—finding such relatives may help confirm marriages (eg. that daughter Mary did marry a Mr Jones) or open up a hitherto unknown branch. The effort does pay off!!

**O**ur 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*

## MEMBERSHIP

The Society offers a regular programme of meetings designed to appeal to the specialist and beginner alike; the quarterly members' journal is also 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 CHFHS website via debit/credit card or PayPal, or by DirectDebit; alternatively, sterling cheque/etc payable to *Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society*, should be sent to the Secretary. Changes of address/email, members' interests contributions, to the Membership Secretary, please. See p52 for contacts.

## SEARCHABLE RECORDS & SHOP

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

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

Visit **"AncestorFinder"** at : [www.chfhs.org.uk](http://www.chfhs.org.uk)

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

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

## RESEARCH SERVICES

The Society will undertake a limited amount of help for members who have reached a sticking point in their research. This can be done in two ways :-

- # general enquiries can be addressed to the Secretary by email [secretary@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chfhs.org.uk) (or by post, with an SAE please)
- # more detailed requests should be sent to our Research Team, preferably by email, via the request form on the website [research@chfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@chfhs.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. BMDs, census, par reg, a family tree, Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc)**

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (2018)

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