

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists



GENEALOGY OF THE FOX FAMILY Volume 34 Number 2 Jun 2022



Society of Genealogists

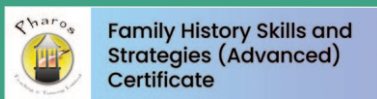
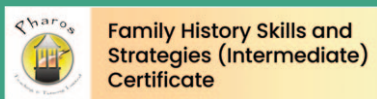
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SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

With a bit of luck the brief warm period we experienced at Easter has blossomed into full-blown Summer by the time you are reading this. It's a lovely time to take our research outdoors, whether reading, updating our trees or, in my case, writing everything down and making a list of archives I'd like to visit. Now that we are venturing out and about a bit more, I'm delighted that I shall have the chance to meet some of you at our AGM on Saturday 2nd July. The Society's team has worked extremely hard to run two AGMs in the space of eight months, which has been a challenge, so do bear with us as we run our first hybrid AGM, welcoming members to our temporary premises as well as online.

As this edition goes to press we are awaiting news on our potential new premises, and, as we have been saying for rather longer than we had wanted to, we shall let you know as soon as we can. In the meanwhile, we have started to invite members and volunteers back to our offices and are making the first tranche of our digitized parish registers available on site or through a scan on demand system. As we progress through the year, we shall be adding the parish registers and monumental inscriptions collections.

I do hope that you have had a chance to look at the first twenty pedigree rolls online in our TreeSearch™, which really brings these masterpieces to life. As ever we are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, and especially to Alan Pursell, who has devoted so much time, energy and expertise to this project. Our collection of memorial cards has also gone online, creating a fascinating insight into this funeral practice and posing intriguing questions about the lives of those who were being commemorated in this way. Again, some of the cards are fascinating in their artistic appeal and are certainly candidates for an exhibition, once we are in our permanent home.

I've been very lucky to have had some great conversations with a number of organisations which recognise the appeal and importance of family history and genealogy. As historians of the family, of local history and as social historians, our research and findings are part of a wider movement of those interested in the past. Over the coming months, the Society will be renewing and forging relationships, for the benefit of the genealogical communities and our members. We hope that you will enjoy the opportunities and partnerships we are creating.

We are also really proud of working with the Federation of Family History Societies to host a joint inaugural conference, The Future of Genealogy: Young Genealogists at the Helm, which brought together younger people from across the world along with genealogists interested in supporting this next generation. If genealogists can't work across generations, then I don't know who can!

Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA
Chief Executive



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GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE



Volume 34 Number 2 Jun 2022 Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

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Cover picture: *Genealogy of the Fox Family of Cornwall*. From the Society's Collection.

Includes note: 'Those marked † are dead. Intermarriages are shown by a dotted line. Those retaining the Fox name are shown in circles. The leaves contain the descendants of the female branches who have lost the name. Francis & Dorothy Fox - Orange, First Generation - Red, Second D° - Lilac, Third D° - Pink, Fourth D° - Blue, Fifth D° - Green, Sixth D° - Yellow, Seventh D° = Brown.'

The Society of Genealogists does not necessarily agree with, support or promote any opinion or representation by contributors to *Genealogists' Magazine*. Please note that some terminology that appears in this publication is the language of the time and is used in the historical context.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF CAPTAIN JOHN FARMER MONKHOUSE

Michael Hill

Family historians have always used newspapers as much as they could but until recently they were the proverbial haystack and it was very difficult to find our needles unless you had a clear idea of what you were looking for - and a date. Now that so many newspapers are online a simple keyword search will often produce entries you could never have found - or guessed at. The following refers to an *attempted* murder and so the search would not have been triggered by a death certificate or led to a coroner's inquest. Yet the details given, including a good deal of 'I said/He said' provide pretty well the script for a TV play of the night in question.

One of the interesting aspects is that different newspapers reported different things and that must be my excuse for the fact that some material is repeated. Other evidence comes from the eventual trial at the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court (records also now thankfully online).

In fact I have no connection to these people. I was researching the history of the relief of the poor in Fulham and Hammersmith (then Middlesex, now London) and came across Dr Thomas Perfect, the first surgeon to attend the wounded John Farmer Monkhouse because the usual medical men were not available. The paupers in the Fulham Workhouse complained about the way Dr Perfect treated them so I attempted to discover how old he was (in his 80s). And that led to this...

The Standard newspaper (London, 6 October 1849) carried the headline 'HORRIBLE ATTEMPT AT PARRICIDE':

'Late on Thursday night [4 October] the neighbourhood of Chiswick and Hammersmith¹ was thrown into a state of excitement by it becoming known that a dreadful attempt at assassination had been made at the home of Captain John Farmer Monkhouse.'

Lloyd's Weekly newspaper (London, 7 October 1849), under the heading 'PARRICIDE AT CHISWICK', reported that:

'Within a short half-mile of the Hammersmith Suspension-bridge, on the Middlesex shore, and in a handsome villa residence on the bank of the Thames, has resided for some years past a gentleman named Monkhouse, formerly in the navy, but who, on inheriting a large patrimony, retired to Chiswick, in which neighbourhood several members of his family have resided during the last century. This gentleman, continued *The Standard*, "had three sons and two daughters by his first wife, who died twenty years ago". He subsequently married again, one son being the issue of this marriage. Since 1840 he has resided at Chiswick with his two daughters and his son by the second wife. The eldest son by the first marriage, John, has lived at the adjoining village for some years past; the second, Henry - who figures so unfortunately in this narrative - followed his father's profession and has made several voyages to India and elsewhere - while the third, Frederick [actually Francis], was apprenticed to an army clothier.'

The Examiner (London) and *The Northern Star & National Trades Journal* (Leeds) in their editions of 6 October, reported that:

'Late on Thursday night Captain Monkhouse himself was the unfortunate victim of this horrible crime, and the perpetrator was his second son, Henry Monkhouse, a sailor, twenty-seven years of age, who is now in custody.'

The incident caused a sensation, which - to use an anachronism - went viral. It was reported within two days, also in *The Morning Post* (London); four days later in *The Morning Chronicle*; six days later in *The Derby Mercury* and *The Manchester Times*; eight days later, in *The Hull Packet & East*

Riding Times, *The Glasgow Herald* and *The Freeman's Journal, Dublin*; and sixteen days later in *The Daily News* and *The Times* (both London) and between 9 November and 22 December in *The Chelmsford Chronicle*, *The Bristol Mercury* and *The Illustrated London News*.

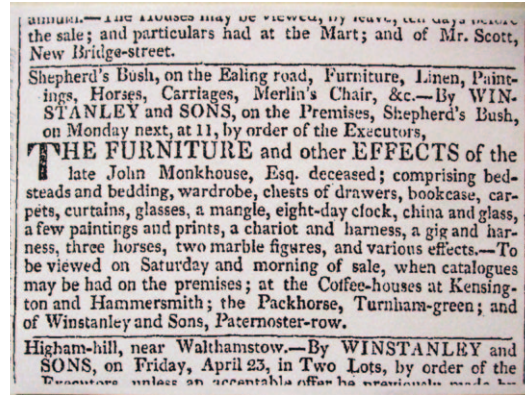
While the reports of the various newspapers agree on the very basic facts, there are major discrepancies in their reports of many other significant facts, making it impossible to decide which of the reports were accurate. I have included here facts which have been confirmed by further research or which are considered most likely to be accurate.

The report in *The Northern Star* stated that:

'The occurrence took place about half-past ten o'clock [p.m.], when a cab drove up to the outer gate of the premises, and the bell was rung by the cabman. It was answered by one of the female servants, whom the cabman told that a gentleman in the cab wished to see Mr. Monkhouse. The servant went in with the message, and in a minute or two afterwards Captain Monkhouse came to the front door. On seeing him, the son, who was inside the cab, exclaimed - 'I see him; there he is;' sprang out of the cab, and instantly discharged a pistol at his parent, which took effect in his neck. Mr. Monkhouse, senior, immediately fell, and at that moment a second pistol was discharged, which, however, lodged in the ceiling of the hall. The son then jumped into the cab, which was immediately driven off in the direction of Acton. Mr. Perfect², surgeon, of Hammersmith-terrace, was sent for, and, on examination, it was found that a ball had entered the front of the neck, and passing the windpipe and the carotid artery, had passed out under the right ear, and was found in the nape of the neck. The prisoner was captured the same night, at the *Bell* public-house, Ealing, from which he was removed to the head [police] station, where he arrived before twelve o'clock [midnight]. On him were found a pistol, several bullets, percussion caps, and some gunpowder. The prisoner was brought for examination at Hammersmith police court on Friday [an error for Saturday] and remanded until Wednesday next, [10 October]. Up to a late hour last night, the wounded gentleman was still living.'

The report in *The Northern Star* continues:

'The following particulars may be relied upon as correct. The grandfather of Mr. Monkhouse, senior, realised a very large fortune - upwards of £100,000 - as an army clothier in Coventry-street.'



Sale of John Farmer's Effects: The Morning Chronicle, Issue 15573, 30 March 1819.

The Morning Chronicle reported that:

'The original John Monkhouse, the great-grandfather of the assassin, who was a tailor in Coventry-street, amassed a very large fortune - £200,000, it is said - chiefly by discounting bills for young military officers, at a high rate of interest. He bequeathed the whole of his property to his two sons, one of whom died before his father. The second son was the father of the unfortunate gentleman, whose death there is too much reason to believe will soon be recorded, and the great bulk of the property was entailed upon the eldest son of this latter gentleman, Mr. John Monkhouse, of Castlebar-hall, Ealing, elder brother of the accused.'

According to *The Northern Star*:

'The family [of John Farmer Monkhouse] for some time past appeared to have lived very unhappily. The accused, who is the second son, was sent to sea as midshipman at an early age, but through misconduct, as it is alleged, forfeited his father's good opinion, and for the last six or seven years has been engaged as a common seaman in the merchant service. He had only landed at Liverpool from his last voyage on the 20th ult. [i.e., September 1849] and on Tuesday last [2 October] he went down to Chiswick to see his friends.

Mr. Monkhouse, senior, it appears, received him unkindly, and upbraided him for daring to show his face after the insult he had offered to his [step-] mother³ and sisters some twelve months previously, in bringing home to Chiswick an abandoned woman, and introducing her to his family.'

According to *The Morning Chronicle*, the son had described the woman 'as a captain's daughter and introduced [her] as his future wife to his family. The young man, irritated by his father's conduct, left in a passion, and was not again heard of until he breakfasted with his grandmother, a respectable lady named Piper⁴, residing at Shepherd's-bush.'

The 'grandfather of Mr. Monkhouse, senior,' referred to in *The Northern Star*, was also named John Monkhouse. He was probably born about 1725, and possibly in Cumberland. It is very likely that he was the first member of the family to come down from Cumberland and to move to Shepherd's Bush, where he had a house built, which he named 'Cumberland House', and named the site 'Cumberland Place', presumably because his family originated in Cumberland.

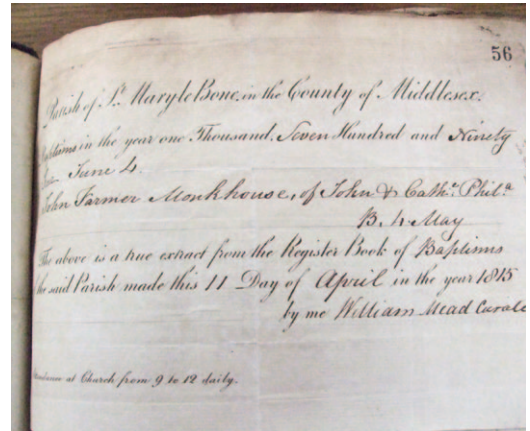
At the time of the 1841 and the 1851 censuses, Henry Bathurst Monkhouse's grandmother, the 'respectable lady named Piper', referred to above, was living in Cumberland House. She was Ann Lydia, née Monkhouse, the daughter of John and Jane Monkhouse. She was born on 5 July 1781, and baptised in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster. She married Robert Piper in 1799, in St. Paul's, Hammersmith and died in Hammersmith in 1856.

There is no doubt that John Farmer's grandfather was wealthy. He died in Hammersmith in September 1818 and his will refers to:

'all my freeholds, messuages and tenements ... situate and being at Shepherd's Bush ... my leaseholds messuages tenements in Gloucester Street in the Parish of Saint Mary le bone ... my Tenement and Premises situate in John Street, Adelphi, in the County of Middlesex, now occupied for the use of the Society for the management of Arts and Commerce.'

The 'John Street', referred to is now John Adam Street and runs parallel to the Strand. The Society

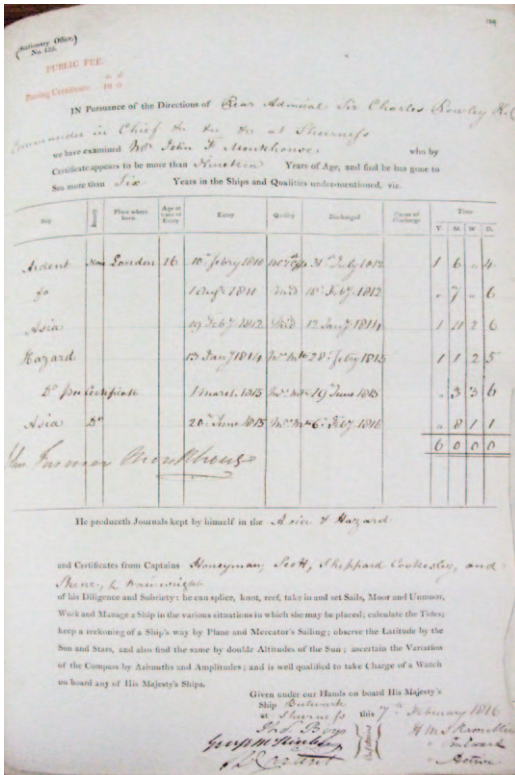
referred to, now known as 'The Royal Society for Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce', (the 'RSA'), is still situated there, at No. 8 Adam Street (which is not John Adam Street), in the very same building which was owned by John Monkhouse at his death. The Society moved into its new premises, purpose built by the brothers James and Robert Adam, in 1774. Even in the early 19th century the building would have been an extremely valuable asset.



Baptism certificate of John Farmer Monkhouse: ADM/6/114/56

John Farmer Monkhouse, the victim of the attempted assassination, was born on 4 June 1794 and baptised at St Marylebone, the first child of John Monkhouse and Catherine Philadelphia Farmer, who were married at St Marylebone on 20 June 1793. According to his Royal Naval records he was a seaman in the Royal Navy between 1809 to 1815 when he was aged from 14 to 21 years. He qualified as a midshipman, a naval officer of the rank between naval cadet and sub-lieutenant. He certainly never held a captaincy. *The Examiner* correctly stated that 'Mr. Monkhouse, senior, has no claim whatever to the title of "Captain"'. It is not known when or why he assumed the rank of captain, though the significance of his claiming the title will become apparent later.

John Farmer Monkhouse married Jane Mary Piper at Hammersmith on 30 September, 1819. She was the daughter of Robert Piper and Ann Lydia Monkhouse so they were cousins. Robert and Ann Lydia lived in Shepherd's Bush but Robert's will of 1837 mentions a farm and land in Ruspur, Sussex, and they too were well off.



Royal Naval Record of John Farmer Monkhouse: ADM/107/48/109

Jane Mary Monkhouse died in 1831 and her death was announced in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*:

'DIED: At Margate - Jane Mary, wife of John Farmer Monkhouse, Esq. of Shepherd's-bush, in her 31st year, only daughter of Robert Piper, Esq. of the same place.'

Most probably she had gone to Margate in the hope of a cure, benefitting from the sea air. She was buried at Hammersmith on 14 July 1831.

John and Jane had five children:

- John Robert b.1820 Turnham Green
- Henry Bathurst b.1821 Turnham Green
- Augusta Matilda b.1823 Turnham Green
- Jane Mary b.1824 Shepherd's Bush
- Francis Tillet b.1826 Hammersmith

John remarried Mary Lewis on 3 October 1832 and they had one child:

- William Thomas b.1834 Hammersmith.

There was clearly some problem within the family: *The Morning Chronicle* reported:

'The result of careful enquiries, made upon the spot by our reporter, proves, to demonstration, that the wretched young man's attempt on his father's life arose from family differences of a very painful nature, which have long existed between Mr. Monkhouse, senior, and his sons by his first marriage, more especially the young man now in custody. It appears that this youth was apprenticed in 1838 to the naval service, and made his first voyage as a midshipman in the *John Fleming*, East Indiaman^s, under Captain Ross. He continued in the same ship two or three years, and served one year as second officer. A few years ago, the vessel in which he then sailed was wrecked, and he lost everything he possessed, saving his life with considerable difficulty. On arriving at Liverpool, he wrote to his father, requesting to be supplied with another outfit. Mr. Monkhouse refused to afford his son any assistance. This circumstance seems to have rankled on the mind of the young man, and, although he has occasionally visited his family since, on returning home from sea, there never has been any degree of amity between his father and himself. The breach previously existing was widened about eighteen months since, by an unfortunate proceeding on the part of the young man. On returning home from sea in March 1848, he went down to Chiswick, taking with him a young woman, whom he described as a captain's daughter, and introduced as his intended wife to the members of his family. The real character of this young lady, was soon observed, and, as a matter of course, Mr. Monkhouse, senior, was exceedingly indignant and turned both his son and his chère amie out of the house. The young man soon shipped himself again, and nothing more was heard of him until he presented himself at his father's house on Sunday night last [30 September 1849]. As already described, Mr. Monkhouse, senior, upbraided him with his conduct, and expressed his astonishment that he should dare to show his face at home after having insulted his mother and sister in the manner we have detailed. The young man was very excited at his father's conduct, and they parted on the worst possible terms.'

According to the *The Northern Star*

'The young man, irritated by his father's conduct, left in a passion, and was not again heard of until Thursday morning, when he breakfasted with his grandmother, a

respectable lady named Piper⁶, residing in Shepherd's Bush.' [Ann Lydia, nee Monkhouse, as we know.]

The whereabouts and behaviour of Henry earlier on 4 October 1849, the day of the attempted murder, are known from evidence given by his brother Francis, when the case came before the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court. He stated:

'I am the prisoner's younger brother, and live at 83 East Smithfield. I cannot say whether I saw him on 3 October. I saw him on the 4th, about three o'clock in the afternoon. I went with him to a fishmonger's, and we had some oysters, and bread and butter. We stayed there I should say half an hour. During that time he was most curious in his manners - he attended to every customer that came - he made observations at the people that were passing, and stopped at the shop - we went from thence to many public-houses - He had brandy to drink the whole time - I should say he had at least twelve or fourteen glasses - he had no water to it - I tried to restrain him, that was why I went with him from house to house - he appeared quite intoxicated - he went up to a man who was eating something in the street, and offered to give him something to drink - this continued until about five or half past - I recommended him to take some tea to counteract the effects of the liquor, and we went into a coffee-house for that purpose - while it was getting ready, he put his hand to his head and complained of feeling a great swimming, and he fell immediately on the table, with his hands and head together - he seemed to be quite in a state of stupor - when the tea came, I awoke him, and the blood rushed to his face, and his

face was a deep crimson, so much so that I felt quite terrified, and asked him what was the matter with him - after that we went out of the house, he staggered - I asked him to come and have part of my bed - as we went along we came to the *Three Tuns* public-house - he said he was going to sleep there, and got rid of me; it was about half-past five when I left him - at that time he was quite intoxicated, extremely so.'

Henry's behaviour later that day, after he left his brother, is known from evidence, given by the cab driver, whom Henry hired to take him to his father's house, 1 The Mall, Chiswick. William Anderton stated:

'I am a cab-driver. On 4th October I was first cab on the stand in the Minories. About seven or eight o'clock I saw the prisoner coming towards the cab. I asked him if he wanted a cab. He said, yes, he wanted to go to Chiswick. I agreed to take him there for 14s. [shillings] and to stop at any [public]-house on the road he wished for. He appeared at that time as though he had been drinking.

Before we started, we went into a public-house. He asked me to have something to drink, and I had a glass of rum, and, while I was drinking it, he went into the parlour and stayed there a few minutes. I went and opened the door, and looked in, and saw he had some silver [coins] before him on the table, and, as I looked in, he put his hand over it, and looked round at me. I spoke to the landlady. Two or three minutes after that we started. We stopped at a great number of places on the road. I went in at most of the places and had something to drink. The prisoner also had something



Cedar Lodge, Chiswick Mall: Photographed by M. Hill



Front Door of Cedar Lodge: Photographed by M. Hill

to drink. The last public-house we stopped at, before we got to Chiswick, was at the *Black Lion* at the bottom of the lane on the left. I do not think he had anything to drink there. When he came out of the *Black Lion*, he got on the box with me. He gave me no reason for that. He told me to go round the corner to the right. We had not got a great way before he said, 'Pull up here.' That was at the gate of a garden, in front of the house. It was then about ten o'clock. It might be a little before or after; it was dark. I had no light to my cab, nor was there any light at the gate that I remember. He told me to ring the bell and ask for Mr. Monkhouse, and if he was at home, to tell him there was a gentleman from town who wished to see him. I did so. A female came and opened the door. I delivered the prisoner's message. She asked me the gentleman's name. I said, 'I don't know', and looked round towards the cab. He was then off the cab, and at the other side of it. The female then shut the gate and went closer up the pathway to wait, and I heard the report of some fire-arms. I think I heard it twice; I could not be positive. About two or three minutes after hearing the reports, the prisoner came, swaggering-like, out of the gate, and got on the cab, and said, 'Go on to the top of the lane.' I asked him what that noise was that I heard; that I heard the report of some firearms. He said, 'It is not here; there has been nothing of the sort here.'

I drove to the top of the lane, and, at the first public-house I came to in the main road, I pulled up to demand the fare of the prisoner. I asked him to pay me the fare; that I had brought him to Chiswick according to agreement. He said, 'I want to go to the *Bell* at Ealing: drive me to the *Bell* at Ealing, and I will give you a sovereign altogether.' I did so. It was about three or four miles across the country, up a lane'.

According to *The Derby Mercury*, under its headline, 'A FATHER SHOT BY HIS SON',

'Information was then given to the police on duty near the house, and was immediately forwarded to the head [police] station at Brook Green, Hammersmith, with a description of the son. Inspector Jecks, T division, who was on duty at the head station, instantly despatched police-constable Henry Reason, T 247, one of the mounted-patrol, in the direction the cab had taken, and copies of the description of the accused were also forward by constables in cabs to the nearest stations of each of the other divisions, with directions to take instant measures to secure the fugitive.'

Continuing with the evidence of the cab driver:

'I, at last, got into the high road leading to Ealing from London. He said 'I will pay you when you get there.' He said, 'Straight on, straight on, I will show you.' Pursuing that road, we came to the *Bell*. He went in, and asked me to have something to drink. We each had a glass of brandy. I asked him to settle with me, for it was my time to get home. He said, 'I want to go to my brother's house, up this lane; drive me there and I will pay you.' That was a lane nearly opposite the *Bell*. I did so. He got outside the cab again. I drove him to a house on the left-hand side, three quarters of a mile up that lane. The prisoner got down there, and I also. The prisoner rang the bell several times, I should say ten or a dozen times, and got no answer. He then told me to drive back to the *Bell* at Ealing, and then I should be paid. I took him back. He got upon the box again. When we got to the *Bell*, we both went in. I asked him pay me my fare. He said, 'I will pay you.' He put his hand into his pocket, and walked into the back room - during that time someone called: 'You Cab, cab here!' I looked out at the door, and saw a policeman on horseback, who took him into custody. I then took him from there to the station-house at Hammersmith.'

According to *The Derby Mercury*, the:

'promptitude of action [of the constables] is mainly attributed to the caption of the assassin by the patrol Reason, at the *Bell* public-house, Ealing, from which he was removed to the head station, where he arrived before 12 o'clock. On him were found a pistol, several bullets, percussion caps, and some gunpowder. The prisoner made no answer to the charge when it was read to him at the station, and he was then removed to one of the lock-ups, a constable being placed in attendance with him during the night in order to prevent any attempt at self-destruction.'

The Standard, under its headline, 'HORRIBLE ATTEMPT AT PARRICIDE', stated:

'HAMMERSMITH POLICE COURT - Friday, [5 October 1849]. Long before the hour appointed for the opening of the court (2 o'clock) a large crowd had assembled outside, anxious to obtain admission to hear the examination of the prisoner, who was brought from the station-house on Brook-green, about half an hour before. Mr. Beadon, the sitting magistrate, took his seat on the bench at two o'clock precisely, when

those who were concerned in the case were admitted into the body of the court, which could not hold above 30 or 40 persons. Shortly afterwards the prisoner was placed at the bar. He appeared to be about 5 feet 7 inches high, stout-made, and florid complexion, with dark brown hair. Throughout the examination he maintained the utmost composure, and seemed utterly careless about the painful situation in which he was placed. The charge entered on the police sheet was follows: 'Henry Bathurst Monkhouse, aged 27 years, a mariner, charged with discharging a loaded pistol at John Farmer Monkhouse, in the parish of Chiswick, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.'

According to *The Standard*:

'Elizabeth Baines was the first witness called. She deposed that she was at the service of Captain Monkhouse. She knew the prisoner at the bar, who was the second son of her master. On the previous night, shortly after ten o'clock, she answered a ring at the gate bell, and on opening it, saw a cabman standing there and a cab in the road. The cabman asked her if Captain Monkhouse was at home; and on her replying in the affirmative, he said a gentleman in the cab wished to speak with him. She shut the gate to go and tell her master, whom she met in the door way of the house, and told him what the cab man had said. Captain Monkhouse desired her to go and ask the name of the gentleman, and she went back to the gate, and asked the cabman what the gentleman's name was. The cabman replied he did not know; and, at that instant, the prisoner rushed past them, exclaiming, 'I'm a Monkhouse, and I'll speak to him.' She then saw the prisoner rush forwards towards her master, and directly heard two shots go 'bang, bang'. Witness saw her master fall, and the prisoner instantly bounced out of the gate, while she went to her master's assistance, and found him crawling on his hands and knees into the front parlour.'

Only one newspaper, *The Hull Packet*⁷ mentions the reaction of Mrs. Monkhouse, John's second wife, Mary:

'The report of the fire-arms summoned Mrs. Monkhouse, with the other members of her family, to the scene of the outrage, where she discovered her unhappy husband prostrate on the ground, and bleeding profusely from a wound in his throat. Medical assistance was instantly procured.'

The Standard also reported the evidence of Mr. Thomas W. C. Perfect, the first surgeon called in. He was fetched about quarter past 10 o'clock by Miss Monkhouse⁸. On reaching the house, he found Captain Monkhouse very faint and vomiting blood. On examining his neck, he found that a ball had passed through the black stock, [a type of cravat], the captain wore at the time, and perforated the flesh of the neck exactly over the thyroid cartilage of the windpipe and came out a little posteriorly, where it was found among the clots of blood in the collar of the shirt.

The report continues:

'Witness [Mr. Perfect] gave up the case on the arrival of Mr. Halford, of the firm Bowling and Halford, surgeons, of Hammersmith... The prisoner was remanded until Wednesday next [10 October 1849].'

The Freeman's Journal & Daily Commercial Advertiser, reported the brief second examination of the prisoner:

'Very few persons were outside the court, and but few were admitted within its confined and forbidding precincts. The accused, when placed at the bar, looked about the court, as if to ascertain if any one with whom he was acquainted was present. He did not, however, recognise any one. He seemed perfectly composed. His face wears a determinate obstinate expression. Inspector Jecks reported of John Monkhouse that the constitutional disturbances produced by the wound in his throat are considerably abated, but, while the wound itself continues in its present state, he must be considered in danger, and quite unable to attend the police court. The magistrate therefore remanded the prisoner until this day week [17 October]. The accused slightly bowed, and was immediately removed in the police-van to the house of correction.'

Obviously it mattered whether Henry Monkhouse had killed his father or only attempted to kill him.

Henry appeared again on 17 October when *The Daily News*⁹ reported that 'His appearance was that of an able-bodied seaman in the full enjoyment of robust health. His coolness of demeanour and self-possession were remarkable'. Inspector Jecks reported that Mr Monkhouse 'is

going on well. His general health is improved, and the wound is suppurating kindly; but he is not yet in a state to be removed’.

Henry appeared again on October 24:

‘Throughout the short space of time he was before the court, he maintained his composure, was then removed, and at five o’clock was reconveyed in the van to the House of Detention.’

Mr Monkhouse was still not well enough to attend and the case was adjourned again, until October 31 and then adjourned again, for the same reason, until November 6. However, on October 31 the magistrate had observed:

‘that an erroneous opinion very generally prevailed in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith and Chiswick that Mr. Monkhouse could, if he thought proper, refuse to appear to prosecute his son; but it ought to be understood that in such cases the law was imperative, and would compel his attendance when he is sufficiently recovered. Mr. Monkhouse himself could not entertain such a notion - he was a gentleman of too much education - he was too well informed to have such an erroneous opinion; he could not any more than any other person, refuse to prosecute his son, and he was quite sure that it would not be at all necessary to have recourse to rigorous measures, in order to enforce his appearance; and he mentioned the subject, not for Mr. Monkhouse’s information, but merely to remove an unfounded public impression.’

At this hearing Henry’s brother asked for permission to visit Henry and this was granted.

The final examination of Henry Bathurst Monkhouse and his committal was held on Tuesday, 6 November 1849, and was reported, at great length in both *The Freeman’s Journal* and *The Chelmsford Chronicle*. A much shorter report was published in *The Bristol Mercury*:

‘The evidence of the cabman, the housemaid, &c., having been taken, the father was brought in from the magistrate’s private room. He appeared to be nearly recovered from the effect of his injuries, of which there was not the slightest appearance visible, as the witness wore round his neck a black silk handkerchief.

The father repeated the story as we already know it and:

‘Mr. Monkhouse then retired. The prisoner, while his father was in court, although he stood close to him, never once looked towards his parent... The prisoner was committed for trial at the next Central Criminal Court, the charge being feloniously shooting, with intent to murder.’

Henry Monkhouse appeared at the Old Bailey on Wednesday 28 November 1849. *Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper* reported that the trial was postponed because Henry’s solicitor said that ‘it would be necessary to make some inquiries with regard to the prisoner’s state of mind’.

Henry’s trial was (finally!) held on Monday December 17 1849 and he was charged with ‘feloniously discharging a loaded pistol at John Farmer Monkhouse, with intent to murder him; other Counts stating his intent to maim and disable, and to do grievous bodily harm’. William Anderton, the cab-driver, and Elizabeth Baines, the servant, gave their evidence again and John Monkhouse himself then testified. His account of the actual shooting was the same as we know but then he continued:

‘I had seen my son about a week before this occurred. He came to my house. Nothing very particular passed between us on that occasion, only I told him he should not sleep at my house that night. I was not exactly on good terms with him. He was a sailor in the merchant service. I had been in the navy in early life. I was a midshipman, and master’s mate. I have quitted the service ever since 1816. The prisoner was apprenticed in the merchant service when he was between fifteen and sixteen. He is now twenty-eight...

I think he went to sea in 1838. He went out as a common sailor. I do not know what they made of him on board ship. He was bound apprentice to learn the sea, as it is called. It might be twelve months before he returned from his first voyage, or more. I cannot exactly say. He went to sea again, still as an apprentice. He has been out of his apprenticeship for some time. Since that time, he has been a common sailor, I believe. I am not certain about it, either way or the other. I do not exactly know when he came home from his last voyage. It might be three weeks before this. I do not know where he had come from. I

had not heard where he had been to. He had been away about a year and a half. I had not ascertained where he was. I was never a common sailor myself. The first vessel he went in was bound for India, I believe. I do not know, for certain, it is so long ago. He had been at school previous, at Mr. Have's, Burlington-house, Hammersmith; that is a school for young gentlemen. His mother was a gentlewoman. I believe she was not a woman of fortune. I had seen my son about a week before this occurred.; that was in the evening, it might be about six o'clock. He wanted to sleep at my house. I declined allowing him to do so, and he went away. He was apparently sober then.'

The Court asked: 'Did you state your reason for not letting him sleep there' and John answered 'I did, because I thought he ought to have written a letter of apology for his conduct to me, previous to his going to sea the last time.'

John Farmer Monkhouse was not cross-examined as to why an apology was needed but several newspapers had reported that, prior to his last voyage, Henry called at his father's house with an abandoned woman, and that (to repeat) 'the real character of this young lady was soon observed, and, as a matter of course, Mr. Monkhouse, senior, was exceedingly indignant and turned both his son and his chère amie out of the house'. That and John's supercilious comment that his son was a common sailor but that he had never been a common sailor himself seem to go a long way towards explaining Henry's long-term resentment.

Henry Reason (policeman, T 247) told the story of Henry's arrest:

'On Thursday night, 4th Oct., in consequence of a complaint made to me, I went to the *Bell* at Ealing, and found the prisoner there. I think I got there at near twelve o'clock. Found him in a room on the left hand. I do not know whether it was a parlour or not. He was walking up and down the room. I think there was another person there. I do not know who he was. I asked the prisoner if his name was Monkhouse. He said it was not. I then said; 'I suspect you are the man I want. I shall take you to the station'. He asked me what I wanted of him. I asked him again if his name was Monkhouse. He said, 'No,' and I took him to the station. As I was going out of the door, I met another

constable, and we led him between us, walking, to the station, which was about fifty yards. He had been drinking a great deal. When we got to the station we searched him, and found this pistol, which was unscrewed, and one barrel in his coat-pocket, and these bullets I found in his waistcoat-pocket, and a small quantity of powder, and a dozen and a half of copper caps in his breast pocket. I tried the bullets to the pistol, and they fitted. On Sunday, the 7th, from information, I went to Ealing, and received this other pistol, and this powder and flask, from Mr. Williams, the Landlord of the *Bell*. I think the two pistols are fellows. They are both percussion. The barrel I found on him appeared as if it had been recently discharged. When I searched hm, I found some papers belonging to some vessel, with his name on them, and I then said, 'I see your name is Monkhouse. I shall now take you to Hammersmith police-court;' and I took him there. While this is going on in the station, he said if he had a brace of pistols he would blow his brains out.'

William Williams, landlord of the *Bell*, gave the same story but from his point of view. Unsurprisingly 'The prisoner did not sit down at all. He appeared to be very excited'.

Dr Perfect, Mr Halford and brother Francis gave the evidence we know and then Louis Solomons, an outfitter in East Smithfield. About seven o'clock on the evening in question Henry came into his shop (Solomons knew him as a customer):

'He was then intoxicated, and I advised him to go to his lodgings. He appeared very violent in his manner, and very much excited. I saw him again afterwards. He came to my shop and called me by name. I turned round and he presented a pistol at my head. He let it off. It was not loaded. That was about half-past seven to the best of my knowledge.'

Henry Thomas Powell, ornamental painter of the Borough, testified:

'I saw the prisoner on the evening of 4th Oct., at the Black Horse, in Wells-street [where Henry was living in a Seamen's Hostel], about dusk. I have known him several years. I offered to shake hand with him, and found him in a very excited state. He had a pistol, which he waved over my head several times. He was very violent. I caught hold of his arm, and tried to

persuade him to be a little reasonable. He stayed there about five minutes or a quarter of an hour. We both had a glass of ginger-brandy at the bar. He had it neat.'

Richmond Brown, next to testify, said:

'I am a painter and paper-hanger, at Knightsbridge. I was at Mr. Frearson's, the White Horse, at Knightsbridge, on the night of 4th Oct., and saw the prisoner come there with a cabman. I had frequently seen him before. He was intoxicated, and rolling about. He rolled out of the house, conducted by the cabman. He left his handkerchief behind. The landlady offered it to him several times, and he would not take it. He did not appear to know what he was about.'

William Watson was then called:

'I am gardener to Mr. Atkinson, of Ealing. On the night of 4th Oct., the prisoner came to Castlebar-lodge with a cabman. He was staggering about in the road. He said he was brother to Mr. Monkhouse. He or the cabman pulled the bell two or three times. I went and opened the gate, and said, 'You can get in here.' He said, 'Where?', and staggered in. He said, 'Stand out of the way, for here is a loaded pistol.' He pulled it out of his pocket, or the waistband of his trousers. I was not in his way, but I hardly opened the gate wide enough for him to go through. He went up to the house, and, after a few minutes, the cabman came up to the gate. It was between ten and eleven o'clock.'

Francis Farnden stated:

'I live at 13, Neville's-road, Turnham Green, and am a cabman. On the night in question, I was in the tap-room of the *Coach and Horses*, at Turnham Green, between half-past nine and ten o'clock. The prisoner came in. There was a little fire in the room. He turned himself round to the fire-place as I was going out of the room, and, when I came in again, he presented a pistol at me, and asked if I was afraid of it. I told him I was not. He turned it over a few times in his hand, looked at it, and put it back again into his pocket. I cannot tell whether there was a cap on it at the time. A short time after, he pulled out that, or another pistol, and pulled the cock back, and I then perceived a percussion cap on the nipple. He turned it about. I told him it was not a fit place for such weapons, and he turned the hammer down on the nipple again, turned

it about, and looked at it, and put it into his pocket. I should think he must have been drunk, by the ways of him, or something of the kind. He seemed very queer, and looked very wild about the eyes at the time.'

The last witness was William Argent:

'I keep the Red Lion at Ealing. On the night of 4th Oct., about twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, the prisoner came there. He had 3d.-worth of brandy, and the cabman 2d.-worth of gin, which they drank on the box [of the cab]. I did not observe anything particularly about the prisoner then. After he had drunk it, he jumped off the box, and ran into the house to pay for it, and there turned the contents of his pocket out on the counter. He appeared to be very much excited, and very agitated, looking round in all directions.'

Robert Monkhouse Piper, Esq., the prisoner's uncle, deposed to his good character for humanity and kindness,

The record ends with:

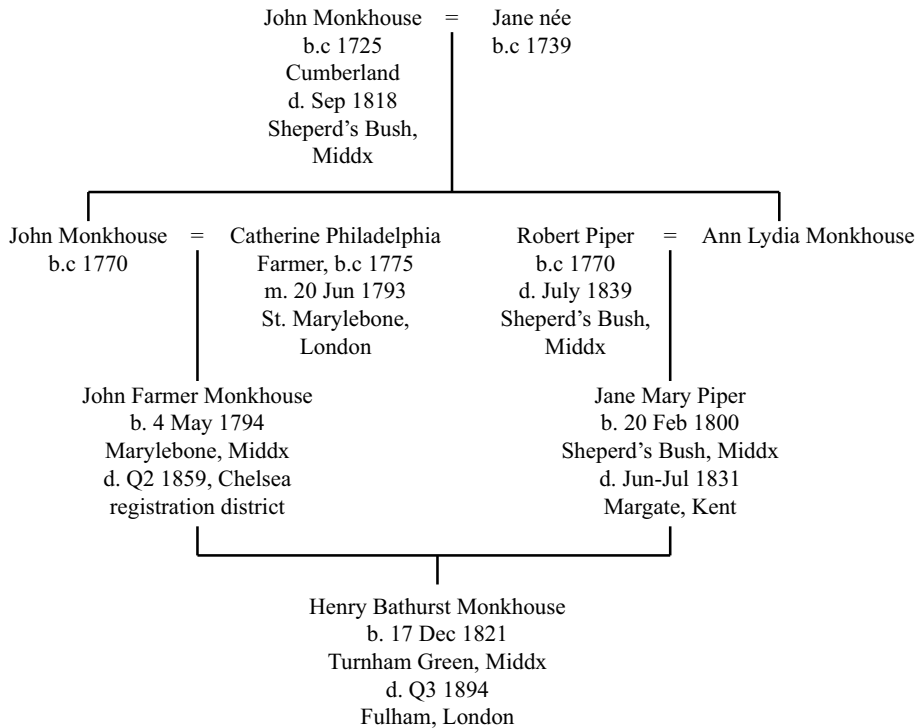
'GUILTY on the COUNTS. Strongly recommended to mercy by the Jury, the act being done whilst labouring under the excitement caused by drink. - Transported for Fifteen Years.'

The later story:

John Farmer Monkhouse, despite his serious injuries, eventually made a good recovery, living for a further ten years. He died in 1859. His wife had died in 1855.

When he was arrested in 1849, according to *Lloyd's Weekly*, 'on the back of a card found in one of his pockets the gross amount £8,722.4s.4d. is set down, with a calculation as to a one-fourth share, to which he was entitled.' It is not clear what this refers to as there were six children living. However, Henry inherited nothing on his father's death.

Although Henry was sentenced to be transported for 15 years to one of the British colonies, that didn't happen. In the 1851 census he was on *HMS York*, a convict hulk moored in the Solent, close to Gosport, Hampshire. In 1861 he was in Her Majesty's Convict Establishment, Portsea Island,



Henry Bathurst Monkhouse's Ancestry

Hampshire, which then had 1,001 prisoners. He was aged 39 and given as a mariner.

Presuming that Henry served the entire 15 year sentence he would have been released towards the end of 1864. In the 1871 census he was one of thirteen lodgers in a beer house at 87 King Street East, Hammersmith, and given as a gardener (unemployed). In the 1881 census he was in Fulham Workhouse, a mariner again 'unable to support himself' and still unmarried. He was 59 though the entry says 62. He was still a 'pauper' in Fulham Workhouse in 1891 when he was given as a general labourer. He died in the Infirmary there on 25 September 1894 of cerebral apoplexy and hemiplegia coma and was given as a seaman aged 75.

Thoughts:

The point of this article has been to show how much detail is given in newspaper reports which are now easily findable. However, a great deal of vital information is *not* given and may not be available anywhere.

There are two major points about which we can only speculate:

- Why did Henry sink so low in his seagoing career? His father had set him up as a midshipman but after Henry was shipwrecked he refused to set him up again. Was there already bad feeling? By the time of the main row (eighteen months before the attempted murder) he had fallen way down the career ladder and there had been no contact for years. Was there something wrong with him - inability to learn the ropes, wilfulness or insubordination, drunkenness, a taste for low company...? Did he in fact leave home early because he didn't get on with his father - or his stepmother?

This ties in with the question of why the family did nothing for him once he came out of prison. He lived near his relatives but seems to have been both a bachelor and a pauper. Even if his father left him nothing you might think somebody could have paid him a regular annuity of £200pa to keep him in a decent rented room, not a beerhouse, and

out of the workhouse where he was apparently for at least 13 years. No doubt years in prison, combined perhaps with both drink and resentment, had made him unemployable.

- What is the point about the girl? The newspapers say 'the character of this young lady was soon observed' but that is mealy-mouthed. Who had any evidence that she was 'abandoned' as one newspaper said? Henry brought her home, presumably dressed in her best, as his fiancée. They said he had insulted his mother and sister but in terms of swearing at them or calling them names he clearly hadn't. What seems likely is that she was socially beneath them and he might as well have brought home a shop girl or a servant. They clearly thought her common and that is the long and the short of it. He presented his intended and *they* insulted *him* - and then HE was supposed to write a letter of apology!

He said she was the daughter of a captain - and why not? No doubt they thought themselves above any captain in the merchant service:

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack,
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road rail, pig lead,
Firewood, ironware and cheap tin trays.

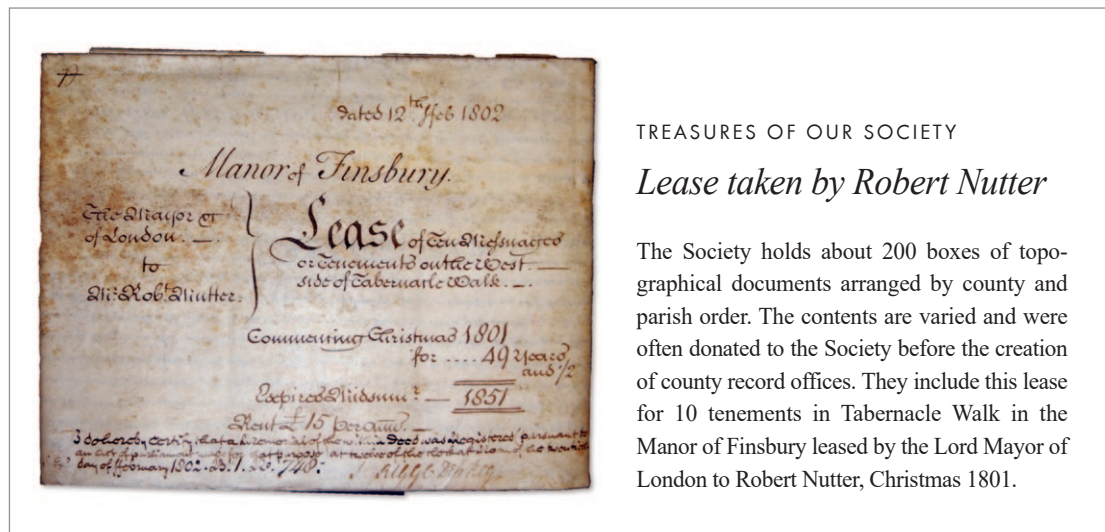
And maybe with a Liverpool accent to boot. They drew themselves up, pursed their suburban lips and wouldn't let her sit on the sofa without putting newspaper down.

The girl never appears again and one imagines that she was so offended, mortified or upset that she broke off the engagement and went home. Then Henry went off to sea again, no doubt fuming all round the world.

I have to say all my sympathy is with the son. Naturally I am glad he wasn't hanged for murder but the pompous old swine and the snooty women deserved what they got... Except that... Oh, No. Nothing happened to them, just like in J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* where the smug mahogany-clad family are cruel, indifferent or actively spiteful to the young girl - and talk themselves out of any responsibility either financial or moral.

Whereas poor Henry got 15 years (which to me seems very high considering he was definitely blind drunk). He would have been better off transported to Australia to make a fresh start on an eventual ticket-of leave.

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TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

Lease taken by Robert Nutter

The Society holds about 200 boxes of topographical documents arranged by county and parish order. The contents are varied and were often donated to the Society before the creation of county record offices. They include this lease for 10 tenements in Tabernacle Walk in the Manor of Finsbury leased by the Lord Mayor of London to Robert Nutter, Christmas 1801.

COULTHART REVISITED

Terence Trelawny Gower

In 1903, there appeared an article in the *Ancestor* entitled *The Bonny House of Coulthart, An Old Story Retold* penned by Oswald Barron, (1868-1939), journalist and scholar on matters heraldic. This was Barron's review of the allegedly bogus pedigree of one John Ross Coulthart, (1807-1887), and in the introduction he made the comment:

'the genealogical tree, like the aloe, bursts into full flower only after long intervals. Two such flowering periods were the Elizabethan and the early Victorian ages. After the Elizabethan age, genealogy had a period of repose which was awakened in the Victorian period, creating a new and lucrative market for the wares of the heralds and professional genealogists. For the new gentleman were found arms and crest, which hinted at near kinship to the most illustrious of his name or a name in any way resembling it'.



Fig. 1 - Arms assumed by J R Coulthart

In the early Victorian period people with a perceived degree of significance looked for genealogists who could produce ancestral tales to enhance the concept of their pedigrees. This was probably a move intended to encourage those with limited pedigree to marry the daughters of old, armigerous families (and who could blame them for cashing in on the new vanity). Usually, the process involved finding an heiress, probably impoverished, entering into marriage, and the 'new man' having acquired a grant of arms would proceed to quarter the arms of the heiress and perhaps include upon the shield an escutcheon of pretence showing the arms of families, with some old or perhaps ancient pedigree, that were connected to the heiress. One merely has to consult tomes of the day that were devoted to displaying arms and pedigrees, that to the casual observer, the pedigree would eventually appear to belong to a man of 'ancient family'; the metamorphosis complete, and the new man has 'a wedding garment of a pedigree woven with legend'. There was of course, another way to achieve this, being by a process of pure invention! Here enters the old story retold, and John Ross Coulthart, Bank Manager of Ashton-under-Lyne.

The pedigree maker was, of course, on hand to satisfy the need of those desiring an ancestral lineage, regardless of how it was to be achieved, and if money was no object, the creation of a lineage, which could take some years, was the genealogist's oyster. In the case of Coulthart, the creation of a pedigree with direct and provable connection to a Roman Governor (why start small?), was merely a business matter. A question of not allowing accuracy to interfere with the truth? It was to be a pedigree of such ancient lineage that it would surpass all others.

We first find Coulthart soon after he had left school, working as a clerk to a banker and attorney at Castle Douglas. In 1834 he appears as a principal

clerk at a bank in Halifax, and in 1836 he was managing the Ashton, Stalybridge, Hyde & Glossop Bank in Ashton-under-Lyne. In 1855 he became Mayor of that town. (In 1838 he had published a volume of *Decimal Interest Tables*). He was a Justice of the Peace in 1858, and having studied law, was called to the bar in 1862. In 1880 he was an unsuccessful parliamentary candidate. So, a bigwig, in a small town.

A meeting in the 1840s between Coulthart and Alexander Cheyne, (?-1853), a barrister (B.A. Trinity), effected a meeting between Coulthart and the genealogist and heraldic artist, George Parker Knowles. It must be assumed that soon after the meeting and agreement of the pedigree requirement, Mr Coulthart became the 'patron' of both Cheyne and Parker Knowles.

In 1846, a publication revealed Mr Coulthart's claim to be the 'Eldest born son of the splendid house of Coulthart of Coulthart and Collyn'. A pedigree in support of this claim was produced by Parker Knowles, and in 1855, an edition of the family history of the Coultharts appeared, 'sumptuously printed upon vellum' and purporting to be a full history of the Coulthart family; there were 75 copies for private circulation only. The title of this fabrication is: 'A Genealogical Account of the Coultharts of Coulthart and Collyn, Chiefs of the name from First Settlement in Scotland in the Reign of Conanus (6th Century?) to the year 1854. (I wonder if the writer meant Canmore, the nick-name of Malcolm III (in Gaelic, bighead). Although this pedigree was presented by none other than George Parker Knowles, he claimed that the body of research had been carried out by Alexander Cheyne, (obit 1853), who was attributed with the transcribing and translating of the old deeds, wills, charters, pedigrees, marriage settlements, genealogical notices etc. The fact that very few of these documents, if they indeed existed, had any direct connection to J R Coulthart, is of course, the basis of the fraud. The collaborations of Cheyne and Parker Knowles had by this time attracted the attentions of legitimate genealogists, as they were suspected, and subsequently confirmed, as having concocted a number of 'genealogical fictions' (some of which no doubt, are still extant). These fictions succeeded in fooling worthies such as Burke, Lower & Elvin.

Space does not allow me to list all the family connections claimed by Coulthart as this is an involved web that has been thoroughly investigated and debunked by 19th century genealogists and correspondents to magazines of the day, and would run into a number of pages. What is very apparent is that Cheyne and Parker Knowles had researched ancient documents, but with the sole intent of producing a false pedigree.

However, the presented history of the Coulthart family contains biographies of Colthartus, a lieutenant of Julius Agricolus, AD 40-AD 93, Roman Governor of Britain, of every Scottish chieftain since the beginning of time, connections to William I, Henry III and includes claims of charters from Roberts I, II and III and David II. The list stretches credibility to utmost limits. The period from Henry III to 1833 contains the names of monarchs, princes and the aristocracy of the period, and culminates with the statement that John Ross Coulthart is a direct descendent from Edward I and 18th from King Robert Bruce of Scotland. It would seem that in this concocted genealogical presentation, Cheyne merely inserted into genuine documents relating to other families, the name of Coulthart, in the assumption that at no time would it be noticed or questioned!



Fig. 2 - Seal used by Roger de Coulthart

A seal claimed to have been used by Roger de Coulthart in the 15th century is given short shrift by Burnett, and other writers of the period;

'The seal is a clumsy and ignorant attempt to imitate the position of the couched shield, helmet and

supporters, but the caparisoning of the horse is 18th century (16th century has also been suggested), and the whole is surrounded by a classical dentil-moulding. The inscription SIGILLUM COULTHARTI without Christian name, would alone point out its spuriousness.’

Such was his contempt for the Coulthart pedigree, that George Burnett (Lord Lyon King of Arms from 1866 to 1890), in his publication *Popular Genealogists or The Art of Pedigree Making*, showed the bogus seal of Coulthart on the title page.



Fig. 3 - Colt arms with bogus supporters as assumed by Coulthart

John Ross Coulthart did display an assumed coat of arms; Argent, a fess between three colts courant sable. The origin of these arms as claimed by Cheyne and Coulthart is an allusion (perhaps they actually meant illusion!) ‘To the three horses that the Coultharts were anciently bound to furnish the sovereigns of Scotland in time of war’. It was also claimed that these arms had been granted to Sir Roger de Coulthart c1240 by Alexander II or even earlier by King Malcolm III of Scotland (1031-1093), King of Scotland 1058 to 1093. Of course, this was not true, and the arms actually were those of the Colt family of Suffolk & Essex who were raised to the Baronetcy in 1692. They had borne these arms since the reign of Edward IV. There is no record of any such arms being granted to Coulthart! The seven quartered coats in fig.1 were described as ‘coats, some of which were never seen elsewhere, while the rest belong to other and really existing families’.

Coulthart was apparently granted arms in 1859; a fess between one colt courant and a water-bouget in base. However, he persisted with the claim that he was entitled to the arms of Colt. The story of the alleged Coulthart arms does not end here. The stolen coat of the Colt family, previously described, (Fig. 3) it is claimed, was granted to Coulthart’s father and registered at the Lyon Office in November 1846 – without quarterings or Supporters. In 1844, J R Coulthart had made an application for leave to bear a coat of four quarters, and supporters. This was refused by the Lyon Office, and in 1849 Coulthart received a warning from that office, advising him that he was acting illegally in displaying Supporters and quartered arms. In his application, Coulthart had claimed that his right to supporters was supported by a ‘prescriptive right in accordance with the usage in Scotland authorised by Mackenzie and other heraldic authorities’. ‘These supporters are; Dexter, a war horse argent, completely armed for the field proper, garnished or; Sinister, a stag proper, attired and ducally gorged or. A comment on the supporters was made by a correspondent to the *Herald & Genealogist* in 1866:

‘the idea of making a canting rebus of the two [Coulthart] supporters - the colt & hart, remains, we imagine, ‘original’ and unique, and the inventor must retain all the credit, such as it is, due to his perverse ingenuity.’

In 1857/8, he applied to the College of Arms for registration of the coat that he (or his father) had obtained at Edinburgh in 1846. This was refused on the grounds that it was the coat of Colt, to whom Coulthart had no connection whatsoever. Not to be thwarted, in 1859 Coulthart obtained a new grant of arms from the College of Arms, in which he was wrongly described as Coulthart of Wigtown, of Collyn & Dumfries and of course, Aston-under-Lyne. The arms of Colt appear to have been given to Coulthart?

To quote Oswald Barron:

‘The pedigree of the bonny house of Coulthart of Coulthart was drunk in greedily by the hungry wastes of the Landed Gentry books, which were then in their high noon’.

The Ancestor in 1902 stated:

‘After 58 generations, woe came upon the house of Coulthartus, the like of which had not been in all the glorious and chequered record. In the ear of Mr Coulthart, where he sat gloomy and alone, chief of his name and last of his race in every sense of the word, the boding voice of the family banshee must have grown to a positive shriek’.

The reading of the Coulthart saga in the *Popular Genealogist* and the *Bonny House of Coulthart* might be considered prescribed reading for budding genealogists. They may, of course, find many more examples of the Parker Knowles creative approach to genealogy.

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TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY



John Speed's *Historie of Great Britaine under the Conquests of the Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans*. One of the 600 rare printed books published before 1800 held in the Society's Library. Printed by John Dawson for George Humble, London, 1632, this third edition was published after Speed's death in 1629 as a continuation of his 'Theatre of Great Britaine'. An important book which has some claim to being the first history of England, first published in 1611, it was donated to the Society's library in 1918. The binding, leather spine and marbled paper boards are in an advanced state of deterioration, the front cover is separated, and the spine is missing large pieces of leather and lettering.

Due to the generous donations of members to our binding and library fund, we shall be restoring this work to its full splendour. If you would like to make a contribution to the preservation of our wonderful collections, please do get in touch.

RISDON DARRACOTT (1717-1759)

CELEBRATED NON-CONFORMIST MINISTER

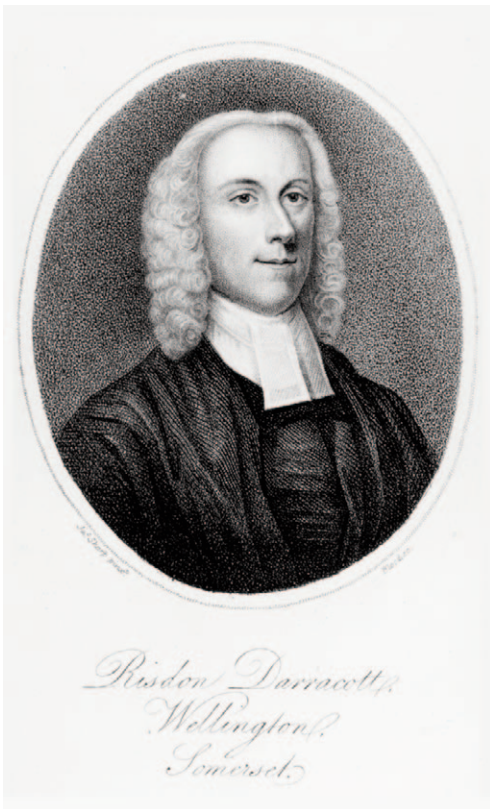
Brian W. Darracott

The Reverend Risdon Darracott was a celebrated non-conformist minister, and was Pastor of the Independent Church at Wellington, Somerset, England, where he became known, and is still spoken of, as the 'Star of the West'. Earlier summaries of his life are necessarily rather brief,^{1,2} though his theological beliefs and teachings are amply recorded in the several editions of Bennett's *Star of the West*.³ 2017 was the tercentenary year of his birth and I thought it would be fitting that the story of the family background of this worthy man - a *very* distant kinsman - be brought up to date and given fuller attention.

Risdon's father, Richard Darracott (bapt. 21 July 1688 at Bideford) was also a dissenting minister, and on 26 Feb 1714 (NS) had married Hannah Risdon at Buckland Brewer - a few miles south of Bideford, Devon. Both Hannah and Richard were descended from families long connected with Bideford. Hannah's grandfather had fled to New England, in America, to avoid religious persecution during the reign of King Charles I of England. He had a daughter, Hannah, born in 1654, who came to England and in 1692, by then the widow Hannah Wadland, married Phillip Risdon, a gentleman of Bideford. They in turn had a daughter also named Hannah, born in 1693.

Richard's parents were Daniel Darracott and Sarah Frost. Daniel was the son of John Darracott of Bideford, who in his will⁴ described himself as a merchant. He was one of the large and important Darracott clan, leaving property 'together with all my ships and parts of ships in Bideford and also in Ilfracombe and Combe Martin' to his wife Dorothy, his three sons John, Samuel and Daniel, and daughter Sarah. He also left his wife his 'dwelling house in Bideford, called the brewhouse, together with the furniture, brewing vats and vessels'. It seems he was a brewer as well as a merchant. John Frost was mayor of Bideford in 1666 and 1675. He died in 1687, by then a widower, and a successful merchant, and left substantial property in Bideford to his daughter Sarah and her children at that time (Richard had not yet been born).⁵

Daniel Darracott was a prominent member of Great Meeting Independent Church at Bideford. His son Richard went to the Taunton Dissenting Academy, but it is not known when, although he probably studied under both Matthew Warren (founder of the Academy in ca. 1670, and Tutor until his death in 1706) and Henry Grove (Tutor 1706 to 1738). Richard took notes of his theology lectures and



Risdon Darracott (frontispiece in 'The Star of the West', 1813)

signed them ‘Richard Darracott Ex. Acad. Taunt. 1707.’ He was a candidate for a church from May 1709 to September 1710.⁶

Hannah and Richard, who became the pastor of the dissenting chapel in the town of Swanage in Dorset, about 1714, had two children: a daughter Sarah, who married the Rev. Isaac Clark, of Bow, Devon, and a son, Risdon Darracott, born on 1 Feb 1717, a few days after whose birth, Hannah Darracott died (10 Feb 1717) and was buried at Swanage. Hannah Risdon, the elder, had died at Swanage some weeks before this on the 3rd January. Mother and daughter were buried in the same tomb ‘near the door of the established place of worship in Swanage. Lovely and pleasant they were in life, and in death were not divided. A grey Stone, much worn by the foot of the passenger, exhibits the following appearance and description:’⁷

In this Tomb lies the body of HANNAH, Wife of R. DARRACOTT, in this Parish of SWANAGE, Minister of the Word of God. She, filled with Graces and adorned with rare Abilities, At the COMMAND OF GOD, forsook her HUSBAND and her INFANTS, to fly to Heaven, on the Tenth of FEBRUARY, in the year of Salvation 1716 of her age 24

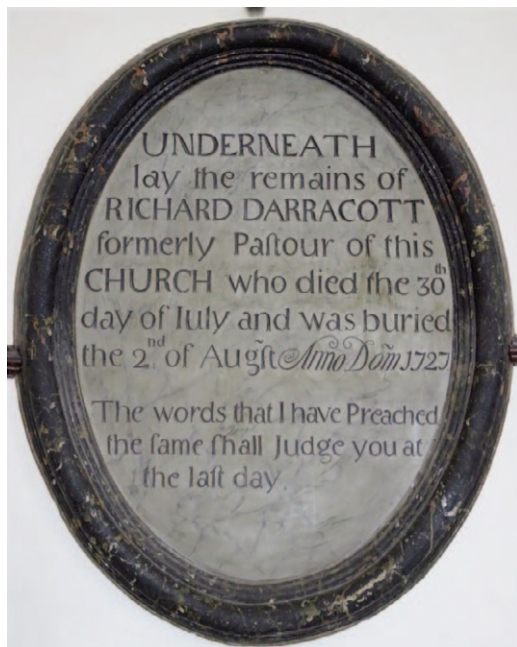
In this Tomb also lies the Body of HANNAH, the mother of the aforesaid HANNAH. She was born in NEW ENGLAND whither for the Sake of Religion, her FATHER had fled. She was married to PHILIPP RISDON, gent. at BIDDEFORD. She came hither with her DAUGHTER and in a short time put off MORTALITY on the Third of JANUARY in the year of Salvation 1716/17 of her age 63.

Some two years after these tragic events, Richard Darracott married, at Tynham, Dorset (about 10 miles west of Swanage) a second time to Lucy Thornhill, a woman whom he hoped was of a kindred spirit to his first wife, but he was soon alarmed to discover her hatred of religion. She soon left her husband who then devoted his life to his ministry and the raising of his two children, moving to Chulmleigh in Devon in 1722 in an attempt to put the unhappy past behind him. The chapel, built in 1710, still stands today, though somewhat extended over the years.



The former Independent Chapel in East Street, Chulmleigh; now the Congregational Church

After being taught for some time by his father, Risdon Darracott was placed in the care of the Rev. William Palk, the dissenting minister of South Molton, Devon. In 1732, aged fifteen, having decided to enter the nonconformist ministry, Risdon went to the academy of Dr Philip Doddridge⁸ at Northampton.



In his memoir James Bennett says of Richard that ‘...[he] was happily directed to that [Doddridge’s] seminary by its popularity and public esteem’ and that ‘...he was called to enter into rest before he had reached his fortieth year.’ Later, Bennett goes on to say that whilst at the academy ‘...young Darracott lost his father but found another in his tutor.’ These statements would imply that his father, Richard, died sometime between 1732 and 1737, which cannot be

correct. According to Surman's *Index of Dissenting Ministers*⁹ Richard died on 20 (sic) July 1727, and there is also a record of a will for a Richard Darracott of Chulmleigh which was proved in 1727¹⁰ (though confusingly there is also a record of a will for a Richard Darracott of Chulmleigh which was proved at Barnstaple in 1738). Irrespective of the accuracy of the above, the wall plaque in memory of Richard Darracott still in Chulmleigh Congregational Church records Richard's death as '30 July 1727, and buried 2 August 1727.'

As a student in 1736 Risdon Darracott preached in the village of Hardingstone, near Northampton, and left the academy in August 1737 with a certificate of proficiency. For a short time in the summer of 1738 he preached at Chulmleigh, where the pastorate was still vacant following the death of his father, but the congregation was divided in its choice of minister, and Darracott's first charge was at the Market Jew Street Chapel, Penzance, Cornwall. He was there from the autumn of 1738 to the beginning of the following year, resigning when he became ill and moved to Barnstaple to recover. He showed promise at Penzance and indeed was also able to supplement his means through private ministrations.

Risdon had occasionally preached at Wellington where he made such an impression that early in 1741 he was selected by the dissenting congregation at the Independent Chapel in Wellington, Somerset, to be its minister, succeeding the late Rev. Humphrey Berry, and was ordained there on 11 November 1741 by twelve local ministers. In that position he remained for the rest of his days, labouring energetically both in that town and in the surrounding neighbourhood. He was eloquent, evangelical, and devoted to his work. His chapel was always crowded on Sundays, and had to be enlarged to accommodate the growing congregation. He evangelised the country round about and 'some very profligate and abandoned sinners were converted. The ale-houses on Sunday were deserted, the barbers could do no business, and there were no idle walkers in the streets on the Lord's Day'.¹¹ Indeed, in a letter to his wife written in the summer of 1741, Doddridge described Darracott as 'in all respects, absolutely the most successful Minister I have known amongst us for many years. He prayed last night in a manner which approached as nearly to inspiration as anything I have heard, or ever expect to hear'.¹²



The old Wellington Independent Chapel, by Richard Parminter Cuff, dated 1843. This drawing now hangs in the vestry of the current building and shows the frontage of the old chapel with the burial ground to the right.

On 15 Dec 1741, Risdon Darracott married Catherine (or Katherine) Bestley of Barnstaple, a member of a family descended from the Puritan confessors in the north of Devon; her mother's maiden name was Peard, and she was descended from Oliver Peard, a one-time minister at Barnstaple. Having earlier congratulated his former pupil on his marriage, Doddridge soon after wrote to his wife that 'Darracott at Wellington is now fat and flourishing vastly the better for Matrimony'.¹³

After his marriage Risdon pursued his preaching with great zeal, and there are numerous accounts of his teachings and achievements.¹⁴ His efforts in supporting his growing family and in keeping the fabric of the chapel in good order out of own pocket meant that he struggled to survive on his meagre emoluments from the church. To make ends meet he gave 'private' sermons outside the chapel to raise money. On more than one occasion he was saved by the grant of a small annuity.

Risdon and Catherine had six children altogether. However, these were difficult and distressing times as can be appreciated from extracts from a letter that the famous preacher Rev. George Whitefield (whom Risdon had on occasions invited to preach at Wellington) wrote to Lady Huntingdon from Plymouth, 25 February, 1750, after journeying from Bristol¹⁵: 'At Wellington I lay at the house of one Mr Darracott, a flaming successful preacher of the gospel, and who may justly be styled 'THE STAR IN THE WEST'. He has suffered much reproach; and in the space of three months, has lost three lovely children. Two of them died the Saturday evening before the sacrament was to be administered; but weeping did not hinder sowing. He preached next day and administered as usual; and, for his three natural, the Lord has given him above thirty spiritual children. He has ventured his little all for Christ; and last week a saint died, who left him and his heirs £200 in land. Did ever anyone trust in the Lord and was forsaken?'

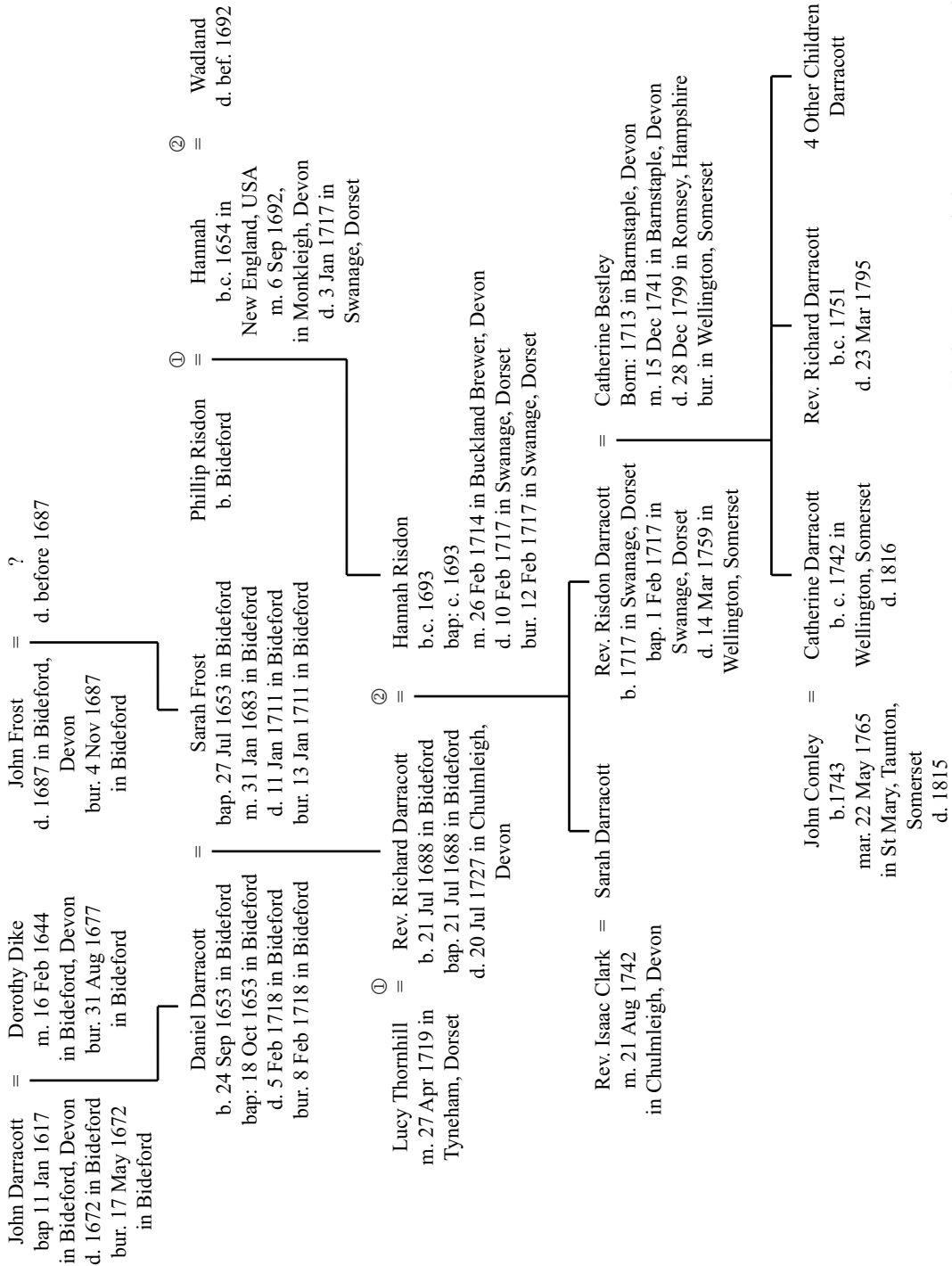
In the autumn of 1751 Risdon's straitened circumstances caused by his increasing family sorely tempted him to yield to a pressing invitation to move to the nearby pastorate of the church at South Petherton. He was persuaded not to go and noting this commitment to Wellington, friends

managed to secure further enhancements to his salary. It was at this time that he even considered establishing a school to generate income, but soon abandoned the idea.

He wrote a small book entitled *Scripture Marks of Salvation*, said to have been published in 1755, but the dedication to his friends at Wellington, which is prefixed to first edition, is dated 2 April 1756: the fifty-fifth edition appeared in 1815. His efforts were clearly bearing fruit: by 1757 the congregation had grown to over 300. But on the domestic front, there had been more bad news. Bennett records that Risdon 'was called, in the year 1756, to resign a fourth child.' Sadly only two of their children survived to adulthood: Katherine, who was born about 1742, and a son, Richard, born about 1751.

Bennett tells us that Risdon Darracott 'was slender, and rather under, than above, the middle stature. His countenance was all animation, benevolence and happiness', and his manners were 'graceful yet simple, indicating the man who from benevolent condescension lived among the poor, while he was ever prepared to instruct and delight the cultivated mind...his constitution was not vigorous, and his body gave early and frequent intimations that it could not long support the expenditure to which it was doomed by his ardent spirit ... he was gentle and forgiving to his enemies. It was frequently observed of him, that, bold as a lion in the pulpit, he was, in the intercourse of life, meek as a lamb.'

After many attacks of illness, the last of which, caused by kidney stones, left him in excruciating pain for three months, he died at his home in South Street in Wellington on 14 March 1759 aged 42. In his will, dated 11 July 1758,¹⁶ he directed that 'It is my will and desire, that I be buried the fourth or fifth day after my decease, about one o'clock in the morning; and that the time be kept secret from all, but such as hereafter-mentioned, who are the only persons I desire may attend me to my last bed. My desire further is, that Mr Thomas, Thomas Snook, William Parsons, Mr Cade, Thomas Harford, and Robert Pine, carry me to my grave. Let Mr Varder be sent for to be with them at the time, and let him spend one half hour in prayer in my parlour, before they carry me away. At the grave I would have nothing said, but let them commit my flesh to the



Risdon Darracott's known ancestry and immediate family

dust, in cheerful hope of resurrection to eternal life; let them all be concerned to give me a joyful meeting at the great day.' The funeral went ahead as planned, but the secret was let out and 'an immense multitude attended at that early hour.'

As was also his wish, his funeral sermon was preached at Wellington on 15 April by his old friend the Rev. Benjamin Fawcett of Kidderminster, and was subsequently printed, passing through four impressions at least.¹⁷ Risdon Darracott's piety and preaching remained a fascination with religious authors for some time after his death, and a particularly florid account can be found in Clark's *Death-Bed Scenes*.¹⁸

He also bequeathed his 'messuage, with garden, orchard, etc, in South Street, lately purchased of John Shatlock and Roger Grainger', to his wife, Katherine Darracott, who passed the rest of her life in widowhood and spent her last years with her daughter at Romsey, Hampshire. She died on 28 Dec 1799, aged eighty-six and is buried at Wellington, near to her husband as was her request.

Their daughter, Katherine, married John Comley of Romsey on 22 May 1765, in Taunton, and had seven children, the youngest of whom, Sarah, married the Rev. James Bennett, who wrote the memoir on the life of Risdon Darracott and which was dedicated to Mrs Katherine Comley, Risdon's 'only immediate child'.¹⁹

Richard Darracott Jnr became a minister, starting his training at Daventry Academy under Caleb Ashworth in 1766. He began his pastoral duties at Bridge Street, Walsall, in Staffordshire, from 1770 to 1773, and afterwards practised alternatively from 1773 to 1795 at Fulwood and Bishop's Hull, both near Taunton, where he died on 23 March 1795.

The Independent Chapel in Fore Street - Darracott's church - was erected in 1730. During a period of 130 years the old chapel had been found to be sufficiently large to accommodate all those who wished to worship in it. By the mid-1800s it had not only fallen into a very dilapidated state but was not large enough to seat the augmented congregation of Independents, or Congregationalists as they were now becoming called. It was then necessary that a

new and larger church should be built. Demolition was commenced and the new building on the same site was completed and opened in June 1861, at a total cost of only £1,956.²⁰ In 1972 the church became the Wellington United Reformed Church.



The Wellington United Reformed Church, Fore Street, today

Rev. James Bennett DD (1774 - 1862)

Given that much of what is known about the life of Risdon Darracott comes from the memoir written by his grandson-in-law, James Bennet, it is appropriate to say a little about him here.²¹



Rev James Bennett

Bennett was an English congregational minister and college principal. He was born in London 22 May 1774, and was educated there and at Gosport, where he was prepared for the congregational ministry by Rev. David Bogue. In 1797 he married Sarah Comley, the granddaughter of Risdon Darracott, and in the same year he was ordained at Romsey, where he remained till 1813. There he became a founder member of the London Missionary Society, and supported Robert and James Haldane in some of their evangelistic tours.

In 1813, Bennett moved to Rotherham, where he was both tutor in Rotherham College and pastor of the church. In 1828 he was transferred to London, where, first in Silver Street and then in Falcon Square, he exercised his ministry till 1860, when he resigned. Among his congregation was David Livingstone, while in London as a medical student.

Bennett died in London, 4 December 1862, at the age of 88. He was noted for the defence of Christianity against the unbelievers of the day, particularly one Robert Taylor, a popular lecturer; the promotion of Christian missions, as one of the secretaries of the London Missionary Society; and as one of the founders of the Congregational Union.

James and Sarah Bennett had five children, the eldest of whom was Sir James Risdon Bennett MD FRS (1809-1891), an eminent physician.

Notes and References:

1. Devon and Cornwall Notes & Queries, vol 16 (1930), pp.87-89.
2. *Risdon Darracott*. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004. Originally compiled by W P Courtney, revised by Brian W. Kirk.
3. For example: *The Star of the West - Being Memoirs of the Life of Risdon Darracott with Extracts of his Correspondence*, by Rev James Bennett of Romsey, Hants. Brookfield, Mass, 1829; 1st American edition.
4. Died May 1672. TNA PROB 11/342; will proved 20 June 1673.
5. TNA PROB 11/390; will proved 4 February 1687/8.
6. The Taunton Dissenting Academy, by Rev Brian W. Kirk. Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, 2005, pp.41-21.
7. *The Star of the West - Being Memoirs of the Life of Risdon Darracott with Extracts of his Correspondence*, by Rev James Bennett of Romsey, Hants. Brookfield, Mass, 1829; 1st American edition, p.22. See also Footnote 18.
8. Dr Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) was a nonconformist divine. His father Daniel Doddridge was a prosperous oilman and son of an ejected minister, John Doddridge, and grandson of Philip Doddridge, younger brother of Sir John Doddridge (Dodderidge) the famous "Sleeping Judge" and one-time Solicitor General of England. Interestingly, Sir John Doddridge's sister, Dorothy, married a wealthy Barnstaple merchant, John Darracott - a possible ancestral kinsman of Risdon.
9. *Index of Dissenting Ministers*, by Charles Surman. In Dr Williams's Library and online at <https://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk>.
10. At the Archdeaconry Court of Barnstaple. Devon Wills Index, 1163-1999. Unfortunately, the originals of Devon wills were destroyed during enemy action over Exeter during WW2.
11. *The Story of English Congregationalism*, by Thomas Hooper, Minister of Streatham Congregational Church, Streatham, London, England, 1907.
12. *Calendar of the correspondence of Philip Doddridge*, ed. G. F. Nuttall, Historic Manuscripts Commission, JP 26, HMSO, 1979. Letter to Mercy Doddridge, 28 June 1741.
13. *Calendar of the correspondence of Philip Doddridge*, ed. G. F. Nuttall, Historic Manuscripts Commission, JP 26, HMSO, 1979. Letter to Mercy Doddridge 14 June 1742.
14. *Memoir of Risdon Darracott - Minister at Wellington in Somersetshire*, The Sower, July 1908, pp146-152.
15. *Life of George Whitefield*, by L. Tyerman, London, 1877, ii, p.250. Also printed in Bennett's *Star of the West*.
16. *Materials for the history of the town and parish of Wellington in the county of Somerset*, vol 1, A. L. Humphreys, 1908 [abstract of will, p.34]. Also mentioned in vol 3, p.350.
17. *A Sermon occasioned by the Death of the Reverend Mr. Risdon Darracott; who departed this Life March 14, 1759, in the Forty-third Year of his Age*. Preached at Wellington in Somerset, April 15, 1759, by Benjamin Fawcett. Salop: Printed ... And sold (for the Benefit of Mr. Darracott's Family) ... Price Six-Pence.
18. *Death-Bed Scenes*. Ed. Davis W. Clarke, Lane & Scott, New York, 1851.
19. *The Star of the West - Being Memoirs of the Life of Risdon Darracott with his portrait and Extracts of his Correspondence and Mr Darracott's "Scripture Marks of Salvation" as an Appendix*, by Rev James Bennett of Romsey, Hants. Hamilton, London, 1813; 2nd Edition 1815. This work was extensively reviewed in *The Eclectic Review*, vol x, 1813, published by Gale, Curtis and Fenner, London. The glowing review seems typical of the somewhat "over the top" style of religious writings of the period!
20. *A Short History of the United Reformed Church, Wellington*, by James H M Jolliffe. Typed manuscript booklet at Wellington Library.
21. From online Wikipedia, in turn from *James Bennett, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004. Originally compiled by W G Blaikie, revised by R Tudur Jones. James Bennett's likeness originally appeared as an engraving in the *Evangelical Magazine*, vol XXVI, 1808.

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WHO WAS BARBARA, THIRD WIFE OF SIR RICHARD WHALLEY (1499-1583)?

Peter J. Cooper

Richard Whalley (1499-1583), a prominent member of parliament who lived during the times of Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, had three wives and a grand total of 25 children.^{1,2} While the identities of his first two wives have been documented, or at least discussed, little has been uncovered and published about the third who survived him, other than her first name - Barbara.^{2,3} The only well-known item associated with her is the entertaining inscription she caused to be engraved on her husband's tomb in the Chancel of St. Wilfred's Church, Screveton, Nottinghamshire:

'Behold his Wives were number three:
Two of them died in right good fame:
The third this Tomb erected she,
For him who well deserv'd the same.
Both for his life and Godly end,
Which all that knows must needs commend:
And they that knows not, yet may see,
A worthy Whallaye loe was he.
Since time brings all things to an end,
Let us our selves applye.
And learn by this our faithful friend,
That here in Tombe doth lye,
To fear the Lord, and eke beholde
The fairest is but dust and Mold:
For as we are, so once was he,
And as he ys, so must we be'.³

Richard Whalley was born in Nottinghamshire in 1499, the only son and heir of Thomas Whalley and his wife Elizabeth Strelley. After attending Cambridge (but without taking a degree), Whalley entered the household of Sir Thomas Lovell. He was later employed by Thomas Cromwell at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and as a result he was able to purchase monastic properties. After Cromwell's execution in 1540, Whalley became controller of the Earl of Rutland's household and then a JP for Nottinghamshire. In

1546 he purchased church property in Sibthorpe and in 1547 became chamberlain of the household of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, his kinsman by marriage. With Somerset's fall, Whalley was imprisoned in the Tower but was released when Queen Mary ascended to the throne. He became an MP in 1547, but financial difficulties resulting from his imprisonment forced him to dispose of much of his land holdings. However, his fortunes improved under Queen Elizabeth who, in 1561, granted him the manors of Towton in Yorkshire, as well as Whatton and Hawksworth in Nottinghamshire. He was again a rich man when he died in 1583.⁴

So, who was Barbara Whalley? We know she remarried (a man named Edward Burnell who had been involved in business dealings with Richard) and, after her second husband died, went to live in Whitwell, Derbyshire, where she passed away in 1596.^{5,6} Richard's oldest grandson (also named Richard) owned the manor house in Whitwell, although he had sold it a couple of years before Barbara's death.⁷ But Barbara could have had an earlier association with Derbyshire, one that might possibly connect her to the family of William Cooper (or Cowper) of Thurgarton in Nottinghamshire.

First, we need to examine the Whalley pedigree, of which there are several versions.^{8,9,10} Hill, in his history of parishes in Leicestershire, gives the name of the third wife of Richard Whalley as Barbara Cope but he presents no other information concerning her background or children.¹⁰ The document providing the most information about Richard's wives and the children they bore him is that contained in Howard's '*Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*'.⁹ This pedigree was obtained by Howard sometime prior to late 1872 from a John Fetherston Esq. and largely represents the Whalley family's descent through its members

in the county of Leicestershire.¹¹ The original vellum document was in the possession of a Mrs. R. Hunt of Boreatton, Shropshire, and prior to that had been held by a Rev. Humfrey of Laughton in Leicestershire. There are differences between this pedigree and, for example, that presented in Hunter's *'Familiae Minorum Gentium'* but this is mainly, although not exclusively, due to the fact that Howard follows the Leicestershire as opposed to the Nottinghamshire descendants.^{8,11}

The Fetherston document lacks dates, but it covers some ten generations after Richard Whalley who died in 1583. This would take it roughly to the mid-late 1800s, which would be consistent with the date it was probably obtained by Howard in preparing his manuscript. What is evident from the pedigree is that it originated (and was copied) from a written document of a much earlier date and was then added to as time progressed. The spelling associated with the first part (up to the Leicestershire additions) is that of 16th century early modern English - for example: 'maryed', 'wifes', 'sonnes' - while after the descent switches from the Nottinghamshire to the Leicestershire families the terms begin to be more modernized.¹² So it is not unreasonable to assume that the entry for Richard Whalley was copied from writing made at a time closer to when he lived. The fact that Fetherston described the original document as 'an ancient vellum roll', further adds likelihood to its antiquity.¹¹

The third wife of Richard Whalley is given in the Fetherston manuscript as both Barbery Coope and Barbery Coop'. Use of the apostrophe usually implies missing letters in the transcription (such as 'er' for example). There is a long entry included underneath Richard's name that covers all of his wives and many children. The date of writing is important here, since the text contains a description of arms associated with the Whalley-Coope union. The arms are reported as those of Whalley, impaling 'azure on a chevron between three cinquefoils argent two lions combatant sable'. Given that the term 'combatant' can be seen as consistent with both 'respectant' and 'counterpass' in heraldry, it is evident that the Whalley arms had been combined side-by-side with those of the Coopers of Thurgarton (see Burke's *General Armory*).¹³ William Cooper who was in the King's

service and purchased Thurgarton Priory in 1539, was reportedly originally from Derbyshire, although his family has also been associated with Norfolk and Buckinghamshire.^{14,15,16} We have no precise date for Richard and Barbara's marriage but the fact that they had seven children before his death in 1583 suggests it might have been as early as between 1560 and 1570 when the joint arms were added to the pedigree. Joining the arms in such a fashion could well have been inappropriate from a heraldic perspective, but the device at least serves to illustrate that at some point there was a belief that Barbara was connected to the Thurgarton Coopers.

Of course, at this point the possible connection of Barbara (Barbery) to the Thurgarton Coopers is speculative - being based solely on the Fetherston manuscript. However, in regard to that source's validity, it is worth noting that it names the three younger sons of Barbara as James, Cordall and Francis, and those same names appear as beneficiaries in her 1596 probated will with the same relationship identification.^{5,11}

Also, there is another documented point of reference to consider. Sometime between 1567 and 1592 (during the term of Robert Cooke as Clarenceux Roy d'Arms), a James Cooper of Hackesworth (Hawksworth), Nottingham was granted arms described as: 'Or, a bend az. betw. two lions' heads erased gu.'¹⁷ Hawksworth manor had been acquired by Richard Whalley in 1561.⁴ The interesting thing about the grant of arms is that it was one of those named in 'docquets and patents' and the wording described James as 'brother to Barbara'.¹⁷ Such a reference appears very unusual for the time and clearly implies that the sister Barbara was of some serious importance such that she was in a position to influence the process. Being the wife of Richard Whalley during the reign of Elizabeth could well have met such a requirement.

Since James was granted a new set of arms unrelated to those of Thurgarton, he and Barbara were evidently not direct descendants of William Cooper. It's more likely that they were children of another relative of William - possibly a brother, which would have made them his nephew and niece.



*College of Herald's design of the James Cooper arms
(British Library - Stowe MS 670)*

Little is known about James. He seems not to have been a man of much historical consequence, but there are a few references that stand out. For example, in 1585 James Cooper, described as a 'gentleman', appointed John Depup (whose patron he was) to be rector of St. Mary and All Saints in Hawksworth.¹⁸ This was supposedly noteworthy since the advowson was regarded as split between Thurgarton and Hawksworth, and that year it should have been the turn of Thurgarton to make ecclesiastical appointments.¹⁸ The speculation was that James' exercise of the advowson suggested that he was acting on behalf of the Thurgarton Coopers to whom he was possibly related.¹⁸ Richard Whalley had held one part of the advowson that he had inherited from his grandfather who had married a Leek family heiress. The Leeks were related to the Lords of Sibthorpe who were awarded the half share by the courts in 1278 and from that time until the Dissolution Act of 1536, they split the advowson with Thurgarton Priory.¹⁸ Advowsons were often

employed by the landowning gentry as a way of providing income or status to a younger relative (often one being ordained) who was not in a position to inherit. James was not an heir to William Cooper's holdings and Whalley, presumably as a favour to Barbara, seems to have set him up with the Hawksworth advowson.

However, in 1583, Richard Whalley settled on his eldest son Thomas, property that included the reversion of the parsonage and advowson of Hawksworth after the death of James Couper and his wife Katherine.¹⁹ So, Whalley had evidently conveyed the advowson to James for life and the latter exercised it in his own right in 1585.¹⁸ Thus it's possible that previously Whalley had owned both shares.

Two other events involving James Cooper (or Couper) are recorded that tie him to Barbara and the Whalleys. First, Richard Whalley's 1583 will granted to James Couper (as well as to a William Poule) his 'movable goods and chattels, leases and jewels for a purpose specified in the indentures'.¹ Then, after Barbara's second husband Edward Burnell died in 1590, she and James Cooper were named as defendants in legal proceedings brought by Edward's sister over disputed rights to his land holdings.²⁰

Finally, there is the evidence of Richard Whalley's tomb in Screveton Chapel. In 1584 when Barbara caused the tomb to be erected, she had engraved on the side of it the Whalley arms, the Hawksworth Cooper arms and a side-by-side combination of the two.³ This would certainly seem to connect the Whalleys and Coopers (presumably through Barbara) and also narrows the James Cooper grant date to between 1567 and 1584.

Barbara had four sons and three daughters with Richard Whalley. According to the Fetherston manuscript, one daughter, Barbara, was married to a man with the surname Coop' who was from 'Kankeloworth' and another daughter, Susan, married Coop' of 'Horrigan'.¹¹ Neither of these two place names means anything today and they likely represent transcription errors. For example, 'Horrigan' could well have been 'Hoveringham' which, being next door to Thurgarton, could imply

that the husband was one of the Thurgarton Coopers. Similarly, 'Kankeloworth' could be a misrepresentation of 'Hawksworth' (in late 16th century writing 'H' can easily be mistaken for 'K' and 's' for 'l'). Such an interpretation is supported by the fact that there is a record of Susan Whalley marrying William Couper ('ye yonger') of Hoveringham at Hawksworth Church in July of 1589, and Barbara Whalley marrying another man surnamed Couper in the same church in 1594.²¹

The important thing to note about the latter marriage is that the couple were identified in the parish register as first cousins ('cosyn germenaynes').²¹ So clearly James and Barbara were most likely brother and sister as the grant of arms

earlier specified. And in an Act of Administration related to Barbara Burnell's will, Barbara Cowper is named as her daughter.²² This represents further evidence that 'Coop' in the Fetherston manuscript can be taken to mean Cooper, Couper or Cowper.

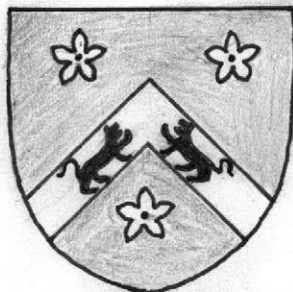
So, on balance, there is little doubt that Barbara Whalley, the third wife of Richard Whalley, was originally Barbara Cooper (or Cowper, or Couper) and there is some indication that she and her brother James may have been related in some way to the Cooper family of Thurgarton. They do not appear in any of the Cooper pedigrees but this only means that they were not direct or otherwise important ancestors or descendants. James likely died sometime in the early 1600s several years

This Richard Whalley of Screaneton Esqr maryed 3 wives and had Issue by them all, he maryed to his first wife, the daughter of the Lorde Broughmanbee, by whom he had Issue 6 children Whereof 4 dyed without Issue and Thomas the 4 sonne succeeded his fathers in the pattermony. and the foresaide Richard Whalley Esqr maryed to his 2 wife Ursella Thwaites he had Issue by her 13 Children. William the eldest sonne maryed Barbery, the 2 daughter and Coheire of Henry Hattfeild of Willoughby Esqr. Benyuenter the 2. Marshall the 3. Raphe the 4. Edward the 5. who all died unmarried, the Eldest daughter was Elinor, maryed to Sr John Zouch. Codnor Knight who had Issue John and Elinor, John maryed ye daughter of ye lord Bartley, Elinor maryed to Edwurd lord Zouch of Harinton, Jane the 2 daught' was maryed to Thomas Marshall of Austie in Sussex. and ye had Issue John & Elinor John maryed the daughter of master Burley. Elinor maryed to master Sheldon and ye died without Issue. Gartrid ye 4 maryed to John Neuell of Groue and had Issue Hearson and others. Ursella the 5 daughter maryed to Master Forham and had Issue, Troth maryed to Master Belliname of Langleton in Essex, Anne and Florance died Unmarried. and the foresaid Richard Whalley maryed to his 3 wife, who was Barbery Coop' by whom he had Issue, 4 sonnes, Marcham, James, Cordall, & Francoe, and 3 daughters Susan. maryed to Coop' of Horrigan. Barbara. maryed to Coop' of Kankelworth. and Winifrate maryed to Dighton in Lincolneshire.

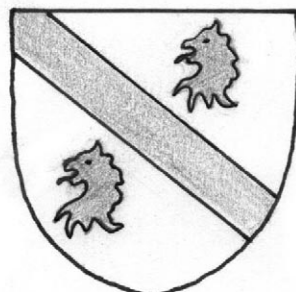
The part of the Fetherston document transcription that describes Richard Whalley's wives and children



WHALLEY



COOPER OF THURGARTON



COOPER OF HAWKSWORTH

*Arms of Whalley, the Coopers of Thurgarton and James Cooper of Hawksworth
(as interpreted by the author from the heraldic descriptions)*

after Barbara.²³ At time of writing, the author has been unable to find a copy of a will for James. Barbara made a brief will however, leaving all her possessions to her three younger sons.⁵

With respect to her sons, it may be an interesting insight into Barbara's character that two of them were apparently named after well-placed Nottinghamshire families - the Marchams (Markhams) and the Cordalls (Cordells) - that had or would become associated through marriage with the Whalleys, Coopers or Burnells. This, in conjunction with her evident high-profile support for her brother's advancement and her subsequent placement of the new arms on Richard's tomb, suggest someone who was perhaps a bit of a social climber. Her and James' origins may not have been 'top-drawer' but she was determined to leave life better connected than when she entered it!

The Markhams first entered the Whalley/Cooper picture through the pedigrees of Sir William Mering and Sir John Hercy (both of Nottinghamshire) and it transpires that, based on the original parish register entry, Barbara Whalley's younger daughter's husband was named 'Hercye' and not the 'Henry' that Phillimore's transcript asserts.^{24,25} So, Barbara's brother James had also carried on a practice of naming male children after past relations connected to the landed gentry.

There is evidence that the Whalleys, Thurgarton Coopers and Burnells all had dealings with each other while Richard was alive.²⁶ They lived in relative proximity and were on a socially equivalent scale, being of a new class that owed more to wealth than title.¹⁴ When Richard Whalley was on the lookout for a third wife, Barbara Cooper would have been a suitable and logical candidate, assuming she was connected to the William Cooper of Thurgarton clan.

The author's interest in the Whalley pedigree stems from his search for the descendants of James Cooper. A family tree containing references to persons living from the late 1600s, started over a hundred years ago by his great grandfather John Cooper and including a drawing of the Hawksworth arms, had raised the possibility that James was an ancestor. Of course, without any clear provenance

such a conclusion is pure speculation, but an examination of the Whalley pedigree was the first step in attempting to assess this.

The author thanks his sister Janet for her help with the 16th century handwriting.

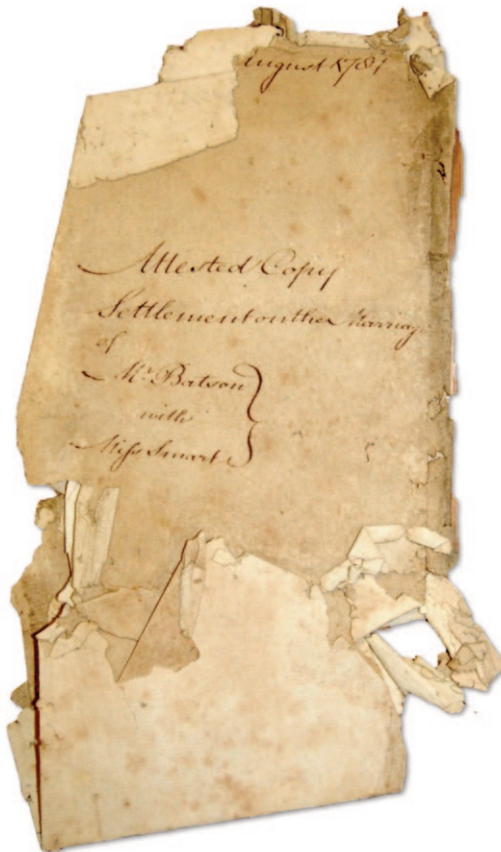
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TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

Marriage Settlement of Mr Batson with Miss Smart August 1781

There is no place where marriage settlements or other such original and personal family documents might be deposited. It has been placed in the document collection of miscellaneous family papers and research notes held by the SoG. This settlement outlines a form of pre-nuptial agreement between the families. The IGI and Ancestry shows the marriage by licence of Robert Batson (widower of 'St Annes Middlesex') and Mary Smart at St Dunstons and All Saints, Stepney on 16 August 1781. There is a Faculty Office Marriage Licence for this marriage issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 14th August 1781 which is also indexed by the Society. Altogether these documents shed light on the practice of marriage in the mid-18th century.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE: 'FIRST FOR BOYS'

Muriel Gibbs

Object: *The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline. Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.*

During the evening of Thursday 4 October 1883 at the North Woodside Mission Hall a group of Boys from the Sunday School gathered for the very first meeting of what was to become the 1st Glasgow Company of The Boys' Brigade, and indeed the foundation of many other uniformed youth organisations - Church Lads' Brigade in 1891, Jewish Lads' Brigade 1895, Boys' Life Brigade 1899 - joined with the BB in 1926, and with organisations for Girls also being formed, Church Girls' Brigade 1901. Girls' Guildry 1900, Girls' Brigade of Ireland 1893, Girls' Life Brigade in England 1902 - these three joining to become The Girls' Brigade in 1965. In 1908 a famous war hero of the South African War, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, produced a booklet called 'Scouting for Boys' with suggestions for activities for the various youth organisations, and within a very short time the Scout Association had begun, followed by the Girl Guides in 1909.

Very quickly the idea of such an organization for what could be the unruly behaviour of growing lads began to take hold and more churches of other denominations began to form Companies, first in Glasgow, then across Scotland with Companies from north to the Borders and from the east to the west coast. In November 1885 the first Companies started in England, at London, Manchester, Huddersfield and Penzance. In 1887 The Boys' Brigade formed its first Company in Wales and in 1886 the first in Ireland. With a growing number of Companies in a town or district Battalions began to be formed and by the 10th Anniversary in 1893 there was a membership of over 29,000 Boys. Not only did the Brigade grow in the UK but also in many countries

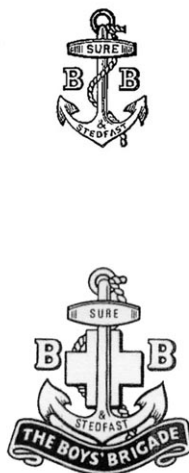
overseas such as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa, India, Burma, China. Almost from the beginning a very simple uniform was introduced, just a pill box cap 'with the Company number on the front, leather belt (with brass buckle - to be kept polished!) and a white haversack (originally used for small rations on 'Field Days') all worn over ordinary clothes.

Boys in the Company would have been aged between 12 and 17 years, in an organisation, which was always part of a church. The Company being led by the Captain, assisted by Lieutenants, with the older Boys becoming NCO's - Staff Sergeants, Sergeants, Corporals, and Lance Corporals, and thus learning leadership skills and responsibility while leading a squad of younger Boys.

So what did those Boys do that brought such interest. The founder, William Alexander Smith, was born in 1854 in Scotland, a business man and member of the local 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers (forerunner of the Territorial Army) introduced the Boys to drill and discipline, P.T, a Sunday Bible Class, games, swimming, cricket, football, club rooms with the opportunity of playing table tennis, chess etc. Later proficiency Badges were introduced, the first in 1889 for Ambulance (First Aid) and such things as Gymnastics (1917), Life Saving (1916), Signalling (1911), and later by many other various subjects, with the first King's Badge being awarded 1914. Bands were another popular activity - Drum and Fife, Bugle, Brass and Pipe Bands being introduced. However its greatest innovation was the introduction of camping, in the days when only soldiers and travellers lived in tents, so the idea of taking Boys to live for a week in a tent and from overcrowded cities to the delights of the seaside or countryside, first in a local hall but very soon under canvas, was something very special.



The Founder of the Boys' Brigade: Sir William Smith

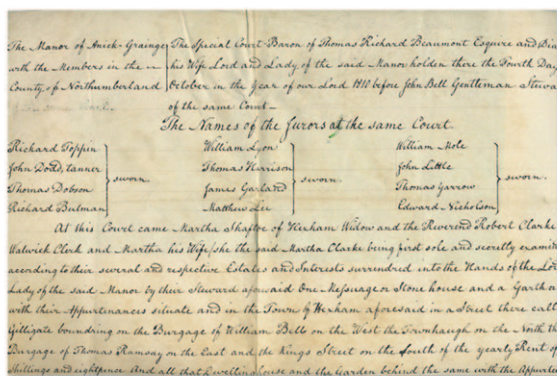


For all his work for Boys, William Smith, who gave up his business career to become Brigade Secretary in 1888, was knighted by King Edward VII in 1909. Unfortunately Sir William was taken ill at a BB meeting in London in May 1914 and died the following day in hospital. After a packed service in St Paul's Cathedral in London he was returned to his own church in Glasgow, where two BB Sergeants slow marched beside the coffin all the way from the church to the cemetery. After the committal all the Boys of the Company walked by in single file dropping a white flower into the open grave. Very soon many of those Boys were wearing a very different uniform as army service came with the outbreak of World War I.

In spite of many difficulties the BB continued during both World War I and World War II, and is still operating in many different countries around the world into the 21st century and still giving Boys (and these days a few Girls) fun, friendship, interests, skills and many memories to take on into a life time.

For further information, The Boys' Brigade Archive Trust Virtual Museum is now up and running at <https://www.thebbmuseum.org/>

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 Former Boys' Brigade Archivist
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TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

re: *Martha Shafteof*

Court Baron minutes of Anick-Grange, Hexham, Northumberland, 1810 in which twelve named jurors witness the transfer of a stone house and garth occupied by the widow Martha Shafteof. From the SoG's topographical collection.

THE 1898 VACCINATION ACT IN PRACTICE

David Squire MA FCA FSG

My maternal grandmother, Phyllis Mary Stockburn, was born on 11 August 1900 in Church Street, Clare, Suffolk. Less than three months later she was the subject of a Petty Sessions hearing concerning her smallpox vaccination. What happened in her case seems to have been repeated many times throughout the country and led to a change in the law in 1907. How did this come about? Indeed the background to, and the details of, what happened in rural Suffolk one hundred and twenty years ago provides some interesting insight into current UK policy regarding vaccination compulsion.

Phyllis's father, Harry Osborn Stockburn ('Hal') (1860-1926) farmed 400 acres near Clare. But he was relatively new to farming and had been brought up in Kettering, Northamptonshire, where his father was a leading figure in commerce, public life and Liberal politics. Hal initially joined his father's corset manufacturing concern and it was whilst he was travelling on company business that he met his future wife, Beatrice Clare Hill ('Clare') (1874-1951) who was assisting her father running a successful commercial hotel known as The White Hart located on North Brink, Wisbech.

In 1892, the couple eloped to New Zealand with a plan to farm there. But Clare did not settle and they returned to England and bought a farm in Suffolk instead. On 29 October 1900, Hal attended the Clare Petty Session in front of three magistrates to apply for a certificate of exemption from vaccination in respect of Phyllis. This procedure was enshrined in The Vaccination Act, 1898, then quite recently enacted. The hearing was reported almost verbatim in the Cambridge Daily News of the following day and when I first read the account I was frankly surprised and not a little shocked. Despite the somewhat unusual circumstances of his marriage, I had previously regarded Hal's views as very conventional.



Edward Jenner performing his first vaccination on James Phipps, a boy of age 8. 14 May 1796

To understand what happened next it is necessary to provide some background. By 1900 there had been several relevant laws enacted in the previous sixty years. An Act in 1840 provided for free voluntary vaccination. Later laws in 1853, 1867 and 1871 made smallpox vaccination compulsory for infants and gradually increased the sanctions for non-compliance. This led to a well organised and popular movement against compulsory vaccination. The core argument was that it was an infringement of personal civic liberty but there were some practical and procedural objections as well. A Royal Commission was set up in 1889 and over the next seven years it produced six reports. The issues arising were addressed in the 1898 Act and most were uncontroversial. These included mandated improvements in quality control of vaccines and greater clarity over who should administer them; the age limit was raised from three months to six and parents could request that a baby be vaccinated at home rather than at a medical centre. Also cumulative penalties were abolished. But one clause caused more discussion than any other both inside Parliament and out. It was eventually enacted as follows:

No parent or other person shall be liable to any penalty under Section xxix or Section xxxi of the Vaccination Act of 1867 if within four months from the birth of the child he satisfies two justices or a stipendiary or metropolitan police magistrate in petty sessions that he conscientiously believes that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of the child, and within seven days thereafter delivers to the vaccination officer for the district a certificate by each such justices or magistrate of such conscientious objection.

On the day in question the hearing opened with some light-hearted preliminaries but quickly came to the nub of the matter. Harry Stockburn stated that he conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child. The chairman of the bench, Rev A Packer, clearly had his ammunition ready and responded thus:

‘Conscience has nothing to do with such as this. Conscience is a moral agent which tells you that which is morally right or morally wrong, and distinguishes sin from that which is not sin. You may have your belief but no one on earth will make me believe that conscience has anything to do with a case of this sort. You have not satisfied me that you have any conscientious objection to the vaccination of this child.’

He landed further blows with follow up questions: ‘Why should you, who I presume know nothing about medicine, go against all the great physicians of the age?’ and ‘Why should the neighbours be exposed through your neglect?’ Harry did not have

adequate answers and his request for a certificate was rejected. He did consider reapplying and spent 2s 7½d on a new application form. I have no evidence that this was ever followed through.

But this is not the end of the story. It seems that the Reverend Packer’s attitude to the conscientious objection clause was typical and very few magistrates were prepared to be satisfied. Parliament concluded that their original intent was, for all practical purposes, being sabotaged and responded with another act in 1907. This new law stated that a parent escaped penalty for non-vaccination if they filed a statutory declaration of their belief within four months of a child’s birth. And magistrates had a duty to sign a statutory declaration when requested.

As far as I am aware Phyllis was administered her vaccine and never caught smallpox. But she did die of hepatitis in Hong Kong in 1935 and is buried in Happy Valley. I would never have known about this event had it not been for an assiduous court reporter and I am more convinced than ever of the value of old newspapers to flesh out family history and provide (sometimes challenging) insights into the lives and characters of our predecessors.

David Squire MA FCA FSG

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TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

Among the Society’s Baker-Holl special collection - an exquisite watercolour illustration titled ‘Inval’, 1899, by ‘MG’.

OUR KIEV ANCESTORS

Michael Gandy, FSG

As I write Ukraine is on the news every day. However important they are at the moment most of us have not been used to following its politics in detail and it may surprise people how many of us have ancestors from Kiev (as we called it until recently). These fall into two groups.

Between 1881 and 1914 about 140,000 Jews immigrated to the UK from Russia. This included Ukraine but it also included Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and a great deal of modern Poland. The 1911 census usually only records the birthplace as Russia but some entries say specifically Kiev or other towns (such as Poltava) which are now in Ukraine. That area was famous for Cossacks - associated in some people's minds with dancing or pogroms - and stories of ancestral persecution are quite likely to mention Cossacks even when the ancestors came from, say, Lithuania where there weren't any.

A much larger group, however, are those who are descended from King Edward III (1312-1377), the last monarch from whom ordinary people can have a legitimate descent. His immediate descendants were English aristocracy and gentry who may have restricted their number by marrying each other but families have younger sons and over 700 years the genetic pyramid has spread out. Forty years ago Anthony Wagner estimated that there were probably 3 million descendants in this country. The figure is much higher in the United States as so many of the early colonists in Virginia and New England were of gentry or prosperous yeoman ancestry. Over the years it has often been announced that various Presidents had royal ancestry and our newspapers have tended to sneer at the pretension but it is true. Barak Obama also has the standard wish-list ancestors (Mayflower Pilgrims and others)

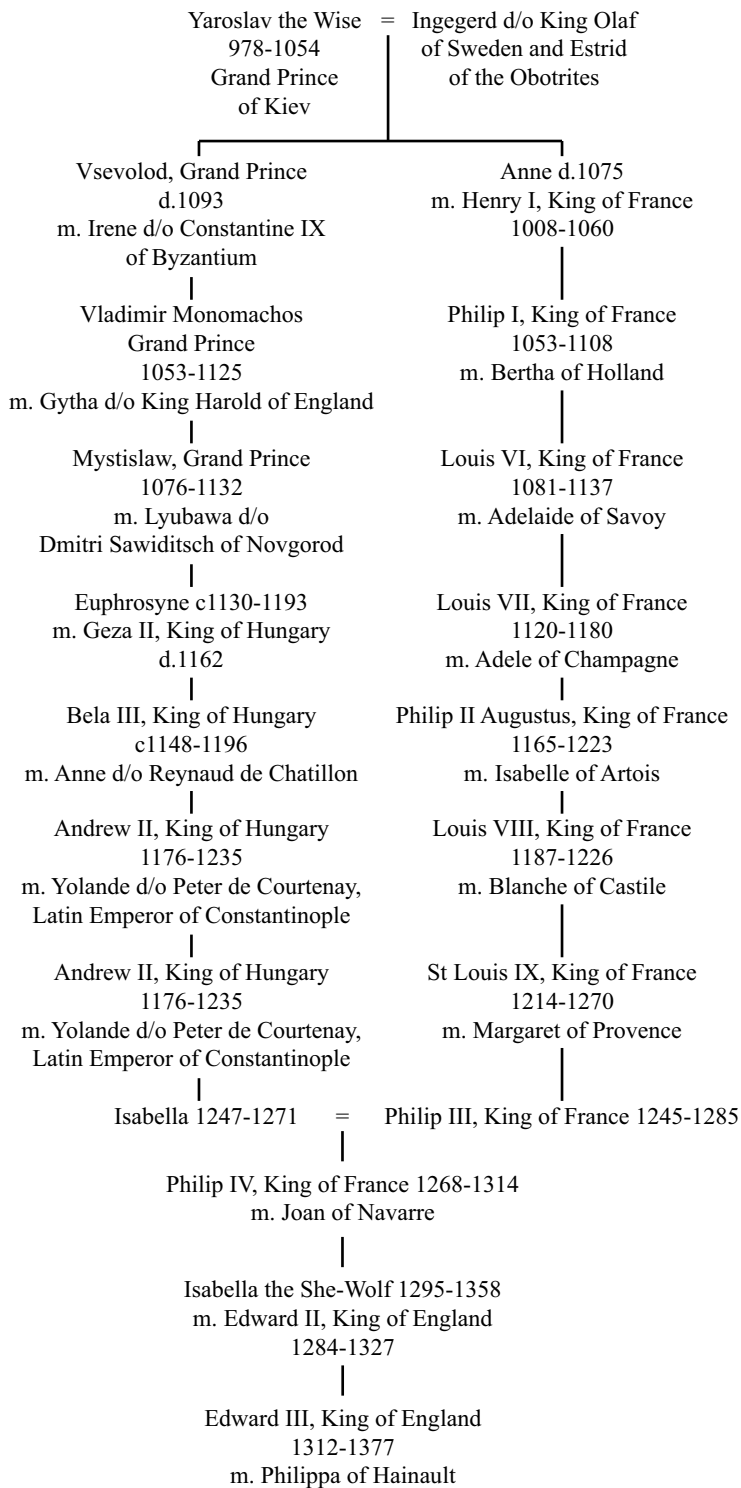
because his mother had 350 years of colonial ancestry (though not of course on every line).

Afro-Caribbeans and Afro-Americans are more likely than many to have such a descent since many are descended from plantation owners of 'good stock' with a DNA test to prove it. And of course the figure gets larger all the time as people who have such a descent (whether they know it or not) marry or have relationships with people who don't.

For readers who disapprove of 'elite' genealogy and think we should only write about ag labs I would guesstimate that about 500 of our members know they have this ancestry while others will find out later, or may never know due to research brick walls. *Who Do You Think You Are?* produced it for Alexander Armstrong who chairs *Pointless* and Danny Dyer from *Eastenders* (BBC television programmes).

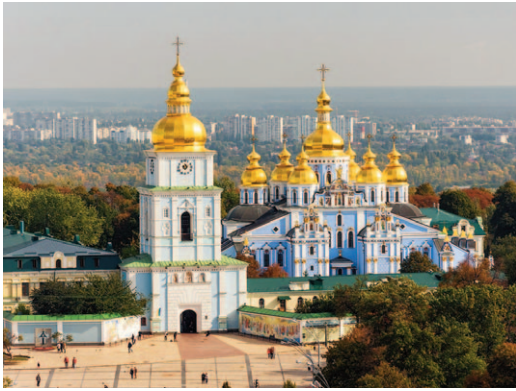
Edward III had two descents (the tree will clarify):

1. Edward's mother was Isabella of France, daughter of King Philip IV. Philip was directly descended from King Henry I of France (1008-1060) who married Anne, daughter of Yaroslav the Wise (978-1054), Grand Prince of Kiev (descendant of the Swedish Rus who founded Russia). The family had certainly been Princes of Kiev since the 950s but it is not certain whether Yaroslav's grandmother was Maluschka, daughter of Mal, son of Dir, son of Askold, the rulers of Kiev from about 855. His wife was the daughter of the King of Sweden and his mother-in-law had the lovely name of Estrid of the Obotrites (obviously not that in her own language!). The Obotrites were a Slav tribe who lived on the Baltic coast more or less where Mecklenburg is now.



Descents of Edward III from the Grand Princes Of Kiev

Yaroslav founded the golden-domed cathedral which we have been seeing so much on TV.



St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, Kiev, Ukraine

2. Philip III of France (d.1285), father of Philip IV, married Isabella daughter of King James I of Aragon by his wife Yolanda, daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary. He was the son of Bela III son of Geza II by his wife Euphrosyne of Kiev (d.1193). She was the daughter of Mstislav, Grand Prince of Kiev, son of Vladimir Monomachos son of Vsevolod son of Yaroslav the Wise.

Interestingly this is the path by which you can be descended from King Harold who died at the

Battle of Hastings since Vladimir Monomachos married Gytha, Harold's daughter by Edith Swan-neck. This took place about 1070 so I suppose Harold's children still had street cred for possibly getting the English throne back.

Another interesting sideline is that Bela III of Hungary married Agnes of Antioch, daughter of the famous Reynald of Chatillon. He was captured at the Battle of Hattin (1187) and he and Guy, King of Jerusalem, were brought before Saladin, whom the West saw as the epitome of a Muslim gentil, parfait knight - Dante puts him in Limbo as one of the virtuous pagans. Saladin offered Guy water and he drank and handed the cup to Reynald who also drank. This was disastrous because the offer of a drink to Guy was also an offer of safe-conduct - but it was Guy, not Saladin, who gave the water to Reynald so that was not an offer of safe-conduct and Saladin killed him on the spot. (Fair to say that he first offered Reynald the opportunity of converting to Islam but Reynald refused). Reynald was a very treacherous character but it was still bad luck to miss out on the safe-conduct by an accident.

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MY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Mary Timmins

2002 was a bad year. In September my mother died; in November I was made redundant; in December my father died. In addition to this I had to have an operation which led to me being housebound for six weeks. I was supposed to be job hunting but, as you can imagine, this got delayed!

I eventually sorted through my Mum's papers and found an old typed document. It was a private manuscript 'for the perusal of my dear children'. It was a journal of the voyages of Stephen Jarman, from Sept 1837 to March 1898. I wondered who he was and how I was related to him. That sparked an interest in family history. Stephen Jarman was my 2nd great-great Uncle. My great-great grandmother was Mary Ann Jarman, and he was her brother. He lived from 1824 until 1910 so he first went to sea when he was 13.

The document was originally typed in 1900, then re-typed by someone else in 1952, then re-typed by my mother in 1969, and then I re-typed it in 2004. As you can imagine it awakened an interest in my family history and I wanted to know more. Then I wondered what to do with this document. I decided the best thing to do was to give it to the Library at the Society of Genealogists. I did not know anything about Genealogy, so again, I decided the best way to learn more, was to work as a volunteer at the Society and learn about it.

When I started volunteering in 2004, Michael Wood was the Chairman and I worked on the Marriage Indexes for St. Andrew's, Holborn. The person in charge of the project was Colin Allen. I seem to remember there was some sort of computer program to help input the data. I think we included:

Name of Groom, status - bachelor or widower, age whether or not of full age (21 or over), parish of groom, date, occupation, whether by License or

Banns. If it was by banns, (i.e. in a church) I think the date was the date of the banns rather than the date of the wedding, groom's father's name.

Name of Bride, status - spinster or widow, age, whether or not of full age, name of father if she was not of full age, parish of bride.

I think we also included witnesses.

After a break to teach, in 2009, I decided to go back to Family History. In those days we had Family History Shows, they were usually in February and were often at The Royal Horticultural Halls. Then they moved to Olympia and became 'Who Do You Think Are? Live'. They had lots of Family History Societies there, trying to get you to join if you had ancestors who lived in that area; also, they could help you find ancestors as they had Birth, Death and Marriage indexes for their area. I remember I joined the East Surrey Family History Society and The London Cornish Association in 2009 and I have been a member of both ever since.



SoG Volunteers at the advice area, Who Do You Think You Are? Live, 2009, Olympia, London

Whilst at The Family History Show I went to the Society of Genealogists' stand and saw Michael

Wood and Colin Allen; I told them I was thinking of returning to volunteer at the Society of Genealogists; they welcomed me back with open arms!

When I had been at the SoG previously there had been a full time member of staff who had been in charge of the volunteers. He had since left. Colin and Michael asked me if I would like to be the Volunteer Co-ordinator. I decided I did not want to do transcribing or scanning, so I agreed.

Whenever a new prospective volunteer contacted the SoG, whether by phone, email or even in person, I would find out what they wanted to do and when they were free, and contact the project co-ordinators who allocated them a job and introduced them to each other to get them started. I was only at the Society one day a week, so this meant I met some volunteers but not others.

Some volunteers worked from home; other volunteers came in to the Society.

We had the following projects for those who worked from home:

- 1831 Project
- Alumni Oxonienses
- Business Project
- Indian MIs (memorial inscriptions)
- Percy Smith Index
- Poll Books

We had the following projects for those who volunteered at the Society:

- Advice Line
- Apprentices
- Archives
- Birth Briefs
- Book Processing
- Book Repairs
- Book Reviewers
- Cataloguing
- City of London Burials

- Counter Volunteers
- Events
- Events Marketing
- Evidences
- Indexing / Scanning
- IT
- Maps
- Membership
- Monday Indexing Team
- Monumental Inscriptions
- Periodicals
- Saturday Advice
- Saturday Teas
- Scanners
- Search / copy service
- Shelf Tidiers
- *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live

At the time I think we had 200 - 300 volunteers.

What I really enjoyed about volunteering for the Society of Genealogists was the social contact. When I started volunteering in 2004, the Society was a busy bustling place. There was always someone in the Common Room to chat to. This was usually another Volunteer, Doreen, who volunteered until she was in her eighties. Another thing I enjoyed was that there was always someone to ask for help. This worked two ways, some people helped you and you helped other people. You had a sense of belonging.

As time progressed, fewer members came into the Society, they found that they did not need to come in, as you could do your Family History online, with Ancestry and Find My Past etc. I also worked for the two subsequent paid Volunteers Managers after it became a paid position, but I enjoyed my time as the Volunteer Co-ordinator because I got to interact with many more people.

Mary Timmins

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MAKING HISTORY THROUGH OUR ARCHIVES - WITH ADDED COLOUR?

... and an amazing journey from Plymouth to Canada via the Panama Canal

Helen Dawkins LRPS

In his book, *My Name is Why*, Lemn Sissay says:

‘The photograph of the past changes with time and yet it remains the same. In other words, a tree is a tree until you know why it was planted or when it was planted or by whom. Once you know, then it is no longer a tree. It is symbolic. It is a series of stories. It has a truth.’

Very profound and so very true of the photographs in our family archives. If you have a collection of photographs with no title, no story then you merely have ‘a photograph’ but once you add the when, why and who, you create a piece of history. It is essential to ensure family photographs are well documented in your family archive otherwise they will merely be ‘a photograph’ for generations to come inviting questions ‘I wonder who, I wonder why?’. I would always advise adding as much information as you know when adding photographs to the archive - they will bring your family history to life. Good storage is essential - added detail creates a ‘series of stories’ - it creates our history. You may accuse me of stating the obvious but I see so many photographs without stories so I thought it was worth a mention.

This snapshot is one of my own favourite childhood photographs/memories and goes with a story of the ‘where’; new home the family moved when I was 6 months old - ‘why’; my father had a lot of work to do on this new home on grandfather’s land and I just loved to help. A simple photograph but a happy memory. Not for me the pretty studio photograph in my finest dress so this was also very much a character sketch!



Fig. 1 - Helen mixing her very first batch of cement under father's watchful eye

... And should we add colour?

From the days of the ambrotype in the 1850s, there has been a desire to add colour to black and white photographs and from that day to this hand colouring can be applied using photographic oils, water colours etc. I recently acquired some c.1860 Francis Frith photographs that had been hand coloured, according to the Francis Frith Archive, undoubtedly at the time of production, and a recent request was made for me to hand colour a family group taken c.1915, for a special gift for my client’s father’s 100th birthday. We are constantly seeking to produce something different - sometimes it really works.



Fig. 2 - Francis Frith hand coloured photograph

Colourisation of photographs seems to be a much hyped point of discussion in the media at present with seemingly a constant compulsion to add colour, particularly to war photographs. I wonder, do we watch a wonderful old film such as *Brief Encounter* and consume ourselves with intrigue as to the colour of Celia Johnson's dress - or do we immerse ourselves in the romance and emotion of the moment? I understand this is a very personal issue but as a lover of black and white photography, I do not always feel the need to know or see the 'perceived' colours of the film/still photograph. See the colour and we can lose a little bit of the soul of the image. In some instances we may become distracted from the emotive feelings of the moment.

Tom Stoddart, photographer, who died in November 2021 aged 67 and who studied and photographed life was fond of quoting Canadian photographer Ted Grant who said 'if you photograph in colour you see the colour of their

clothes but if you photograph in black and white, you see the colour of their soul'.

The principles of colour photography were understood from as early as the 1860s but were too costly to be commercially viable. The early 1900s saw the invention of the Autochrome process by the Lumière brothers in France. Filters with colour created by the use of dyes mixed with potato starch resulted in very subtle colour photographs, however, once again the process was expensive, four average sized plates costing more than the average working man's daily wage with exposures taking about 20 times longer than black and white. It wasn't until 1948 that the first safety colour negative film was produced but this new popular medium didn't become mainstream until the 1970s. We are now seeing a return to interest of traditional black and white photography with new films and printing papers being introduced. We seem to be constantly seeking something new - even if it is rather like re-inventing the wheel.

Conversely it is sometimes advantageous to convert colour photographs to black and white, particularly with portraits - take the colour away and once again, you are left with the soul. Food for thought.



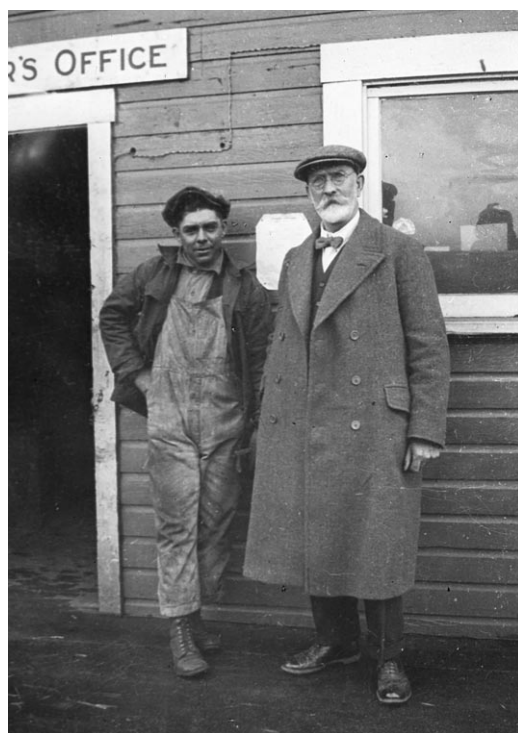
*Figs 3 & 4 - Colour portrait restored in black and white:
before and after*

... And the next wonderful challenge:

Magic Lantern Slides depicting a truly memorable voyage of discovery beginning in Plymouth, passing through the Panama Canal en route to Canada:

‘Early in 1926 my doctor ordered a complete rest, adding, ‘None of your ‘fortnight at the seaside business’. Get right away for at least three months’.

With this instruction in mind my client’s grandfather, Harry Tucker Ripper fondly known as ‘Tucker’, decided to follow a ‘long-held dream to investigate the timber situation on the Pacific coast’. He arranged a passage on a French boat sailing from Plymouth for Panama, his itinerary being the West Indies, across Panama, up the Pacific to San Francisco, thence to British Columbia, across Canada and home via New York. This voyage was so well documented both in a privately published publication in 1948 and by way of a series of magic lantern slides that my work took me through a virtual cruise/adventure.



*Fig 5 - Henry Tucker Ripper (right).
With kind permission of Anne Shellim, née Ripper.*

... The process

As with all slides, I feel the simplest and most effective course of action is first to scan the slides to create digital files in order to view the content on your computer. This also enables them to be shared amongst family around the world and decisions made as to what to print to add to the physical archive. Many of the images weren't as sharp as we would have liked but nevertheless formed a wonderful record of the journey of 'Tucker'.

A number of companies offer their services on the internet to scan slides quite cheaply but beware, many old slides require careful cleaning, density correction and retouching, so in this instance individual scans were vital to achieve best quality. The slides were mainly black and white but the collection also included some coloured slides - possibly given to 'Tucker' by the timber company - but it was the black and white slides which were of particular interest as these were created by the intrepid traveller himself and by viewing these in conjunction with reading his publication of 1948, the whole voyage was brought to life - we were making that journey with him. Yet another example of adding the story to the images to create a stirring memory.

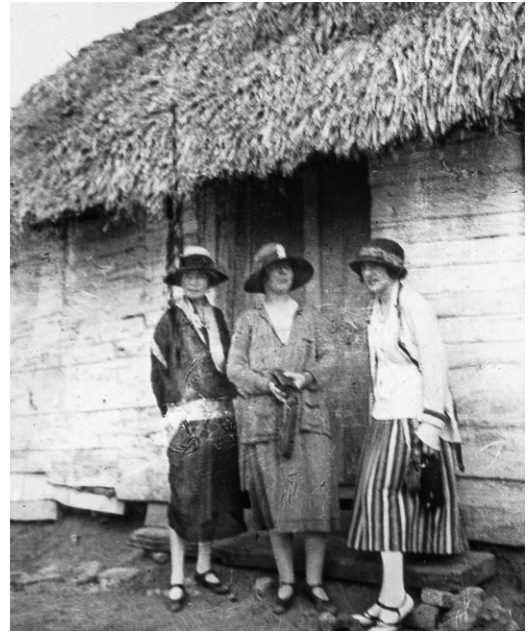


Fig 7 - Slide from the Ripper family collection: Dinner guests.
With kind permission of Anne Shellim, née Ripper.

... And every photograph tells a story

This quarter also saw work commence on some extremely faded *carte de visites* - they were in such poor condition that it wasn't until work began that I could truly deduce what could be achieved.

One of these photographs, proved to date to the 1880s, depicted a beautiful young lady dressed very stylishly with a layered skirt, draped apron style at the front and short fitted bodice. Both reflecting the latest fashion for different materials and contrasting patterns/textures. Her hair followed the latest fashion sporting 'the Alexandra fringe' set by Princess Alexandra, who married Edward VII in 1863. She also wears the fashionable brooch at the neck and a short thick chain supporting a medallion or, as believed, a locket, which are both also typical of the later years of the 1880s. The original *carte de visite* was so faded, that it was difficult to discern the jewellery detail so it was exciting to make this link with the past. The locket is still in family possession, and its contents were my next task - to reproduce one of the few photographs of my client's father, Charles Thomas Scott Nash, in his early years in army uniform. He signed up in 1919 and it is believed that this is when the photograph was taken.



Figs 6 - Slide from the Ripper family collection: Guadeloupe.
With kind permission of Anne Shellim, née Ripper.



Fig. 8 - Jane Nash nee Adams, born London 1868.
With kind permission of the Nash family



Fig. 9 - Charles Thomas Scott Nash c.1919.
With kind permission of the Nash family.

He returned home from India in 1926 which was, sadly, one year after his mother passed away. Such were the many sad stories of life in wartime.

The photograph in the locket measured only 1 cm in diameter but combined with the wonders of modern technology I was able to output to negative and produce a darkroom print to 4 inches square, mounted and ready to be framed to join the family gallery.

Helen Dawkins LRPS

Email: helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk

Established in 1992, Black and White Revival carries out traditional restoration and conservation of photographs. Helen Dawkins is now one of the few traditional processors for black and white photography continuing to produce archival quality photographs in the darkroom. For further advice: email helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk, visit www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk or tel: 01234 782265.



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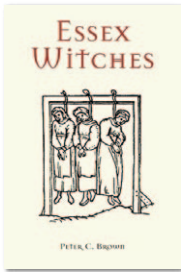


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BOOK REVIEW



Essex Witches

by Peter C. Brown, 2014, 162pp,
The History Press
ISBN 978 0 7524 9980 2

Witches form a substantial part of modern religious thinking, whether from Halloween, *Macbeth*, the musical *Wicked* or *Harry Potter* and they now cover a broad spectrum

from seriously horrific to childishly light-hearted. In all this stereotyping a sense of the reality has got lost but for approximately 300 years, including the publication of the *Malleus Maleficarum* of 1486 and the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 the existence of witches was taken very seriously. Nowadays there are large numbers of people who look on them as either deeply-wronged wise women with special knowledge of healing or practitioners of a deep magic from pre-Christian times. The last execution in England was at Exeter in 1685.

Since the Romantic period when witches were entirely 'out' in England novelists have set their stories either in Gothic (= medieval) times or in faraway, uncivilised places and witches have been subsumed into the pantheon of ghosts (with or without chains), vampires, werewolves, Satan worshippers and monsters with bolts in their necks - from *Rosemary's Baby* to *Carry on Screaming*.

I was brought up on the view that there was no God but ours and no such thing as magic of any sort: 'the heathen in his blindness / Bows down to wood and stone'. Witches were all innocent victims who must, by definition, always have been falsely accused since the things they were accused of could not, by definition, be true. Perhaps surprisingly this was also the view taken by the Spanish Inquisition which, as a court of investigation, specialising in heresy, declared that there was no such thing as witchcraft and that no accusations would be investigated. No-one expects the Spanish Inquisition... to think that!

The classic book on the subject is *The Witch Craze of the 16th and 17th centuries* by Hugh Trevor-Roper and he makes the point that there is always a mire of psychological darkness pullulating amongst the superstitious and it is disregarded by sensible people. However, sometimes middle class, educated people in power begin to believe and once their numbers reach critical mass then the courts start to condemn people and no-one is brave enough to say that the Emperor Has No Clothes. There is no shortage of examples in our own day.

Formal accusations of witchcraft appear in the assize

records which give details of who was said to have done what to whom. Browsing at random is an impractical job but where the assize records have been published accusations of witchcraft are certain to appear in the indexes. The published records of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Essex all give names with more or less detail and entries are frequent in Elizabethan times (1558-1603), fairly frequent under James I and Charles I (1603-1649) but fall away drastically after 1660. The records of witches in Fife (Scotland) have also been published for the mid-1600s. There are others.

As well as the published assize records for the South-East *Witch Hunting and Witch Trials: the Indictments for Witchcraft from the Records of 1373 Assizes Held for the Home Court AD1559-1736* by C.L'Estrange Ewen (1929, republished 1971) gives simple details of the women involved.

Essex Witches by Peter C. Brown, for which this item is intended as a recommendation, gives a straightforward account of the background, the laws and the accusations made against 'witches or cunning folk': familiars and marks, potions and remedies, spells and incantations. He has an excellent chapter on Matthew Hopkins, the Witch-Finder general, and an account of some 19th century people - including men - who were suspected of witchcraft but called in because they were helpful. However, in 1863 an 80 year old man was 'swum' at Sible Hedingham in 1863, that is, thrown into a stream to test him as a witch and pushed back every time he tried to climb out. He was eventually rescued but died a few days later.

To be technical, accusations were always that the witches had done some harm and there may, for all we know, have been as many, or far more, witches who were never accused because they did good. Moreover, we cannot know how many women were accused of witchcraft and convicted in the court of public opinion but never formally indicted.

Brown details a great many of the individual cases. Unfortunately for the family historian these are arranged by parish and there is no name index. The following is therefore a list of the accused and their parish or the parish where the author deals with them. I have not included the names of the accusers or the victims. Although the image is of old women many were spinsters or wives and some claimed pregnancy to avoid being hanged; in some cases witchcraft ran in the family (Elizabeth Hanby, 1601, her daughter Jane Prentice, 1634, and granddaughter Susan Prentice, 1638):

In fact some of the women below were found innocent or the charges failed for lack of evidence. Many were

hanged but many others were reprieved and imprisoned. Whatever our attitude to their cases these women all had 'due process', as the Americans say, and were not lynched.

Michael Gandy, FSG

Women indicted for witchcraft in Essex:

Alberte, Alice, Felstead
 Aylett, Alice, Braintree
 Aylett, Elizabeth, Brentwood
 Babb, Alice, Harwich
 Baker alias Johnson, Joan, Brentwood
 Barker, Susan, Upminster
 Barnes, 'Mother', St Osyth
 Barton, Sarah, Ramsey
 Belstead alias Muldeton, Mary, Boreham
 Bennet, Elizabeth, St Osyth
 Berden, Agnes, Elsenham
 Bett, Ellen, Great Waltham
 Boanes, Joan, After St Osyth
 Bright, Sarah, Manningtree
 Brooke, Elizabeth, Great Leighs
 Bryant, Agnes, Great Burstead
 Buller, Anne, Harwich
 Buller, Margaret, Harwich
 Buske, Alice, Alphamstone
 Cate alias Maiden Head, Anne, Clacton
 Celles/Sellis, Cicely, St Osyth
 Chapman, Rose, Belchamp Walter
 Chaundler, Alice, Maldon
 Clarens, Rose, Great Sampford
 Clarke, Elizabeth, Colchester, Lawford, Manningtree
 Clarke, Helen, Colchester, Lawford
 Cocke, Joan, Kelvedon, and her daughter
 Colson, Joan, East Mersea
 Common, 'widow', Coggeshall
 Cook, Susan, after St Osyth
 Cooke, Mary, Colchester
 Cooper, Anne, Clacton, Manningtree
 Cooper, Joan, Colchester
 Coppin, Mary, Kirby-le-Soken
 Copping, Robert, Wivenhoe
 Crabbe, Anne, Colne Engaine
 Cunny, Avice, Stisted
 Cunny, Joan, Stisted
 Cunny, Margaret, Stisted
 Dering, Joan, Theydon Garmon
 Dix, Agnes, Belchamp Walter, Thaxted
 Dixon, Alice, Wivenhoe
 Draper, Agnes, Great Dunmow
 'Dummy', Sible Hedingham
 Dunne, Agnes, Waltham
 Dunne, Richard, Waltham

Esterford, Elizabeth, Sible Hedingham
 Eve, 'mother', Hatfield Peverel
 Eves nee Finch, Elizabeth, Hadleigh
 Ewstace, Elizabeth, St Osyth
 Finch also Eves, Elizabeth, Hadleigh
 Francis, Elizabeth, Hatfield Peverel
 Fysher, Joan, Halstead
 Fysshier, Lucy, Feering
 Ganne alias Welles, Margaret, Borley
 Garrett, Elizabeth, Gosfield
 Garrett, Joan, Gosfield
 Glascock, Agnes, St Osyth
 Gooding, Elizabeth, Lawford, Manningtree
 Graye, Helen, Dagenham
 Greenleif, Mary, Alresford
 Grevell, Margaret, St Osyth, Thorpe-le-Soken
 Grew, Margery, Walton-le-Soken
 Haddon, Joan, Witham
 Hallybread, Rose, Colchester, after St Osyth
 Hanby, Elizabeth, Harwich
 Hankinson, Elizabeth, Harwich
 Hardinge, Elizabeth, Barking
 Hare, Elizabeth, Clacton
 Harris, Anne, Feering
 Harris, Elizabeth, Witham
 Harrys, Katherine, Sible Hedingham
 Hart, Mary, Harwich
 Harvey, Anne, Manningtree
 Harvey, Elizabeth, Ramsey
 Hatting, Sarah, Ramsey
 Haven, Agnes, Boreham
 Herd, Annis, Little Oakley, St Osyth
 Hewghes, Anne, Great Leighs
 Hocket(t), Marion, Manningtree, Ramsey
 Hogden, Margaret, Stebbing
 Holt, Mary, Little Leighs
 Hudson, Elizabeth, Harwich
 Hugrave, Alice, Abberton
 Hugrave, Stephen and Alice, Abberton
 Hunt, Alice, St Osyth
 Hynkson, Alice, Thaxted
 Johnson alias Baker, Joan, Brentwood
 Johnson, Mary, Wivenhoe
 Jones, Rebecca, after St Osyth
 Kempe, Ursula, St Osyth
 Lamperill, Anne, Colchester
 Landish, Margaret, after St Osyth
 Lawford, Rebecca, Colchester
 Lawrett, Katherine, Wakes Colne
 Lawsell alias Smythe, Agnes, Sible Hedingham
 Leach, Anne, Mistley
 Leech, Anne, Colchester, Lawford, Manningtree
 Leech, Helen, Lawford
 Lowe, Elizabeth, Colchester, Waltham
 Lowys, Elizabeth, Great Waltham

Lyttelberie, Margaret, Bradwell-on-Sea
Maiden Head alias Cate, Anne, Clacton
Makyn, Cicely, Canewdon
Manfield, Alice, St Osyth, Thorpe-le-Soken
Mathewe, Andrea/Audrey, Great Dunmow
Moone, Judith, Thorpe-le-Soken
Moone, Margaret, Colchester, Manningtree, Mistley,
Thorpe-le-Soken
Mose, Joan, Loughton
Mott, Elizabeth, Sible Hedingham
Muldeton, Mary, alias Belstead, Boreham
Mynnet, Margaret, Woodham Ferrers
Newman, Alice, St Osyth
Nokes, Alice, Lambourne
Norfolk, Joan, Borley
Pechey, Joan, St Osyth
Pennyfather, Anne, Little Totham
Pond, Audrey, Old Saling
Potter, Betty, Boxted
Prentice, Jane, Harwich
Prentice, Joan, Sible Hedingham
Prentice, Susan, Harwich
Prestmary, Joan, Great Dunmow
Prestmary, Richard, Great Dunmow
Preston, Frances, Little Sampford
Preston, Joan, Little Sampford
Prestmarye, Alice, Great Dunmow
Pullen, Katherine, Tollesbury
Pye, Rose, Canewdon
Rooman, Margaret, Bocking
Sadler, Mary, Creeksea
Salmon/Samond alias Smythe, John, Danbury
Sammon, Margery, St Osyth
Sawen, Agnes, Stock
Sellis/Celles, Cicely, St Osyth
Skelton, William, Little Wakering
Smith, Ellen, Maldon
Smythe alias Lawsell, Agnes, Sible Hedingham
Smythe alias Salmon/Samond, John, Danbury
Staunton, Margery, Wimbish
Steadman, Agnes, Halstead
Sterling, Mary, Langham
Swallow, Alice, Little Baddow
Swallow, Anne, St Osyth
Taylor, Elizabeth, Thaxted
Thacher, Joan, Lawford
Thorocke, Agnes, Burnham
Thorocke, Joan, Burnham
Turner, Joan, St Osyth
Upney, Joan, Dagenham
Waterhouse, Agnes, Hatfield Peverel
Waterhouse, Joan, Hatfield Peverel
Welles alias Ganne, Margaret, Borley
West, Anne, Colchester, Lawford, Manningtree, Mistley
West, Rebecca, Colchester, Lawford
Whale, Elizabeth, Sible Hedingham
Whitland, Agnes, Dagenham
Wiggins, Jane, Harwich
Wiles, Mary, Clacton
Wilson, Margery, Black Notley
Wrench, Sarah, East Mersea

CORRESPONDENCE



From: C T F Johnson
Email: timjohnson00@yahoo.com

Re: Anthony Joseph's letter / 'My first visit to SoG', *Genealogists' Magazine*, March 2022

I thought March was a great issue of SoG Magazine so seeing Anthony Joseph's letter at the end was an extra treat. As someone who benefited from his enthusiasm and communication skills on genealogy even earlier than the SoG I'm glad you had the wisdom to let him in, though under-age.

Anthony ran a hobbies club on genealogy at the Derbyshire boarding school we both attended in the 1950s. I really enjoyed it and still have interview notes and letters from long-deceased relatives which I collected in my early teens. As Anthony's career advanced (in parallel with a very full-time job as a medical doctor) to the Presidency of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain I realise how privileged I am to have been taught by him.

From: Anthony Parker
2 Baytree Close, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 5UF

Re: Anthony Joseph's letter / 'My first visit to SoG', *Genealogists' Magazine*, March 2022

I was fascinated to read of Dr Joseph's early entry into the Society of Genealogists.

In his last year at Abbotsholme School in Derbyshire in 1954/5, I was a junior in my first year. We had evening activities known as Social Hours, and Joseph, as I was obliged to call him then, ran a series of classes on Genealogy. I still have the green covered notebook in which I wrote some of his sage advice. The classes encouraged me to go off, aged 11, and interview my elderly relatives, which caused a certain amount of consternation and sudden lapses of memory.

I later learned that Timothy, the grandfather of my great aunts, who were the prime witnesses, had emigrated to America in the early 1860s with four of his

sons, leaving his wife, one son, my great grandfather Eustace, and four daughters in England.

Subsequent research has found multiple reasons why it might have been necessary for Timothy to depart these shores. Sir William Elderton's advice, passed on to me by Dr Joseph: 'If he minds what he finds he should not look' was very apposite in this case.

Nevertheless, this research lead me on all sorts of adventures in the USA, as well as England, and my daughter discovered relatives in Australia as well. I was a late joiner of the Society; my Birth Brief was published in the March 1989 *Genealogists' Magazine*.

I am so grateful that Anthony Joseph introduced me to genealogy, and some years ago I did have the opportunity to meet him and than him personally. It was a wise decision on the part of the Society to allow him to join at an early age, and I wonder if any other of your members attended the course in the Balance Room at Abbotsholme in 1954/5



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All copy, correspondence & remittances to:
Graham Collett, email to publishing@sog.org.uk

*prices per quarter

VISITING THE SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Members can now book to visit the Society at our temporary office. <https://members.sog.org.uk/events?category=Library%20Visits>. Materials need to be ordered 2 weeks in advance (to retrieve from offsite storage). To order items, please fill in the Library & Archive

Order Form while booking. (You can obtain required details (author etc.) from the library catalogue.) Enquiries: librarian@sog.org.uk.

More information at <https://www.sog.org.uk/visit-us/>.

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

Postal Address - Society of Genealogists, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

Registered Charity No 233701 Registered Company No 115703 VAT No 240 6070 02 Registered in England and Wales

The changes to the Articles of Association at the AGM 2021 mean that the terms of the Patron, President and Vice Presidents are being reset. Candidates for these posts will be nominated by the Board of Trustees and the membership will vote on their election at the AGM on Saturday 2nd July, or by proxy. HRH Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia, William Bortrick, Dan Snow, The Rt Hon. Lord Sudeley have been thanked for their service to the Society. Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG, Dr Colin Chapman, FSG and Miriam Margolyes, OBE have been nominated by the Board of Trustees for re-election as President and Vice Presidents, respectively.

CHAIRMAN

Ed Percival

VICE CHAIRMAN

Graham Walter

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Andy Douglas • Rob George • David Gill • Heather Nowlan • Ray O'Connell, Treasurer
Ed Percival, Chairman • Graham Walter, Vice-Chairman • Darris Williams

MANAGEMENT

Chief Executive Officer: Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA

Genealogist: Else A. Churchill, BA (Hons), DipLib

Head of Archive and Library Services: Francisca Mkwandawire

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Issued quarterly to members; and available to non-members by annual subscription (£25 if resident in the UK; £34 if outside the UK).

Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

Editorial address for contributions, letters for publication and readers' queries: 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA.

Business address for advertisements, books for review and subscriptions: Society of Genealogists, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA.

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www.sog.org.uk

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Genealogist: Else A. Churchill
Head of Archive & Library Services: Francisca Mkwandawire

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Administration: Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00am - 6:00pm; Thursday 10:00am - 8:00pm

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Genealogists' Magazine Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG
Volunteer Contributions Editor: Jemma Lockhart
Head of Member Services: Rebecca Gregory
Membership: (Mon-Thu 9.00am-3.30pm) Tel: 020 7553 3291
Lectures and Courses: Lori Weinstein
Transformation & Volunteer Manager: Christine Worthington

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SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS' NEWS...

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LIBRARY UPDATE

The Library is now open to welcome a few members at a time in our temporary office at 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA. While we await the move to our new location, we will be able to receive 8 visitors at a time, every Wednesday from 18th May, 2022. To visit the Library, please book a place on the website on the following link:

<https://www.sog.org.uk/visit-us>

You will also need to fill in a library booking form which is available on the website, to let us know which resources you will require during the visit. Please let us know if you need to use a computer and records. Since all Library materials are currently stored offsite in storage, we do need time to retrieve them. If you wish to order materials then please chose up to 5 items from the Library Catalogue and we need **2 weeks'** notice to enable us to recall your items in time for your Library visit.

Records in some sections of the Library, such as the Monumental Inscriptions, Parish Registers, for example, are temporarily unavailable due to our ongoing digitisation program. Microfiche and microfilms are not yet available until sometime later in the year, as we embark on the library inventory process.

All the FamilySearch microfilms which have been digitized can now be viewed online in the Library as we are a Family History Centre. Please confirm the records you require are available in the temporary office before you travel. For library queries, email: librarian@sog.org.uk

As this is the last issue I am writing before my move to other opportunities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and volunteers I have interacted with during my time at the Society. Thank you for all the support you rendered in a variety of ways to ensure that the information is accessible to researchers. I am

moving to work in my local community and spending more time on grandparenting duties. I wish you all every success in family history research and as the Society moves to the next phase in its history of relocation.

Francisca Mkandawire

Head of Archive and Library Services

FROM THE VOLUNTEER MANAGER

We're excited to be preparing our temporary office to welcome a small number of collections volunteers from the second half of May. We'll have several projects that will help us to tie up some collection loose ends from our move, better prepare us for collection retrievals and bring more digital collections content to members. If you were a library or archives collections volunteer at Clerkenwell and would like to be added to the Collections SubGroup of our volunteer forum let me know - you'll then receive updates on our progress towards reopening to volunteers and find out about available projects.

In the meantime, our amazing community of home project volunteers continues to work very hard. Our recently launched prototype of the TreeSearch™ software showed some of the work of our Pedigree Rolls Project volunteers and we look forward to seeing more of their indexing coming online in this fabulous format in future. The other home indexing projects are progressing very well and it will be great to see the output from the Great Card Index and SoG Data Online indexing up on the new digital content system later in the year.

To find out more about our home projects take a look at the volunteer page of our website:

<https://www.sog.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

Christine Worthington, Volunteer Manager

volunteering@sog.org.uk

ADVICE LINE

Our telephone advice line returned on 14 April and will be open every Thursday evening from 6-9pm.

This service is open to all members and anyone wondering how we might help. Our wonderful volunteers will be at the end of the line ready to assist you and offer guidance on your research queries.

No question is too big or too small. If there is something you're stuck on or would just like another opinion on, please pick up the phone and see if our volunteers can help.

Available every Thursday 6-9pm. Call (020) 7251 8799 and press option 5 (Advice line).

MEMBERS FORUM

Have you hit a brick wall with your research or need support tracking down an elusive ancestor? Why not ask on our Forum. Our Members' Forum enables you to connect with each other via shared interests and allows easier access to our community of experts. Log in now and introduce yourself or see if you can help a fellow member with their research.

You can access the Forum via the Members' Area on the website. If you have any questions, please email membership@sog.org.uk.

EVENTS NEWS

After a two-year absence, we have fired up our onsite walks again. Do have a look at our full programme to find a local (currently London) historical walk of interest.

For further information and to make a booking: <http://www.sog.org.uk/events>

Thursday, 9 June (2pm)

Migration within the UK

A one-hour talk with Doreen Hopwood

Thursday, 9 June (2pm)

Onsite Walk: London Priors, Friaries, Nunneries & Hospitals

A 90-minute walk with Joe Studman

Saturday, 11 June (2pm)

Were your Ancestors Gypsies?

A one-hour talk with Beverley Walker

Saturday, 18 June (10:30am)

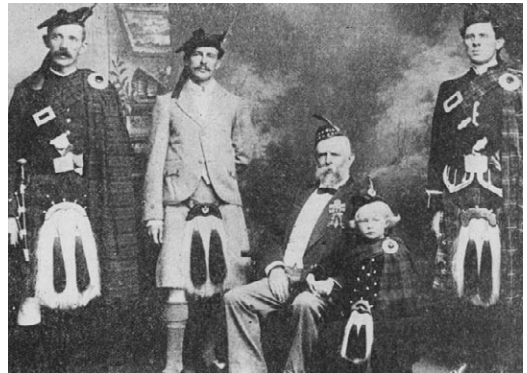
Exploring Your Ancestor's Parish Church and Churchyard

A one-hour talk with Celia Heritage

Saturday, 25 June (10:30am)

Using the sources within the National Records of Scotland

A one-hour talk with Lorna Kinnaird



Saturday, 25 June (2 - 4:20pm)

The Great War Dead & their Widows

A half-day course with Andrea Hetherington & Simon Fowler

Wednesday, 6 July (2pm)

Little Italy: The Story of London's Italian Quarter

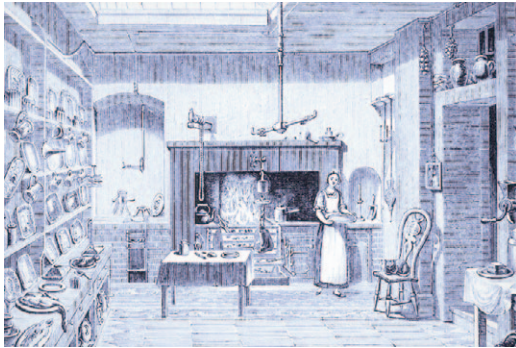
A one-hour talk with Tudor Allen



Saturday, 9 July (2pm)

The Victorian Cook - Queen of the Kitchen and Victorian Culinary Delights

A one-hour talk with Dr. Judy Hill



Saturday, 16 July (2 - 4:30pm)

Getting the Best from the Ancestry Website

A half-day tutorial with John Hanson



Saturday, 20 August (10:30am)

Carrying the Can - the UK Cotton Industry; Its Rise and Fall and our Ancestors' Place in It

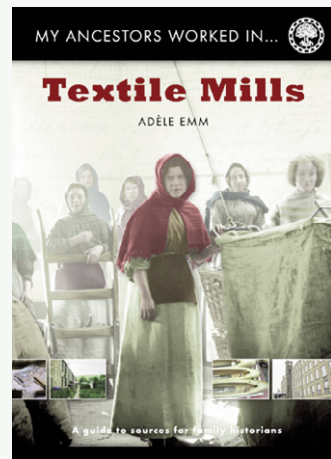
A one-hour talk with Adele Emm



All of our events must be pre-booked and are currently taking place online, using Zoom.

New to Zoom and would like to attend an online talk but not sure how? Do contact us if you would like to arrange a free taster session.

You can reach the events department via email: events@og.org.uk or tel: 020 7553 3290 (Tue-Sat).



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Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 111th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society of Genealogists will be held online via Zoom meeting and in person on Saturday 2nd July, 2022, 1pm, precisely. The meeting shall take place at Resource for London, 356, Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA and online by Zoom.

BUSINESS:

1. The election of the President.
2. The Auditor's Report.
3. The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees.
4. The Annual Accounts.
5. The appointment of the Auditors: In accordance with Sections 485 of the Companies Act 2006 a resolution proposing the appointment of Richard Place Dobson as auditors of the Society will be put to the Annual General Meeting.
6. CEO's report and update.
7. The adoption of the updated Articles of Association of the Society.

Special Resolution: That the following clauses 4.20 and 6.5 in the Articles of Association agreed at the 2021 AGM, be amended to the forms below, and approved in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing clauses 4.20 and 6.5 of the Articles of Association of the Society.

4.20 to be amended to read:

"to deposit or invest its funds in any manner as may be thought fit (including, but not limited to, the establishment of trading or other subsidiaries of any kind), but only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary, **including any of their own number with suitable financial experience and ability**, and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification;"

instead of: "to deposit or invest its funds in any manner as may be thought fit (including, but not limited to, the establishment of trading or other subsidiaries of any kind), but only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification;"

6.5 to be amended to read:

"Trustees serve for a term of three years to expire at the AGM nearest to the end of the three year period. A retiring Trustee who is eligible under Article 6.2 may be re-elected for a further term of three years. An individual who has previously served two three year terms may be re-elected provided at least one year has elapsed since their previous term of office, **unless a simple majority of those present at a Members' Meeting agreed, on the recommendation of the Board, to waive the requirement for a gap between terms.**"

instead of: "Trustees serve for a term of three years to expire at the AGM nearest to the end of the three year period. A retiring Trustee who is eligible under Article 6.2 may be re-elected for a further term of three years. An individual who has previously served two three year terms may be re-elected provided at least one year has elapsed since their previous term of office."

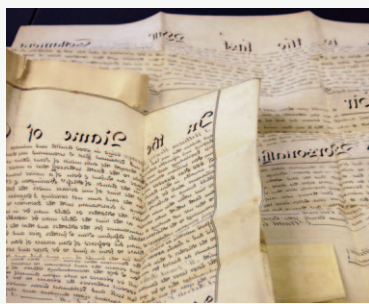
8. The election of the Vice Presidents.
9. To announce awards and Fellowship of the Society.
10. Any other competent business.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA
Company Secretary



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