

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists





Society of Genealogists

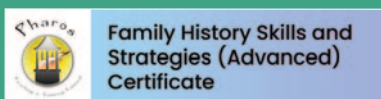
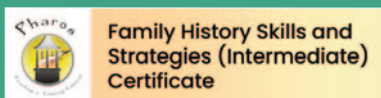
Online learning from Pharos and the SoG



Discover more about your ancestors by following a structured programme of online assessed courses. The two Family History Skills & Strategies certificate programmes (Intermediate and Advanced) were developed and are taught by Pharos Tutors and the Society of Genealogists in partnership. Build upon your knowledge of census and civil registration records with a journey through a variety of genealogical sources and improve your research techniques in the hands of the professionals and experts.

More information is available at:

www.pharostutors.com



SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Postal address: 356 Holloway Road
London N7 6PA | Tel: (020) 7251 8799
Email: hello@sog.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 233701. Company limited by guarantee. Registered No. 115703. Registered office: Ground Floor, 1/7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HT. Registered in England & Wales.



SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It's been an exciting start to the year, with the release of the 1921 census and the huge discussions it has stirred. It was interesting to see the coverage of the so-called 'Roaring Twenties', the debate about what such records can tell us about social history, and it reaffirmed what we all know - family history and genealogy are of huge interest to most people! As one of the Society's charitable objects is the promotion of genealogy and family history, this was a welcome boost to our plans to increase membership and encourage more people to find their roots with our support.

The inevitable questions about the cost of accessing records resonated with us in particular, as we invest a large amount of money in digitising parts of our collections, so that all our members who have internet access can make use of them, especially during our closure period. You can read more about our ambitious programme in the update inside. I'd also like to thank all those people who let us know their thoughts on this very magazine and what they would like to see in future editions. I can promise you that I read every response and we are grateful to you for taking the time to help us to ensure that all our members get the best out of the Society.

We also hope that you've made the best of the cold weather and spent the time indoors making headway in your research. I have certainly learned a lot over the past few months about my ancestors and discovered new links with places, which has also led me to join a few more family history groups.

We know that you are awaiting news of our new premises, but, as everyone who has ever moved house knows, it is complicated and often time-consuming. Rest assured that as soon as we can release the information, we shall. Meanwhile, we were delighted to receive grants from the National Manuscript Conservation Fund and the Radcliffe Trust, so that we can restore the magnificent Eyre Pedigree Roll. I'm hoping that it will take pride of place in our new premises.

As the national repository of family histories, we are often asked to take collections of genealogists, who wish to bequeath their lifetime's work to us. If you are interested in supporting future generations of family historians, then please do check our helpful guides online (or look out for courses) on how to organise your collections and leave them to us. We are extremely lucky that many of our members decide to leave the Society a financial gift in their wills. This ensures that we are here to support future genealogists and to continue to preserve our stunning collections. If you would like to remember the Society in this way, we would be very grateful, and so would the next generations.

Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA
Chief Executive



S&N Genealogy Supplies



TreeView

- Powerful charting features
- Free App for iOS and Android
- Share with friends & family
- 9 Views to choose from
- Sync between software, online & app
- Linked Charting
- Enhanced Chart Features
- Descendant Report

£44.95

TreeView 3 Premium Includes:

- Printed Quick Start Guide
- 4 Month Diamond Subscription to TheGenealogist
- Cassell's Gazetteer of GB & Ireland 1893
- Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography
- English, Welsh & Scottish Landowners 1873
- Irish Landowners 1876

TreeView Standard Edition

£34.95

TreeView Upgrade

£19.45

RootsMagic UK Platinum USB

£54.95

- Publish and share your tree
- View your family on a map
- Multimedia scrapbooks for photos & files
- Easily document sources and keep track of research
- Run RootsMagic from a USB drive
- Powerful tools to clean up databases
- App for iPad/iPhone and Android devices

RootsMagic 8 Platinum Includes:

- 3 Month Gold Subscription to TheGenealogist
- Cassell's Gazetteer of Great Britain & Ireland in 1893
- Visitation of England and Wales
- History of the Commoners GB & Ireland
- Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography

RootsMagic UK Standard

£39.95

RootsMagic UK Upgrade

£19.95

Family Historian Custodian 4

£69.95

Reunion 13

£79.95

Custodian 4

£29.95

Reunion 13 Upgrade

£44.95

Archival Storage

The ideal way to store your valuable documents is in our A4, A3 and long binders. They have high quality, heavy duty ring mechanisms and a padded leather-effect finish. Our range of sleeves are archival quality so they will preserve the contents without sticking to or damaging valuable documents. Binders are available in blue, black, green and burgundy. Various sleeves, card inserts and tabbed dividers are also available. As a

perfect complement to our range of binders, our springback binders are ideal for presenting your family history. Unlike ring binders, you don't have to punch any holes in the paper

- you simply choose the sheets you want, fold the hardback covers of the binder back, and place the paper into the acid-free lining. You can add or remove pages as many times as you like, and the binder can store up to 200 A4 pages.



Long Certificate Binder	£16.95	Long Sleeves 10pk	£6.45	100pk	£54.95	Springback Deluxe Landscape Binder	
A4 Family History Binder	£16.95	A3 Sleeves 10pk	£6.95	100pk	£59.95	Springback Leather Effect Binder	£17.45
A4 Landscape Binder	£14.95	Insert Cards	10 pack	from	£3.50	Springback Binder Slip Case	£14.95
A3 Family History Binder	£19.95	Tabbed Dividers	5 pack	from	£3.00	Window Springback Binder	from £18.95
A4 Sleeves 10 pk	£5.95	100 pk	£49.95	Springback Deluxe Binder	£16.95		

Guarantee: We will beat any UK mail order pricing for the same product!

For thousands more products ask for our free 2022 Guide or visit our website.

www.GenealogySupplies.com

S&N Genealogy Supplies, West Wing, Manor Farm, Chilmark, Salisbury, SP3 5AF. Calls taken 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Delta, Maestro, Amex and JCB. Please add £3.95 p&p per order. Prices correct at time of going to press.

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE



Volume 34 Number 1 Mar 2022 Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

CONTENTS

- 4 Where Have All the Collections Gone? Preservation and Digital Transformation
at the Society of Genealogists
Christine Worthington, Transformation Manager
- 9 Women at War
Emma Jolly
- 11 The Memorial Cards Collection
Christine Worthington & Else Churchill
- 13 Boys will be Boys
Michael Gandy, FSG
- 14 Volunteering for the Pedigree Roll Project
Jo McKinnon
- 15 Adventures with the Great Card Index
Graham Simons
- 18 Catholic Ancestors - A Select Bibliography
Michael Gandy, FSG
- 24 Unravelling the Double Life of William Stedhall / Peter Smith
Peter Manning, VP, FIGRS.
- 29 A Honeymoon in France, 1914
Peter Bolton
- 33 Curtis Miranda Lampson - from American Farmhand to British Baronet
James Day
- 38 Initiatives for the Improvement of Parish Registers in the Diocese of Carlisle
John Wintrip
- 43 Triple Cross - One up on a Double Cross
Fred Feather
- 46 'Oh I do Like to be Beside the Seaside' The Jerusalem of the Past... and so many other stories
Helen Dawkins LRPS
- 52 Correspondence
- 53 Readers' Queries
- 53 Obituaries
- 55 Deceased Members
- 55 *Genealogists' Magazine* - Advertising Rates

Centre Pull-out Section

- 1-4 Society of Genealogists' News

Cover picture: *A selection of postcards from the Society's holdings dated between 1865-1936.*

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.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE COLLECTIONS GONE?

PRESERVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AT THE SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Christine Worthington, Transformation Manager

The Society of Genealogists is no stranger to change. We have members and volunteers with memories of the Society's move from Harrington Gardens to Charterhouse Buildings in the mid-1980s, the refurbishment of the premises in 2000, and the microfilming and later digitisation of the massive Great Card Index to free up much needed space for library operations. These ambitious undertakings were the result of big decisions to ensure the continued survival and growth of the Society.

In 2022 the Society is again in the throes of change amid a transformation program impacting almost every area of its operations. The transformation has a range of objectives, not least of which is to free the Society of costly and ageing physical and technological infrastructure.

Last year the Society moved out of Charterhouse Buildings and into a temporary small office in Islington. This move occurred one year after the sale of Charterhouse and one year before originally planned. Staff, casual workers and volunteers worked extremely hard to achieve our 30 September deadline. The small office will enable the staff to continue with some services and administration until arrangements for our new library are finalised.



The transformation program has also delivered new software for membership, finance, events management, email communications, a member forum and the bookshop, as well as the new website.

This year will be the year of collections - the physical and the digital.

Part A: Collections Storage

Packing the Collections

For the move of all the Society's collections, equipment and furniture we engaged a company called Restore which carries out removals, storage, heritage storage and digitisation services.



We began this process with the clearance of three large units at our former offsite storage at Braintree. The Braintree storage had for some years been a useful way to relieve the space pressure from the overloaded Charterhouse Buildings but had itself become very large. Many things were unboxed, and quite a few things needed reboxing, so there was a lot of packing and labelling to do there. It was quite a job to identify everything in the Braintree storage, and it all needed barcoding and photographing so that we could create a reliable inventory for it. The Braintree storage was

not designed for historical collections; it was subject to fluctuations of temperature and humidity, and some mould-affected items were quarantined and set aside for conservation treatment. Some things were sent back to Charterhouse for further assessment and processing.



The Braintree storage cleanout turned out to be very good practice for all the packing, barcoding, labelling and listing that would occur over the next months at Charterhouse. Most of the archival collections, being already boxed, were the first to be packed and sent offsite.

The Society had accumulated over 200 card indexes which were gathered up from Braintree and every floor of Charterhouse. They were placed together in the Lower Library at Charterhouse where they were documented, assessed and packaged for commercial digitisation. We retained a couple of card indexes as representative samples. Volunteer and casual worker assistance were critical to the packing of the library collections which needed to be checked off printed catalogue lists before being boxed, barcoded and labelled. A team of volunteers assisted in the packing of unboxed special collections, fragile volumes and oversized archival items.

The NCS and Heritage Storage

For heritage storage of collections, Restore partners with the National Conservation Service (NCS). The non-profit NCS is led by qualified and accredited conservators and aims to make collections care available and affordable for collecting organisations without conservation staff. Its services are endorsed by the National Archives and the Collections Trust.



The NCS runs a heritage storage facility at a discreet location in Oxfordshire, where massive bomb-proof shelters (which are themselves historically significant) have been repurposed to house historical library and archival collections. The shelters are thermally inert and ideal for the provision of stable environmental conditions, fire protection and security. NCS staff inspect all collections before they are ingested to ensure they are free of mould and pests, and they will not accept materials in unstable formats (such as some types of old film that may release gasses as they degrade). The NCS provides advice to collecting organisations about their needs and can provide additional services such as conservation training and collection assessment and treatment.



For our packing, we had NCS inspections at Braintree and Charterhouse. We also had a pair of NCS conservators on site for a week to help us pack some of the largest and most fragile collection items. Our staff received helpful instruction and guidance from the NCS during that time. Our quarantined collection items have been sent to the NCS for evaluation and treatment before they can be admitted to heritage storage.

Future Access to Collections

When we know how much space for collections will be available at our new library, we'll know how much we can make available on open access for members and visitors. But we can say that most of our collections will remain in heritage storage, and we'll make it as simple as we can for people planning a visit to order the materials they need in advance.

Restore operates the retrieval service from heritage storage and we have commenced recalling some items to our temporary office so that our genealogical staff can respond to member research enquiries. Retrievals arrive on the next working day. The library collection inventory is still under construction with the help of a team of volunteers, and we have commenced the process of adding barcode numbers to library catalogue records. This work will make the ordering and retrieval process more efficient.



However, we know that the overwhelming proportion of our members will rarely, or never, be able to visit the Society in person, and will never be able to access our physical collections. That's why digitisation is so important.

Part B: The Digital Revolution Continues

Our amazing online events and courses have reached out to members all over the globe, many of whom would have no opportunity to attend the Society in person. We aim to build upon this by ensuring that more of our amazing collections are within reach of those who cannot visit in person.

Archives Catalogue

The Society has never had a dedicated archives catalogue - mainly lists of archival collections (some more detailed than others) kept in folders at library enquiries counters. We have many archival collections, so creating detailed descriptions will be a massive job, but worth it because remote members will be able to see records of items that may be of interest to their research. It's also exciting because we know we have many treasures in the collection, and the cataloguing process will enable us to discover, highlight and share these with members.

The new archive catalogue will have a fully-featured search capability to enable users to quickly find digitised and non-digitised items of interest in our archives.

After an extensive procurement process, we have now signed with our new provider. We hope to have the initial version of the new archive catalogue up and running by August. We will be able to make some new collections available earlier than that. Further materials will be added on an ongoing basis and the search tool functionality enhanced to enable the true extent of the Society's collections to be much more easily discoverable than it is at present.

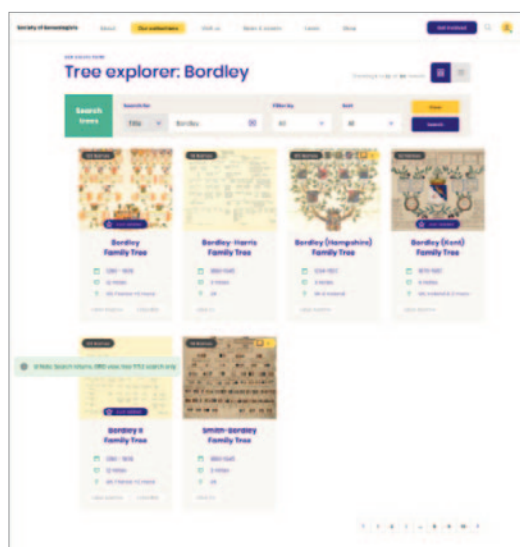
The Memorial Card Collection

You'll find an article about the Memorial Card Collection in this issue of the *Genealogists Magazine*. This interesting collection is comprised of approximately 4,500 cards and 8,500 individual images. Eventually, the Memorial Card Collection will be placed in our new system. In the meantime, and in the interests of sharing this collection with members as soon as possible, we'll present it on a

temporary basic database. It will be launched to coincide with our Quarter Day members' social in March when Else Churchill will give a presentation and demonstration. Even if you don't find your family amongst these cards, you'll find it to be interesting browsing these relics of times gone by.

The Pedigree Tree Viewer

There is still a way to go in the scanning and indexing of our amazing collection of pedigree charts, but there is enough complete material now to roll out the new search tool we have created with our web developer. Attendees at our most recent online Annual General Meeting were given an update on this project and a look at the software and how it will work. We hope to launch the tree viewer to coincide with RootsTech 2022, and after launch, we'll continue adding new content as it becomes available.



The Great Card Index

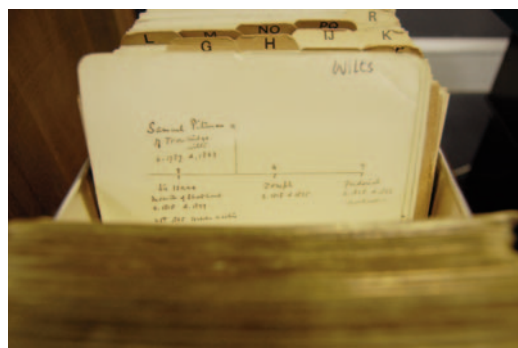
The Great Card Index is as old as the Society itself - its first effort towards a unique communal resource for its members. A big old-school database of names searchable by alphabetically arranged handwritten cards. It grew so large that two decades ago the entire index was microfilmed and later digitised and in recent times volunteers have been digitally indexing the contents of the cards so they can be searched online. The A and B

cards are ready to go, and two-thirds of the C cards have been indexed and proofread. We aim to put all these card images and index entries on the new digital content system soon after it goes live.



Other Card Indexes

In the first part of this article, I mentioned the 200+ card indexes the Society has accumulated. These have now been commercially digitised and we are currently checking the digital files. Some of the indexes are very specialised and relate to the special collections they were donated with, others have a broader interest and usefulness and we will soon select a range to put on the new system.



Library Collections: Family Histories

In 2019 the Society contracted with FamilySearch for the scanning of the family histories in the Society's library. The scanning commenced in 2020 and was soon interrupted by the pandemic. When the Society moved out of Charterhouse, the family history scanning project moved to FamilySearch's premises at Wembley and the scanning has resumed. We have received the output

from the scanning of the first 50 boxes of material and FamilySearch is now working on the next 50 boxes. These files will be prepared for upload to the new system.

Library Collections: Monumental Inscriptions and Parish Registers

The commercial digitisation of monumental inscriptions from the library collection is about to begin, and this will be followed by the parish registers. In our surveys, members and the wider genealogical community have always rated these resources as priorities for access. We'll keep everyone up to date about when these will be available.

As published materials, the family histories, monumental inscriptions and parish registers are subject to copyright. This means that some will be available to all members online and others will be available to view at the Society.

Organisational Impact

The rate of change over the past year, combined with the move and the pandemic has been difficult and tiring at times for the Society's staff, but we have found it rewarding to see our new systems working well, and to have received so much

positive and constructive feedback from our many patient and supportive members and volunteers. We still have some major challenges ahead of us, but we're looking forward to improving our online access to collections this year and to hosting visitors at our shiny new library as soon as we possibly can.

To follow our progress over the coming year make sure you are subscribed to our free monthly newsletter - there is a sign-up form at the bottom of our home page.

Further Reading

The heritage storage facility:

<https://www.restore.co.uk/Records/Services/Heritage-Storage>

Our Restore case study:

<https://www.restore.co.uk/Records/Resource-Hub/Case-Studies/Society-of-Genealogists>

The National Conservation Service:

<http://www.ncs.org.uk/aboutncs.php>

Christine Worthington

Email: christine.worthington@sog.org.uk

ProofreaderPlus

ProofreaderPlus



How important is it for your book, document, report, presentation or website to look really good and be effective?

To give a first class impression to your reader, publisher, customer, client, manager or tutor it needs to be error free. For the amount of work you've put in to your writing, it's good to do it justice by being clear and concise.

Looking through a document or a website, and nit-picking over such details as spelling, grammar, punctuation, word choice and word order, consistency, sentence or paragraph structure, and general layout, is certainly not everyone's forte.

That's when ProofreaderPlus could be just what you need. Handing over all that time-consuming work to someone who is skilled and keen to do it - even enjoys doing it - means you can continue to make best use of your time finishing the chapter, completing the research or having an important meeting with a colleague.

ProofreaderPlus will not rewrite your work, but will make suggestions that can be implemented with your consent. You are in control of the finished product.

Visit www.proofreaderplus.co.uk; email info@proofreaderplus.co.uk; or phone 020 8464 0499 for more details.

WOMEN AT WAR

Emma Jolly

Each March sees the celebration of International Women's Day and a full month dedicated to highlighting women's history. The theme of 2022's Women's History Month is 'Providing Healing, Promoting Hope'. Part of the inspiration for this year's theme was a desire to celebrate the work of caregivers and frontline workers in the COVID-19 pandemic. While drawing attention to the healing that has taken place and that which continues, this month also seeks to focus on hope as the basis for recovery. There is a recognition that women throughout history have sought to heal not only physical and mental ill health, but also by bringing peace in situations of conflict.

Across the centuries, women have brought healing and hope during times of war. Sadly, many healers and caregivers have lost their lives in the recent pandemic. This is reminiscent of those caregivers who died in pandemics past.

One such woman was Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan, who died 24 November 1918 of 'Spanish flu' in Leicestershire. She was 30 years old (English & Welsh General Register Office Death Index reference: Dec 1918; Brennan, Kathleen A; 30; Billesdon; volume 7a, page 51), and was buried in Welford Road Cemetery in Leicester.

Brennan served as a VAD of the Australian Red Cross. Her death is commemorated on Australian War Memorial online at <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1430666> and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) database at <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/379209/kathleen-adele-brennan/>. An account of her funeral on page 3 of *Leicester Chronicle*, 30 November 1918, includes more details of her life and service.

Funeral of V. A. D. Nurse.

The funeral of Miss Kathleen Adele Brennan, the Australian V. A. D. nurse, who for two years has been serving at the North Evington War Hospital, and who died on Sunday last at the institution from the after-effects of influenza, took place at the Welford-road Cemetery on Tuesday. The coffin, which was covered with a Union Jack, was borne to the cemetery on a gun carriage, followed by a large procession of the R. A. M. C. staff and V. A. D. nurses from North Evington and the Base Hospitals. The body was interred in the Soldiers' Corner of the Cemetery, close to the graves of some Australian soldiers, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Fr. Lindeboom. Lieut. Brennan, of the Australian Forces (brother) and three of the deceased's Australian V. A. D. friends at the Hospital, were the principal mourners, and amongst others present were Colonel L. K. Harrison (Administrator 5th Northern Hospital), Captain Moffat Holmes (North Evington), Major Slight, and Captains Mason, Payne and Hedley of the R. A. M. C., Miss Barrow (matron of North Evington), and Mr. D. Michael, Australian Commissioner for the 5th Northern Hospital district. A party from Glen Parva barracks fired volleys, and the 'Last Post' was sounded by R. A. M. C. buglers. Floral tributes were sent by the four Australian V. A. D. nurses at the Hospital, R. A. M. C. officers, the R. A. M. C. staff, the V. A. D. staff and the maids at North Evington Hospital, and Miss Michael.

My book, *My Ancestor was a Woman at War* (published by the Society of Genealogists), contains a section on researching nursing volunteers in the VADs. Often known as Red Cross nurses, they can be identified in photographs from the large cross they wore on their uniforms, as well as armbands. Of all the nurses that served in the First World War, most were VADs. All were trained in First Aid and nursing by the Red Cross.

FUNERAL OF V.A.D. NURSE.
The funeral of Miss Kathleen Adele Brennan, the Australian V.A.D. nurse, who for two years has been serving at the North Evington War Hospital, and who died on Sunday last at that institution from the after-effects of influenza, took place at the Welford-road Cemetery on Tuesday. The coffin, which was covered with a Union Jack, was borne to the cemetery on a gun carriage, followed by a large procession of the R.A.M.C. staff and V.A.D. nurses from North Evington and the Base Hospitals. The body was interred in the Soldiers' Corner of the Cemetery, close to the graves of some Australian soldiers, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Fr. Lindeboom. Lieut. Brennan, of the Australian Forces (brother) and three of the deceased's Australian V.A.D. friends at the Hospital, were the principal mourners, and amongst others present were Colonel L. K. Harrison (Administrator 5th Northern Hospital), Captain Moffat Holmes (North Evington), Major Slight, and Captains Mason, Payne and Hedley of the R.A.M.C., Miss Barrow (matron at North Evington), and Mr. D. Michael, Australian Commissioner for the 5th Northern Hospital district. A party from Glen Parva barracks fired volleys, and the "Last Post" was sounded by R.A.M.C. buglers. Floral tributes were sent by the four Australian V.A.D. nurses at the Hospital R.A.M.C. officers, the R.A.M.C. staff, the V.A.D. staff, and the maids at North Evington Hospital, and Miss Michael.

Kathleen Adele Brennan was one of many VAD nurses who volunteered across the British Empire. Most were from a middle or upper-class background. They were recommended by a respected member of society, and they needed to be able to afford the cost

of uniforms and lectures. Those who worked part time in a local hospital were unpaid, but received expenses for board, lodging, laundry, and travel.

By September 1916, there were 8,000 VADs serving in military hospitals. North Evington War Hospital, where Brennan volunteered, was part of a network of institutions under the unit of the 5th Northern General Hospital. According to the University of Leicester ('The University as a military hospital', University of Leicester; About; History; Campus History; <https://le.ac.uk/about/history/campus-history/military-hospital> accessed 1 February 2022), there were beds in Leicestershire for 111 officers and 2,487 other ranks, through which passed more than 95,000 casualties. Of these men, 514 deaths were recorded, 286 of whom are buried across from the University, alongside Kathleen Adele Brennan, in Welford Road Cemetery. The 5th Northern General Hospital left Leicester in 1919. Two years later, in 1921, their base reopened as University College - a memorial to the local men who died in the war. This is reflected in the institution's motto, *ut vitam habeant* (so that they may have life).

This motto seems apt, and not just in relation to the university. It is also a reflection of the women who gave their care and, in some cases their lives, in the service of the health of others, both in the current pandemic and in that of 1918-20.

Emma Jolly

Email: editorial@sog.org.uk

FROM THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Alumni Etonenses contains chronological data on entrants to the prestigious Eton College, Berkshire. It also lists the subsequent careers for some.

An entry for 1509 reads:

'Thomas LEE or LEIGH, AM was of a very bulky and grose habit of body'.

THE MEMORIAL CARDS COLLECTION

Christine Worthington & Else Churchill

Memorial cards are a small commemoration of a recently deceased person. They were particularly fashionable during Victorian England and well into the 20th century, passed out to funeral attendees, and sent to distant family and friends not able to attend the funeral. They were usually supplied by the undertaker on behalf of the bereaved and were sent in black-edged envelopes as notification of the death or invitation to the funeral. The peak of memorial card popularity was probably in the 1870s and 1880s.

The cards were printed in black or silver on white or beige cards. Some took the form of a single black edged card measuring about 11.5cm by 7.5 cm with a blank space left in the centre for appropriate details to be entered by the printer. Other cards were double, with the details of the deceased printed inside on the right and a religious text or verse on the left. They ranged from very simple designs to the more elaborately decorative and would often contain thoughtful quotes, bible verses and prayers.

For genealogists these primary sources are sometimes scant in detail compared to other resources but they are true relics. The cards usually contain the name of the deceased and the date of death and date and place of burial. Often the cards contain the deceased's parents' names and/or spouse names. Some contain the place of residence of the deceased and the place of burial. Some contain some welcome extra information, such as a photograph of the deceased or a detail of cause of death, grave number in a municipal cemetery or the name of the undertaker. It's clear that some of the cards in this collection relate to people of the same family. Even if you do not have family amongst the cards in this collection, they are certainly worth having a look at - this is a special collection offering a glimpse into a bygone era.



Memorial Collection Drawer

The Memorial Card Collection was donated to the Society in 2016 and 2019 by Phillip Jones, who had been acquiring these cards from collectors and antiques fairs since the early 1990s. This collection is comprised of approximately 4,500 cards (over 8,500 individual images) largely created during the period c 1846-1994 from throughout the UK and, of course, includes many people born prior to those dates. Before passing his collection over to the Society, Mr Jones made a concerted effort to reunite cards with interested family members by advertising in local family history society journals and magazines between 2004 and 2010. The SoG has no note or record of the whereabouts of any cards which might have been withdrawn and passed onto others prior to the transfer of the collection to the Society. Only those cards in the

SEARCH MEMORIAL CARDS

All results

Showing 1 to 20 of 20 results

Forename
e.g. John

Surname
e.g. Smith

Age
e.g. 27

Date of Birth
e.g. 18/07/1890


Year of Birth
e.g. 1890

Year of Death
e.g. 1917


Place of Burial/Cremation/Abode
e.g. Cookham Dean

County
e.g. Berkshire


Country
e.g. England




Jane Abbey
Age: 70
County: North-Hilling
Born: 1830
Died: 1900
[Read More >](#)



Mary Ann Abbott
Age: 73
County: Uncolshire
Born: 1836
Died: 1908
[Read More >](#)



Sarah Ann Abbott
Age: 21
County: Uncolshire
Born: 1899
Died: 1904
[Read More >](#)



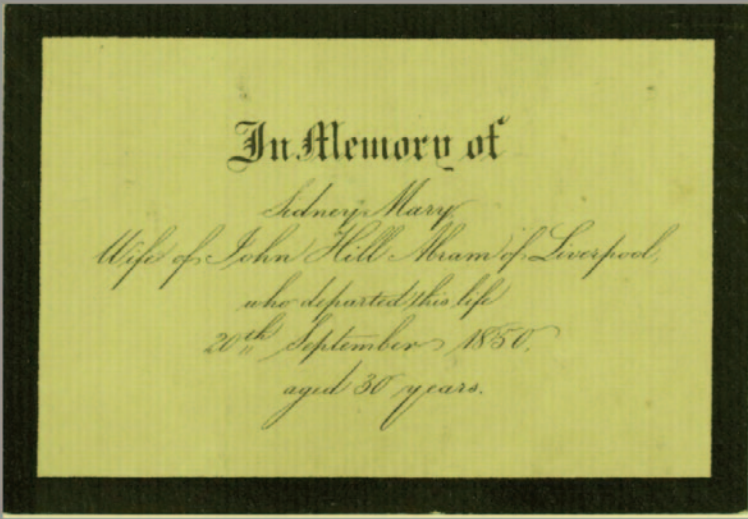
William Abbott
Age: 77
County: Northamptonshire
Born: 1827
Died: 1904
[Read More >](#)

SEARCH MEMORIAL CARDS

Your results

Sidney Mary Abram

Age:	30	Date of birth:	N/A
County:	Lancashire	Country:	England
Born:	1820	Notes:	Wife of John Hill Abram
Died:	1850	Undertaker:	N/A
Place of Burial:	Liverpool		



*In Memory of
Sidney Mary
Wife of John Hill Abram of Liverpool,
who departed this life
20th September 1850,
aged 30 years.*

possession of the Society have been scanned and indexed. However we will be interested in adding to the collection in the future and would welcome donations of unwanted memorial cards to scan and index. Eventually the Memorial Card Collection will be placed in our new online content system which will be coming online later this year. In the meantime, and in the interests of sharing this collection with members as soon as possible, we will present it on the SoG website in a temporary basic database format which does not have a sophisticated search functionality. So here are some tips for searching this collection:

- There is no wildcard searching available on this platform, so enter surnames in full, and carry out further searches of alternative surname spellings if necessary.

- If you wish to search by county, please enter the name of the county in full. Remember that some people were buried away from where they lived (if they died abroad, for example).
- Start by carrying out a broad search and use additional fields to refine the results if required.

We will be demonstrating the Memorial Cards Collection on our website during the Members Quarterly Lady Day online social on 25 March.

Christine Worthington & Else Churchill

Email: christine.worthington@sog.org.uk

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

For those of you who remember very clearly that we were idyllic children and that the world has gone to the dogs since our day: the following item appeared in the *Salford Cathedral Magazine* in March 1887 and was brought to my attention by Fr David Lannon, Diocesan Archivist for Salford at the time. I published it first in *Catholic Ancestor* but it bears repeating:

The Boy of the Period

The Boy of the Period is a wonderful creature. He respecteth nobody. It pleaseth him not to touch his hat or show any sign of reverence. He hath no superiors and no elders. He walketh by you with his hands in his pockets whistling and gazeth at you unabashed. He is a man, and a great improvement upon all past men. At an early age he can do that which his forefathers did not for many years later. He knoweth how to drink and swear and mix unsavoury words with his daily talk. He is acquainted with the inside of taverns and is great at skittles. It becomes him not to obey father or mother, nor to be within doors at seasonable hours. He is a wanderer

after dark, and whoopeth about the streets when others sleep. He smoketh a short clay. He bringeth no wages home, considering it not needful to support father or mother. He lieth long in bed on Sundays, and slumbereth when he should be at church; going to church he slumbereth even there. He is marvellous in his Sunday dress. He thinketh himself to be a lord. He weareth an albert watch-chain with or without a watch. He gently swingeth a cane, and walketh side by side with a youthful maiden, whom he affecteth to be his sweetheart. He readeth and writeth. What he readeth is the police news in 'Lloyd's Weekly'. What he writeth is in chalk upon the walls. At decent intervals, as at Christmas and other appropriate seasons, he is overcome by beer. He then showeth his sense of the festival by fighting. He holdeth roughness to be manliness and rude manners to be freedom. He leaveth prayer to the parsons. He hateth priests; he thinketh it right to inspect nuns, and to be zealous against the Pope.

The previous month they had done '[Overprotective] Mothers'!

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE PEDIGREE ROLL PROJECT

Jo McKinnon

I have a confession to make; my motives for signing up to the Pedigree Roll transcription project were not entirely altruistic.

As it turned out, the timing was perfect; as the world went into Lockdown, retirement arrived a little earlier than I had anticipated, and this project turned out to be the perfect distraction.

So far, I have not seen any pedigree that helps to resolve any of the stumbling blocks that I have in my research. Nevertheless, I have become fascinated with the information presented, and I live in hope; after all, we have only just started the C's.

The Rolls, as far as I have seen to date, come from a variety of places:

1. Submitter's own research, of course,
2. Many are transcriptions of the text of Herald's visitations or other works that were published during the 18th & 19th centuries,
3. Some were researched and created by the College of Arms or other body when someone achieved some sort of honour or high office,
4. One source is the executors of people's estates who have donated all the paperwork of a lifetime's research. These are often un-curated with the result that there are many interesting working documents. Some are literally on the back of an envelope; personally, I think many of these are the more valuable.
5. Another class of pedigree are those created as a means of establishing the rightful heir.

To be honest, some are basic and dull with little in the way of information other than names, whilst others are a delight. As I look at each pedigree, I find myself wondering about the person who created it. Sometimes to the extent of going off on a tangent and doing a little research on them myself.

I get very distracted by any obvious errors that we are obliged to perpetuate. We are, however,

allowed to add a note, but even a pedigree with errors provides a skeleton upon which to build one's own confirming or refuting research.

As the project progresses, I am fascinated by the occurrence of the same names across different, ostensibly unconnected, pedigrees. So, the final indexes should provide a wealth of perhaps hitherto unknown connections between families.

I have learned a lot; my Latin has had a shakeup and I have been made aware of sources for information I did not know existed. I have formed opinions about layouts and provision of information on a chart. (Names and dates alone are of no interest to anyone; even an avid genealogist needs some context!)

I am in awe of the work that went in to some of these in the 19th century when the research would have been done in a very difficult way; requiring persistence to find, get to and then peruse the various registers, wills and other documents, but also, frequently having the advantage of family bibles and contact with an 'Aunt' who was born about 1810 and knew at least something about her own grandparents. Oh, to meet those ladies now(!)

One tree (Bostock002) is full of little comments such as:

"Tall, 6ft 4in, blonde, Loveable"

"Tall, ruddy & very strong, of commanding appearance"

"A grand woman"

I find great pleasure in thinking that as a result of our efforts, his and everyone else's work will no longer be hidden in boxes, accessible only in person in London, but will be available for anyone else in the world to view.

ADVENTURES WITH THE GREAT CARD INDEX

Graham Simons

Many years ago, I remember looking at the Great Card Index (GCI) in the SoG Library to see if I could find clues to my ancestor William Vazie, who was a saddler in Hexham in the 18th century. I found nothing, as is so commonly the case when we find ourselves clutching at straws in our research, but the Index remained in my memory. So, when the digitisation project for the Index was launched in 2017, I thought that volunteering for the Society might be interesting.

My experience with the GCI has turned out to be fascinating, and a bit addictive too. You get a completely different view of the data when you look at it from the indexing point of view, rather than the researcher's angle: you see patterns as well as inconsistencies.

I have visions of the original creators of the card index working in draughty vestries of parish churches, or out in the rain in churchyards, or toiling through the records at Somerset House; others perhaps had a more comfortable time indexing Phillimore's books, or Stow's Survey of London, at home by the fireside.

Some of the cards hold information that comes from accessible sources such as published BMD registers, some seem to be unique, but it's hard to tell.

This is a short list of records which have shown up and some of the sources. As we continue transcribing we find more and more:

- Memorial Inscriptions in many countries
- BMD records from parish registers (some of which no longer exist) or from published copies of them

- Close Rolls
- Royal Navy promotions
- Bankruptcies
- Histories of towns and villages
- Exchequer deponents
- The Society's manuscript collection
- Directories
- Deeds in the Library
- Pedigrees in the Library and elsewhere
- Protestation Oaths
- Manorial documents
- Marriage licences
- Electoral Rolls
- Sedan Chair licences
- Obituaries
- Letters to newspapers
- Charitable donations
- Church appointments
- Wills and administrations from the PCC as well as from other places

Not only do the cards come from different original sources, so have different types of information, but they were created by a number of different people who all had different ways of formatting the card, and whose handwriting was also of very varying standard. In an ideal world every individual name would have a specific date and place associated with them, and we would know the full name of everyone. It's just not like that. There are gaps - many of them - and there is difficulty in reading the handwriting. And every day I discover new ambiguities in placenames. To add to these practical problems, we may now be at several stages on from the original record - a parish register copied into a bishop's transcript, copied in turn into a published version, copied onto the card in the index - and all that before one of the transcribing team types it into the database.

BROMFIELD agnes
1610 = Reynold Langhorne
30 may
Potton
©Society of Genealogists 2020

BROMFIELD pedigree -
Bolingbroke, Lincs -
Harl. Soc. 50, p. 179 -
©Society of Genealogists 2020

CHAMPINES
15-51 Aug 9
Christina dau of W Anthony Champines
married
James Loph
©Society of Genealogists 2020

BULE. a.D. 1257 Nov.
Robert Bule = Alisia
Christiania Matilda Adam = Emma
2nd for division of lands in Schyphanthorpe
against Richard de Skinton Lathes.
J. HARVEY DICKIN, MA. Ass. No. 567 m 2

BRADSHAW 1657 George
At Madapollam. Writes to Jas. Pickering at
Balasor, 10 Sept. 1657
India Office MS. Records
Original Corres. (O.C.)
No. 2634

BRUMFELD, Agatha de.
(W. of Hugh de B.)
1347/8
Brumfelde.
©Society of Genealogists 2020
Norfolk & Fitz-Alan MSS.

BRAITHWAITE, WILLIAM,
"Passing of the Pioneers"
From Australian Newspapers.
15/6/28
© Society of Genealogists

Akerman John Yeoman
1786
10 May
Blissden St. Andrew
Wills
Court Baron
Berecumbury
Islington

abel Tho. 1 Feb. 1765 28
Mgt of Jn. Jones, relict of abm
2 July 1762
M1 Penrhyn Lloyd

Ayrey. Michael westmal
20 Eliz Hill 7 1577
EXCH. DEPS.

I started as a transcriber, but have been doing a good deal of proofreading as well. The online forum has given us a great deal of help - if there's something you can't read, or can't interpret, there's someone out there who can. The idea behind our transcription is to allow the researcher to work through the index cards as if they were in the Library - so searches should direct them to the image of the card. It's better than that, though - searching includes all the names on the card along with the main individual, so an online search will be more powerful and with luck more fruitful than a physical search of the cards. And of course, it can be done from home!

I have now seen well over 200,000 cards, generating over 400,000 entries in the database, so I've gained some understanding of what rewards a researcher might get from searching the GCI once it goes online. We are nowhere near finished yet - transcription is well into surnames beginning with C - but even with this amount of data there may well be nuggets to find.

A systematic search, such as one might use in a parish register, and then in neighbouring parishes, may be successful. But really this is a lucky dip - if you search for a surname in a location, you may find something you didn't know, you may find confirmation of something, you may find nothing. I think the benefits will come from the surprises. Maybe searching for one surname will reveal that they were witnesses at a marriage - and therefore could have been friends or family; in contrast Stephen Ogle turns up so often in Rotherhithe marriages as a witness that he must have been the parish clerk!

These images give an idea of the variety within the Index, as well as some of the difficulties we have met in transcribing these cards. We think that researchers will enjoy the process, find some surprises, and find some useful material too.

Graham Simons

Email: drummoyne@btinternet.com



TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

Medal showing the bust of Wilfrid Sampson Samuel 1868-1958 F.S.A, F.R. Hist. Soc, F.S.G., member of the Executive Committee to commemorate the re-opening of the Jewish Museum, London, 1959. Presented by Cregoe D.P. Nicholson 'as a tribute to a dear friend'.

CATHOLIC ANCESTORS

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Michael Gandy, FSG

A recent Zoom forum of ours on Catholic ancestors referred to the many useful articles and lists in *Catholic Ancestor*, the magazine of the Catholic Family History Society. This is only one of many dozens of series of family history periodicals available in our library. Many of them are county or area based but others - such as those for Jews, Huguenots and Romany/Travellers have a national, or even international coverage.

The SoG also has many runs of specialist magazines which are not about genealogy or family history but contain an infinity of references to people - local history is the largest category. I hope the magazine will carry a list of some of these in the near future.

The Zoom forum on Catholics divided between the usual three groups:

- people with Irish ancestors, possibly very recently but often coming to Great Britain during the Famine. The births, marriages and deaths in their ancestry are mostly found in state sources but they are rounded out with church registers and fleshed out with the records of schools, orphanages, convents and the myriad small self-help societies which the Irish (in practice Catholics between 1850 and 1970 were 90% Irish) established to help themselves.
- people with ancestors from other Catholic countries - mainly France and Italy but also Spain and the Catholic parts of Germany.

These two groups have often been successful with their ancestry in England but do not know the exact place their ancestors came from and are hoping that Catholic records will help (sometimes but not often). Occasionally they are barking up the wrong tree altogether. We had a question many years ago from a woman who wanted to know about Spanish

ancestry because she had found an ancestress called Costello - a common Irish name. The third group:

- people who are descended from the English Catholics of the 1600s and 1700s when Catholicism was illegal and, in the early days, severely persecuted. In some parts of the country (Lancashire above all but also the North East, including the North Riding of Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire) they were numerous. Tracing them is usually possible but because they were flying under the radar, and are often not in Church of England registers, their births, marriages and deaths can be difficult to tie down.

The following is a list of articles of particular interest - some explanatory, and some long lists of names - which appeared in *Catholic Ancestor* in the 1990s and early 2000s. It is arranged more or less chronologically. The reference is to the date of the magazine and I have omitted Volume and Number which, in this case, add nothing. More controversially I have omitted the name of the author (record sources of course do not usually have one).

Catholics in this neighbourhood (Newport, Shropshire) who suffered fines and hardship for refusing to attend the services of the new religion. (Spring 1984)

Catholic Ancestors in Official Records
(Autumn 1984/Spring and Autumn 1985)

Woburn Park School, Weybridge, Surrey
(Autumn 1984)

Priest Holes and Recusancy (Autumn 1984)
The Catholic Relief Acts of 1778 and 1791
(Autumn 1984)

List of pupils educated abroad in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries (Spring 1985)

The Coventry Mass House (Autumn 1985)

The English Seminary, Bruges, 1858-1873
(Autumn 1985)

- Poor Law Records and Catholic Ancestry (Spring 1986)
- The Bonham Mission [Wiltshire] (Spring 1986)
- Harkirk [Lancashire] (Spring 1986)
- Dorset Catholic Missions (Autumn 1986)
- The Burial Ground and Catholic Church at Coed Anghred [Monmouthshire] (Autumn 1986)
- The York Minster Affair: 1632-34 (Spring 1987)
- The Gravelines Choir Stalls (Spring 1987)
- The Rebirth of Catholicism in Portsmouth: 1791-1828 (Spring 1987)
- Sussex Catholic Registers (Spring 1987)
- Papal Knights in Great Britain (Spring 1987)
- Catholics in Quarter Sessions Records: Registration of Papists' 1715-1791 (Autumn 1987)
- Burials in the Archdiocese of Liverpool since 1859 (Autumn 1987)
- Some Early London Catholic Schools (Autumn 1987; Spring 1988)
- Ufton Court [Berkshire] (Spring 1988)
- The Forster Papers [Northumberland and Durham; includes a long list of family trees] (Spring 1988; list continued in Autumn 1988)
- The Responsa Scholarum of the English College, Rome (Autumn 1988)
- Of the religion of the Street Irish (October 1989)
- Papal Aggression 1850 (October 1989)
- Catholic entries of C of E registers [Walton-le-Dale and St Helens, Lancs] (October 1989)
- Roman Catholics in London 1850-1865 (February 1990)
- Returns of Papists 1767 (February 1990)
- St Peter's, Stalybridge [Lancashire] (February 1990)
- Converts in Weston Underwood, Bucks (February 1990)
- A Popish Conventicle [Deptford, Kent, 1753] (June 1990)
- The Catholic Community of St Leonards-on-Sea [Sussex] in the 1840s (June 1990)
- Converts to Rome [published 1884 and listing 3000 Protestants by profession: the names of lawyers, architects and publishers are given] (June 1990)
- Les Reportes del Cases in Camera Stellata (Feb 1991)
- Berkshire Catholic Missions (Feb 1991)
- Roman Catholics in East London (Feb 1991)
- Lark Rise to Candleford [Catholics in Oxfordshire 1880s] (Feb 1991)
- Catholicism in Chester (June 1991)
- Catholics in Staffordshire 1767 (June 1991)
- The Catholic Contribution to the Decisions on Civil Registration (June 1991)
- The Return of Lodgers of the Suffolk Street Ward in St Martin-in-the-Fields, Mdsx, 1680 (June 1991)
- The Birmingham Irish (Nov 1991)
- The Jailed Priests and their servants at Wisbech Castle, Cambs (Nov 1991)
- The Churchwardens' Accounts of Stratton, Cornwall 1512-1577 (Nov 1991)
- Catholics in West London (Nov 1991)
- An Index of Nuns (Feb 1992)
- Catholic Missions in South West London (Feb 1992)
- Registers of a French Royalist Chapel [St Mary-lebone] (Feb 1992)
- The Catholic Church and the Irish Language in South London 1750-1914 (Feb 1992)
- The Work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Mary's, Highfield, Street, Liverpool 1867-1868 (Nov 1992)
- A Catalogue of ... Popish Physicians about the City of London, 1624 (Nov 1992)
- Creed Registers [in London] (Nov 1992)
- Irish Passes from Southwark, Surrey 1819-1833 (Feb 1993)
- Durham Recusants' Estates 1717-1778 (Feb 1993)
- Chronicle of the English Augustinian Cannesses of Louvain 1548-1644 - includes family trees for Allen of Rossall, Bartlett of Castle Morton, Clement of Louvain, Clifford of Brakenborough, Clopton of Sledwick, Coleman of Cannock, Copley of Gatton, Crathorne of Crathorne, Giffard of Chillington, Haydock of Haydock, Hoo (Barony), Radcliffe of Dilston, Roper of Eltham, Stafford-Howard, Stafford-Jerningham, Thimelby of Irnham, Tremaine of St Ewe, Tunstall of Thurland Castle, Vaughan of Courtfield, Wiseman of Wimbish, Woodford of Brightwell, Worthington of Blainscow (Feb 1993)
- The Rosminians in South Wales (Feb 1993)
- Solemn Procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Carfin, Lanarkshire, 1922 (includes the names of all the participants including a number of Lithuanians) (Feb 1993)
- Catholic Institutions for the Poor [listed by diocese; includes Scotland] (Feb 1993)
- Assisted Catholic emigrants from Cambridgeshire to Australia 1840-1870 (June 1993)
- The Marriage Act of 1753 (June 1993)

- Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1925
[includes all names A-G] (June 1993)
- Return of Papists and Dissenters in the Cheshire
Hundreds 1678-1679 (June 1993)
- The Laity's and Catholic Directories (June 1993)
- Catholic Royalists at the Siege of Basing House,
Hampshire 1643 (Nov 1993)
- 'Only a Novel': Fiction and the Catholic Reader
1800-1870 (Nov 1993)
- The Kent/Sussex border at the change of religion
(Nov 1994)
- The Portuguese Embassy chapel and its registers
(Feb 1995)
- Catholics in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey from
the Reformation to 1850 (Feb 1995)
- Irish Women in early 19th century Southwark:
the evidence of the Borough Computer records
(Feb 1995)
- Recusancy in Hampshire (June 1995)
- Sources for Conformity in Elizabethan and Jacobean
England 1590-1625 (June 1995 - list of names in
Wales; Nov 1995 - Durham, Northumberland,
Yorkshire; Feb 1996 - Cheshire, Cumberland,
Lancashire, Westmorland; June 1996 - the
Midlands and East Anglia; Nov 1996 - the South)
- Catholic Registers in the PRO [errors in the
catalogue] (June 1995)
- Married at the Tower of London by a Catholic Priest
{evidence of marriage AND divorce} (June 1995)
- The Widmore Hoard (June 1995)
- Catholics in Lacock, Wilts 1792-1809 (June 1995)
- Monumental Inscriptions in the Cemetery of the Bar
Convent, York [a long list of nuns] (June 1995)
- Pit Disaster at Westhoughton, Lancs 1910
(June 1995)
- The Dissolution of the Monasteries and Chantries:
Sources in the Public Record Office (Nov 1995)
- A Basic Bibliography for Catholic Family History
(Nov 1995)
- Catholic Missions in South-East London
(Nov 1995)
- Catholic Converts in Broadway, Worcs, 1832-1836
(Nov 1995)
- Cholera in Liverpool 1866 (Nov 1995)
- British Freemen of the City of Bruges 1560-1800
(Feb 1996)
- Sources for Catholic Architects (Feb 1996)
- Catholic Social Life in Bolton, Lancs, c1901
(Feb 1996)
- Local Parish Histories [long list] (June 1996)
- A Biographical Index of the Ex-Religious in
England and Wales c1530-1603 (June 1996)
- The Doleful Even-Song, Blackfriars, London, 1623
(June 1996)
- St Bridget's Catholic Female Orphan Asylum for
Manchester and Salford (June 1996)
- Papists in the Counties of Brecon and Flint,
Dec 1680 (Nov 1996)
- Some Catholic Wills in the 18th Century
(Nov 1996)
- The Registers of the Catholic Chapel at Haughley
Park, Suffolk, 1807-1809 (Nov 1996)
- The Catholics of Stella, Durham, in 1861
(inc transcript of the Catholic parish census)
(Nov 1996)
- Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children in Westminster
(Nov 1996)
- Two Home Counties Churches inspired by Germans
[Guildford and Bishops Stortford] (Nov 1996)
- A Return of Papists in London, 1711 (Feb 1997)
- Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation
Returns and Tax Assessments, 1641/2 (Feb 1997)
- Parliament's Government during the English Civil
War 1642-1649; Surviving records in the PRO
[now TNA] (inc bibliography) (Feb 1997)
- Catholics in Bermondsey, Surrey (Feb 1997)
- The Register of Girls at the Benedictine School
in Ghent, Preston, Caverswall and Oulton
(Feb 1997)
- Mixed Marriages in 19th Century England:
Bringing up the Children (Feb 1997)
- Catholic Ancestry in Yorkshire (June 1997)
- The Families of the Benedictine Nuns at Pontoise
(June 1997)
- Lincolnshire Recusants, 1736/7 (June 1997)
- Catholics in Everingham, Yorkshire, 1767
(June 1997)
- The Religious Press [not just Catholic] (June 1997)
- Casey's Charity for the 'Poor Catholics of
Manchester' (June 1997)
- Catholic Wills [abstracts]: (June 1997; Nov 1997;
Feb 1998; June 1998; Nov 1998; Feb 1999)
- The Spanish Elizabethans [long list of English
Catholics serving Philip II] (Nov 1997 and Feb
1998)
- The Onslow Collection of Catholic Families
[deposited at SoG: list of surnames for which
there are envelopes] (Nov 1997)
- Catholics in Halsall, Lancs, 1674 (Nov 1997)
- Irish Vagrants Passes [Wilts] (Nov 1997)

- English Catholics in Toronto, Ontario, 1842-1857 (Nov 1997)
- Catholics in India (Feb 1998)
- The Congregation of Our Lady, Mother of Good Counsel (Feb 1998)
- Catholics at Dover, Kent, 1636 (June 1998)
- An early Catholic Mission in the Isle of Man (June 1998)
- The Return of Papists in London and Middlesex, 1767 (June 1998)
- Some Monmouthshire Catholics in Anglican Bishops' Transcripts (June 1998)
- The Sisters of Charity in the 1881 Census (June 1998)
- Catholics in the 17th Century Lancashire Quarter Sessions, 1670 (Nov 1998)
- Some Papists of Bushbury, Staffordshire (Nov 1998)
- Irish Catholic Marriages in the London Lying-In Hospital Records (Nov 1998)
- Applications for Assistance from the Society of St Vincent de Paul at St James, Spanish Place, London (Nov 1998)
- Recusant Catholics in Greenwich, Kent, 1580-1780 (Feb 1999)
- Hop-Pickers at Hadlow, Kent (1853) and Beckley, Sussex (1872) (Feb 1999)
- An Irish Wake in Liverpool 1866 (Feb 1999)
- A Northumbrian Mystery: the Poor Clares of Rouen (June 1999)
- Converts at Studley, Warwickshire, 1855-1875 (June 1999)
- Catholic Reformatory and Industrial Schools (1854-1933) [full list] (June 1999)
- Catholic history: background reading (Nov 1999)
- Articles in ECA Journal and Catholic Ancestor 1983-1999 (Nov 1999; Feb 2002: 2000-2001)
- Examinations of Recusants in Prison in London 1593 (Nov 1999)
- Catholic Converts in Kintyre and Arran in the 1620s [long list of names] (Nov 1999)
- Enrolments under the Navy Act in Kent, 1796 (Nov 1999)
- All His Great Powers: Irishmen in the Met (Nov 1999)
- Cupboard Love; the Religion of the London Costermongers (Nov 1999)
- Catholic Converts in Islay, Colonsay and Jura in the 1620s (Feb 2000)
- Papists at Newchurch, Lancs, 1699 (Feb 2000)
- Virginia Street chapel, St George-in-the-East, London (Feb 2000)
- Church Charities in the Diocese of Birmingham, 1800-1918 (Feb 2000)
- Roman Catholic Tradesmen in London, 1681 [list of names] (June 2000)
- Return of Papists, 1767: some Yorkshire returns (June 2000)
- Lay Charities in the Diocese of Birmingham 1800-1918 (June 2000)
- Marriages annotated on baptism entries at Walton-le-Dale, Lancs (Nov 2000)
- Heywood's Register: Catholic Recusants of the West Riding of Yorkshire 1678-1691 (Nov 2000)
- The Registers of Myddelton Lodge, Ilkley, Yorks (Nov 2000)
- Lay Obituaries in the Catholic Directory, 1835-1840 [long lists of names] (Nov 2000; Feb 2001: 1841-1843; June 2001: 1844-1848; Nov 2001: 1849-1854; Feb 2002: 1855-1859)
- Females Religious Orders in Liverpool in the 19th century (Nov 2000)
- Oxfordshire Return of Papists, 1705/6 (Feb 2001)
- Catholics in Standish, Lancs, 1764 and 1793 [long list of names] (Feb 2001)
- Baptisms at St James, Clerkenwell, Mdx [Catholic entries 1629-1640] (June 2001)
- Papists in the Protestation Returns of Croston, Lancs, 1641 (June 2001)
- English Catholic Musicians in the Royal Chapel of Catherine of Braganza (June 2001)
- Pupils at the School of the Holy Child Jesus, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex 1850-1879 [long list of names] (June 2001)
- Catholic Dorset (Nov 2001)
- Papists' Oaths of Allegiance in Wiltshire, 1792 [long list of names] (Nov 2001)
- Jesuits at the Time of the Gunpowder Plot (Feb 2002)
- 'Romish Marriages' from the Settlement Examinations of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Mdx (Feb 2002)
- Wiltshire Members of the Broughton Catholic Charitable Society, 1844 (Feb 2002)
- Catholic Registers in India [full list] (Feb 2002)
- 'Palestrina for Tuppence': 19th century Catholic music transformed (June 2002; Nov 2002)
- The Origins of the Irish in Newcastle and County Durham (June 2002)
- The Irish in Victorian Britain [bibliography] (June 2002)

- The Registers of Dartmouth, Devon
[inc transcription 1782-1814] (Nov 2002)
- Ushaw College, Durham, in the 1871 census
[transcription] (Feb 2003)
- Catholics and the Catholic Military Chaplaincy in
the First World War, 1914-1918 (Feb 2003)
- Catholic Converts in the First World War [list of
men on active service] (Feb 2003)
- Catholics in Cambridgeshire (June 2003)
- Recusants of Lancashire and Loyalty to the King
(June 2003)
- Catholics in St Thomas the Apostle and St Mary
Aldermary, City of London, 1708/9 (June 2003)
- Warrington Catholic Philanthropic Society
(June 2003)
- Irish Nuns in the Incarnate Word Convent, Houston,
Texas (June 2003)
- The Irish Militia in Colchester, Essex [baptisms]
(Nov 2003)
- Catholic Schools c1845 [list of all schools in
England and Wales] (Nov 2003)
- Roads to Rome [list of converts describing their
conversions] (Nov 2003)
- Certificates of Roman Catholic Chapels, Priests,
Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses in Middle-
sex Sessions Records, 1791-1855 (Nov 2003)
- 'Recently Deceased' at St George's Cathedral,
Southwark [describes an index of 13,500 names
1843-1897] (Feb 2004)
- Recusant History [index of articles of family history
index 1973-2003] (Feb 2004)
- Recusants in Kirkham, Lancs, 1702, 1704, 1706
(Feb 2004)
- Burial Registers of Margate, Kent, 1823-1856, 1870
(Feb 2004)
- Pupils at St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool,
1845-1900 (Feb 2004; June 2004; Nov 2004)
- Pupils at Woburn Park School, Weybridge, Surrey,
1877-1885
- British Ancestors in France (June 2004)
- The Aged Poor Society and Saint Joseph's Alms-
houses, Middlesex [inc names of pensioners and
petitioners in 1851 and 1861] (Nov 2004)
- The following is a list of articles about specific
families and a few individuals:
- Adolph (Feb 2001)
- Aggio of Colchester (Spring 1986)
- Ainscough of Mawdesley, Lancs (Feb 1991)
- Anne of Burghwallis (Autumn 1985)
- Barclay of Tenterden (Feb 1994)
- Barlow of Barlow (Autumn 1988)
- Barrow of Hinxhill, Kent (Nov 1993)
- Bellasis (June 1993)
- Bennett [a Persian from Delhi] (Nov 1992)
- Blount (Feb 1996)
- Boddy of Raventofts (Spring 1985)
- Bond of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (June 2002)
- Brindle of Preston, Lancs (June 2004)
- Broadley of Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs (Feb 2003)
- Brockholes (June 1998)
- Brooks [obituary of the founder of the society]
(Nov 1997)
- Brosch from Lodz, Poland (Feb 1991)
- Butler (June 2000)
- Butler (Feb 2002)
- Caley of ER Yorks (Autumn 1985)
- Carew (June 1992; Feb 1994; Feb 1998)
- Cashman (June 1998)
- Carpue of London (Feb 1992)
- Chadwick of Preston, Lancs (June 1992)
- Charnock (June 2003)
- Clarke of Myddle, Shrops (June 1999)
- Clayton of Preston, Lancs (Nov 1994)
- Clitherow of York (June 1990)
- Conolly of Midford Castle, Somerset (June 1998)
- Costellow (June 1999)
- Cotham (Spring 1989)
- Cresswelle (June 1998; Feb 2001)
- Crombleholme (Feb 1992)
- Curry (June 2000)
- Daile of Hutton, Yorks (Feb 2000; Nov 2001)
- Dalton (June 2003)
- Darby (Nov 2003)
- Dawson of Soberton, Hants, and Charleston SC
(Nov 2002)
- Dean/Noble/Freeman (June 1997)
- Dearn of Colchester. (Spring 1986)
- De Stacpole, Papal Dukes (Nov 1994)
- Dilger of the Black Forest, Germany (Nov 1992)
- English (June 2002)
- Fairclough of Aspull, Haigh and Wigan, Lancs
(June 1991)
- Farrar of Billinge, Lancs (Nov 2002)
- Fen (Spring and Autumn 1986)
- Fisher of Yarm, NR Yorks (June 1996)
- Fitzherbert (Nov 2002)
- Foster of Charnock Richard, Lancs (Feb 1998;
June 2003)

- Foster (Nov 2001)
Furniss of Hathersage and Sheffield (Spring 1989)
Gillet in Honduras (Feb 1991)
Godfrye of Densworth, Sussex (Nov 1996)
Gressier of Nevill Holt, Leics (June 1992)
Gwyn descendants (Feb 1991)
Harrison of Lythe and Egton Bridge, Yorks (June 1990)
Haskew of Staffordshire (Feb 1992)
Havers of Thelveton Hall, Norfolk (Feb 1999) and Ingatestone, Essex (June 1999)
Haydock of Preston, Lancs (June 1992)
Hickin (Feb 1996)
Higham of Werneth (Autumn 1986)
Holden (June 2003)
Hornby (Feb 1992)
Houghton (June 2003)
Knight of Cannington and Axminster (Autumn 1986)
Knife of Semley, Wilts. (Autumn 1987)
Langhorne (June 2000)
Leeson of Coventry (Autumn 1986 / Spring 1987)
Lloyd of Malvern, Worcs (Nov 1991)
Mackworth (June 2002)
Maloney of Southwark, Surrey, 1767 (June 1991)
Manby (June 1996)
Marzagora (June 1993)
Mason of Crondon Park, Essex (Nov 1992)
Mayney (Feb 1998)
Mayo (Feb 2002)
Melbey (Feb 1999)
Migliorucci (Autumn 1985)
Nevill of Nevill Holt (Autumn 1984; Spring and Autumn 1987)
Noble of Kellet, Lancs (Feb 1995)
Norton (Nov 1998)
Pagliano (June 2004)
Palgrave of North Barningham, Norfolk (Nov 1994; Feb 1995)
Pearson of Forcett (Spring 1985)
Penderell/Pendrill (Spring 1984; Nov 1993)
Peniston (Nov 1998)
Pivert (June 1999)
Pope [the poet] (Nov 1994)
Potier (Nov 2001)
Powel (June 2002)
Quick (Feb 2003)
Readman of Egton Bridge, Yorks (June 1990)
Roach (Feb 1999)
- Robinson of Hutton Hall, Yorks (Feb 2000)
Sayer of Worsall, Yorks. (Spring and Autumn 1988; Spring 1989)
Schrystyn (June 1995)
Seaman (Feb 2000)
Shacklock (Spring and Autumn 1986)
Sheridan (June 1990)
Shorter [Horace Walpole's uncle] (Nov 1991)
Shuttleworth of Hodsock, Notts (June 1992)
Slaughter of Cheney Court, Herefordshire (June and Nov 1996)
Smith of Bromsgrove, Worcs (Nov 1993)
Speke of Hazelbury Manor, Box, Wilts, and White-lackington, Som (Feb 1996; Feb 1998)
Thompson of Hutton Hall, Yorks (Nov 1998)
Tichborne, Hampshire (June 1995)
Travala (Feb 2002)
Turnbull of Manchester and Liverpool (June 2002)
Turner [the painter] (Feb 1994)
Walpole [Jesuits] (Nov 1997)
Ward of Scorton, Lancs (Feb 1994)
Wedgewood of Egton, Yorks (June 1992)
Weld (Nov 2002)
Whetenhall of East Peckham, Kent (Feb 1993)
Wilcox and Wilcoxon of Maer, Staffs (Nov 1995; Nov 2003)
Worthington of Blainscow (Feb 1993)
- Plenty of other articles cover ground which is more fully covered elsewhere but are valuable as far as they go.
- Boys will be boys, Nov 1996
- Obituaries:
- Bernard Bull d.1989 aged 82 (Feb 1990)
Philip F. Coverdale 1906-1999 (June 1999)
Monsignor Edward Wilcock (June 1999)
Sister Francis Agnes Onslow OSC 1909-2001 (Nov 2001)
Tony Butler 1928-2004 (June 2004)
Ted Worrall 1916-2004 (June 2004)
-
- Michael Gandy, FSG**
Email: mgandy@clara.co.uk
-

UNRAVELLING THE DOUBLE LIFE OF WILLIAM STEDHALL / PETER SMITH

Peter Manning, VP. FIGRS.

Having satisfactorily identified in my family history research two Manning brothers (Thomas and John marrying two Smith (*Steadhall*) sisters Sarah and Mary Ann between 1854 and 1860,¹ it was with the unexpected discovery of the baptismal entry for a Benjamin Stedhall Smith in Stepney, Middlesex, in 1839,² that it became possible to unravel the interesting history of this elusive man and that of his using of two completely different names throughout his lifetime, and the relationship between these two families.

The records examined, suggest that a man using both the names of William Stedhall and Peter Smith was born about 1795 in the parish of Shadwell, Middlesex. 'Both' men had, at some time, the occupation of that of a hairdresser, and each were recorded, in separate documents, to have lived at number 66 High Street, Shadwell, Middlesex in the mid-19th century.³

From subsequent research, it was revealed that William's surname had been recorded in numerous official documents as: Stedhall, Steedhall, Steadhall and Steadall, and that Peter Smith's Christian name had been recorded as William Peter Smith.⁴

In 1812 William Stedhall / Peter Smith would have been 17 years old, whereby a young man could be recruited into the services of the Royal Marines. Admiralty records at The National Archives, Kew confirm that William Steadall had been recruited into the 1st Division Royal Marines at the age of 18 years at Chatham, Kent, and by calculating from his known length of service in the Royal Marines of 21 years and one day, his joining date would have been during April 1813.⁵

In the following year of 1814, at the age of 19 years, William Stedhall was recorded to be serving as a

Private in the Royal Marines on *HMS Egmont*, (a third-rate sailing ship of 74 guns built in 1810), this during action in the French Wars on the west coast of France at Meschers-sur-Gironde in April of this year. He was later entered into the ship's books as receiving a naval medal award for claims of 'boat action' in 1814 in the River Gironde with prize money awarded to the boat crew, after which this ship was paid off in August 1814 at Portsmouth. This is shown in several naval officers' biographies.⁶ There would have been some 80 marines serving on *HMS Egmont* with joint boat-action crews holding up to 45 seamen and marines. (A note written in October 1814 on the original claims page of the award document states that the men did not receive their award).⁷

The Royal Marines Service and Pension Records held in The National Archives, confirm William Steadall to have been engaged as a Royal Marine for 21 years and one day, serving both on ship and on land-based duties with the Royal Navy.

Following him being discharged from the service in 1833, he took up the occupation of hairdresser in civilian life in the town of Chatham, Kent, where he began to raise his family as Peter Smith.

One year later he applied to the Admiralty and was accepted for a naval pension, becoming a Greenwich 'Out-Pensioner', receiving an annual pension of £15.4s.0d. for the following 14 years between 17 April 1834 and 20 July 1848, after which he successfully applied to become a Greenwich 'In-Pensioner', and was admitted into the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich on 17 August 1848, remaining there until his death in the hospital almost one year later on 12 July 1849 at the age of 54 years and subsequent burial in the Royal Naval cemetery on 14 July 1849⁸, he having

continued to lead a double life during the years prior to entering the naval hospital.

Peter Smith's position is referred to by one of his daughters, Mary Ann Stedhall / Smith, at her marriage in March 1860 in London, as a Sergeant in the Navy, giving his name as William Peter Smith.⁹ It is possible that she did not know her father's actual name nor that of her birth surname, he having been deceased for 11 years prior to her marriage. (No death record has been found for a Peter Smith or William Peter Smith of Shadwell or Greenwich).

Looking much further back into that of William / Peter and the family's past, a marriage is recorded for William Stedhall, (*age 25 years*), to a Sophia Forshen on 31 July 1820 at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, Hampshire, both of this parish.¹⁰ The small parish of Alverstoke was situated adjacent to the Royal Marines barracks near the Naval Dockyards of Gosport and Portsmouth. (William may have made the acquaintance of Sophia here, as during this period Royal Marine soldiers were often billeted in the homes of the local townsfolk). (The alternate spelling of his wife's surname of Fortune is to be found in this area of Hampshire).

A son William was born in 1821 at Chatham, Kent. (The parish of St Mary's, Chatham, contained a major Royal Naval Dockyard and Royal Marines barracks). This son William stated at his marriage on 11 November 1844 that he was of Shadwell, Middlesex, and was the son of Peter Smith a hairdresser, but he was probably born the son of William Stedhall.¹¹

Some ten years later, after the death of his first wife Sophia, a second marriage following the reading of banns, is recorded on 4 June 1831 at St John's Church, Preston, Lancashire, of William Stedhall, (*age 36 years*), a widower of this parish and Catharine Roscow, a spinster of this parish.¹² (Catharine was unable to write her name making her mark in the church register). An entry in the local newspaper, the *Preston Chronicle* for 11 June 1831 states in the 'family notes' of births, deaths and marriages column: 'On Saturday, the marriage of Mr William Stedhall to Miss Catherine Roscow.' Catharine Stedhall / Smith (*née* Roscow) was later recorded in the census of

1841 to have been born about 1811 in Middlesex. The birth of a Catharine Roscow is recorded in Lancashire on 2 Sept 1814 and baptised on 6 March 1815 at All Saints Church, Wigan, to William Roscow, a weaver and Elizabeth his wife, this making Catharine's age at her marriage as 17 years old. (The Roscow family are shown as living at Pemberton, three miles south-west of Wigan and 15 miles south of Preston. A sister baptised with her was named Alice Roscow).¹³ (No marriage of a Peter Smith to a Catharine Roscow or a Catharine Stedhall has been found).

The baptism of their first daughter Sarah Steedhall was recorded on 3 April 1833 at St Mary's Church, Chatham Town, Kent, recording her parents as William Steedhall, (*age 38 years*), a hairdresser and Catherine Steedhall, living in Chatham Town, Kent.¹⁴ (Her name was later recorded in both the 1841 and 1851 census as Sarah Smith).

The baptism of a second daughter Mary Ann Stedhall was recorded on 13 April 1835 at St Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesex, recording her parents as William Stedhall, (*age 40 years*), a hairdresser and his wife Catherine Stedhall, living in Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex.¹⁵ (Like her sister her name was later recorded in both the 1841 and 1851 census as Mary Ann Smith).

The baptism of a son Benjamin Stedhall Smith, which helped me progress out of this family's original confusion, was entered on 19 August 1839 at St Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesex, recording his parents as Peter Smith, (*age 44 years*), a hairdresser and Catherine Smith, living in Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex.¹⁶ (His birth was not found in the Registrar General's indexes which began in September 1837). The death of a Benjamin Smith is recorded in the Registrar General's indexes as (Oct-Dec 1839) Stepney 2.382. The burial of a Benjamin Smith is recorded in the register of non-conformist burials of 1839 in Stepney. (He was not recorded with the family in the 1841 census).

With the acquiring of the birth certificate of a third daughter Catherine Steadhall Smith, it shows her birth on 9 September 1840 at number 66 High Street, Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex, her father is entered as Peter Smith, (*age 45 years*), a hairdresser, her

mother being Catherine Smith formally Roscow, their daughter's birth was registered on 30 September 1840. The subsequent baptism of this daughter Catherine Stedhall Smith was recorded on 12 October 1840 at St Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesex, showing her parents as Peter Smith, a hairdresser and Catherine Smith, living in Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex.¹⁷

The 1841 national census of number 66 High Street, St Paul's, Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex records the family of Peter Smith aged 45 years (*born circa 1796*) in Middlesex and occupied as a hairdresser, with his wife Catherine Smith aged 30 years (*born circa 1811*) in Middlesex, and three of their children; Sarah aged eight years (*born ca. 1833*), Mary aged six years (*born ca. 1835*), and Catherine aged one year (*born ca. 1840*), all born in Middlesex.¹⁸ (It is interesting to note here that this address was recorded in the Admiralty's 1842 'Out-Pension' records of William Steadall).¹⁹

The marriage is recorded of their now adult son William Smith, (*born 1821*), on 11 November 1844 at St James, Ratcliff, Stepney, Middlesex; he is shown as being of full age, a bachelor and living at London Street, Stepney, Middlesex. His occupation was that of a labourer, his father Peter Smith, (*age 49 years*), had the occupation of a hairdresser. His bride was Mary Ann Bell, a spinster also of London Street, Stepney, Middlesex, her father was Joseph Bell a mariner.²⁰

The baptism, to this couple, of a son William Smith, was recorded on 4 April 1847 at St Paul's Church, Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex, recording his parents as William Smith, a labourer and Mary Ann Smith (*née Bell*) of 87 High Street, Shadwell. (The family were living a short distance along from his father's parents and siblings at 66 High Street, Shadwell).²¹

The Admiralty records of the Royal Navy for the year 1848 confirm William Steadall, (ticket number: 5620), at the age of 53 years entering Greenwich Royal Naval Hospital in Kent on 17 August 1848 as an 'In-Pensioner' having served 21 years and one day as a 1st class Royal Marine, the entry giving his height as 5 foot 9 inches and having previously received a pension for 15 years

as an 'Out-Pensioner' this having commenced in June 1834 of £15.4s.0d. per year at £3.16s.0d. per quarter.²²

Further hospital records show that William was issued with the hospital uniform on 18 August 1848 and a second issue of clothing on 29 December 1848. His family details now recorded him as having one daughter to support, (this would have been Catherine Steadhall Smith age 8 years). His wife Catherine is not named and was known to be deceased. (Children above the age of 12 years were not recorded as being supported by the Pensioner in this document). A further hospital entry document shows, on entering the hospital in 1848, William was recorded as being a widower, employed as a hairdresser and having three female children.²³

The In-Pensioner's register of the hospital states that William was born in Shadwell, Middlesex and was resident in Shadwell prior to his entry into the naval hospital. It also records the last ship he served on during ca.1833 as *HMS Wellesley*, and he had received no injuries during his long service in the marines.²⁴

It is interesting to note that Dennis Manning, the father of John and Thomas Manning, and that of William Steadall / Peter Smith, the father of Mary Ann (Stedhall) Smith and Sarah (Steedhall) Smith were both residing together as in-pensioners in The Royal Naval Hospital, Greenwich, between 1848 and 1849.

The death of William Steadhall, on 12 July 1849, is recorded in the GRO's death indexes for Greenwich.²⁵

The burial of William Steadhall aged 54 years, (*born 1795*), at the Royal Naval Cemetery was recorded in the nonconformist registers of Greenwich Hospital, Kent on 14 July 1849.²⁶

Moving forward two years, after the death of William / Peter and that of his wife Catherine, the 1851 census of the Children's Establishment of the Stepney Union, Limehouse Workhouse, Middlesex records two pauper and scholar sisters residing in the workhouse, they being Mary Ann Smith aged

15 years (*born ca. 1836*) in Shadwell, Middlesex, and Catharine Smith aged ten years (*born ca. 1841*) in Shadwell, Middlesex, both the daughters of a hairdresser. (Mary Ann Smith had left the workhouse by 1860 to marry John Manning).²⁷

The 1851 census of number 75 St George Street, (previously Ratcliff Highway), St George in the East, Middlesex records their sister Sarah Smith age 17 years (*born ca. 1833*) in Chatham, Kent employed as an unmarried servant for Charles Gregory Sheffield, a Stationer and Printer, and his sister Sarah Sheffield.²⁸ (It is interesting to note that the Admiralty records for 1842 record Sarah's future husband Thomas Manning, as a young boy, the son of Greenwich Hospital 'In-Pensioner' Dennis Manning, living with his siblings in the then named Ratcliff Highway).

Again, at this time, the 1851 census of number 3 Labour in Vain Street, St Paul's parish, Shadwell, Stepney, Middlesex records that living with two members of the Manning family, namely Ann Manning, the wife of Dennis Manning, and her son Thomas, were William Smith aged 30 years *born ca. 1821* in Chatham, Kent and occupied as a labourer, the son of Peter Smith, his wife Mary Ann Smith (*née Bell*), age 25 years *born ca. 1826* in North Shields, Northumberland and their son William Smith aged three years *born ca. 1848* in Shadwell, Middlesex.²⁹

One final document that joins the surnames of Steadall and Smith is the birth certificate some 24 years later of Elizabeth Kendall Manning, the daughter of Thomas Manning and Sarah (*née Smith*), born 14 March 1875, whereby there is the possibly of a misspelling of her forename for Elizabeth Steadhall Manning. Her baptism on 4 Apr 1875 shows some ambiguity on the spelling of her forename.³⁰

Further research at The National Archives of *HMS Egmont* and *Wellesley* ships books, and the Royal Marines Records of Service is needed to complete the missing periods of this man's life story.

Notes

1. The marriage on 20 Aug 1854 at St James the Great, Bethnal Green, Middlesex of Thomas Manning, a bachelor of 7 Potts Street, Bethnal Green, Middlesex occupation: Coal Porter, father: Dennis Manning occupation: Sailor, to Sarah Smith a spinster of 8 Watney Street, Shadwell, Middlesex, father: Peter Smith, deceased. (Witness: Mariann Smith). GRO marriage, Sept 1854 quarter Bethnal Green 1c.511, and the marriage by Licence on 20 Mar 1860 at St Andrew, Holborn, Middlesex of John Manning, a bachelor of Holborn, Middlesex occupation: Mariner, father: Denis Manning occupation: Mariner, to Mary Ann Smith, a spinster of the Parish of Limehouse, Middlesex, father: William Peter Smith occupation: Sergeant in the Navy. (Witness: Thomas Manning and Catherine Smith). GRO marriage, Mar 1860 quarter W London 1c.95.
2. Baptism of Benjamin Stedhall Smith son of Peter & Catherine Smith. Ref: St Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex. Date 19 Aug 1839. p.253, no. 1901
3. 1841 census of 66 High Street, Shadwell, Middlesex. HO107/703/5/11/16. ADM22/435/164. Out-Pension Pay Book 1764-1854.
4. ADM171/3/41. UK Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1973. ADM6/295. Register of Applicants 1789-1859. ADM22/435/164. Out-Pension Pay Book 1814-1846. Marriage John Manning & Mary Ann Smith 20 Mar 1860 St Andrews, Holborn, Middlesex.
5. ADM6/255/54. Register of Candidates for Admission to Greenwich Hospital 1841-1859.
6. Lieutenant Parker Duckworth Bingham, born 11 Apr 1799 son of Rear Admiral Joseph Bingham. Entered the Royal Navy on *HMS Egmont* 74 (1810) on 21 May 1811 as a First-Class Volunteer commanded by his father. He was a Midshipman in the operations up the River Gironde in 1814, where he witnessed the destruction of a French line-of-battle ship *Regulus*, three brigs of war, several smaller vessels and of all the forts and batteries on the north side of the river. Ref: *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, Vol. 1. By William R. O'Byrne.
Commander Frederick Chevallier Syer, this officer in March 1814 was present at the destruction in the River Gironde, of a French line-of-battle ship, three brigs-of-war and several other vessels, and all the forts and batteries on the north side of this river. Ref: *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, Vol. 3. By William R. O'Byrne.
On the evening of 6 Apr 1814 *HMS Centaur* arrived at Gironde, her object was to support *HMS Egmont* 74 (1810) in the attack on the French ship-of-the-line *Regulus* and storm Fort Talmont. Landing parties in boats would storm Fort Talmont, near Meschers-sur-Gironde while *HMS Egmont* 74 (1810) would attack

- Regulus, of which on 7 Apr 1814 was scuttled by fire. Ref: Wikipedia.
- HMS Egmont* was employed off the west coast of France and bore the flag of Rear Admiral Penrose when that officer led his squadron into, and forced the passage off the River Gironde. She was paid off in Aug 1814.
7. ADM171/3/41. UK Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1973.
 8. ADM6/ 255. Register of Candidates for Admission to Greenwich Hospital 1841-1859. ADM6/295. Register of Applicants 1841-1859. ADM6/309. ADM73/ 048, 061, 069. ADM22/403, 411, 419, 427, 435, 442.
 9. At the marriage of John Manning to Mary Ann (*Stedhall*) Smith at St Andrew, Holborn, Middlesex, on 20 Mar 1860, she signed the register Mary Ann Smith, stating her father to be William Peter Smith, Sergeant in the Navy. Her baptism at St Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesex on 13 Apr 1835 records her as Mary Ann Stedhall daughter of William Stedhall and Catherine (*née Roscow*). Ref: p.288, no. 2298.
 10. Marriage William Stedhall & Sophia Forshen 31 Jul 1820. St Mary, Alverstoke, Hampshire.
 11. Marriage of William Smith & Mary Ann Bell 11 Nov 1844. St James, Ratcliff, Middlesex p.25, no. 50.
 12. Marriage William Stedhall & Catharine Roscow 4 Jun 1831. St John's, Preston, Lancashire p.151, no. 116.
 13. Baptism of Catharine Roscow & Alice Roscow 6 March 1815 All Saints, Wigan, Lancashire p.195, no. 1565 & p.196, no. 1566.
 14. Baptism of Sarah Steedhall 3 Apr 1833. St Mary, Chatham, Kent p.229, no. 1830.
 15. Baptism of Mary Ann Stedhall 13 Apr 1835. St Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex p.288, no. 2298.
 16. Baptism of Benjamin Stedhall Smith 19 Aug 1839. St Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex p.253, no. 1901.
 17. Birth of Catherine Steadhall Smith 9 Sept 1840. GRO births, Sept 1840 quarter Stepney 2.474. Baptism of Catherine Stedhall Smith 12 Oct 1840. St Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex p.357, no. 2851.
 18. 1841 census 66 High Street, Shadwell, Middlesex HO107/703/5/11/16.
 19. ADM22/442. Out-Pension Pay Book 1814-1846.
 20. Marriage of William Smith & Mary Ann Bell 11 Nov 1844. St James, Ratcliff, Middlesex p.25, no. 50. GRO marriage, Dec 1844 quarter Stepney 2.432.
 21. Baptism of William Smith 4 Apr 1847. St Paul, Shadwell, Middlesex p.313, no. 502. born 2 Jan 1847.
 22. ADM6/ 255, 295, 309. ADM73/48, 61, 69. ADM22/ 403, 411, 419, 427, 435, 442.
 23. ADM73/48. General Register of Pensioners and their Families 1846-1863.
 24. ADM73/61. Rough Book of Pensioners 1847-1852. ADM 73/69. Entry Book of Pensioners 1764-1869. *HMS Wellesley* 74 built in 1815 as a third rate-ship of the line commissioned under Capt. John Harper for the voyage to England in June 1815. She arrived in Portsmouth on 3 May 1816 and was laid up until 1823. She carried Sir Charles Stuart de Rothescry on a mission to Portugal and Brazil to negotiate a commercial treaty with Pedro the First of Brazil. On 23 November 1824 she was driven ashore at Portsmouth during a gale. Between 25 November 1824 and 30 January 1825 her tender *Wolf* took several prizes for which prize money was payable. *HMS Wellesley* was the flagship of Rear Admiral Sir Frederick Lewis Maitland in the Mediterranean between 1827 and 1830. She went to Plymouth for a small repair between 1835 and 1837.
 25. Death of William Steadhall 12 Jul 1849. GRO Deaths, Sept 1849 quarter Greenwich 5.222. RG4/1675. RG8/ 0016. ADM73/47. Death of Pensioner at Hospital.
 26. ADM 73/460. Register of Pensioners-Burials. Burial of William Steadhall 14 Jul 1849. Greenwich p.1260, no. 10.070.
 27. 1851 census Limehouse Workhouse, Middlesex. HO107/1554/673/19.
 28. 1851 census 75 St George Street, St Geo in the East, Middlesex. HO107/1548/598/9.
 29. 1851 census 3 Labour in Vain Street, Shadwell, Middlesex. HO/107/1550/45/23.
 30. Birth of Elizabeth Kendall Manning 4 Mar 1875. GRO births, Jun 1875 quarter Stepney 1c.438. Baptism of Elizabeth Kendall Manning 4 Apr 1875. St Thomas, Stepney, Middlesex p.65, no. 571.

Peter Manning, VP. FIGRS.
 Hon. Gen. Sec. IGRS
 Email: pmanning254@gmail.com



www.archivesearch.ca

CANADIAN RESEARCH

Melissa J. Ellis PG Cert.



archivesearch@gmail.com

Professional Researcher with unique "outside the box" genealogical problem solving,
 specializing in probate records and all aspects of migration across Canada.

A HONEYMOON IN FRANCE, 1914

Peter Bolton

Material stuck into a 1914 guidebook, an entry in an English-language French newspaper, and analysis of handwriting in an Irish marriage register combine to enable the identification of an otherwise anonymous record of a honeymoon in France in 1914.

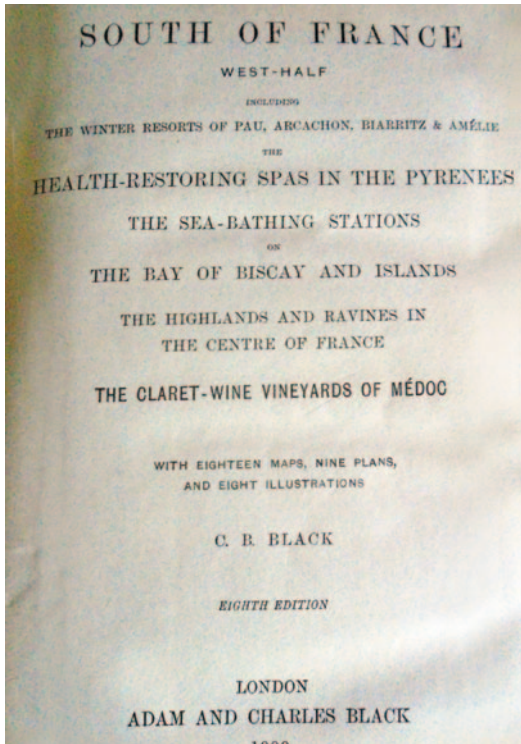
I purchased *Black's Guide to the Western Pyrenees* many years ago after I had been attracted by the remarkable number of items stuck into it, as well as the careful and neat marginalia and itinerary at the front of the book headed 'Our Tour, 1914.' Something about the words suggested to me that it was no ordinary tour but probably a record of a wedding tour, kept by a couple to whom the word honeymoon would then have sounded unsophisticated. Indeed the scope of their 'Tour' which started at Victoria Station, London, and went via Newhaven to Paris and thence via Bordeaux to Biarritz, briefly into Spain to San Sebastian, to Pau, Lourdes and Caunterets; to Gavarnie and Lourdes and from Luchon to Toulouse before the couple made their way home, suggested leisure rather than economy. They were following a fairly well trodden winter trail of their time, an Edwardian latter-day grand tour. The guide was a book for keeping, and always had been, with pictures and cuttings stuck in, maps, underlinings in the text and comments. There was a short handwritten reading list at the front and, among its pages an occasional published apposite poem had been inserted. There was even a pressed flower, probably a variety of gentian, picked in who-knows-what circumstances of lost significance. The annotations were almost entirely the work of one hand, though at the back in a more hurried larger writing the second traveller had written a few day-to-day notes of train times and prices.

The couple had felt no need to add what, for posterity, was the most the important thing - their

Route	Pages
London Victoria to Newhaven	Map II.
Newhaven to Paris	" I.
Paris to Bordeaux	155, 102-9, 1.
Bordeaux to Biarritz	115, 116, 120. " 1, 117, 12.
Biarritz	124. " 124.
" to San Sebastian	127. " 120.
San Sebastian	132. " 132.
Biarritz to Pau	144. " 138, 154.
Pau	146. " 147, 151.
" to Lourdes	170. " 138, 154.
Lourdes to Caunterets	161, 167. " 138, 154, 158.
Caunterets to Gavarnie	167, 162, 164. " 158.
Lourdes	171. " 138.
" to Luchon	175, 54, 202, 201, 197-5. " 138, 188.
Luchon	186. " 188, 185.
" to Toulouse	195, 201, 198. " 188, 138.
Toulouse	92. " 93.
" to Paris	11, 1. " 1.

names. Nevertheless I had built up a mental picture of the anonymous couple - the neat new wife and her lovingly prepared and maintained book containing her painstaking workmanship - even the places visited had been indexed - and the husband, perhaps less concerned with the history of where they went and with somewhat wilder handwriting, who dealt with the business side of the planning and cared less for the minutiae of record and remembrance. I wondered whether this had been a short marriage: perhaps, in only a few weeks, the new husband was off to the front and went the way of so many young officers.

I had a feeling that I ought to be able to tease from the book its owners' identities but all I had was handwriting. Here and there, however, in the book were indications of the hotels they had visited. There were hotel stamps on the backs of maps and there were underlinings of particular hotels among those recommended in the text. At Caunterets they



had stayed at the Grand Hotel de l'Univers, at Biarritz at the gigantic Hotel de Bayonne et Metropole, at Pau at L'Hotel Gassion. It would, I thought, have been a happy chance if, in the French fashion for maintaining official records, an old visitors' book still lay, perhaps in a hotel basement. In one of those, had they existed, I might well have found the signature of one, at least, of the original owners. Alas, of the magnificent French hotels they had visited, all but one had ceased operation or had vanished completely. The exception was the Grand Hotel du Vignemal in the middle of the dramatic, indeed fearsome, Cirque de Gavarnie. But the hotel's proprietor's helpful letter did not further the search. The hotel had had many owners, he wrote, and there had, as a result, been no continuity of record-keeping. It had even at one point, he told me - enlarging my French vocabulary - been '*squatté*.'

So the quest rested until I recently paid a visit to the fine Pyrenean resort of Pau. Before the First World War undermined a way of life for good, this had been a place of resort for thousands of British and American visitors who wintered here attracted by the town's mild climate. (In an inversion of the usual way of things hotel prices were cheapest in summer.) It possessed at least four English churches; there was even a golf course, an English club, and a hunt. My guide book had among the inserted items a fine printed panorama of the great view of the mountains from the town's Promenade. Its origin was happily labelled for us: *Hotel Gassion*. Where had this been? I asked a French lady of a certain age on the town's famous promenade. She pointed to the immense block outside which we were standing at that moment and where she herself lived in one of the apartments which had been made from it. The hotel had closed a generation before when the cost of bringing it up to the more rigorous standards guests had come to expect was, she said, too great.

Visiting the departmental archives which the town houses, I explained what I wanted, but before I had finished the archivist was already ruefully shaking her head. No, they did not possess the archives of the Hotel Gassion. But she was helpful. Perhaps the weekly English language newspaper of that year might be of use. In the style once common

earlier in the 19th century this still listed the arrivals and departures of the most important British and American visitors; it gave the hotels they stayed at as well as their country of origin. Among these were the probable 1914 owners of my *Black's Guide*. So I wrote down the names of English couples who had visited the Hotel Gassion during the winter season.

I then began looking for two visitors sufficiently wealthy to make this sort of tour and who had been married in late 1913 or early enough the next year to take advantage of Pau's season. They needed to be young enough to have been able to make the vigorous excursions sometimes noted in the guidebook, one of nine hours on horseback from the little Pyrenean mountain spa of Caunterets. One by one I eliminated those British visitors already married in the 1911 census, as well as those visitors who did not fit my other criteria. I was able to trace almost all visitors - though not the 'Mr and Mrs Smith of London'! - and was left with a couple who seemed to tick all of my boxes: a 'Mr and Mrs Kenneth Cookson'. Though he was not to be found in the 1911 census he certainly came from the right background for the tour. In the 1901 census he had been a university student. His father was a lead manufacturer and coal owner who lived in Northumberland in a household staffed by thirteen servants. His Christian name was sufficiently unusual then for me to be able to trace his marriage in the final quarter of 1913 in the Ardee registration district of County Louth in Ireland to Vyvyan Tilla Butler, one of the County Louth Butlers, daughter of Lt-Col Walter Butler and Alice Fowler. Her grandfather had been Sir Richard Butler Bt. of Cloughgrenan who had married Matilda Cookson from Northumberland, possibly making the newlywed couple distant cousins.

But, to confirm their connection with my guidebook, I still needed a copy of their handwriting. One of their grandchildren to whom I wrote very kindly sent me a copy of two envelopes - one addressed by each of her grandparents. I was at first disappointed. The woman's writing bore little relation to the notes I felt sure she had made - but then she had addressed the envelope some sixty-two years after her marriage. Her hand was still firm, but it might well

have moved on from her newly-wed writing. The last shot in my armoury was to seek an earlier example of their writing and I therefore searched for the church in the Ardee registration district in which they had married before finding at last an entry in the registers of Drumcar Church of Ireland church - the hostile comments in the Guide book about the shrine at Lourdes would not have fitted a Roman Catholic couple. There they had been married on 26 November 1913 in what was clearly an important ceremony conducted by the Bishop of Tuam. But what had they done in the month or so before their wedding 'tour' next year? I assume those weeks were spent visiting friends in England and Ireland and celebrating Christmas before setting off to catch the Season.

The couple's signatures in the registers were what I sought, but looking at them a surprising realisation came - and for me a warning against making premature assumptions. I had exchanged the two young people in my mind's eye and had been looking at the wrong spouse. The neat writing, the poetry, the copied out history, the annotations were not those of the wife but of her husband. whose handwriting at once seemed rather familiar. This was his record of their honeymoon and it was her writing which had jotted down the occasional more business-like material at the back. When I went back to the more recent envelopes they had each addressed I could see in his handwriting, still neat but larger and more sloping now that he was not confined to margins, just one letter which gave me some further assurance. The open Greek 'ε' which Kenneth Cookson had used in his largely printed honeymoon notes of 1914 was still there - just once - in his granddaughter's photocopy of his writing on the relatively recent envelope.

And what happened to the newly wedded couple? Again I had been wrong to harbour any anxieties about Kenneth Cookson and the War. His family were Quakers and he did not fight, though that did not stop him having an adventurous war. He supplied ambulances with his own money and was commandant of a British Red Cross Motor Ambulance Convoy working in Italy and was awarded the OBE as well as Italian decorations. Ironically, their only son took part in the Second World War and was killed in action while flying for the RAF in 1941.

Theirs was to be the roving life - a life often found in the now virtually stateless former members of the Irish gentry. Their passport will have been an instructive document. They travelled the world before settling down at a house they built at Constantia in South Africa having previously bought farms in the then Southern Rhodesia and Queensland, Australia. After her husband's death in 1963 Vyvyan Cookson ended her days at Roquebrune not far from where the letter photocopied for me had been posted - in Monte Carlo, not so very far from the part of the south of France where they had honeymooned so many years before.

Acknowledgement

I should like to thank Mr and Mrs Cookson's grandchildren for their assistance.

Peter Bolton

Email: peterandrosalindbolton@hotmail.com

CURTIS MIRANDA LAMPSON

FROM AMERICAN FARMHAND TO BRITISH BARONET

James Day

Curtis Miranda Lampson was the fourth son and tenth child of 12 children of William Lampson and Rachel Powell, his wife. He was born on 21 September 1806 in the township of New Haven, Addison County, Vermont, where his father had acquired a smallholding of 110 acres.

William was born around 1761, probably in Boston. At the age of 15 he enlisted in the Berkshire County Massachusetts Militia and fought against the British at Ticonderoga and Bennington in the war of American Independence. After his discharge in November 1779 he eventually settled in New Haven where a number of his children were born. William had married sometime prior to 1783, Rachell Powell, the seventh child and fourth daughter of Miles Powell, a descendant of a longstanding American family. She died in March 1813, two months after her last child was born. It seems that William's farming livelihood collapsed in 1816, the year that is chronicled as the year of no summer, when there was a widespread failure of crops. This was caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia in 1815. Sulphur spewed out by the volcano caused tiny sulphate droplets in the upper atmosphere to reflect sunlight back into space causing a cooling of the earth. William sold up and became a fur trapper on the Canadian border before eventually going to live with one of his daughters in Medina County where he died in 1827.

Curtis attended the local school in Newhaven when he was not needed on the farm. After leaving school he went to work on his uncle's larger farm where he was paid five dollars a month. Being averse to farming he got a job as a clerk in the New Haven Mills general store from about 1820-1823. However he soon decided to strike out on his own and made his way to Montreal where he obtained a clerkship with the North West Fur Company. In less than a year he was sent into upper Canada where he met

Ramsey Crooks, one of John Jacob Astor's agents. The two became firm friends and when Crooks was transferred to New York he secured the appointment of Curtis to succeed him as the Canadian agent of the Astor company. John Jacob Astor at that time was on his way to making a fortune in the fur trade.



Trading at a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, 1882. Public Domain image sourced from Wikimedia Commons.

In 1824 as a young man of 19 years old Curtis was entrusted as the supercargo of a cargo of peltry on board the Canadian lugger Betsey of 290 tons. The year before he had joined the trappers and Indians of the Hudson Bay Company on a successful hunting trip to their hunting grounds in Canada and had been entrusted with selling the proceeds. Having failed to find customers in Montreal and Boston he had pressed on to London. The venture was successful. Another voyage made even better returns. A third and fourth followed in larger ships until the young supercargo became known as a peltry dealer. Two years after his appointment as

Astor's agent he was made the resident London manager of the business. He retained this position until his employer's death by which time he had set up in business for himself and become a purchaser of other than Canadian skins, a consignee of furs from the Russian as well as the British dominions, a warehouseman and finally an acknowledged leader of the fur trade in Europe. The warehouse of C. M. Lampson at 9 Queen Street in the City, the largest depot of peltry in Europe, became a byword for good management and probity. At its quarterly sales it was thronged with customers from all over the world, Turks, Arabs, Poles, Armenians, Russians and Mongolians.

In 1846 he met Cyrus W. Field who had come to England from America with the purpose of interesting British capital in the establishment of telegraphic communications between England and America by underwater cable. On the formation of the Atlantic Telegraph Company for laying the first Atlantic cable, in 1856 Curtis became one of the directors and soon after Vice-Chairman. Prior to this, on 14 May 1849 he had become a naturalised British subject. Another famous American and friend of Curtis, George Peabody, was also a director of the Company. Most of the £350,000 needed for the Atlantic Telegraph Company was raised from the bankers and merchants of Manchester, Liverpool and London. The chief persuader was the chairman, Cyrus Field, who by the age of 34 had made a fortune in the paper industry.

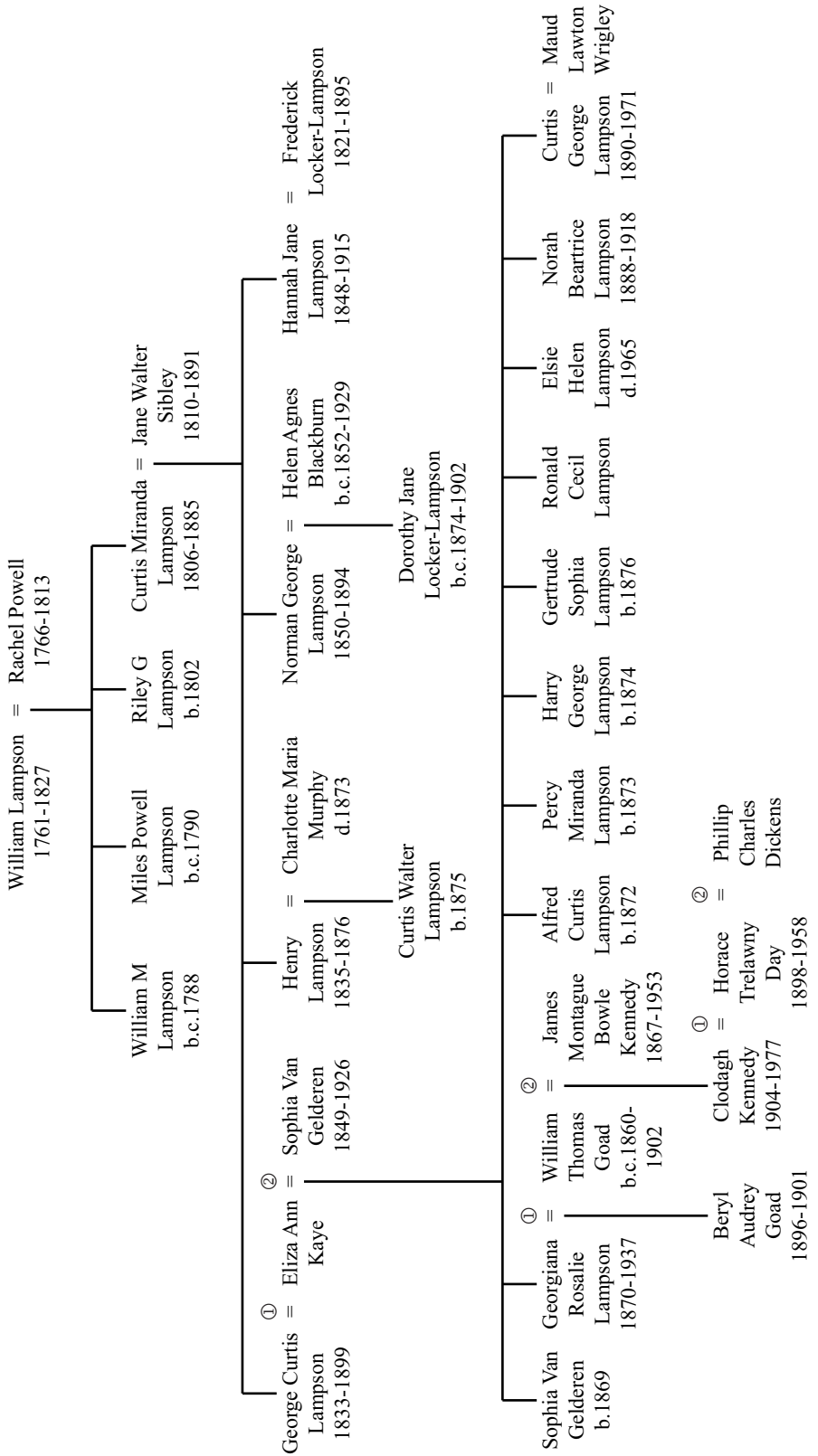
Telegraphy on land over long distances was well established by 1850. For laying cable at sea the essential ingredient was a steam ship with sufficient capacity to lay cable at a controlled rate in a fairly straight line. For the first Atlantic cable attempt in 1857 there was no one ship then afloat with a large enough capacity to carry 3,000 miles of cable. Two ships were therefore used, the 3,200 ton HMS *Agamemnon* built for the Royal Navy in 1852 and the 4,600 ton USS *Niagara* built for the US Navy in 1855. With some internal structural alterations each was capable of carrying over 1500 nautical miles of cable.

The first attempt was on 6 August 1857 when the frigate *Niagara* began laying cable from Valentia in Ireland. After 334 miles a brake on the paying out

mechanism was incorrectly applied and the line parted, abruptly ending the expedition. On 10 June 1858 the *Agamemnon* and *Niagara* set out again with some 3,000 miles of cable between them. *Agamemnon* nearly foundered right at the start after enduring for a week one of the worst storms ever recorded in the north Atlantic. Despite the cable breaking three times and having to start again each time, they eventually reached mid-Atlantic and spliced the two lengths together on July 29. On the 13 August the Queen and President of the USA exchanged messages. In America great celebrations took place and Tiffany's in New York purchased the remainder of the cable from the *Niagara*, cut it into four inch pieces and had no difficulty selling them off at 50 cents a time, each piece accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by Cyrus Field.

However, the cable deteriorated and after the 20 October failed to respond at all. The indefatigable Field and Lampson argued that far from being a failure, the experience of 1858 clearly demonstrated that a cable could be laid across the Atlantic and messages sent. The promoters decided to try again and a further £500,000 was raised. Cable technology had progressed and this time I. K. Brunnel's magnificent white elephant of a ship, the *Great Eastern*, which had failed economically as a passenger liner, was used and was able to hold the full length of cable.

On 23 July 1865 the *Great Eastern* set out from Valentia but unfortunately the cable broke after 1,186 nautical miles had been paid out. When the cable failed for the third time, the value of the Company's stock collapsed and many sold out. The directors were discouraged. They had lost money, credit, and faith and were for abandoning the hopeless enterprise. Curtis stood firm. He called a meeting of the Directors and persuaded them to carry on. Another £300,000 had to be raised and a further attempt was started on 13 July 1866 which was finally successful on 27 July. The previous cable was also retrieved and a new length of cable spliced on to it so that there were then two Atlantic cables. It is interesting to note that the Engineering and Electrical Consulting Committee to the Company in 1865 consisted of William Fairbairn FRS, Joseph Whitworth FRS, Professor Wheatstone FRS and Professor Thompson FRS, all giants in the scientific world of the period.



Lampson family tree

The great assistance Curtis rendered to this project was acknowledged in a letter from Lord Derby, the then Prime Minister, to Sir Stafford Northcote, who presided at a banquet given at Liverpool on 1 October 1866 in honour of those who had been active in laying the cable. On 16 November Queen Victoria created him a baronet of the United Kingdom, the citation reading:

‘To whose resolute support of the project, in spite of all discouragements, it was in a great measure owing that it was not at one time abandoned in despair.’

George Peabody wrote of his friend:

From the incipency of the Atlantic Telegraph enterprise, Sir Curtis Lampson has been one of its principle capitalists and supporters. When others, on the failing of the undertaking in 1858, hastened to sell their stock at any sacrifice, he held steadily on to his. He called together disappointed shareholders, encouraged the fainthearted, combatted the despairing, invited the aid of experts and scientific men, advanced large sums of money to sustain the sinking credit of the Company, made his counting-room the rendezvous of the disheartened Directors and encouraged new efforts by still larger subscriptions of money. To no man, not even excepting Mr Field, either in pecuniary or moral point of view, does the success of the Atlantic cable owe as much.



Sir Curtis Lampson

George Peabody was a great philanthropist and friend of this country. When America was humiliated by the failure of congress to appropriate money for a display at the Crystal Palace exhibition, Curtis and George Peabody subscribed twenty thousand dollars each to make American participation possible. On another occasion, in 1852, when money was required to equip a ship to search for Sir John Franklin, the Arctic explorer, it was these two philanthropists who came to the rescue, each subscribing five thousand dollars to fit out the *SS Advance*.

George Peabody's greatest service to this country was the foundation of the Peabody Donation Fund, the forerunner of the Peabody Trust. The purpose of the Trust was to build respectable and hygienic buildings at a reasonable rent for the working classes in order to alleviate the poor conditions under which they then lived. Curtis was a founder member and significant contributor to the Trust, which was run free of charge from his offices in Queen Street. In honour of Peabody's philanthropy to this country, his body lay in state for one month in Westminster Abbey and was taken to America on board the *SS Monarch*, specially granted for the purpose by Queen Victoria. George Peabody was buried in Danvers on 8 February 1870.

At the end of his career Sir Curtis became Deputy-Governor of the Hudson Bay Company during the crucial period when the gigantic corporation faced serious problems of reorganisation in the face of increasing agricultural and industrial development as a result of the advent of steamships and railways.



'Rowfant', in Sussex

Curtis married on 30 November 1827 in New York, Jane Walter, youngest daughter of Gibbs Sibley of Sutton, Massachusetts, and by her had several children. He died at 80 Eaton Square, London on 12 March 1885. By the end of his life, this farmhand from America had become a wealthy man with a London residence in Eaton Square, a Jacobean mansion, 'Rowfant', in Sussex with five hundred acres of parkland, and laird of several thousand acres in Scotland, where he spent much of his leisure hours stag hunting and grouse shooting. The value of his estate in England at his death was quoted as £401,000.

Sources

Dictionary of American Biography.
The Descendants of William Lampson and Rachel Powell - Patricia A Walker.
The Independent - American periodical of 1869
Submarine Telegraphy - The Grand Victorian Technology - Bernard S. Finn.

James Day

Email: jamesday@waitrose.com

TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY



A Patent for 'the improvement in sewing machine accessories and stands' invented by Henry Cyrus Symmons, 1875 (Camp Collection).

INITIATIVES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PARISH REGISTERS IN THE DIOCESE OF CARLISLE

John Wintrip

Examination of pre-1813 parish registers in the Diocese of Carlisle, which until 1856 covered only the northern parts of Cumberland and Westmorland, clearly demonstrates that two distinct initiatives for their improvement must have taken place, in 1771 and 1786. However, there appears to be virtually no mention of either in recently published literature. An oblique reference to the first initiative appeared in a research paper written in 2007 by a historical demographer, who noted a dramatic surge in the recording of the father's occupation in baptism registers around 1771, which he attributed to 'some sort of central initiative or requirement to commence recording this information'.¹ The manifestation of the second initiative, which involved recording the maiden surname of the mother in baptism records, has been documented, but without any further elaboration.² This article reports the findings of research carried out to discover the origins of these initiatives, which were found to have been instigated by two successive diocesan chancellors, Richard Burn and William Paley.

Richard Burn's initiative of 1771

The change in the content of entries in the summer of 1771 can be clearly observed in the parish registers of Dalston in Cumberland,³ in which consecutive entries appear as follows:

baptisms:

July 29	Peggy daughter of Timothy Tiffin of Lingey-close-head
Sept 16	Joseph son of John Wilson of Bronelstone, carpenter, and Mary his wife

burials:

July 26	Mary daughter of Jos Bewley of Hawkesdale
October 18	Edward son of Edward Rickerby of Dalston aged 30

marriages:

August 18	Joseph Thomlinson and Jane Beck
August 26	Edward Lowes husbandman (54) and Mary Pow spinster (30)

The uniformity of the changes in a significant proportion of parish registers in the summer of 1771 enables the recommended forms of entry to be reconstructed as follows:

- baptism entries to include the Christian names of both parents, the father's occupation and the parents' abode.
- burial entries to include the age, the occupation, or name of the parents or husband, and the abode.
- marriage entries to include the ages and marital status of the bride and groom, and the groom's occupation.

The sudden appearance of these additional details is conspicuously absent from parish registers in the southern parts of Cumberland and Westmorland, which at that time lay in the Archdeaconry of Richmond, one of the two archdeaconries of the Diocese of Chester. The only reference to this initiative that has been found in a published source, is in the Cumberland volume of *Magna Brittainia*, which appeared in 1816, when the introduction of the new forms of entry would still have been within the living memory of a few elderly clergymen.

In a discourse on the apparent longevity of the local inhabitants, the authors stated that:

On examining some of the parish registers, we found that in consequence of an official recommendation from the archdeacon about the year 1771, the ages of all persons buried within the diocese of Carlisle had from that time been specified. This circumstance was particularly favourable to the enquiry ...⁴



Richard Burn

No trace of the relevant directions has been found in the Carlisle diocesan archives, which are very sparse for the period concerned. However, directions relating to the recommended forms of entry for marriages have been preserved in a marriage register from the parish of Torpenhow (pronounced 'Tra-penna') in Cumberland, in which a printed specimen mode of entry has been pasted in, together with a covering letter from the chancellor, Richard Burn.⁵ No trace of similar instructions for baptism and burial entries have been found, although it seems almost certain that they were issued at the same time.

The printed sheet included two examples of specimen marriage entries, for marriages after bans and by licence:

MARRIAGES.

John Williamson of this parish, blacksmith, aged 25, and *Sarah Dodgson* of the parish of Stainton, spinster, aged 20, were married in this church by bans, this ninth Day of January, in the year 1771. By me *William Birket*, rector.

This marriage was solemnized between us,
John Williamson.
In the presence of *Sarah Williamson*
Thomas Robinson. (late *Dodgson*).
William Fowler.

John Williamson of this parish, blacksmith, aged 25, and *Sarah Dodgson* of the parish of Stainton, spinster, aged 20, were married in this church by licence, with consent of *Thomas Dodgson* father of the said *Sarah*, this ninth Day of January, in the year 1771. By me *William Farrer*, curate.

This marriage was solemnized between us,
John Williamson.
In the presence of *Sarah Williamson*
Thomas Robinson. (late *Dodgson*).
William Fowler.

The handwritten letter from Burn appears as follows:

Orton. Aug. 12. 1771.

Rev^d Sir,

This is proposed as a kind of specimen of entries in the registers of the several parishes. I observe yours is very regular & good. In the annual returns, it would be more convenient, if they contained one intire year beginning Jan. 1st

I am

Your very humble servant

Ri. Burn.

The specimen entries are exactly what would be expected based on the contents of subsequent marriage registers in the diocese. A significant feature was the requirement for the bride to sign the register under her new married name, with her maiden surname appended, rather than under her maiden name, a practice that was rarely followed elsewhere, and has been discussed in a previous article.⁶

These insertions in the Torpenhow register indicate that the instructions relating to the

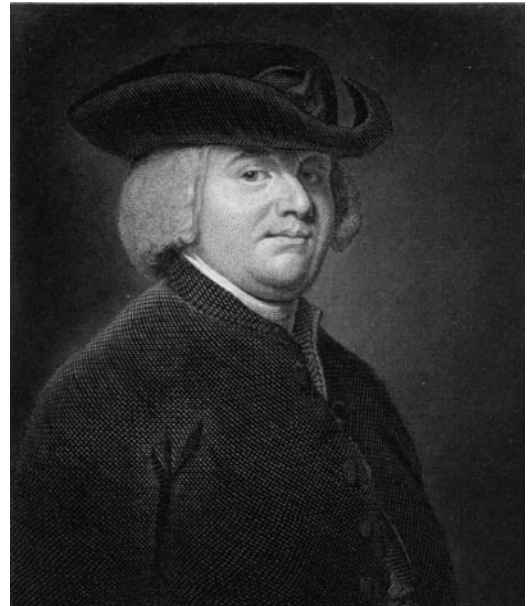
initiative of 1771 had been issued not by the archdeacon, as assumed by the authors of *Magna Britannia*, but by the chancellor, in accordance with the unique role of that official in the Diocese of Carlisle. The Bishop of Carlisle, as a member of the House of Lords, was routinely absent from his diocese for a considerable part of the year, and the distance between Carlisle and London was such that his visit to the diocese during the summer months was relatively brief, and in some years he never visited at all. The diocese consisted of a single archdeaconry, in which the archdeacon held only a nominal position, and with the chancellor performing most of the duties normally associated with the office. The administration of the Diocese of Carlisle, including the holding of visitations, therefore lay largely in the hands of the chancellor. Richard Burn (1709-1785) had been appointed as chancellor in 1765 and continued in post for two decades until his death. His attention to the minutiae of parochial registration is consistent with the activities and interests for which he was renowned during his lifetime and is still remembered today, as he was a prolific author on secular and ecclesiastical law and parish administration, and also a noted antiquary.

The forms of entry for baptisms and burials introduced in the Diocese of Carlisle in 1771 closely resemble those recommended by the Yorkshire antiquary Ralph Thoresby in 1715, discussed in a previous article,⁷ which seem to have been used as a model for the forms of entry proposed to be introduced in England and Wales in the unsuccessful Parliamentary Bill of 1758.⁸ However, the system of registration introduced by Burn did not require recording the date of birth in baptism entries or the cause of death in burial entries. In relation to the absence of the date of birth, a subsequent chancellor, Walter Fletcher (1767-1846), in a discourse delivered in 1824 on changes to parochial registration that had come about as a result of George Rose's Act of 1812, stated:

Some thirty years ago I consulted the person who was then Chancellor of this Diocese, whether entering the birth of the child could be attended with any benefit. The answer was - "It can be of no use hereafter, it being an entry made without authority."⁹

The chancellor referred to, who would have been either William Paley or his successor Joseph Dacre Carlyle, may have been continuing to follow guidance originally issued by Richard Burn. Dates of birth were not routinely recorded in the baptism registers in the Diocese of Carlisle between 1771 and 1812, in contrast with the dioceses of York, Chester, Norwich and Durham, where more detailed parish registers were also introduced during the same period, and in which this information was required to be recorded.

William Paley's initiative of 1786



William Paley

The instruction to include the mother's maiden name in baptism entries in 1786 was issued by William Paley (1743-1805). Paley succeeded Burn as chancellor in 1785 and remained in post until his resignation in 1795 (and also served as Archdeacon of Carlisle from 1782 until his death). His responsibility for this initiative was referred to in 1895 in the preface to a printed volume of transcripts of the parish registers of Dalston:

The custom introduced by Paley, who was vicar of Dalston from 1776 to 1793, was that of entering the maiden-name of the wife in the registration of Baptisms which is first observed in the Dalston register

on June 5th 1786. It was a most useful innovation and worthy of its great originator. It was recommended to the clergy at his first Visitation as chancellor in 1786 and became the custom of the diocese of Carlisle till the passing of the Rose Act in 1812.¹⁰

The first baptism entry to include the mother's maiden name at Dalston appears as:

June 5 Anne daughter of John Reed of Cumdivock mason and of Jane his wife late Clark

The text of Paley's instructions to clergy appears in summary form in the preface to the published volume of Dalston transcripts, and in full in his published collected works. It is evident that a printed formulary, similar to that issued by Burn, had been circulated to parishes with the articles for the visitation, but no trace of such a document has been found. A number of original documents from the Diocese of Carlisle referred to or transcribed by 19th-century writers have not been traced and appear no longer to survive. Paley's instructions appear as follows:

The first thing I take the liberty to propose relates to the registering of baptisms. It has been intimated to me, by very high legal authority, that in the investigation of pedigrees from parish registers, great uncertainty has been found to arise from the want of the family surname of the mother appearing in the entry. It is well known, that one half of the controversies which occur upon the subject of descents result from the confusion of whole blood and half blood, and the difficulty of tracing back genealogies in the maternal line. Doubts of this kind can seldom be ascertained by the register, in which nothing at present is found but the Christian name of the mother: they are rather indeed increased by consulting the register, whenever it appears, as it frequently may happen, that an ancestor has married two wives of the same Christian name, and has had children by both. It is evident that this ambiguity may be completely obviated, by so easy an expedient as the addition of the maiden name of the mother to the rest of the record: it is a single question to ask, and a single word to write down. At present, the entries stand thus: "John, the son of Richard Peters," for instance "of such a place and profession, and of Mary, his wife." What I propose is, to add a parenthesis, containing the name which the mother bore before her marriage, so that the

whole entry may run in this form: "John, the son of Richard Peters," particularizing, as before, the father's profession and place of residence, "and of Mary, his wife, late Johnson." For the better exposition of this plan, though it can hardly, I think, be mistaken, I have caused to be circulated, together with the book of articles, a printed formulary, which *mutatis mutandis*, may serve as a direction where any such is wanted. I understand that this alteration has been adopted in the diocese of Norwich, and perhaps some others, with great approbation; and if it appear likely to promote in any degree the purposes of future peace and justice, I am persuaded the little trouble it may occasion will not be grudged or declined, though the generations are yet unborn which will reap the effects of it.¹¹

Fletcher, writing in 1824, commented:

Of the Act passed in the year 1812 for the better regulating & preserving of Parish Registers I beg leave to say a few words. I by no means think that this Act was not called for, or, that it might not be on the whole beneficial, but inasmuch as it professes to be an Act to facilitate the proof of pedigree it has certainly failed in that respect, so far as relates to this Diocese, by compelling us to use a form much less efficacious for the tracing of pedigree than that which was given to us by Dr. Paley.¹²

Parochial compliance

The recommended forms of entry introduced in the Diocese of Carlisle in 1771, and further enhanced in 1786, were followed in the vast majority of parishes until the introduction of the new Rose registers in 1813. The initiative of 1771 predated the introduction of the considerably more complex but less widely adopted Dade system in the dioceses of York and Chester by several years. The successful implementation of this simpler system of registration subsequently enabled the further enhancement of baptism entries 'by so easy an expedient as the addition of the maiden name of the mother'. Carlisle was the only English diocese in which the ages of the bride and groom were routinely recorded in the majority of marriage registers during an extended period from 1771 to 1812.

Several factors may have led to the high level of compliance: the small size of the diocese; the

relative simplicity of this system of registration in comparison to the Dade system; and the instructions having been issued by two successive chancellors who took an interest in such matters. As in other dioceses and parishes where extended parish registers had been introduced, some clergymen continued to record more information than was required in the new Rose registers introduced in 1813. For example, the mother's maiden name continued to be recorded in baptism entries, and the name of the husband or parents in burial entries, at Castle Carrock in Cumberland until 1827.


Notes

1. Peter Kitson, *The Recording of Occupations in the Anglican Baptism Registers of England and Wales, 1690-1799* (The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, Geography Department, Cambridge University, 2007), p.27. www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/occupations/britain19c/abstracts/paper14.pdf
2. P.B. Park, and J. Arnison, *National Index of Parish Registers, vol. 10, part 3: Cumberland and Westmorland* (London: Society of Genealogists, 1999), p.4.
3. Cumbria Archives, Carlisle Archive Centre, Dalston Parish Records, PR 41/4; PR 41/5.
4. Daniel Lysons and Samuel Lysons, *Magna Britannia, Being a Concise Topographical Account*

- of the Several Counties of Great Britain, vol. 4: Cumberland (London: Printed for U. Cadell and W. Davies, 1816), p.45.
5. Cumbria Archives, Carlisle Archive Centre, Torpenhow Parish Records, PR 138/4.
6. John Wintrip, 'How Did the Bride Sign the Register?', *Genealogists' Magazine*, 33 (2019), pp.76-79.
7. John Wintrip, 'Initiatives for the Improvement of Parish Registers During the First Half of the 18th Century', *Genealogists' Magazine*, 33 (2020), pp.184-191.
8. John Wintrip, 'Two Lost Opportunities for Reform: the Parliamentary Bills of 1753 and 1758', *Genealogists' Magazine*, 33 (2020), pp.235-240.
9. James Wilson (ed.), *The Parish Registers of Dalston, Cumberland, vol. 2* (Dalston: William R. Beck, 1895), p.ii.
10. Wilson, pp.ii-iii.
11. William Paley, 'Charges ... Delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Carlisle in the Year 1785, on the Distribution of Religious Tracts', in Edmund Paley, *The Works of William Paley, D.D. and an Account of the Life and Writings of the Author; New edn, vol. 4* (London: Printed for Longman & Co., 1838), pp.173-176.
12. Wilson, p.ii.

John Wintrip

Email: research@jwgs.co.uk



TREASURES OF OUR SOCIETY

Thomas Ridout's letters and his diary of 1788 record his capture by Native Americans in Ohio, USA, while collecting debts owed to him.

TRIPLE CROSS

ONE UP ON A DOUBLE CROSS

Fred Feather

After the British Army of Lord Chelmsford was slaughtered at *Isandhlwana* and the later heroics of 1879 at *Rorke's Drift*, a rifle regiment appeared in Africa. When Cetawayo Mpande the Zulu Chief was captured they guarded him until he went to England to meet Queen Victoria. Among the 3rd battalion of the 60th Foot (later the King's Royal Rifle Corps) was a rifleman known as Frederick Corbett. That was not his real name, but few people appear to have found that out. That is, until the year 2004, when his real name and story appeared in the 30th Anniversary Edition of the Journal of the Essex Society for Family History (no. 113, September 2004).



Corporal Frederick Corbett V.C. in the uniform of Military Foot Police - the late Bob Marrion from an old photograph.

It came about this way. The then Chairman of the said Society (all right, yes, it was me), received a telephone call from a member of the society named Mrs Embleton. 'One of my forebears won the Victoria Cross in 1883,' she opened. 'Crikey' I responded intellectually. 'But the regiment are

about to put a headstone for him in Maldon cemetery in the wrong name! They say he is Frederick Corbett V.C. and we say he is really David Embleton. Actually, he had his Victoria Cross taken away in 1884.'

I did not know that could happen, but soon found that between 1857 and 1920 some 8 recipients lost their crosses for bad behaviour as Regulation 13, when setting up the cross, had warned. Corbett or Embleton was one of them.

In April 2004 the Royal Greenjackets, the then modern name of his regiment, was to hold a ceremony in the 'paupers' graves' section of Maldon's town cemetery, and was to raise a cross over the place where Embleton had been buried since 1912. Mrs Embleton had approached the regiment with the request for his real name to be shown, but she said that the response was, 'He joined as Corbett and his cross will show that name.'



The Embleton family with Royal Greenjacket bandmen.

And so it was, that the family, and my military acquaintances attended the brilliant ceremony. There was a Lieutenant General, the Lord Lieutenant, our patron Lord John Petre, a lady in a

white suit from the Victoria Cross, buglers from the Greenjackets, local worthies and many veterans clinking with medals. In the foreground was a cross, with the light infantry motto, 'Celer et Audax' and the name Corbett.

Never at a loss to exploit an opportunity I realised that I was on a Committee which also contained the then Chairman of Essex County Council and the husband of the then Chairman of Maldon Cemeteries. Could our Society put another stone at the entrance to this part of the cemetery, to help people to locate the grave of David Embleton. He soon agreed and we had a second slightly less well-attended cemetery, where Lord Petre dedicated the Embleton Memorial. Co-incidentally it also mentioned the Essex Society for Family History, so that established our place in history.

I thought that readers might like to know a little more about the fallen hero. He was born on 17 September 1853 at Maldon (hey, that is my birthday too!) and later enlisted in Maldon's G company 2nd Essex Rifle Volunteers (little known about this time). Between 1879 and 1881 he enlisted into the 60th Foot using the name Corbett. Why he did this has not been established. He fought in the 1882 campaign in Egypt and was awarded the Cross for protecting the dying Lieutenant H.G.L. Howard-Vyse at *Kafr Dowar* who had fallen mortally wounded in a skirmish and was the first officer killed during the 1882 war. Because of varicose veins our hero was soon unable to maintain the fast marching pace of a rifleman and was promoted corporal in the newly formed Military Foot Police. We traced an old faded photo of Embleton, and our military artist, the late Bob Marrison, drew a picture of him, identifying his hat badge as a military policeman. He retired from the Army on 18 June 1883. At that time he was a non-drinker but soon got into drinking and finding that his £10 V.C. pension did not support his new lifestyle, he sold the cross to a London dealer for 15 guineas.

In October 1883 he applied to rejoin the Army and in December was appointed as a Driver in the Royal Horse Artillery. At that time he was in possession of an Egypt medal and a Khedive's Star.

In February 1884 he was sent back to Egypt and remained there 99 days, during which he fought at the Battle of *Suakim* (bar to Egypt Medal). Embleton had a brother who was a 'whitesmith' at the Maldon Iron Works and he appeared in the Royal Horse Artillery with what appeared to be a V.C. A whitesmith deals in metalwork. He was back in England in June but went absent without leave from 12-23 July 1884, was arrested and appeared before a District Court Martial at Aldershot charged with being absent, theft and embezzlement (Kew - W.O. 86/33). Imprisoned for 28 days, Queen Victoria endorsed the warrant, depriving him of 3 medals, which may have included a copy V.C. He was sent to India where his conduct again deteriorated. He was again jailed, for striking an N.C.O., and was sent home and medically discharged on 16 January 1891. In December 1897 he was said to be destitute. On 13 September 1904 he was again sent to prison, this time for breaking a window at the War Office. He was attempting to get his cross restored. He died in Maldon Workhouse in 1912.

Having failed to get the name Embleton into the cemetery, in conjunction with the family we persuaded the Maldon cemetery authority to allow the family history society to provide a second memorial. This would name Embleton and direct visitors to the Corbett gravestone. Again our patron the Lord Lieutenant visited the site and dedicated the second stone. After the ceremony I noticed that, beside the Army cross, there was a portion of a metal grave marker sticking above the surface next to it. Guessing that it might have been the original Corbett marker I got permission from the Maldon authority to restore it. It had been under ground in Essex clay for many years and was almost solid rock. For weeks I soaked it in soapy water. I then began the process of chipping the earth away. After much effort it became apparent that this did not belong to our hero, but was someone else's marker. Rust-preventing paint restored it to its original state and it was returned to Maldon. Irritated with the amount of work I had put in to no effect, I used a picture of this Maldon Ironworks cross on the cover of our March 2005 journal. Imagine my surprise when a letter arrived for me from Ontario.

Maldon cemetery . . . My name is Keith Flowers and I presently live in a very cold, snowy Oakville, near Toronto, but I am very much an Essex boy.

I was wonderfully surprised to read your editorial in the March 2005 Historian and wish to send my gratitude for the work that you did on the restoration of the Head marker of John Tiffen. That gentleman was my great-great-grandfather and I was born and grew up in his home on Wantz Road, Maldon. The Victorian town home next to the Star Public House had his carpenters workshop still standing at the end of the garden when I was a child. I believe he worked as a wheelwright. My grandmother, Sabrina Mercy Tiffen (m. Jesse Valentine) brought me up after my father left and I remember old pictures of the family about the house.

We often took walks to the London Road cemetery when I was a child and both my grandparents are now buried there. I assume she went to the grave sites of her mother and grandparents though I do not have a clue as to whereabouts they lay. I remember this metal type of grave marker very well. *Keith Flowers, 457 Canterbury Crescent, Oakville, Ontario, L6J 5K8, Canada. (ESFH6057) ●*

Of course I was excited and thrilled that a member had got a result in such a strange way.

Now to the 'Triple Cross'. My enquiries showed me that the practice of taking away the cross ceased after the Great War. King George V ruled that it would never happen in the future and added that a holder (if convicted of something serious) would go to the gallows wearing his decoration. It appeared possible that the cross he sold went to a gentleman in Wembley in 1883. The cross that was taken from him at Aldershot (a copy?) in 1884 was in the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich at one time, and the Greenjackets (now known as The Rifles) had another. I would like to think that they all ended up in the Rifle's Museum at Winchester.

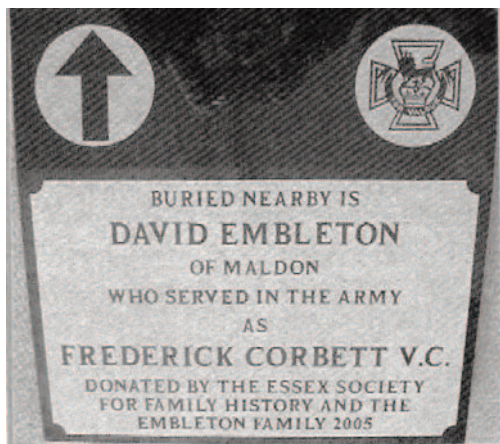
The Society's stone should now point the way to the Regimental headstone.

52

June 2015



The Tiffen marker from Maldon Ironworks.



The marker at the entrance to the 'Pauper' section.

Fred Feather

Vice-President, Essex Society for Family History.
Email: fredfeather1936@gmail.com

'OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE'

THE JERUSALEM OF THE PAST... AND SO MANY OTHER STORIES

Helen Dawkins LRPS

After a brief break and leaving you without words to ponder in the December issue, here we are now in 2022 - it seems almost futuristic writing that, and so far away from the millennium when we were all led to believe our computers would implode. Thank goodness that turned out only to be more social media hype. And so, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy new year. As ever I look forward to hearing from you with more challenges of the photographic and family history variety, in the year ahead.

It seems almost impossible that after 30 years in business I continue to be presented with a style of photograph I haven't seen before, but in the last quarter of 2021, the 'Photoweigh' photograph arrived.

The Photoweigh photo booth

Remember when photo booths were fun places to use - pull a face, sit on laps and have a giggle whilst you had your photograph taken, ever popular in branches of Woolworth. Well this wasn't a novel idea of the mid-20th century but in fact dated back to the late 1800s.

In March 1889, the first known working photographic machine debuted at the Paris World Fair. This machine could take a photograph in 3-6 seconds and produced a print in just 5 minutes. Many people at the fair said the portraits were dark and unrecognisable, however, the concept of a self-sufficient automatic photo machine had been born and would progress in the coming years.

On 17 January 1928, a photographer named Anatol M. Josepho patented the first fully automatic photographic film-developing machine in the US. The

machine was called the Photomaton and was found on the streets of New York at subway stations. For just 25 cents patrons could have their photograph taken and printed instantly. The Photomaton would process and print eight photographs in 10 minutes... and this only some 28 years since photography became accessible to the masses through the introduction of the Box Brownie. Prior to that photographs, in the main, were produced by professionals, with the photographs taking considerably longer than 10 minutes to take, develop and print.



Fig. 1 - An original 'Photoweigh' print also showing your weight!

It wasn't long before entrepreneurs were looking for something different to offer and in 1932 the now extinct 'Photoweigh Photo Booth' would take a photograph of the customer whilst he/she sat on a weighing machine and had their weight recorded alongside their image! That all seems rather counterproductive: you have decided to have a photograph taken to hopefully show you at your best and then the print has the audacity to also show your weight! Is it any wonder that this design is no longer in existence! There was only ever a scattering of these machines across the UK, Germany and France so surviving photographs are rare and from the example brought into my studio some, including the one on Brighton Pier had by 1953, dispensed with the weigh-in and purely produced photographs.

In his 1938 novel, *Brighton Rock*, the writer Graham Greene mentions the Photoweigh kiosk being located in the tunnel under the Palace Pier, in the 'noisiest, lowest, cheapest section of Brighton's amusements'. The kiosk was situated on Brighton's Palace pier until 1972 - this being the surviving Brighton Pier and not the devastated West Pier that suffered in the arson attack of 2003 following already devastating results caused by storms the previous year.



Fig. 2 - Courtesy of the Ridgeon family: 'Photoweigh' Seaside fun photograph 1953.

The photograph brought into my studio still had its card cover annotated 'Photoweigh' and the photograph, having been carefully stored in its protective cover and only recently found when clearing the attic, was still in perfect condition. The couple appear to be having a lot of fun having poked their heads through a card cut-out with the lady in the guise of a mermaid sitting on the gentleman's lap - almost more precious than a studio portrait as it so memorably reflects the character of the holiday makers.

Glass: Photographs/negatives/opalotypes/ambrotypes - the confusion of identification

I have received a few enquiries this quarter regarding 'photographs on glass' and I thought it might be helpful to outline the various formats of both photographs and negatives on glass to assist with identification.

From 1848 negatives had been produced on glass using albumen - egg whites - as a coating but the process was lengthy - up to 15 minutes, making it unsuitable for portraiture. Albumen negatives never achieved widespread popularity so examples are rare. Collodion negatives were introduced in 1851 and at first had to be processed whilst still wet - Frederick Scott Archer's wet collodion process - which by its very nature incurred considerable time, manual dexterity and equipment being carried to produce and process the plates. Collodion negatives have a characteristic creamy appearance when seen against a black background, reflecting a positive image. As the plates were produced by hand the coating is often uneven at the edges with one corner often having no coating at all where it was handled by the photographer.

By 1871 the inconvenience of the wet process had been replaced with the introduction of the gelatin dry plate developed by Dr R. L. Maddox. This meant that plates could be produced in advance and stored until they were required. The coating was carried out by machine so proved much more even. Exposure times were soon improved to a fraction of a second and glass plates remained in use in professional photography until the 1970s.



Fig. 3 - Ambrotype with Leather and velvet case.

Plates were available in many sizes described as follows:

- Whole Plate: 6½ x 8½ inches (16.5 x 21.5 cm)
- Half Plate: 4.25 x 5½ inches (11 x 14 cm)
- Quarter Plate: 3.25 x 4.25 inches (8 x 11 cm)
- Sixth Plate: 2 x 3.25 inches (7 x 8 cm)
- Ninth Plate: 2 x 2.5 inches (5 x 6 cm)
- Sixteenth Plate: Approx. 1½ inches square (3.5 x 4 cm)
- Imperial Plates: 12 x 10 inches and 12 x 8 inches
- Late Victorian: 10 x 8 inches

One side of the glass carries the image in a very thin and vulnerable layer of emulsion which must not be wiped or cleaned, the other side can be cleaned to improve the resulting print.

The ability to produce glass negatives led to the introduction of the Ambrotype. An ambrotype is a low density glass negative, turned into a positive image by either painting the reverse of the plate with black shellac or by the use of black material, often velvet. This was a further development introduced to make the most of the characteristic of the Collodion negative. The most common format utilised the quarter plate, 3.25 x 4.25 inches but other sizes were produced in lesser numbers. The image was often further enhanced by the use of hand colouring.

The plate was encased in a pinchbeck metal surround similar to those used for the earlier daguerreotype and enclosed within a leather, and sometimes later, a papier maché case.



Fig. 4 - The Opaltype

The Opaltype: One further development of photographs on glass was the introduction of the Opaltype in the 1880s whereby photographs were printed on opaque, milky white glass often with hand colouring applied. When the opalatypes were produced as miniatures they gave the appearance of an image on ivory and as such could be used in the production of jewellery.

Lantern Slides were another major use of glass as a photographic medium and extremely popular, as described in the September 2021 magazine. Another collection has just arrived in the studio...

And so to challenges received in this last quarter

Two very interesting handmade albums were presented to me with covers made out of olive wood decorated by hand and with the title 'Jerusalem'. These contained many family photographs in settings that provoked much speculation as to whether they were still in existence given the rather colourful history of these lands.

My client's father was the Arch Deacon of Oxford and the Dean of St. David's cathedral, who had completed his first degree in Hebrew before completing a second degree in Theology. His father had been a Professor of Hebrew - an unusual accomplishment for a man out of a mining family. My client's father was out in Jerusalem at St. George's Cathedral in the 1940s assisting the Bishop there with his Hebrew.

As well as family photographs one of the albums also contained stills from the film 'My Father's House 1947', which was the story of a boy who survived the Holocaust hoping to be reunited with his parents in the Holy Land. What stories and history these lands hold - it was truly absorbing to be privy to such a wonderful collection of photographs.

The photographs were all still in excellent condition having been carefully mounted and stored in these handmade albums, but the covers had suffered from much handling over the years and it was these that required some loving care and attention, bringing to hand the skills I had learned in book binding.

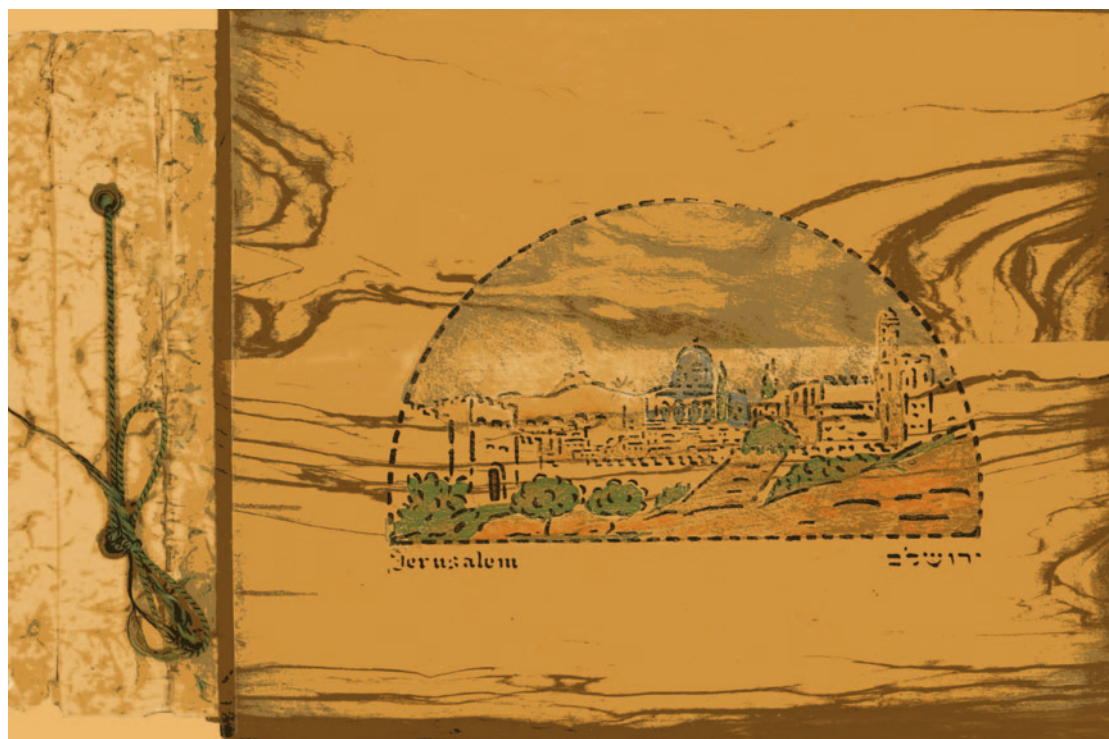


Fig. 5 - Jerusalem Album: Courtesy of the Witton-Davies family.



Fig. 6 - Stills from 'My Father's House 1947'.



Fig. 7 - Arch Deacon Witton-Davies, one of the last to wear the traditional frock coat and gaiters.

And a final word on those self-adhesive photograph albums I love so much!! ...

Once again I was presented with one of the abominable self-adhesive albums with the remit to remove all photographs and ephemera. I know I have spoken about these albums often and my distaste for them grows with each one I handle, but a word of warning. Some of these albums - the one I was asked to work on included - have a particularly intense tenacity to hang on to their contents and absolute care should be taken if you are attempting to remove photographs, ephemera etc. Any photographs that feel firmly attached to the backing should be scanned prior to attempting removal in order that a new copy can be made if removal proves impossible or damage occurs. Newspaper cuttings are particularly vulnerable being on such thin paper and very often remain firmly attached so a scan is vital. I may be stating the obvious but never lift one corner and just pull - they really do need careful handling.

Other requests of the last few months. Can you:

- put the sparkle back in her eyes?
- replace the missing wheel on the tractor?

The challenges continue and I look forward to hearing from you with many more. I would like to thank you all for the very kind comments and commissions throughout last year.

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.



BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL

Traditional Photograph Restoration & Conservation

Est. 1992

Specialising in:

- Darkroom printing: Silver halide prints
- Printing from old glass & film negatives
- Cleaning & Repair of old photographs
- Copies & enlargements
- Restoration of faded & tattered photographs
- Sepia toning & Hand Colouring
- Archival storage: Advice and supply
- Framing: Antique and reproduction



Telephone: 01234 782265

email: helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk

Visit: just a quick call first: Magpie Cottage, Moor End Road, Radwell, Bedford MK43 7HX

Helen Dawkins LRPS

CORRESPONDENCE



From: Anthony Joseph
email: anthony.joseph@nhs.net

**Re: 'My first visit to SoG',
Genealogists' Magazine, Sep 2021**

I was interested in Michael Gandy's brief article wearing his anecdotal hat. I am not sure if this was meant to be a call for other older members to share their reminiscences. I joined the SoG at the age of 18 in 1955, when it was then based in Malet Place. Cregoe Nicholson was very active in the Society at that time and kindly met me, explaining that it was necessary to be 21 to become a Member.

I was fortunate in that my father, himself never interested in the topic but as an actuarially aware that many of his mathematical colleagues were so, knew personally a Vice President, Sir William Elderton. Dad wrote to Sir William asking for his help to support my application for membership and he replied that, age notwithstanding, he would fix the matter and he did! (As a matter of record I think the youngest member ever was the late Don Steel who was allowed in at age 13!). Sir William also offered me, via my father, some advice: 'If he minds what he finds he should not look'. My father replied to his colleague: 'It is not Anthony who minds but it is I who shudder when I see someone I have disliked for years is presented as a third cousin or some such!'

There is a slight spin-off: in those days you could join as a Life Member (probably actuarially unsound even then) which I did, so I have had a remarkable bargain: 66 years on and still going. In mitigation of my financial behaviour: I have responded to every appeal the Society has made over the years and for several years now I have paid voluntarily the 'bronze' support figure.

From: Guy Hirst
Email: gjhirst@hotmail.co.uk

Re: 'Landed Gentry?'
***Genealogists' Magazine*, Dec 2021**

SoG holds a 1959 report by genealogists Podmore Coll to Miss Verity Couchman (1910-97), great-granddaughter of Henry Couchman Esq in the recent article. Tracing her ancestry via her grandmother Sarah Whitby Smith to the Whitbys of Creswell, Staffs, she noted their descent given in *Burke's L.G.*, 1882 from Whitby of Shugborough.

Burke included an ancestor 'Alicia', daughter of William Capel of Windsor, of the family of the Earl of Essex' and Miss Couchman, scenting a descent from the House of York through Lady Catherine Manners, wife of Henry Capel (d.1588), gave instructions for a search. Sadly, the research became mired in the multiplicity of Capels and achieved little.

From IGI and *Ancestry*, we now know that Alice Capel of Hoxton did indeed marry John Whitby at Shoreditch on 2 July 1617. Moreover Robert Capel, sixth son of Lady Catherine, lived in Hoxton at that time. So, the marriage given in *Burke* is confirmed. Did *Burke* have details from a marriage settlement? Further research suggests Alice was the sister of Richard Capel of New Windsor whose three daughters benefit under John Whitby's will.

Lady Catherine's heir William d.s.p and her second son Arthur succeeded and became ancestor of the Earls of Essex. Her husband Henry did however have a younger brother William. 'There is no information at all on this William' says the report, concluding: 'Frankly, it does not seem likely that the outcome would be to find that William Capel of Windsor had any close connection with the Capel Earls of Essex'.

The Manners family had a London home in Shoreditch and related Capels lived there at the time, so the report could well be wrong. Was the unknown William Miss Couchman's ancestor? If so, she missed the Royal descent, but that William had distinguished ancestry, nonetheless.

From: Dr Colin R. Chapman FSG
Email: crc@lochinpublishing.org.uk

Re: 'Landed Gentry?'
***Genealogists' Magazine*, Dec 2021**

I was puzzled to see in the December 2021 *Genealogists' Magazine* that five of the captions to figures in Jeremy Archer's article 'Landed Gentry?' attributed the depicted coats of arms to either a family or to a family name. I had always understood that such attributions were available only at novelty or gift shops at theme parks and airports; whereas a genuine coat of arms or armorial achievement was granted, say by the College of Arms, to an individual, not a family or name - even though under well-defined and proven circumstances an achievement could be inherited. Have I been naively under a misapprehension?

READERS' QUERIES

We shall be happy to publish any enquiries from members on general genealogical matters and no charge will be made for this. The other 7,000 members must know something you don't! Letters or emails to the editor please.

CHAPMAN. I was wondering if anyone has come across a George Chapman, Baptist minister of Dormansland, Surrey. It says he was born in Surrey on the 1841 census, but with such a common name it is hard to pin him down. He was born around 1770/1, died 1844, and was a minister for over 50 years. I

would love to find his parents and know if he did come from the area, as he is a direct descendant. Any snippets would be welcome.

Please contact: Stephen Stronghill
Email: stephenstronghill@gmail.com

MICHAEL JOHN BURCHALL, FSG

1946 - 2019

The pandemic of 2020/21 has unfortunately until now prevented an obituary for Mike Burchall, who was a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. His work was pivotal to the development of the regional network of family history societies which have burgeoned in response to what is now one of the top leisure interests.

Mike was born on 25 June 1946 at Edgware, Middlesex, a son of Cecil Leonard Burchall, an aircraft engineer, and Elizabeth, née Challice. From his own Facebook account Mike noted himself as a student at Havelock School, Grimsby (1959) and later a student of education history at the University of Chichester. In his own family he was able to trace a royal descent to Edward III via John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford, which many have.

His big break into genealogical research first took off in the early 1970s while working as an archivist with the East Sussex County Record Office at Pelham House in Lewes. In 1972 he was one of four founders and the chief protagonist of the Sussex Family History Group based in Brighton where he then lived. The first public meeting was in March 1973. Michael was the Secretary, and the Editor of the *Sussex Family Historian* which was produced on a duplicator, the pages spread around Michael's living room on tables and an ironing board. He and Judy Excell (then Warren) produced the elemental National Genealogical Index to enable people to advertise their surname interests beyond individual



societies. Later he ran it alone, until moving to Thailand in 1986 to run a restaurant.

The Sussex Family Group will be eternally grateful to him for being the power behind the throne in the driving and setting up of this successful organisation with his fellow trio. The early annual conferences of the Group at prestigious venues such as the council chamber of the East Sussex County

Council at Lewes and the University of Sussex were a template for all other societies' AGMs, and were characterised by his colourful presence, readily distinguishable by his boyish looks, personable flair, ready laughter and a shock of copper-coloured hair! His move to Thailand did not diminish his output of work.

Mike's flat in Kemp Town initially housed the embryonic library of the Group which now has a home of its own in a room for its own purpose at The Keep, Brighton. Over the years his transcriptions of parish registers and monumental inscriptions gathered apace, together with scholarly hallmark genealogical accounts, many based on obscure medieval records, all of which have been published. All stand as a testament to his dedication to genealogical and local history research from which so many have benefited. He was for a time a member of the executive committee of the Society.

Mike returned to the United Kingdom in 2006 to be nearer his family. He died at the Lister Hospital, Stevenage, on 17 December 2019 aged 73 years.

Martyn Webster

JACK HARVEY BAXTER, FSG

AN EARLY LEGEND OF THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY. 1929 - 2021

Jack died in December 2021, in his tenth decade. At the time he lived quietly in care, in a building overlooking the Thames at Leigh on Sea. We believe his Essex Society Number was 13. From the earliest time of the Society, he was a 'tour de force' of research. He was born in Wandsworth on 22 August 1929 to Eaton and Grace (née Nichols). A bachelor, he lived in Leigh-on-Sea.



Put his name into an internet search and you will discover that, in its early days when there were no computers to do your instant research, a great deal of travel and hard work was needed for success. From almost a half century ago Jack realised that the fairly new art of tracing family history needed researchers to help those unable to travel or afford to research, so he set about making life just a little easier for them. I remember going into the E.S.F.H. library on the ground floor of the Essex Record Office and seeing the rows of bound books that Jack had given to us. He

had read through and copied reams of the county's records of marriages and burials, and there was easy access to Essex Marriages 1754 to 1851 and Essex Burials 1813 to 1865. Our early magazines contained some 17 articles by him. Also Journal 6 of August 1976 referred to his work on the National Index of Parish Registers. Number 13 of August 1979 told of a letter of appreciation from a parish priest, Reverend Holden of Earls

Colne, lauding his recording of the local Monumental Inscriptions with a group of members. I learned, whilst editor of our journal, to proofread carefully, for any mistake in fact, or in grammar, was rewarded with a personal letter from Jack, putting me straight. His like will not easily be encountered again.

I think that Jack may have been the first member of our society to be made a 'Fellow of the Society of Genealogists.'

Fred Feather, Vice President, E.S.F.H. 27366.

ERIC DAVID PROBERT, FSG

1939 - 2022

Eric Probert FSG was born in Birmingham but resided in Chelmsford, Essex, UK for over 55 years. He had a lifelong interest in aviation and in folk dancing (along with his wife Janet); both topics featuring within the pages of his website. He became interested in family history in the 1980s on acquiring his paternal grandfather's Boer War medals and traced his paternal line back through Gloucestershire (Newnham-on-Severn and Preston near Ledbury) in the 19th century to the marriage of William Proberts to Mary Plevy in the village of Westhide, Herefordshire in 1753. This William was a stonemason, married three times but the record of his baptism and burial eluded Eric.



Eric was a member of the Society of Genealogists from 1978 and in 1994 was elected a Fellow having edited the Society's quarterly, *Computers in Genealogy* for 10 years and helped to organise a number of conferences. He was then Computing Editor for *Family Tree Magazine*. Eric lectured regularly for the SoG, at *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live and around the UK on a variety of family history

topics and authored a book *Company and Business Records for Family Historians*. He was also a prominent member of Essex Society for Family History from the 1970s, where he served as Chairman from 2004-2006 & again from 2011-2012. He also served as a Vice Chairman and was made a Vice President in September 2019; a position he held until his death. He became a regular contributor to the *Genealogists' Magazine* and the *Essex Family Historian* with publication reviews and 'Useful Web Sites'.

Eric graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Birmingham University in 1960. He was awarded a University of London Certificate with Merit in 'Genealogy and the History of the Family'. On redundancy from the Inner London Education Authority in 1990, following a career in engineering and management, he founded a genealogical practice searching indexes and records and tracing ancestors and descendants for clients in Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand as well the UK.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Christopher Berkeley Peyton Birch	1996 - 2021	Doreen Marguerite Grant	2000 - 2021
Arthur Bruce Blackney	1975 - 2021	Catherine Paulette Hayward	1983 - 2022
Paul Graham Bosonnet	1977 - 2021	Margot Helen Hoare	2003 - 2021
James Michael Bury	2001 - 2021	James Wallace Martin	1996 - 2021
Nigel Ian Cameron	1997 - 2022	Edward George Pryor	1993 - 2021
Ronald Aubrey Chalmers	1995 - 2021	Brian Lancelot Sloggett	1978 - 2021
Maurice Cole	1986 - 2022	Jonathan Peter Armstrong Smalley	1978 - 2022
Eileen Lilian Connell	1987 - 2021	Timothy Smedley Spencer	2002 - 2021
Theodore Alexander Gordon Dalgliesh	1980 - 2021	Glenys Joan Wheeler	1990 - 2021
Frank Richard Dawson	1986 - 2022	Martin James Winterton	2003 - 2021
John Deighton	2011 - 2021	Hilda Daisy Witchalls	1995 - 2021



GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES 2022

	Full page	1/2 page	1/4 page	1/8 page
Width:	14cm	14cm	14cm	14cm
Height:	21.5cm	11.5cm	5cm	2.5cm
Normal	£280	£150	£75	£40
Facing text	£305	£160	£85	£45
Back cover (colour)	£345	N/A	N/A	N/A

A **discount of 25%** is given for a series of four identical insertions. All rates are subject to the addition of VAT at the rate applicable at the tax point. All advertisers for genealogical research services are expected to provide an acceptable standard of service. Failure to do so will result in the refusal of future advertising. The Society reserves the right to refuse to publish an advertisement, with no obligation to give a reason.

All copy, correspondence & remittances to:

Graham Collett, email to publishing@sog.org.uk

*prices per quarter

VISITING THE SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

The Society of Genealogists is undergoing a transformation. We're setting up a new location in London which means you are temporarily unable to visit us in person. You can still enjoy access to all our

online resources and take advantage of our new centre as soon as we have everything in place. For the latest updates on our transformation and services, please see our news section at: <https://www.sog.org.uk/news/>

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

PATRON

HRH Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia

PRESIDENT

Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG

VICE PRESIDENTS

William Bortrick • Dr Colin Chapman, FSG • Miriam Margolyes, OBE
Dan Snow • The Rt Hon Lord Sudeley, FSA

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 Mkandawire

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.

CONTACTS

www.sog.org.uk

SoG: 020 7251 8799

Chief Executive Officer:

Dr Wanda Wyporska, FRHistS, FRSA

ceo@sog.org.uk

Genealogist:

Else A. Churchill

else.churchill@sog.org.uk

Head of Archive & Library Services:

Francisca Mkandawire

librarian@sog.org.uk

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

Publishing and Graphic Designer:

Graham Collett

publishing@sog.org.uk

Genealogists Magazine Editor:

Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

publishing@sog.org.uk

Volunteer Contributions Editor:

Jemma Lockhart

jemma_lockhart@yahoo.co.uk

Head of Member Services:

Rebecca Gregory

MemberServices@sog.org.uk

Membership: (Mon-Thu 9.00am-3.30pm)

Tel: 020 7553 3291

membership@sog.org.uk

Lectures and Courses:

Lori Weinstein

events@sog.org.uk

Transformation & Volunteer Manager:

Christine Worthington

volunteering@sog.org.uk

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS' NEWS...

Registered Charity No. 233701. Company limited by guarantee. Registered No. 115703. Registered office: Ground Floor, 1/7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HT.

LIBRARY UPDATE

As we settle down in the temporary premises in Holloway Road, we are pleased that the new guidelines to the policy on donations to the Library have now been finalised. Thank you to all for your patience while we finalised the guidelines of acquisitions to the Library.

It is through such generous donations that our valuable and unique library collections continue to grow. The Society is mindful that looking after genealogical collections is a major consideration, stretching both our physical resources and budget. The Trustees of the Society have therefore provided guidance on the conditions under which the Society will accept collections and accompanying financial contributions, so please refer to the section on the website:

<https://www.sog.org.uk/depositing-materials-with-us>

The Society's Library and Archives are temporarily closed as we relocate to a new building. Most of our library and collections are in storage so we ask that you withhold any donations, if possible, until we have re-opened.

Library users will be pleased to hear that we have successfully trialled our recall service for all Library and Archive records that were sent in Restore Storage in summer. A system has been devised to be able to recall the boxes that are required. This has been made possible with the help of a team of very committed volunteers who are helping to compile our library inventory. As promised, we are hoping to finalise the space in our current temporary office in order to welcome visitors on an appointment basis. Plans are underway to create space for research in the temporary office in Holloway Road. We look forward to welcoming visitors to the library in the temporary office while we await our new home.

After many years of work, the project of the Memorial Card Collection is now available online.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Claire Bullen, the former Deputy Librarian, who coordinated this project with a team of dedicated volunteers. Plans are underway to digitise more records and make them available online for those who are unable to physically be in the library.

While our records are in storage, we hope you are able to explore the online resources that are on our website. Members have access to the following records that on SoG Data Online with the help of some dedicated volunteers:

- Suffolk, Denham burials 1539-1850
- Buckinghamshire, Weston Underwood RC register 1887
- Cheshire, Heswall burials 1559-1729
- Lancashire, The Church of St James Didsbury burials Part II, 1561-1757
- Berkshire, Upton Parish 1588-1741
- Kent, Staplehurst 1596-1695
- Cornwall, Madron 1577-1726
- Cornwall, Redruth 1560-1716

To get access to SoG Data Online, look for the search pages on the website:

<https://www.sog.org.uk/our-collections>

Francisca Mkandawire

Head of Archive and Library Services

GO DIGITAL WITH GEN MAG

Members who wish to switch to a digital copy of *Genealogists' Magazine* can do so by notifying the membership team on: membership@sog.org.uk. This not only offers the convenience of reading it on your preferred device, but also saves the Society vital funds. Members who prefer a printed copy can find subscription rates for 2022 on the back page. The usual 10% Members' discount applies.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER MANAGER

In this issue of the magazine and the next, you'll find articles written by volunteers about their volunteering experience and the projects they are working on. We hope to bring more volunteer voices and experiences to the magazine in future, especially as much volunteer work occurs behind the scenes. We are planning the re-engagement of our advice line volunteers after the advice line was interrupted by COVID and the library move. Preparations are underway to accommodate a limited number of collections volunteers at our temporary office soon. The move of the collections to storage highlighted several cataloguing and processing tasks that we'd like to prioritise, particularly with our new archives catalogue implementation later this year.

I'm delighted to have welcomed several new volunteers to our home projects at the end of January. It's a really good time to take on a home project - in the quiet after the silly season and with further chilly weather ahead of us. If you'd like to find out more about how to volunteer for the Society no matter where you live, see the volunteer page of our website: <https://www.sog.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

Christine Worthington, Volunteer Manager
volunteering@sog.org.uk

MAILING LIST ERROR

Due to a mailing list error, some members may have received a printed copy of the December magazine instead of their usual digital copy. We apologise for this and hope we have now resolved the issue. If you have received this edition as a hard copy in error, or wish to change your preference to receive it digitally, please contact membership@sog.org.uk

DEPOSITING YOUR RESEARCH WITH US

We understand that many of you are keen to ensure your important family research is looked after and made available for future generations. Our library and archives contain a wide range of donated material including genealogical research notes, pedigrees, and compiled family histories. We welcome the donation of books, multimedia, and personal genealogical papers into our collections.

We have recently updated our acquisitions policy which includes guidance on the financial contribution necessary to cover the processing and storage of donations. You can find all the information you need, including how to prepare your materials, on our website in the Members Area. Alternatively, you can go directly to www.sog.org.uk/depositing-materials-with-us

Please get in touch if you are unable to see them online.

Rebecca Gregory, Head of Membership Services
MemberServices@sog.org.uk

EVENTS NEWS

The Events Pages on our website are undergoing a facelift. Redesigned to allow easier navigation, searching and booking, the new site will be available soon after the publication of this issue of *Genealogists' Magazine*. Do visit the events site: <http://www.sog.org.uk/events>

In March we observe Women's History Month with the following events:

Saturday, 12 March (10:30am)

Mummy, what did you do in the Great War?

A one-hour talk with Emma Jolly, author of *My Ancestor was a Woman at War*.



Wednesday, 16 March (2pm)

Lunchtime Chat – Tracing Female Ancestors

Why are we neglecting to research half of our ancestors? Join Else Churchill for a 90-minute social chat and pick up some pointers for research. An SoG-members only event which is free of charge but you must book your place.

In April we observe April Fool's Day with a nod to our forebears who may have provided erroneous information about the family and consequently have created a family history research headache for their descendants!

Saturday, 2 April (10:30am)

Hidden in the Newsprint

A one-hour talk with Mia Bennett

Saturday, 2 April (2pm)

My Ancestor was a Liar: Ignorance, Half-truths or Wilful Deceit?

A one-hour talk with Dave Annal

Wednesday, 13 April (10:30am)

Morning Social Chat - Tall Tales from our Ancestors: Erroneous information & Family Lies

Join Else Churchill in this thought-provoking 90-minute social chat and bring your own stories along for discussion. An SoG-members only event which is free of charge but you must book your place.

Thursdays starting 21 April 2022 (6 - 8/8.30pm)

Stage 2 Family History Skills - Online Evening Course



Take your family history knowledge and skills to the next level. Our Stage 2 Evening Course covers the records and techniques that professional genealogists use, all from the comfort of home.

Evening classes can be a great way to study genealogy. Away from all the other pressures of life for two hours, you can focus on how to find your ancestors and flesh out your family's history. You'll spend time with other people in the class that share your interests and are as keen as you are to learn

new skills. Most of us enjoy meeting and learning from expert genealogists and we find others' ancestry almost as fascinating as our own.

The Society of Genealogists offers Family History Skills for anyone that is interested in genealogy and wants to explore their family history. In a carefully, well rounded curriculum, our tutors introduce the records that count and help you use them effectively.

Who should attend the Stage 2 series of classes?

Stage 2 is designed for those who have attended Stage 1, or already have some experience of genealogical research and are familiar with the basic records (birth, marriage & death records, the censuses, directories, parish registers and bishops' transcripts and wills).

Have you had some success in tracing your family but want to be better? These classes move you forward. Learn about a range of records that are available and, more importantly, learn the best ways to use them. We will look at tackling brick walls in your research, and some lesser-used records which can vastly improve your research results.

Classes take place on Zoom on Thursday evenings, 6 - 8/8.30pm starting 21 April. Cost for 12 weeks study: £192.00 SoG Members. (Full price £240.00).

For more information and a full description of the modules, please visit our events website: <http://www.sog.org.uk/events> or contact us by email: events@sog.org.uk or telephone: 020 7553 3290.

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).

Discover your Ancestors

Issue 10 Out Now

OVER £80 WORTH OF FREE CONTENT AND DATA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Discover your Ancestors

Issue 10

Richard Trevithick
Father of the Railway
250th anniversary

PLUS...

How to research:
RAF & Royal Marines
Rural roots
Scots paupers
Friendly societies
Historic maps
and more!

Celebrity genealogies:
James Corden,
Michael Sheen &
Captain Sir Tom Moore

Georgian Fight Club
Death and the Victorians
Roald Dahl's WW2 Desert Crash

Fantastic offers for you
Total package worth over £80!

Three-month First Steps Plus subscription to TheGenealogist
Three months of our Periodical magazine • Lots of other resources
See inside for full details of free content • No credit card required

£7.99

72946 23605 10

**Available at all good newsagents &
DiscoverYourAncestors.co.uk**

Discover Your Ancestors Research Aids

Record and Display Your Research

Discover your Ancestors

Seven Generation Research Logbook
A Family History Record Book

Over 80 pages of specialised forms and log sheets

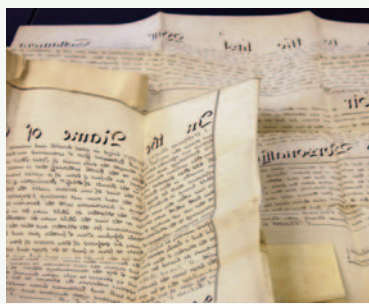
Seven Generation Logbook £9.99

Cascading Pedigree Chart Pad £7.99

Family Record Pad £7.99



Turn the past into a present with membership



Help a friend start their family history with a gift of membership.



Great for a retirement or birthday gift, Gift Certificates can be bought online at:
www.sog.org.uk/gifts



We all have roots
Let's find them together

With over One Billion Family History Records Who Will You Discover?

Pinpoint your ancestors with Map Explorer™
Only on TheGenealogist

Discover more with our unique resources, tools and data

Locate Your Ancestors on Maps within

1939 Register
Census Records
Headstone Records

National Tithe Maps
Lloyd George Domesday
War Memorials



Sign up today and get 15 months for the price of 12

Go To TheGenealogist.co.uk/SOG22
today to claim your special offer

ISSN 977 0016639 051



9 770016 639051

© 2022 Society of Genealogists and the authors. No part of any contribution may be reproduced in any form without written permission except for the quotation of brief passages for review or discussion. Views expressed in any contribution are those of the author and not necessarily of the Society. The editor may submit papers to a competent referee who will remain anonymous. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that appear in the Magazine or be responsible for the outcome of any contract that may be entered into with an advertiser.