Family Roots

Family History Society for Eastbourne & District
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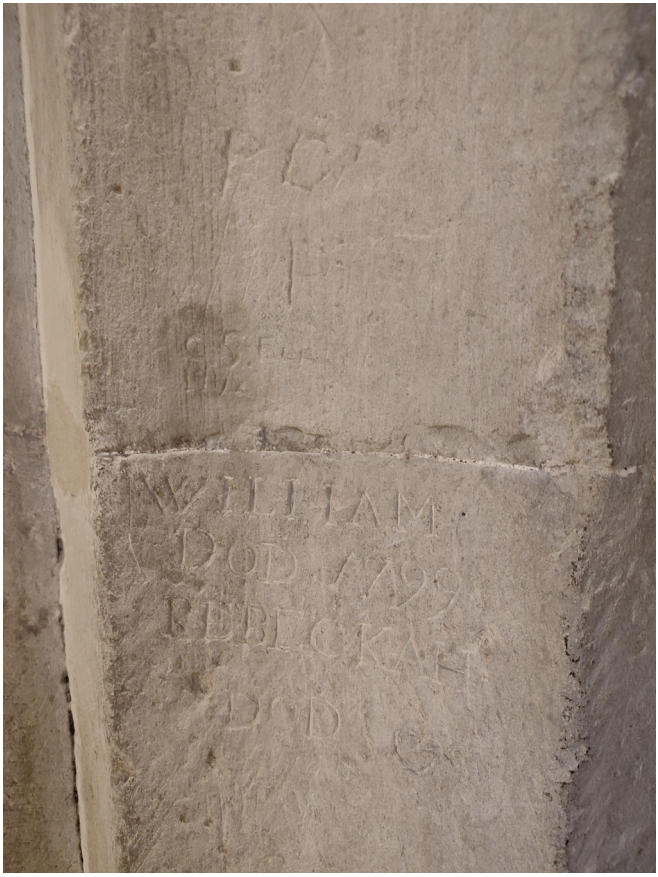

Graffiti.St. Elizabeth's Church, Eastbourne

Vol. 39.1 August 2024

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We have four vacancies. Why not join us?

FAMILY ROOTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT)

Copy deadlines for articles please.

January 15th, April 16th, July 16th & October 16th.

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The cover image © Helen Lucas

Editorial

Welcome to another edition of Family Roots. I would welcome any photographs from you which you think would be suitable for the cover of our magazine, send them to me at editor@eastbournefhs.org.uk

The weather stayed good for the Eastbourne tennis week let us hope it is the same for Eastbourne Airbourne 15th - 18th August. It looks like the Red Arrows will only be visiting on the Thursday but plenty of other noisy planes flying to scare the seagulls and family pets.

The price of some of our data CDS will be going up when existing stocks have gone, this is because the cost of materials have risen, this will be the first price rise since we started selling Cds.

We are in the process of producing two new titles, “War Memorials Around The Eastbourne Area” and “Hailsham St. Mary's Parish Burial Registers”. So keep an eye out for theses; when produced the “Index of names on CD” on the website will be updated, at the time of writing there are over 67,000 lines of data for you to explore.

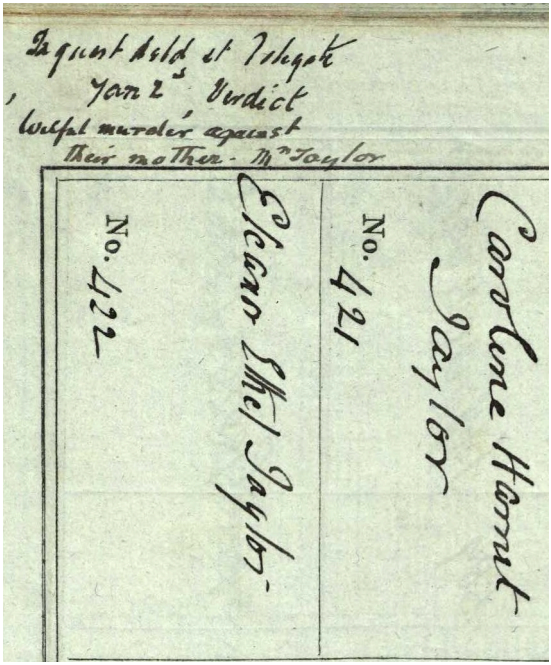
Please attend as many of our meetings as you can, we need “bums on seats” member price £1.00 visitors £2.50.

Omitted from the contents page and index Vol 38.4 Finding My Foundling, Edmund Fitz-George contributed by: Helen Warren page 147

Till next time John Titmuss

The Polegate Children Murders.

Whilst researching the Hailsham St. Mary's Parish Burial Registers for later inclusion to a CD, I noticed in the margin dated 1st January 1890 there were two burials in the name of Taylor living at London House,



Brook Street, Polegate. They were sisters Harriet Catherine aged 12 years and Eleanor Ethel aged 10 years. Both children had been murdered and died on 26th December 1889. The Vicar G.Jepson wrote in the margin "Inquest held at Polegate Jan: 2nd. Verdict wilful murder against their mother Mrs.Taylor "

Further down the register another burial dated 7th January 1890 sees another Taylor, sister Kate who was aged 14 years and was severely injured having been slashed across the throat with an open razor at the same time as her sisters were murdered with the same implement, she was rushed to Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne but although early signs suggested she might recover she did not and sadly passed away.

Mrs Ann Taylor lived with her ten children at London House, Brook Street which she also ran as a local grocery shop.

The local newspaper The Sussex Agricultural Express gave an account of the burial service and the full inquest held at the Horse and Groom which will be included in Family Roots magazine.

John Tyhurst

A MOTHER MURDERS TWO CHILDREN.

And attempts the life of a third.

Timely Intervention of Further Butchery.

Contributed by: John Tyhurst

Taken from the Eastbourne Chronicle Saturday December 28th 1889

The Christmas peace and quiet of Polegate, a village of modest dimensions but of some importance as a junctional station on the L.B & S.C.R, three miles and a half north of Eastbourne, has been rudely and ruthlessly shocked by a tragedy, the like of which has never before occurred in this district. On Thursday night about eleven o'clock, a woman names Mary Ann Taylor, aged 44, the Mother of ten children set about the fiendish and diabolical of murdering her family, and actually succeeded in killing two children outright and nearly taking the life of a third, before her gory hand was stayed by the timely and plucky intervention of her son. Mrs Taylor lost her husband about three years ago and has continued to carry on a grocery and provision business at " London House ", Brook Street a road running parallel with the railway, and on the North side of the site of the Old Polegate Station. From what we can learn, she was doing very fair business, and in addition to the profits accruing therefrom she had the rents derivable from a certain cottage property. Thus, although left with a large and comparatively young family, she was by no means in poor circumstances, and the crime cannot therefore be assigned to desperation from poverty which is the not infrequent cause of such frightful outrage. Of the ten children in the family, eight were at home on the terrible and frightful night. At the time of the occurrence (about 10.45) they were all in bed, the three eldest girls in one bedroom, three smaller children in a second room, another girl in the bedroom usually occupied by her and her mother, and a son aged 17 in a room by himself downstairs. The son named Albert had been to Eastbourne the same evening and had returned by the 9.30 train, going then straight to bed without seeing his mother. He states however that when he left home to go to Eastbourne his mother was in her usual state and that he perceived no strangeness in her demeanour or conversation. After he had been a short time he was awakened by groans and shrieks, and on getting up found his sister Kate aged 14 coming downstairs and bearing a great gash in her throat, from which blood was copiously streaming. The girl pointed to her neck and beckoned him to go upstairs.

He proceeded thither and found his mother entering the bedroom of the younger children with an open razor in her hand. She presented a wild and reckless appearance and on observing the lad approaching she hurried forward. Quick to grasp the situation, however, the lad rushed up to his mother, struggled with her pluckily for a moment or two and eventually wrested the murderous weapon from her hand. The woman in frantic speech thereupon appealed to her affrighted son to kill her. At the boy's request she was induced to go downstairs, and having contented himself with her assurance that she would do no more mischief the youth ran out for a neighbour (a Mr Martin) who hastened to the house and took charge of the murderess. Mr.Tolhurst, confectioner residing next door was also called in and on proceeding upstairs to the room whence the injured girl Kate had retreated a horrible spectacle met his gaze. The two girls Eleanor Ethel aged 10 and Harriet aged 12 were laying in pools of blood, one on the bed and the other on the floor, both bodies being lifeless. The wound of the suffering girl was temporarily attended to, awaiting the arrival of the Doctor who had to be sent to from Hailsham. Dr.Gould on reaching the house at once gave directions for the injured girl to be conveyed to Princess Alice Memorial Hospital at Eastbourne, and this course was taken with all possible speed. Meanwhile P.C.Morgan stationed at Polegate had arrived and taken charge of the mother, and a vehicle had been secured, the unhappy woman was driven to the Police Station at Hailsham. The other children were taken charge of by neighbours among whom the shocking occurrence had aroused considerable commotion and excitement though the tragedy did not become generally known until yesterday morning.

Our representative gathered from persons inhabiting the locality of Brook Street that Mrs.Taylor was a respectable woman but there seems to be a reason to fear that she of late has given away to drink. What her condition was on Thursday night cannot be precisely ascertained as her excitement when arrested might have been due to other causes other than alcohol. It was said she was greatly attached to her children and had never been known to use treats towards them or to give any noticeable signs of mental aberrations. The sad event had sent a mantle of gloom the whole village, and in Eastbourne yesterday the news created no small consternation.

On enquiring at the Princess Alice Hospital yesterday afternoon, the Matron informed us that the girl Kate Taylor was not in an absolutely dangerous condition though her state was such as to give cause for anxiety. The sufferer was admitted into the hospital shortly before one the same morning. Examination by Dr.Colgate (who is the medical officer for the week) showed that the wounds inflicted were of a serious character and had the lacerations in one direction had been one twelfth of an inch deeper death must inevitably have occurred. The girl was conscious

during the day and though unable to speak made several communications to the Matron in writing. Her enquiries were chiefly as to her brothers and sisters but she also mentioned the visit of her mother to the bedroom with the razor, not however to give any additional details. There are some hope that the sufferer who is said to be a bright good looking girl may recover.

The authoress of this exceptionally dreadful double murder will be brought before the Magistrates at Hailsham today. The hearing will however be of a quite preliminary and formal character only sufficient evidence being taken to justify a remand. The Coroner Mr.G.E.Hillman to whom the facts were communicated yesterday will open the inquest today at Polegate, and it is not unlikely the enquiry, so far as the Coroner's jury is concerned will be concluded at the one sitting.

The woman Taylor passed yesterday with but slight show of mental excitement. She fully realises the nature and scope of her crime, and referred to the occurrence more than once during the day. At times she gave way to fits of grief despondency and in speaking to the police asked if they thought she would be hanged.

We understand the grocery premises at Polegate has been occupied by the Taylor family for many years and that the late husband of Mrs Taylor was widely known and highly respected in the locality.

THE POLEGATE TRAGEDY.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LITTLE VICTIMS.

From the Sussex Express of 1890

Contributed by: John Tyhurst

Another scene in this tragic domestic episode has closed, for on Wednesday the remains of the two little girls were interred.

The first part of the service took place at Polegate Chapel-of-Ease, which was crowded in every part. The procession set out from the residence of the granmother [sic] shortly before two o'clock. The coffins were of stained elm, with fancy breastplates and furniture, and on the lid of each a number of beautiful wreaths
and crosses had been deposited by loving hands.
The mourners were Euphemis, Emily, Seymore, Bertram and Albert (the sisters and brothers), and the grand-mother (Mrs Taylor), and an aunt, Miss Taylor.
They followed in a mourning coach. Mr. Caleb Diplock

of Southdown Hall, Polegate, who has evinced much practical sympathy with the family, sent his private carriage, and Mr. Tolhurst (the executor] also attended in his carriage.

There was a large number of persons gathered in Brook-street, and these followed on to the church. The procession was met at the outer gate by the Rev. G. Jepson, M.A., who led the way into the building slowly reciting the opening sentences of the Burial service. The coffins were borne by eight of the village lads, who each wore white gloves. The coffins were laid sideways to the temporary chancel screen. Behind the mourners sat the children of the Sunday School, many of whom were in mourning. and carried small floral souvenirs, one of which was inscribed, “With the greats symphey from a Sunday School mate, Elizabeth Mitchwell.”

There was no choir. but the singing was rendered by the school children. Mr. Phillips presiding at the organ. The service was very affecting. Every seat Was occupied and the porch and the lower aisles were crowded.

The children first sang, “Jesu meek and gentle," and after the lesson another hymn. " The king o|f love my shepherd is,” was sung. The Rev. G. Jepson then delivered an address, taking for his text Psalm cix, 27th verse, "That the may know that this is Thy hand; that Thou Lord hast done it."

The address was both eloquent and. simple, and the majority of the congregation were moved to tears.

Mr. Jepson said he could not let that most painful occasion pass without saying a word of comfort to the people of Polegate. People might ask, " How came it that God, the God of love and mercy, could permit such an event to happen ?" It seemed hard to understand that it was His hand; yet it was so. Let them be of good comfort. Even with these dead children before him, and remembering the terrible suddenness of their death, he bade them be of good cheer. Above all that could he done or left undone in this world there was a Friend of little children in the land of eternal peace—a home for the lambs of Christ a for the sheep of the Good Shepherd. Out of even so great a calamity as that, great and ever lasting good would come, God from time to time visited His people, and it was well when His people were ready to receive Him. That was the day of their visitation, and, therefore, let the Holy Spirit take home to the hearts of all his hearers some thought of their personal relationship with Christ. If it was true that God was visiting them at Polegate, surely He had some design that if they would not learn by ordinary means they should by hitter experience learn that out of evil good would come. Might not some of those who were present in that church on the close of 1889 look back from the long ages of eternity to that present evil, that great sin, and know that they had made it the

starting point of their preparation for the visitation of the Lord. He implored them to look upon the brighter side of the picture, and said he firmly believed the present calamity might be made by the hand of God at a time of real blessing to many a one, both old and young in Polegate. God grant that it might be so

As the procession left the church the organist played the “Dead March in Saul.”

The hearse then set out slowly for the Hailsham Cemetery, and between 60 and 70 people followed on foot.

All the shops in the village were closed. and manifestations of sorrow were at intervals apparent. The day was bitterly cold, and the rate of progression was slow, owing to the muddy condition of the roads. The Hailsham: cemetery was eventually reached, and the remains were taken into the chapel, where the psalm, “ Lord Thou hast been our refuge,” was recited alternately by the Rev. G. Jepson and the Rev. F. C. Harvey, vicar of Hailsham. The graves were dug side by side, and were situated at the north corner of the cemetery.

Here the hymn. “Brief life is here our portion" was sung, and the Rev. F. C. Harvey pronounced the Benediction. Surrounding the graveside, despite the increasing rawness of the weather, stood about 150 people, who lingered somewhile after the ceremony, as if loth to leave the scene.

The inscription on the eldest girl's coffin was

Absent from the body.
HARRIET CAROLINE TAYLOR,
Died 26th December, 1851,
Aged 12 years
Present with the Lord

The inscription plate of the other was identical, only it had the name of " Eleanor Ethel Taylor," and her age, 10 years. Wreaths and crosses were sent by Mrs. Caleb Diplock and Miss Diplock (two wreaths), Mr. and Mrs. Blake. Mr. and the Misses Marks, and Miss Stone (two wreaths). Mrs. Levett, Lottie Drewett, " Ada" and “Clara”.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. C. P Taylor, a relative of the deceased.

THE ADJOURNED INQUEST.

The adjourned inquest was held at the Horse and Groom Inn Polegate. on Thursday afternoon, before Mr. G. E. Hillman (coroner for East Sussex). Mr. W. H. Burt. solicitor. appeared for Mrs. Taylor. and and was instructed by her friends to watch| the case on her behalf.

Mr. Hillman—I am very glad you are here.

The evidence given on the first occasion by the son, Samuel Bertram Taylor, was read over and signed.

In answer to Mr. Burt. the witness said he did not take a light upstairs as

there was one already. His sisters generally went to bed by themselves, and took a candle with them.

His Mother had not kept beer or spirits in the house lately. He had not heard his mother say anything about being short money. They kept camphor in the shop.

The evidence of Mr. Martin, baker, was next read over,

and in answer to Mr. Burt the witness said the reason he thought Mrs. Taylor was recovering from the effects of drink was because he could assign no other reason for her condition. He could not nay whether she was drunk or had been drinking.

In answer to one of the jurymen, the witness said he had not heard of any insanity in the family at all.

He could not say, not having seen any insane person before,

whether Mrs. Taylor showed any signs of insanity or not.

Mr. James Tollhurst added to his evidence that the property which produced £22 per annum, had not been let more than half the time.

Mr. Burt.—Do you know, Mr. Tollhurst, if she had been

short of money lately‘?

Witness-I thought she had been a little short. I thought so. as sometimes she asked me for a cheque for £5 or something like, and only had £3, and promised to pay the difference upon such a day, which she did.

Has that occurred on several occasions? -Three at the

most.

Do you know as a fact that she owes money now to various people?-Yes she does. I have asked the son if he knew how she stood, and he had gone through it, and he found she does owe some. Of course I have nothing to do with her affairs.

I think when you came down stairs the doctor tried to arouse her in the first place, and you did so?-Yes.

Where her eyes shut or open ?—They were shut.

What did you say to her ?-l stood there, and as the doctor could not make anything of her I stepped forward and took hold of her and said, "Now, Mrs. Taylor, wake up; you know me, Mr. Tolhurst?‘" She looked up, and said, “ I paid you for that goose, didn't I." I said " Yes, that's all right." That was all the conversation they had.

In answer to the Coroner, the witness said Mrs. Taylor got up and tried to go away. She was a little obstreperous, and, of course, I kept her there, and told her to sit down. She was excited, and talked about wanting to go to the cemetery. He had known Mrs. Taylor to have fits, but not lately. Her late husband told him that these fits proceeded from her heart.

Mr. Gould, surgeon, qualified his evidence as to death being instantaneous, and said from the examination of the wounds, his opinion was that death occurred in half a minute or so. The immediate cause of

death was syncope from loss of blood.
Mr. Burt.-Do I understand you to say that she did not appear to be drunk? —She did not give me that impression. I heard what she said about the goose.
A juryman—-Suppose a person was in a delicate state of health, and took an overdose of camphor, would that affect her?
Witness—Camphor taken in large doses might produce delirium. It acts on the brain.
Did. you smell any camphor?—I cannot remember smelling camphor at all.
In answer to the Coroner, the Witness said ten grains
of camphor in a solid form would be an injurious quantity. The remark about the goose gave him the opinion that she was strange, and not right in her mind.
The witness, in answer to further questions. said the wounds would require considerable force to inflict.
Mr. Burt, having obtained the Coroner's consent, asked the witness if he made use of the expression, "There will he no doubt about this case? "
Witness—-That was before he examined Mrs. Taylor. His examination of her did not lead him to alter the conclusion he had arrived at.
I said something to this effect, that a woman attempting a thing of that kind must be insane.
Mrs. Taylor was not in a state of delirium.
The following additional evidence was then taken :-
Sidney Martin, aged 10 years, an intelligent lad, said-On Boxing-Day Mrs.Taylor asked him to get her a pint of ale, which he did.
In the evening, at eight o'clock, one of the deceased children fetched him, and he procured another pint of ale for Mrs. Taylor. She gave him a penny for his trouble.
He had fetched ale for her 3 timer before.
John Harding, aged 10 years said on Boxing Day,
about five o'clock he fetched Mrs. Taylor three half pints of stout, for which she gave him 4 1/2d. He got Mrs.Taylor a quart of stout upon two separate occasions on Christmas Day. He always got stout, and had been on the same errand lots of times.
A smaller lad, named Piper, aged nine years, was called, but the Coroner declined to take his evidence.
Emily Taylor, a twin sister to the one now lying wounded in the Eastbourne Hospital, said on Boxing Day she returned home at half past six. She had been out all day. Her mother was lying on the sofa and she asked witness if she had had her tea. Kate and Ethel were in the room. She did not see her mother have anything to drink She lay silent upon the couch. Harriett and Ethel (the two deceased children) went to bed at half-past seven. Her mother told them it was time to go to bed and they went,

leaving witness and another sister in the room.
Witness and Kate generally slept with their mother. and they went to bed together at eight o'clock. Her mother said " You had better go lo bed now." She told Kate that she had better sleep with Arty and Ethel. She had previously informed them that witness and Kate were to take turns in sleeping with Arty and Ethel.
Witness heard no more that night, but was asleep. When she went to bed her mother seemed as she usually was.
The Coroner questioned the witness at length upon this point, but the child, who gave her evidence with great coolness and intelligence, maintained that there was nothing strange in her mother's condition, and added that her mother treated them very kindly.
Henry John Capon said he lived at Polegate. Shortly before 11 o'clock on Boxing-Night he met Mr. Tolhurst's stepson, and in consequence of a conversation he went to Mrs. Taylor's. He saw the wounded girl (Kate) holding some clothing to her throat, and Mrs. Taylor was sitting on the couch close by.
He made some exclamation, and the little girl motioned him to her, and faintly muttered ," Emily is all right up stairs." While he was there Mrs. Taylor's stepson came in, and Mrs. Taylor said, “Carrie, how is it you have not been near me this Christmas.” Afterwards they removed the girl to the hospital, and he took Emily to his own house.
Mrs. Taylor appeared to be perfectly sober, and he had never heard a women talk more rational than she did.
She had a very haggard appearance, and she afterwards lapsed into an unconscious state. Mrs. Taylor thought she was going to bed, and when her jacket and boots were brought she remarked that she did not go to bed in her jacket. The doctor said they wanted her to go out for a walk and got some fresh air, and ahe said. that she was not going out into the mud.
P.C. Morgan, stationed at ‘Polegate, gave evidence similar to that which we heard in the Hailsham Police court last Saturday. When he asked her what she had been doing to her children, she said., “They are upstairs; two are dead. and three are living. I suppose I shall have to go with you." She then fainted away. After detailing the discovery, witness said the little ones were in the back room calling for " Mamma."
The Coroner. in summing up, explained the precise position the jury was in, and emphasized that it was no part of their duty to enquire into the state of Mrs. Taylor's mind. He would take a rider to their verdict, but it would be a mere expression of opinion.
Mr. Burt said Mr. Billing, of Hailsham, was in attendance.
The jury expressed a wish to hear Mr. Billing, and he was accordingly sworn. He stated that he had known the accused for 20 years, and he attended the confinement of all her children.
About five years ago she had an attack of puerperal mania, and suffered

from it for seven weeks.
Her mental condition during that time was one of great excitability, and at other times she suffered from nervous prostration. She also suffered from heart disease. She was a fragile and delicate creature. He agreed with Dr. Stevenson that one of the symptoms of puerperal mania was a disposition to murder one's offspring.
A quantity of drink, in conjunction with this disease, would be likely to unhinge her mind.
Naomi Colbran, nurse corroborated as to the illness five years ago. Mrs. Taylor's brother, before he died, developed symptoms of insanity. Mrs. Taylor told her this 15 years ago.
Thu Coroner, having at great length recapitulated the evidence,
the jury, after a long deliberation, returned a verdict of "Wilful murder," and Mrs. Taylor was committed on the Coroner's warrant.

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The cover image is a sample of the graffiti at St. Elizabeth's church.
It was taken by Helen Lucas on the July visit. A report on this visit will be in the next magazine.

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Meetings update.

5th September - Kevin Gordon.
'Collecting Postcards'
Kevin is a long-time postcard collector and will give a history of postcards, showing how the postcard craze peaked during the 'golden era' when millions of postcards were sent each week. Kevin will explain different types of postcard and give hints on their value and how to collect them. The talk will be illustrated with many local postcard views

3rd October - Christopher Whittick.
"Where there's a will'
"Where there's a will – Testamentary Records and probate records for the Family Historian"
Christopher Whittick, who spent 42 years at East Sussex Record Office

and has an unparalleled knowledge of the county's archives, will describe the evolution of the probate system - the means by which people's property is administered after their death. Beginning in the medieval period, he will describe the process of probate, the documents which it produced and the languages in which they are written, the 'nationalisation' of the system in 1858 and what happened when somebody died owning property but without leaving a valid will, or indeed any will at all."

7th November - Tim Cookson.
'Researching the history of your house'
'Introduction on how to research the history of your house, outlining possible sources. Deciding what is of interest to you about your house or other houses/properties.Dating the property using maps and plans.Finding out about the developer, architect/plan drawer, builder etc, Looking into the design and style of the building. Researching who lived in the house before you.'
Member's £1.00. Visitors allways welcome £2.50.

5th December Christmas meeting – share your findings on any aspect of family history including oral histories and family heirlooms. Members are invited to bring along artefacts that have a story to tell or simply items of historic interest. We hope that this will be a light-hearted, informal meeting with a chance to chat to fellow members and visitors, sharing research, photographs and keepsakes.

Sussex Smugglers

Speaker: Kevin Newman

Family Roots meeting – Thursday, 4th April 2024

By: Jenny Wootton.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Kevin Newman entertained us with a very lively talk about the smuggling industry in Sussex. Smuggling was a big international business, employing over 40,000 people at its peak. A lot of people depended on it for their livelihood and to feed their families, but also a lot of people were employed to

try and stop the trade. Kevin challenged the audience to find out if we would have supported the smugglers, or if we would have been on the side of the excise men trying to stop them.

Many of the slides included views around Sussex connected with smuggling, the most famous of which was probably the view of the

Seven Sisters cliffs near Beachy Head looking over the roofs of the two coastguard cottages. The cottages were built there so that coastguards could look out along the coast for smugglers bringing their bounty ashore at Cuckmere Haven.

Kevin took us on a smuggler's tour of Sussex, visiting many of the pretty and peaceful villages and seaside towns around the county where smuggling took place, but never forgetting that the smuggling trade was carried out by desperate men in desperate times.

Smuggling started in the 1300s because of heavy taxation on goods from abroad imported into England. Up until then Britain had been pretty much self-supporting, but with the growth of trade with Europe taxation was imposed on both imported and exported goods as a

source of revenue for the crown.

Up until the 17th century wool was the main smuggled goods, mostly for export to Europe which was heavily taxed. The smugglers were known as “owlers” and one of their main areas of activity was from Romney Marsh, based in Rye and smuggling wool across the Channel to France.

The peak of the smuggling industry was in the 17th and 18th centuries, a period of high taxation to meet the demands of the Napoleonic wars and the growth of the industrial revolution. If families didn’t have smuggling to fall back on their families would have starved. Successful smugglers like John Oliver and William Cowerson from Worthing had huge followers at their funerals because they had looked after so many during their lifetimes.

Smugglers rarely used their own names, but would have been known by a more descriptive name such as ‘Uncle’, ‘Stick-in-the Mud’, ‘Yorkshire George’, ‘Nasty Face’ and ‘Butcher Tom’ to name a few. They were also known as free traders and owlers.

The law enforcement agencies trying to stop the trade were known as preventive men, kingsmen, excise men, coast guards, but often these men would also be involved with smuggling themselves as it

was a more lucrative way of earning a living. Sometimes the military were drawn in to help support them and they would have been the Dragoon guards.

Kevin gave us some smuggling phrases, for example the place name ‘Bo Peep’ indicated it was a smuggling area, from the nursery rhyme ‘Little Bo Peep’ who lost her sheep, as smuggled goods were lost. A ‘dallop’ was a parcel of tea weighing between 6 and 16 pounds. ‘Sewing a crop’ indicated there was a parcel of goods waiting to be picked up out at sea. A ‘spout lantern’ was a lantern with a very long beam which could be used to warn ships at sea that excise men were about, and a ‘tuck stick’ was a long stick used by excise men to probe into carts to find out if they were carrying any smuggled goods.

Sussex and Kent were the two counties where smuggling was more prevalent. They were the two counties closest to the Continent, with long coastlines and good access to the capital. The geography of the coastline would have been very different in the 18th century with many hidden creeks and low sloping beaches and several good harbours, which were ideal for bringing in small boats. The coast was reasonably undeveloped at that time as most of the villages were inland because it was believed the sea was where the

unhealthy bad air from France could come ashore, so it was easy to bring good ashore without being seen. By the 1870s smuggling had virtually died out because large towns had developed along the coast and the coastguard system was much more effective.

To keep inquisitive people away stories of ghosts and evil spirits were put about to stop anyone venturing near the coast and disturbing the smugglers at their business. One Sussex spirit was called a 'spirimorgus' which parents would tell their children about at bedtime to warn them to be good.

The coastline was also a dangerous place. Being low lying it was prone to flooding and invasion. Worthing flooded several times in the 1800s and Brighton was burned down by the French. The coast was also a dangerous place for shipwrecks, so the local smugglers had to know the safe routes at sea as well as inland to bring goods ashore.

Smuggling was not just a coastal activity. It also involved a lot of people inland as horses and carts were needed to transport goods away from the coast to safe hiding places inland. Local rivers were also used as the road system was not very suitable for transporting heavy cargoes. Many innkeepers and villagers were only too keen to lend a hand in return for a share of the spoils, and often so many

were involved that the preventive men couldn't do anything about it. Sussex towns were known for their little alleyways, known as 'twittens', which made it easy to slip through these narrow lanes unseen and avoid the preventive men.

It was dangerous to tackle a smuggling gang and anyone who attempted to confront them could come to a bad end. At Slindon in West Sussex one man was whipped to death. Two men were thrown down a well on the border with Hampshire. There was a raid on Goring beach which resulted in a battle between smugglers and preventive men when many were injured.

John Oliver was a well-known smuggler from West Sussex. He was known as the 'Mad Miller', and it is said he turned the sweeps of his mill to warn other smugglers when the preventive men were present. He was also a puppeteer and created puppets of a lady and a preventive man, where the lady would beat the man over the head with a stick. Oliver built his own tomb 27 years before he died, but it was probably used for storing ill-gotten goods until he needed it. When he died there were over 2,000 people at his funeral because he had kept so many families alive through his smuggling activities over the years. His tomb can still be seen on Highdown Hill north of Worthing.

William Cowerson was another famous smuggler, and a stonemason attached to West Tarring church in West Sussex. He used the tower of the church to signal to other smugglers if the coast was clear. He planned his biggest raid in 1832 with over 200 smugglers landing goods of gin and brandy on the Steyne at Worthing, and the people of Worthing decided to foil the customs officials by letting the smugglers in their front door and out through the back door with all their goods. Cowerson's men ran through the twittens of Worthing to the bridge over the River Teville, chased by the preventive men. The bridge was locked by a gate at night but Cowerson's men climbed over it. He stood his ground and punched one of the officers, breaking his arm, but the lieutenant shot Cowerson dead. His body was taken to The Stage pub where the inquest was held and it was found that the lieutenant had carried out his duty amicably and within the right boundaries. William Cowerson is buried in Steyning churchyard, where his funeral was attended by a huge crowd, and his gravestone can still be seen today.

There are many stories of smuggler's tunnels around Sussex where much of the ground is chalk, which would have been easy to tunnel through. Kevin used to live in Warwick Place, Worthing and he told how some of the older residents invited him to look at the sewers

under his road which was originally a smuggler's tunnel. At the end of that road was a building used as the customs house, so the smuggler's tunnel ran right underneath the customs men.

The sleepy villages of Sussex today may seem peaceful places, but in the 17th and 18th centuries they would have been the site of many scuffles and battles between smugglers' gangs and preventive officers. The Hawkhurst gang from Kent was one of the most notorious gangs and had a huge organisation operating across the borders into Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. They ran one of the most successful smuggling businesses, often taking over other gangs.

Mayfield was another smuggling hotspot, and the local gang was led by Gabriel Tomkins, a very interesting character. Tomkins came from Rye and during his lifetime changed sides several times, a classic instance of poacher turned gamekeeper.

Burwash was another village well known for smuggling. It was the home of famous author Rudyard Kipling. He also had a home in Rottingdean, another place well-known for smuggling, and he wrote 'A Smuggler's Song' with the famous line 'brandy for the parson, baccy for the clerk'.

Camber Castle was another place used as a smugglers' store, and a smuggler named Thomas Monk was shot there is 1833 during a battle with preventive men.

The Mermaid Inn in Rye, which has a fascinating history of smuggling, was where the notorious Hawkhurst gang was spotted, and some say you can still see the ghosts of them there today. Dr Syn's room in the inn had a secret passageway that was used by smugglers.

Petworth and Midhurst in West Sussex are well worth a visit to experience some of the scenes that still exist where smuggling activities would have taken place.

The old port of Winchelsea was a major hub for the wine trade with Europe until it was washed away in medieval times, but many of the houses that survived have huge cellars that were used by smugglers to store their contraband. There are smugglers tours of Winchelsea recounting its history, and in 1829 a gang of 70 to 80 men were seen carrying two tons of contraband through the town at 4.00am.

Hastings has been called the spiritual home of smuggling and several of the pubs have clues to the activity that took place.

Historians are indebted to the former Mayor of Hastings and Surveyor General of Riding Officers John Collier, who wrote over 2,000 letters in his fight against smuggling, without which much of the history of that era would have been lost.

Burnt Cottages in Eastbourne and the village of Jevington were also heavily involved with smuggling. Ian Dowling, who used to be chef at The Hungry Monk restaurant, it currently researching the history of Jevington Jigg and plans to write a book about this notorious smuggler.

The gaps in the cliffs along the South Coast at Seven Sisters, Peacehaven and Rottingdean, were used to haul goods up from the beach, and the winches and other technical devices used were ingenious inventions. Holes in the cliffs were also created as lookout posts and to hide the booty until it was safe to move it.

Smuggling developed its own vocabulary. Most of the smuggled goods found its way to London to be sold on, and if an item was described as ‘proper Crowlink’ it meant that it was of the highest quality, it was geneva or gin or brandy that had been smuggled through Crowlink.

East Dean was involved in smuggling and some of the houses in the

village were paid for by the proceeds of smuggling. Alfriston was also a smugglers village and Mr Stanton's house, with its many doors and passageways, can still be visited. Rottingdean was another village, isolated on the clifftop, was also heavily involved.

Daniel Scales, who was shot for smuggling, is buried at Patcham, north of Brighton, on the north side of the church, which would have been in the unconsecrated ground used for suicides and the irreligious. Also in Brighton was the Goldstone Ground, formerly the site of Brighton & Hove Albion football stadium, but in earlier times it was a military ground and the place where smugglers were brought to be punished and given 300 lashes, which would have led to death.

By the 1870s towns along the cliffs like Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings had developed into large conurbations, meaning there were fewer spots to bring goods ashore, and also the coastguards were better organised. But mainly taxation had come down so smuggling became less profitable and less needed.

The crackdown on smuggling was led by the Duke of Richmond, the coastguards became much more efficient at protecting the coastline and rescuing ships in danger, evolving into the RNLI, and people had lost their fear of the sea.

An Interesting Diary Reference

Contributed By: Ailna Martin.

The scattered rural parish of Cartmel Fell in Cumbria has been well-known to me since childhood and when visiting on regular holidays in the area I joined the flourishing Cartmel Fell Local History Society. In 1995 the diaries of one of the incumbents, the Reverend Thomas Price, were deposited at the Kendal branch of the Cumbria Record Office by his granddaughter. The local history society transcribed the diaries and published the transcription in the form of a slim spiral bound volume. The diaries cover the years from just before Christmas 1909 to July 2nd 1916.

There are several references throughout the diaries to a number of members of my maternal grandfather's family, the Lishmans, of whom I have written in our Family History Journal from time to time. But it is a brief entry written by Thomas Price on June 11th 1910 that is of particular interest to me. It records the fact that Thomas Price officiated at a wedding at 2 o'clock then "went afterwards to the wedding feast at Lound Cottage".

The wedding was that of my great aunt, Jessie Cooper, a younger sister of my maternal grandmother. She married a widower, John (Jack) Jones, a baker from Menai Bridge in Anglesey, whom she had met when she had nursed his first wife through her terminal illness. Below is a wonderful bridal group photograph taken on the day. It includes several members of my family, including my eldest aunt, also named Jessie, who was the bridesmaid, and all her younger siblings including my nine-year-old Mother.

On the right-hand end of the back row is The Reverend Thomas Price and on the left-hand end is my

grandfather, John Lishman, with the local schoolmaster, Mr. Craghill, immediately behind. My mother stands immediately in front of the bridegroom, sporting her white knee-length socks and with her drawers showing beneath the hem of her dress! In her hand is a small posy, suggesting that she too was a bridesmaid.
I remember many of the individuals referred to in the diaries, having known them when I was growing up. They bring back many happy memories for me.

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From the East End to the Far East

keeping the peace in Japan

Contributed By:Trevor Diesch.

After a very disrupted childhood my Father, Peter Diesch, born illegitimate in 1927 in the East End of London, went through much uncertainty and unhappiness in various orphanages in Essex before being reunited with his Mother and a new step Father in 1936. Required to leave school and work at age 14 in wartime London to help make ends meet these were difficult and worrying times. He could little have envisaged that in 10 years' time he would be in Japan with an invitation to guard the life of the Japanese Emperor. An example of the random and life changing effects of war service!

Good fortune for Peter at last as WW2 hostilities ended before his conscription took full effect in 1945. Trying to make a future in the photographic industry he sought allocation to the RAF with a view to becoming involved in aerial reconnaissance but the need for that role was much reduced as peace broke out. He still got into the RAF but was designated duties as a cook – and served in a relatively unknown role for British Forces overlooked by a now war weary public.

Following the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki the Japanese finally officially surrendered in September 1945. Despite the devastation there was resistance in some Japanese elements to ending the war and it was crucial that the Allies quickly take the initiative to bring some order and prevent armed resistance breaking out once the initial shock of surrender had sunk in.

Peter was allocated a posting with a small RAF contingent sent to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) and his big adventure in Japan began in May 1946. Fortunately, he was able to obtain some photographic materials from somewhere and roam about taking around 500 photos, of life for the servicemen in such remarkable circumstances and the of the local population, a few of which are included within this article. He is pictured here with the BCOF insignia (red and blue) clearly seen on the shoulder of his uniform (picture 1).

The largest part of the Allied forces in Japan, were American, with General MacArthur 'Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers'. This was followed by the BCOF primarily made up of Australian forces, with British, New Zealand and initially Indian contingents as well. Japan was organized into several sectors with the BCOF responsible for the south of the mainland (Honshu) where Peter was based with the RAF contingent at the eerily desolate and deserted naval base at Iwakuni (picture 2). Working directly alongside the Australians in particular it was natural that friendships developed between the different nationalities involved (picture 3) whom he visited many years later in Ballarat.

Their main role was to patrol their areas to ensure that civil unrest did not break out and to guard against criminal elements setting up a black market economy. This role was carried out particularly in nearby Hiroshima and its adjoining territory. As the target of the first atomic bomb Hiroshima, previously a city with a sizeable military garrison, and considered a likely centre of military resistance in the event of an Allied landing, was completely devastated (picture 4), with metal framed buildings mangled by the heat. Estimates of 90-146,000 people were killed by the blast and its aftermath. Most of the dead were civilians.

No doubt because it had felt the full force of the bomb Peter did not witness any serious resistance or antagonism from the survivors in the area, only a stunned passivity no doubt reflecting a wish to try and forget and aim for a better future. What they thought below the surface we will never know but familiarity grew between some servicemen and Japanese civilian staff on the base which he considered genuine (picture 5).

The Allied approach, controversial in the light of a desire for recompense from the public back home was to demilitarize Japan, seek and prosecute war criminals at the same time as establishing a new system of democratic self governance for the Japanese people and economic reconstruction. It was essential to avoid a power vacuum arising to be filled by hostile elements and the introduction of democratic civilian self-governance was a key element to replace the feudal military regime and

mindset before and during war with its fanatical devotion to the Emperor, regarded as a God-like being.

Previously the general population was not permitted to even look at the Emperor so to end this devotion he was paraded around the country on a motorcade tour, with onlookers made to watch and see for themselves that he was simply a man. He was closely guarded in case of any unrest, kidnap or assassination attempts. Peter (and no doubt others) were invited by senior officers to volunteer for personal guard duty of the Emperor (the only time he could remember being asked to do something in the Forces rather than ordered!). He responded by saying that he would sooner use his bayonet on him which I suspect was a common reaction, hence the delicacy of approach taken. No doubt peer pressure amongst colleagues to refuse was considerable. But what a decision to be given to an 18 year old!

Eventually he did witness one of the motorcades around the Iwakuni base itself and had guard duty over the civilian base staff rather than as a personal bodyguard to the Emperor. But there was little reaction there (the staff no doubt realizing this was best), unlike in the City of Osaka where the Emperor was nearly crushed to death by the mass hysteria of devotion of those attending.

As the situation stabilized much of the everyday duty for Peter was fairly routine, mainly involving escort duties for various Japanese individuals earmarked by the Allied command as suitable for grooming for future positions although though he was never told who they were or what became of them. This occasionally involved trips with them to the cinema and theatre to fill the time although language barriers were a difficulty.

Given that it was too far from home for a period of leave in Britain it was considered important that servicemen in Japan were given opportunities for relaxation in comfortable surroundings there. So “holiday hotels” were set up for a week’s leave with sightseeing trips and cultural opportunities designed to keep them engaged.

A sample of the itinerary provided (picture 6) including optional trips to traditional Japanese opera. Servicemen can be seen experiencing a tea drinking ceremony attended by Japanese women in traditional dress (picture 7). Rather high-brow entertainment for some but perhaps an attempt to broaden the interest of those attending and encourage greater understanding. For his part Peter developed and retained a great interest in Japanese culture particularly cinema and theatre.

These services offered employment opportunities for Japanese civilians who were responsible for the daily running of the establishments (picture 8). Fledgling tourist operators were setting up to serve the occupation forces and copies of rather primitive English language guidebooks of cities and places of interest are included amongst Peter's souvenirs.

This was a strange type of military service. Others were of course not so lucky. Most of those involved naturally longed to return home after their 3 year tour was due to end but when rumours started to spread about their conscription term could be extended because of growing tensions in Korea, very bad feeling broke out and the plan hastily abandoned for the next group of conscripts instead. Thus Peter not only avoided the likelihood of years of guerilla warfare in Japan because of the bomb; but also the gruelling warfare experienced in Korea later on. A fortunate man eventually!


Image 1


Image 2

Image 3

Image 4

Image 5

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OCCUPATION FORCES.

WEEK STARTING FRIDAY 21st to THURSDAY 27TH Nov 47.

FRIDAY	Personnel Arrive Swing Band
SATURDAY	Trip to Kyoto Train 0900 hrs.
SUNDAY	Bus trip to Rokko-san starts 0930 hrs.
MONDAY	Takarazuka Opera - Lunch 1100 hrs. Opera starts 1300 hrs.
TUESDAY	Bus trip full day to Osaka starts 0930 hrs.
WEDNESDAY	Bus trip to Kobe in the morning " " " Himeji in the afternoon Cinema at night - Brown House - 2015 hrs.
THURSDAY	Guests depart from Hotel 1110 hrs.

BREAKFAST	from	0600 -	0900 hrs
LUNCH	"	1230 -	1330 "
DINNER	"	1900 -	2000 "
SNACK BAR	"	1000 -	1100 "
	"	1500 -	1600 "
	"	2130 -	2230 "
BAR	"	1115 -	1215 "
	"	1600 -	1900 "
	"	2000 -	2200 "
GIFT SHOP	"	2000 -	2030 "

Out Lunches available at all times (One Hour Notice)

BCOF HOLIDAY CLUB MAIKO HOTEL

Image 6

Image 7

Image 8

Behind the Scenes of "Who Do You Think You Are"

Speaker: Nick Barratt

Family Roots meeting – Thursday, 2nd May 2024

By: Jenny Woottin.

Dr Nick Barratt, well-known historian and presenter of the television programme "Who Do You Think You Are" (WDYTYA), was our speaker at the May meeting. He related that the programme started in 2004 and had now produced over 100 episodes, digging into the past and looking at history through the eyes of those who lived through those times.

WDYTYA was never meant to be about genealogy, it was about stories of social history, finding out about the lives of ordinary people looking back to the 1850s. It was only meant to be one series with one theme per week. They wanted to replicate the magic of "Time Team", the archaeological programme, that brought the subject to life without being heavily academic, but presented by a non-expert who was able to ask questions about the finds. WDYTYA had a celebrity, a non-expert, go back in time and dig up the past by looking at the lives of their ancestors. They would encounter people from their past but each week would explore in some depth a

particular element of social history in which they had been involved. It gave a changed perception on our view of history.

Nick explained that his background was as an academic. His PhD was in 13th Century State Finance and Physical History. He spent three years translating and researching one document, the annual accounts of 1225. At the end of that time the only place that could offer him employment was the National Archives in Kew, where his role was to provide advice and guidance to fellow historians wanting to trace medieval history. He was surprised to discover that what the enquirers really wanted was help tracing their family history, and in helping them he could see the joy it brought to them when they found out about their ancestors.

When WDYTYA was first broadcast genealogy was regarded as a dry subject, one description was as 'self-indulgent navel gazing'. The idea behind the programme was to investigate the ancestry of a well-known celebrity and to concentrate on one theme per week, for example railway ancestors, poverty, industrial revolution, migration, but the last thing they wanted was scandal. Unfortunately, they hit that early on, with Lesley Garrett, the opera singer.

Lesley wanted to find out about her musical roots to see if there was a musical trait that ran through the family, but WDYTYA wanted to

focus on her coal mining background. The two themes came together in brass bands, but to get to this story they had to trace it through Lesley's 2x great-grandparents Charles and Mary Garrett. Charles was a respected butcher in his 19thC community, but the research revealed that his wife choked to death after drinking concentrated acid from his shop in mistake for wine at their evening meal. As it was a sudden death the coroner was called, and he noticed the bottle of acid, which was a very distinctive shape, where the wine bottle should have been. Although it was strange that she could drink it without noticing the difference in taste, as there were no other witnesses the coroner was led to the conclusion that this was 'death by misadventure'. The gossip started when two weeks later Charles ran off with a much younger woman.

The programme had to set the story up to present it to Lesley and were worried about her reaction to this tragedy, but she was delighted to find she had a murderer in the family. It was a lesson on how we share discoveries of bad news with other members of the family. Nick stressed that WDYTYA has a very strong moral code and will never reveal anything that will have a negative impact on a celebrity or their family.

The researchers start by gathering information from the celebrity and their family about their family history, and look through family

photos, diaries, letters, military insignia, personal treasures, to be able to draw up a family tree. They then have no further contact with the celebrity until the programme goes out, but must decide what facts need verification in official genealogical records such as BMD certificates, census returns, newspaper archives, along with researching the local history of where the family lived, military history, social history, national and international history at the time, to develop a rich sense of the person and who they really were and what they might have been thinking.

Over the last 20 years of WDYTYA, the stories that were thought of as 'self-indulgent navel-gazing' have now been much sought after by the academic community as examples of social history because of its contribution to our knowledge of the past. It highlights the value of writing down our family history research to inform future generations.

But - programmes like WDYTYA don't do us any favours because it makes it look so easy. In the space of one hour to be able to go back 400 years and find you are related to royalty – thank you Danny Dyer! – doesn't show the six months of research it takes to get to that conclusion and you don't get that sense of reality. A certain amount of set dressing takes place when making an episode. Another misleading feature is when the celebrity arrives at an

archive and is immediately able to find their ancestor in a register or document relating to their story. Unlike the Gordon Honeycombe Family History programme from the 1970s and 80s, which was all about the methodology of researching your family, WDYTYA is an entertainment programme. It is not designed to show you how to do the research.

Nick was commissioned by the BBC in 2004 to find ten celebrities out of 150 names whose background neatly fitted into one of the pre-selected themes. They had to do some pre-research to work out roughly what celebrities they wanted and what they knew about them, which before the internet was a challenge. Then they started working with the celebrities, but they wanted to maintain a sense of excitement and anticipation, so had to set some ground rules that could never be broken.

The researchers asked each celebrity what they knew about their family history and whether anyone had previously done any research and what they wanted to find out about their background. They also collected their contact details, and then made sure they never contacted the celebrity again before the programme was made. The celebrity is not told in advance about the findings, so they have no idea what to expect as the programme wants to capture their surprise once the story is revealed on screen, but the presenter

has to have a rough idea of what to say in the hope of gaining a certain reaction so he can move on to the next scene.

There has only been one occasion where information had been revealed to a celebrity before coming onto the show and that was when they were trying to persuade Jeremy Clarkson to take part in the programme. He was meant to be the big name in Series One, but he just had no interest in finding out about his family at all until he learned that one line of his family was named Kilner. He hoped he was related to the inventor of Kilner jars and must have been worth a substantial fortune. He was indeed related, but unfortunately by the third generation they had squandered the lot, ironically on fast cars and fast women, and lost the company.

After that WDYTYA has maintained their three red lines. They will not let the celebrities see their family tree before the programme; they are not given a script, it is all live on screen; and they do not have any access to the editing suite. Hundreds of hours of rushes are filmed over 12 to 14 days spent with the celebrity to produce each one-hour programme. The big reveal is only filmed once but from several different angles to capture the celebrity's reaction, the presenter's reaction and the documents being shown. No celebrity is allowed to interfere in the editing so the producers can achieve the story they want to tell.

As a result of the three red lines only 20 of the original 150 celebrities were prepared to take part in the show, and the producers began to think they should change their approach on how they presented the programme. The person who really reinforced that was Ian Hislop.

Ian's story was about his military ancestors and he had been fascinated with the Boer War at school. They took Ian to the Channel Islands where his mother had been brought up during the 2nd World War when the Germans invaded, revealing some challenging stories, which gave a different twist on the 2nd World War. The programme then looked at his two grandfathers, one from the Scottish side of the family who had been in the 1st World War in France with the Scottish Regiment in 1918, in the last hundred days leading up to the Armistice. The researchers were able to find the exact location where his grandfather would have fought and took Ian over to France where Ian was able to empathise how his grandfather must have felt during those final hours of preparation before the attack. Ian's grandfather had never told him anything of this and it was a powerful moment for Ian to stand where his grandfather would have fought. They did the same with Ian's other grandfather, who had fought in the Boer War. The programme managed to trace his steps back to Spion Kop, another bloody battle

between the Boers and the British. Once again, the programme took Ian to that spot in South Africa, which destroyed his boyhood impression of the Boer War.

The researchers had been working with one of Ian's cousins to trace these ancestors, but these three stories did not give them enough to fill a whole programme, so they asked him if there was anyone else with a military background. He had found one soldier in the 1780s but felt he was too early for the programme, but the researchers wanted to know more. His name was Murdo Matheson. They knew roughly when he was born and that he came from Uig in Scotland, and found his army discharge papers in the archives, along with those of another Murdo Matheson from Uig, but it was very difficult to distinguish which was the correct ancestor. They asked Ian's cousin how he knew that Murdo had been in the army and he produced Murdo's campaign medals, which had his regimental number round the outside which was the key information they needed to identify him. It turned out that Murdo had been in South Africa one hundred years to the day before Ian's grandfather had been there.

The producers of the programme began to realise that the rigid three red lines were not helping to make an entertaining show. The person who really broke the mold, and also gave the series its

name, was Bill Oddie. Bill's story was to have been all about the industrial revolution in the cotton factories of the North-West, where the Oddie family had moved from small farmers in Yorkshire in the 18thC, to working in the textile industry in Lancashire rising to middle managers in a mill in the mid-19thC. The whole of that industry collapsed in the 1860s when the US Civil War led to the blockade of the southern ports which stopped the raw cotton crossing the Atlantic to the cotton mills in England, and the Oddie family lost their jobs and had to moved to find other work.

Bill didn't want to know any of that, he wanted to talk about his Mum. His mother had suffered from a range of mental issues and was in and out of hospital all through Bill's life, which he said had blighted his childhood. He said, 'who do I think I am?', which gave the idea for the title of the programme. The programme looked into her back story and discovered Bill had an older sister who died five days after she was born which he knew nothing about. This revelation released many supressed memories for Bill and helped to explain what had happened to his mother. She was treated for mental breakdown, put into a psychiatric hospital and given electric shock treatment and never fully recovered. Today she would have received counselling and very different treatment.

WDYTYA was able to tackle a very difficult subject, mental illness,

on prime-time television, and it changed the way the BBC dealt with mental illness. In doing so it unlocked the power of family history, enabling people with similar stories of mental illness in their family to trace the medical records of their ancestor. At the end of Bill Oddie's programme he said, 'I wish I knew then what I know now because I could have made a difference'.

This changed the way the programme was made and in Series Two it became much more about what the celebrities wanted to find out, and that often led to a very emotional encounter. Jeremy Paxman thought he knew everything about himself and his family, being well-educated and from an affluent background. Then he found out about his great-grandmother in Scotland who brought up nine children on an army widow's pension, until neighbours informed the pension board that at least two children had been born after her husband's death. The pension was taken away and she had to move to one of the poorest tenements in Glasgow. The children were split up, some sent to Canada, and Jeremy's grandfather was moved to England where did well and was able to put Jeremy's father through a good education. The programme took Jeremy back to a similar tenement in today's Glasgow and he was overwhelmed by what poverty meant and all his privileged background fell away. It also demonstrated the reality of poverty and it changed his view of what

is happening today.

Tracing your family history is not just about searching as far back as possible, it is actually about telling our own stories and connecting the past with present and future generations. Digital technology is changing the world around us and the way we communicate. Very few people send hand-written letters and we no longer produce the tactile documents that our ancestors communicated with in the past, which are so cherished by family historians today. We need to make sure that we do write down our stories because they matter. We have living history all around us and we need to keep an archive of what is happening today. It is important that we tell and share our stories.

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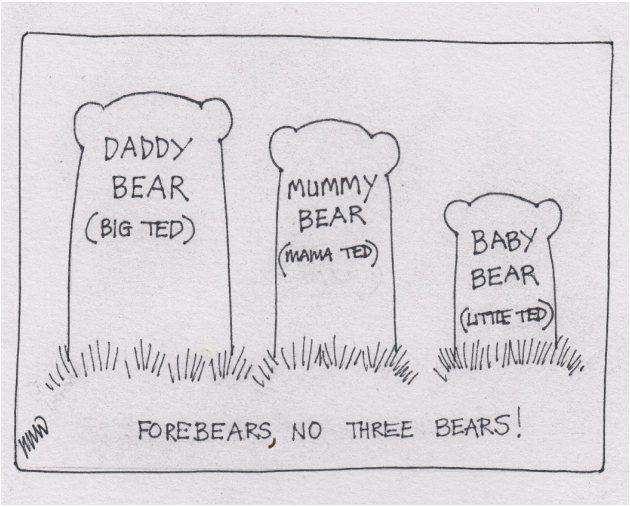
Cartoon By: Helen Warren.



Surname	Location	Period	Member
DEACON	EAST SUSSEX	PRE 1750	293
BURT	THANET KENT	PRE 1850	293
TUCKNOTT	EAST SUSSEX	ANY	293
WHITE	HARTING WEST SUSSEX	PRE 1880	293
WHITE	BURITON / PETERSFIELD HAMPSHIRE	PRE 1880	293
LINTOTT	CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY	PRE 1880	293
GREENWOOD	NOTTINGHAM	ANY	1561
KELLY	CO WICKLOW	ANY	1561
PULFORD	EAST SUSSEX	1916 TO 1919	1561
PULSFORD	LINCOLNSHIRE	ANY	1561
SMITH	NOTTINGHAM	ANY	1561
HAYLER	BURWASH, ETCHINGHAM	1800 – 1900	1538
WHITE	STONEGATE, RYE	1800 – 1900	1538
BOND	EAST DEAN	1800 – 1900	1538
WHITE	BURWASH, ETCHINGHAM	1800 - 1900	1538
SIMPSON	HAMPSHIRE	ANY	1017/1327
BALL	LONDON	1800 – 1900	1017/1327
BROWN	LONDON	1800 – 1900	1017/1327
LARKMAN	NORFOLK	ANY	1017/1327
DURRANT	LONDON, SUSSEX	1700 – 1900	1017/1327
PRESS	LONDON	ANY	1017/1327
BOTT ROBERT T	BIRMINGHAM	C1830	234
HEARN	ANY AREA	ANY	1563
NOCK	SHROPSHIRE	1850 ONWARD	1563
ROWLANDS	BANGOR WALES	1700 ONWARD	1563
POWELL	CLUN KNIGHTON WALES	ANY	1563
WINTER	SUSSEX	1790 ONWARD	808
COOK	SUSSEX	1790 ONWARD	808
FUNNELL	CHIDDINGLY	ANY	1438
LISHMAN	WESTMORLAND LANCASHIRE	ANY	737
COOPER	BOLTON LIVERPOOL	ANY	737
DUNN (DUN)	LANCASHIRE KINCARDINESHIRE N IRELAND	ANY	737
LAVENDER	SALEHURST	1790 – 1800	949
POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES	ANY AREA	ANY	808
TOBITT	SUSSEX	1790 ONWARD	808
WINTER	SUSSEX	1790 ONWARD	808
COOK	SUSSEX	1790 ONWARD	808

If you can help please get in touch for the contact details.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your committee is pleased to announce that Graham Upton has agreed to take up the position of Vice Chair. We are sure he will do a good job.

ODDS AND ENDS.

From the family history federation: Next GENeration conference, join online Saturday 5th October. Jointly hosted by the Family History Federation and the Society of Genealogists. A full day online event which spotlights genealogists under the age of 35 from around the world who will each present their unique research.

You have the option to pay what you can for this event.

More information at

https://members.sog.org.uk/events/66141a9f1fce380008a49ebe/description?ticket=66141a9f1fce380008a49ebf

MAP OF "DISTRICT"

Showing parishes for "Family Roots" local research.

Map reproduced by kind permission of East Sussex County Record Office.

Alciston * Alfriston * Arlington * Berwick * Bishopstone *Chalvington * Chiddingly * Dallington * East Blatchington *East Dean * East Hoathly * Eastbourne * Folkington *Friston * Glynde * Hailsham * Heathfield * Hellingly* Herstmonceux * Hooe * Jevington * Laughton * Litlington *Lullington * Ninfield * Pevensey * Ringmer *Ripe* Seaford*Selmeston* Warbleton * Wartling *Westdean * West Firle *Westham * Willingdon * Wilmington

FAMILY ROOTS PUBLICATIONS

The following titles are obtainable from:
"Family Roots" FHS, 24 Coombe Shaw, Ninfield, Battle. TN33 9LQ Tel: 01424-892749,
e-mail: mailbook@btinternet.com. Or from our website www.eastbournefhs.org.uk

BOOKS

The Fight against Smuggling……£ 4.50 + p&p
COASTGUARDS,INDEX IN THE EASTBOURNE AREA
From Parish Record Entries 1813/1841…… £2.75 + p&p
From records at Kew 1816-1919……£4.50 + p&p
Working on a 16 mile stretch of coast……£2.25 + p&p
Taken from the Census 1831—1891……£1.25 + p&p
Index to People on London/Brighton Railway 1851-1881……£2.25 + p&p

ROLLS OF HONOUR and WAR MEMORIALS

BATTLE, St. MARY THE VIRGIN Mis……£4.00 + p&p
EASTBOURNE ROLLS of HONOUR and WAR MEMORIALS……£2.75 + p&p
JEVINGTON CHURCH Mis……£2.50 +p&p
LEWES MEN ON BRONZE MEMORIAL 1914 1918…… £2.50 + p&p
WAR MEMORIALS IN HASTINGS…… £2.75 + p&p
WARTLING, St. MARY MAGDALENE Mis…… £2.75 + p&p

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

P & P rates will change each time the Royal Mail postage rates change.

CDs

Alciston Churchyard Memorial Inscriptions **NEW…**……£6.00 + p&p
Ascham School War Dead…… £5.00 + p&p
Bodle Street MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
Bodle Street Parish Registers …… £5.00 + p&p
Burial Register St. Mary's Eastbourne 1558 - 1843 …… £7.50 + p&p
Chiddingly MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
Cuckmere Benefice of Churches ……£10.00 + p&p
Eastbourne 1871 census…… £6.00 + p&p
Eastbourne Gazette BMDs Issue 5 Revised & Updated ……£10.00 + p&p
Eastbourne St Mary's Church MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
East Dean MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
Friston MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
Hailsham Cemetery MIs *updated Sept. 2019*…… £5.00 + p&p
Hailsham Tithe Awards …… £3.00 + p&p
Hailsham War Memorials…… £5.00 + p&p
Herstmonceux Parish Church MIs …… £5.00 + p&p
Herstmonceux Parish Registers……£5.00 + p&p
Jevington Church MIs…… £5.00 + p&p
Ocklynge Cemetery MIs…… £10.00 + p&p
Ocklynge Military MIs…… £5.00 + p&p
Pevensey Tithe Awards …… £3.00 + p&p
Pevensey, Westham and Willingdon Tithe Awards …… £5.00 + p&p
Ripe and Chalvington MIs……£5.00 + p&p
St Nicholas Pevensey Parish Registers **NEW**…… £6.00 + p&p
Westham Tithe Awards …… £3.00 + p&p
Willingdon MIs…… £5.00 + p&p
Willingdon Tithe Awards …… £3.00 + p&p
Zoar Baptist Chapel MIs…… £5.00 + p&p