

The Hampshire Family Historian

September 2013



*Celebrating our
40th year*

Volume 40 No.2

Class of Swanmore School, 1908

(see page 128)



Inside this Issue

Men (and women) of the cloth • Problems with on-line pedigrees • The postcard age

PLUS: Around the groups • Book Reviews • Your Letters • Members Interests • Research Room

Journal of the Hampshire Genealogical Society



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Deadline

Material for possible inclusion in the December 2013 Family Historian should be received strictly by **4th October**. All contributions are, however, appreciated as early as possible.

Disclaimer

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Submission of material

The editor welcomes articles, family trees (typed in black, A4 with 1" margins) letters, items, comments, and especially family photographs or illustrations to accompany them. Please enclose SAE for photo return. Items can be submitted by e-mail to editor@hgs-online.org.uk with your Surname and "New HFH Article" on the subject line or by post (letter or CD in Word format). The HGS reserve the right to reproduce submissions in publicity materials and on the society website.

Please, ALWAYS include a telephone contact — (it will not be printed if you clearly state this) and your membership number **PLUS full postal home address** - particularly when sending Emails.

Welcome...

We continue on towards our 40th anniversary, and this quarter include reminiscences from Joyce Baker, Daphne Slawson and Mike Smith (p 103), as it was 40 years ago (1973) when discussions began for the formation of the Society. Perhaps we may also hear from other original members before this anniversary year is over.

Meanwhile, bringing us up to date (2013), we have a few words from our new Chairman (p 79), and the very welcome news that The Way Forward project has already proved to be successful (p 154), showing a vast improvement in our situation from this time last year. It would appear undoubtedly that it was the "way forward" and the right thing to do.

This current journal contains three excellent articles contributed by members in France and Spain (pp 94, 120 and 132), revealing that we are a multinational society, albeit with ties to Hampshire, whether current or historical. This indeed strengthens our common links still further. No matter where you live, we would love to hear from you and welcome contributions from you.

However, when sending illustrations (photos, etc), please do not "embed" them in your article because such do not reproduce well and can often cause problems. We need photos, etc, to be sent separately and individually, preferably in JPG format, so that they can be added to the article at a convenient point.

Members' articles this time naturally include family histories and tales of relatives (pp 84, 94, 120, 132 and 153). There are also



discussions and information about clergy (p 94), online pedigrees (p 119), blacksmiths (p 120) and postcards (p 132). My thanks go to their authors.

We finalise the feature on censuses (p 86) by bringing the history up to date and querying the future of this useful decennial capitation, which had been in existence in this country since 1801. Our subject for "Historical Hogs" is that brilliant engineer and innovator Isambard Kingdom Brunel (p 114).

We also continue with the regular features, and I give my hearty thanks to those who have continuously contributed to the following excellent series – Lesley Bull (Searchers), Pam Thacker (who has now stood down from Members' Interests) and David Rymill (news from Hampshire Record Office), while not forgetting the individual group reporters, as well, and Clive Roberts the designer.

Ken Smallbone
Editor

From the Chairman...

A few months have passed (all too quickly) since our AGM in May, and I've felt a few words from me would be appropriate.

Ken Smallbone has been a successful editor of our journal for some years, and he also took on the role of Chairman for the year 2012/13. The role of both Editor and Chairman was a heavy load for one person, and the consequences of that one person being unable to carry out those roles could have created a problem for the Society. Therefore, it had caused some concern.

I was asked to stand as Chairman, and, in view of Ken's workload and the concerns raised, I accepted the nomination. We wanted to retain Ken as our Editor and, fortunately, he continues in the post, doing an excellent job producing the Hampshire Family Historian. I would like to thank Ken for the hard work he has put in over the past year, somehow juggling the two roles of Editor and Chairman. It has been an extremely busy year for the Society with the advent of our new website and the changes that have accompanied it. There have been varying degrees of acceptance for the website, but it was evident

that we had to make changes to keep up with the 21st century. Some of us were perhaps a little naïve expecting an all-singing, all-dancing website at the launch in February. Since that time the site continues to evolve into a very good platform for the Society. New members can easily join online; researchers can purchase our products with a much easier system of payment through PayPal; enquiries can be dealt with by the Research Centre fairly quickly and easily.

As ever, we are always hoping that new volunteers will come along to help those members that already do so much to help this Society. Anyone with a little time to spare would be welcome to join us - a sense of humour and good computer skills would be useful - so please ring us at the Administrative Centre in Cosham or come and visit us there to see what is involved and how you could assist.

Our Open Day will be held at Horndean on Sunday 29 September. I hope as many of you as possible will support the day, either as a visitor or volunteer. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dolina Clarke, Chairman

HGS VACANCIES

**Publicity Officer; Assistants for Research Room, Office and Bookstall;
Volunteers for Website (technical or proofreading/editing/articles)**

For more information and all the latest news visit
www.hgs-online.org.uk

Searchers

Compiled by **Lesley Bull**

If you would like your request to be included in this section, please submit a **brief, but specific**, email or letter of enquiry or send a 'Word' based article with relevant names (and particularly your own name and address) detailed in **BLOCK CAPITALS** to Mrs L. Bull, 'Wychwynd', Cove Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 2RT.

Kindly **always advise a telephone number** for any possible contact, and unless you state clearly that you object, any e-mail or telephone number given will be printed. Please be patient as acknowledgement or

reply will not be made except through this journal. Photographs and illustrations are gladly accepted: - (300 dpi resolution jpegs by email attachment or on CD are welcome) or laser colour photocopies (never ordinary ones) or black and white original pictures. All can be returned if you request it and supply an SAE. If sending original photographs through the post, please use a protective board envelope. **EMAIL:** searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk and please **always** quote a **full postal address** for those without computers. If this is not done, your request may well be disregarded.

Abbreviations used: **b** = born, **bap** = baptised, **bd** = buried, **c.** = circa, **C** = Century, **d.** = died, **mrd** = married.

Members are reminded that these pages are compiled from letters etc. that may have been written months beforehand, so postal addresses should always be checked for up to date changes.

ARMSTRONG line

Keith Armstrong, 20 Homewaters Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx. TW16 6NS. Email: keithanddulcie@btinternet.com (Member 5927)

In HGS Vol 36 No2 September 2009 an article on HMS Royal Oak was written by Tony Knight, the then Editor.

He mentioned George Henry **ARMSTRONG** as being lost when this ship was sunk and being a member of his extended family. I am "tidying" my office at the moment and found this edition. My ancestry goes back to James Armstrong and Linne **LITTLEWORTH** married

by Rev. George **AUSTEN**, Jane's father, in 1772. Their son John was a mariner at Portsmouth according to the records. As James was married at age 35 I think it possible that he might have been a mariner before he arrived in Old Basing. The marriage record says he was 'of Old Basing' when they married. I cannot remember if I wrote to Tony at the time but I would be interested to find

out whether he can trace back to my line at any point through his records for George Henry.

Kay Westall of Crowthorne, whom I was in contact with until she died, a Pat Bowden and the Armstrong Building Company in Sherborne

St.John all go back to Charles Armstrong, first son of James and Linne who married Sarah **BEEMS**. My ancestor James was a later son of James and Linne Armstrong. Where James came from before arriving in Old Basing I have yet to find out. Any help would be appreciated.

Can you identify the bridesmaid?

Gerry Farrell, 37 Rannoch Road, Filton Park, Bristol BS& OSA Telephone number 0117 9696 425 (Member 9016)



This is a photograph of the marriage between Henry James **FARRELL** and Frances Honora **SHAWYER** taken on 16th January 1932 at Exton, Hampshire.

I am trying to find out the name of the bridesmaid standing on the left of the bride and hope someone will recognise her.

In addition, I believe there is a house named 'Vernon' on the Warnford Road between Corhampton and Exton. I would like to know when the house was built and by whom, and the names of previous owners, if possible up to the present day.

James SMITH: Builder of Cowplain

M Smith, 6 West Close,
Verwood BH31 6PS
Tel: 01202 822173
Email: smith20@xln.co.uk

I am looking for any information concerning James SMITH born about 1858/9, who lived in Jubilee Rd, Cowplain in 1920. He was then a coalman/carrier. He became a builder, responsible, we believe, for the building of a chapel in Cowplain (now a hairdresser's salon), the forerunner to Cowplain Evangelical

Church. Where he went after this we don't know but think he died around 1950/52 and may be buried in the Portsmouth region. In the 1950s he owned cottages in Victoria Rd. The 1911 census gives the family's details. If you can throw any light on him we will be very grateful

FinderS

Finders searching for keepers

Occasionally, members have in their possession items that have no connection to their own family history, but might be of interest to another researcher. 'Finders

Searching for Keepers' is part of the 'Searchers' section, so please send in material for inclusion in the same way, as per the instructions on the 'Searchers' title page.

Unwanted certificates: RODGERS and MILLARD

Allan Rogers, 2, Nursery Close, Densole,
Folkestone, Kent CT18 7DT.
Email: ar251049@gmail.com Tel:
01303 891542. (Member 10587)

Whilst researching my family tree, over quite a number of years, I have accumulated five registration certificates that do not relate to my family, although mainly the same surname,

There are three birth certificates:-

1854 Stephen **RODGERS** of Singleton,
Westhampnett, West Sussex.

1866 Stephen Rogers of Ledbury, Hereford &
Worcester

1858 Stephen Rogers of Donhead, Tisbury,
Wiltshire.

There are two marriage certificates:-

1845 John **ANNELLS** to Eliza **MILLARD** of
Portsea Island Union, Wesley Chapel,
Southampton

1885 Stephen Rogers to Mary Kate **GRAY** of
Semley, Wiltshire.

I will happily donate them to members whose
family they belong to. They are copies NOT the
originals.

Meet the ancestors

We are pleased to be able to confirm arrangements for the final public event for the Tudor Revels Project.

The two-year programme to raise the profile of Southampton's Tudor history and heritage, and to widen the knowledge of Southampton's extensive surviving archive records, will culminate on **28 September 2013** between 11 am and 4.30 pm, in a celebration called "**Meet The Ancestors**". At the heart of the Revels project was the creation of a database that would record all known people living in Southampton between 1485 and 1603. We will be telling a few of their stories. On the day there will be walks, talks, demonstrations and the launch of our book on the Tudor Town - Tudor Southampton: Rioters, Revellers & Reformers.

Many of the events will take place at God's House Tower. This historic building was for many years the town's archaeological museum, but closed two years ago. There is an imaginative new project to bring the Tower back into use as a centre for History and Art. As our project comes to a close we can pass the torch onward, and some of the research we have gathered will feed into the proposals for the new exhibition.

We are planning talks in the Education Room,

living history in the Long Gallery, 'Meet the Author' sessions in the Crawford Room, special access to the viewing tower, as well as the chance to meet characters from Southampton's past. We will also be showcasing other projects such as the Hampshire Immigrants research and database, a session on conservation by the University, welcoming back our friends from the Mary Rose who will have lots to say about the new museum, a chance to meet the author of a new book on Anne Boleyn and much more. Our Friends at St Michael will be putting on a Michaelmas Fayre in St Michael's Square. We want to make "Meet the Ancestors" our most successful event yet. We would like to thank Southampton City Council for allowing us access to God's House Tower. We hope to call on volunteers to help distribute leaflets and to give God's House a spring clean before the event. In September we are planning some Heritage Interpreters sessions for those who want to help out on the day. So please let us know if you are interested in helping in any way.

Check out the website and database on www.tudorrevels.co.uk or email us at info@tudorrevels.co.uk

The Revels Working Group, Southampton

Membership renewal

If your subscription is due for renewal please see "Renewal Instructions" on the inside back cover

Sudden death of a volunteer sergeant

Looking through the old *Southampton Times* of 1889, I found an article (see below) on my great-uncle Thomas Albion WHITE, a carpenter and joiner (shipwright). One of nine children, he lived at 9 Westgate Street, Southampton (now No. 10).

Although classed in the poorest part of the town, he did seem to do well for himself. He and his father built pews for his church (St Joseph's RC in Bugle Street), where the priest-in-charge was Canon Mount. The church was in need of renovating and the deposed General Juan de Rosa, former dictator of Argentina, living in Burgess Road, put up the money - £400. The work was unsatisfactory, so the General would not do any more for the church.

Yet, the Canon, General and my great-uncle were all buried close to each other in the Southampton Common Cemetery! With such a big funeral, was my great-uncle important? Surely, someone must have had some knowledge of this funeral? An early photo of the grave is enclosed.

From the *Southampton Times*, 1889

"WHITE.

– Aug. 6, at 9, Westgate-street, Southampton, Thomas Albion White, aged 40."



"SUDDEN DEATH OF A VOLUNTEER SERGEANT. – MILITARY FUNERAL – Thomas White, a shipwright, died suddenly at his home in Westgate-street on Monday evening. Deceased was a sergeant in the 2nd Hants Volunteers, and he was cleaning his accoutrements in order to join the camp in the Forest on the following day, when he was suddenly taken ill and died before medical aid could be procured. The funeral of the deceased took place on Thursday, and in consideration of the fact that he was one of the senior sergeants of the regiment he was

buried with military honours. The cortege left the house in the following order :- First came the firing party, marching with rifles reversed ; then followed the band of the regiment, conducted by Bandmaster Wilson, which played alternately on the route "The Dead March in Saul" and "Oh ! come all ye faithful". The coffin, over which was thrown the Union Jack, was placed on a gun carriage, and was covered with wreaths from friends and relatives, one being from the Volunteer sergeants' mess. Upon the coffin were also placed the helmet and sword which had been worn by the deceased. The gun carriage was brought from Netley. It was drawn by a pair of horses driven by an Army Service Corps man. There were also two mourning coaches, followed by a number of non-commissioned officers and Volunteers belonging to the 2nd Hants Battalion, with other friends of the deceased. The funeral service was conducted

according to the Roman Catholic rites by the Rev. Father Kavanagh, of St. Joseph's, and afterwards the firing party, under the command of Sergeant-Instructor Warner, fired three volleys over the grave of their deceased comrade, in the presence of a large number of spectators. The flag which was placed on the coffin was lent by Mr Wolff. The undertaker was Mr. J. Beeston, St. Mary's-street, and all the arrangements were efficiently carried out." **"NEWTOWN WORKING MEN'S LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB –** At the weekly committee meeting of this club, it was unanimously decided to send a vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. Thomas White, who was a most energetic member of the club."

Arthur Sainsbury (Member # 12542)
11 St James Road, West End, Southampton
SO30 3FX 02380 473410
E-mail sanda.11@hotmail.com



Guild of One-Name Studies Colonial Records Seminar

The National Archives (TNA), Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU
09:30 for 10:00 am until 5:10 pm **Saturday 16th November 2013**

It's time to visit The National Archives again.

The subject is Colonial Records focusing more on civilian matters from Africa, North America, the Caribbean and India. We have two TNA specialists plus two Guild-selected experts speaking who should make the day both enjoyable and informative.

The seminar costs £18, including coffee/tea. Cheques made payable to "Guild of One Name Studies".

Send to: Alan Moorhouse, [Seminar Bookings], 8 Strachans Close, STROUD GL5 3EB.

Further information from seminar-booking@one-name.org or
the Guild Help Desk Tel: 0800 011 2182



Census – Part 4, 1911-2011

For the family historian the 1911 Census had proved to be a refreshing departure from the normal formulae of the Victorian censuses. For the first time the original householders' schedules were retained, and not destroyed, thus allowing us to see the handwriting and signatures of the informants, many of whom were our own ancestors.

This census took place on the night of 2/3 April 1911, and contained millions more records than the previous one. In line with the 1901 Census it recorded name, relationship to the head of the household, age, marital condition, occupation, place of birth, and infirmity (whether deaf, dumb, blind, lunatic, imbecile, or feeble-minded). Nationality was now noted for the first time. Occupational information could be expanded by giving details of the industry in which the person worked.

More importantly, though, were the additional questions - asked only of married women - concerning the duration of the current marriage and the number of children born within that marriage (and separately counting those still living and those who had died). These questions were intended to shed light on why the birth-rate had been falling since the 1870s.

As well as being the first census in which the original forms were kept, and also giving us valuable information on marriage and children, it also recorded full details of British Army personnel serving abroad. Furthermore - although obviously not known at the time - it was invaluable for almost immediately preceding the catastrophic Great War that sent so many young men to their early deaths, hence ironically becoming the last piece of vital information on those unwilling martyrs.

Failure to complete the census schedule was an offence, liable to a fine not exceeding £5. The 1911 Census contains 35,000 volumes detailing information on 36,000,000 people in England and Wales (an increase in population of 10.9% since 1901). There are also a further 38,000 volumes of enumerators' summary books. Although they hold useful and unique information, they do not provide the level of personal details to be found in the census householders' schedules (Because of the policy of retaining the schedules, the copying of full data into the CEBs was no longer required). Unfortunately, about 5% of the volumes had sustained some water damage, from which the information is not retrievable. Happily, Hampshire was not among them.

The 1921 Census for England, Scotland and Wales had been planned to take place on 24 April 1921, but was delayed because of the Black Friday Strike by coal miners, railwaymen and transport workers. It eventually took place on the evening of 19/20 June that year, and was the first census to provide for separate confidential returns to be made by individuals within a household, if they so desired. On this occasion a couple of questions from the previous census were dropped: (a) The number of children - the results from the 1911 Census had not yet been tabulated; (b) blindness, deafness and dumbness - parents had objected to these questions, making the previous census unreliable in such cases. Yet, there were additional questions: (a) Whether a marriage had been dissolved by divorce; (b) where each person worked and the industry in which they worked, including the employer's name; (c) the ages and numbers of children under 16; (d) full- or part-time education.

There was no 1921 Census for Ireland, due to



The image shows three pages of historical census forms. The top page is titled 'INSTRUCTIONS' and contains detailed text for enumerators. The middle page is titled 'SCHEDULE' and is a form for recording household information, including names, relationships, and occupations. The bottom page is titled 'INSTRUCTIONS' and contains further details for the census taker. The forms are printed on aged paper with a decorative border.

civil war at the time. The next census both for the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland was taken on the night of 18/19 April 1926. The police were used as enumerators in Northern Ireland. The 1931 Census took place in England, Wales and Scotland on the evening of 26/27 April 1931 - no census took place in Northern Ireland that year. A question on the usual place of residence was introduced. Because of the high levels of unemployment in recent years, there were questions about the previous occupations and industries of those out of work for some time, with no prospect of similar employment in the future. Yet, questions on education, dependency, orphanhood, houses being built and places of work were now omitted. As the 1920 Census Act had also provided for the possibility of a census every five years instead of ten, these questions could potentially be re-introduced in a 1936 Census (which never happened).

On the night of 19 December 1942 there was a fire at a store in Hayes, Middlesex. The store, the responsibility of the Office of Works, contained a large amount of furniture, but, in addition, it held the census records for England and Wales for 1931 - that is, all the schedules, enumeration books and plans. They were completely destroyed. Because of war, there was no 1941 Census. Instead, the 1939 National Register, on 29 September 1939 - which can only give very limited population information - will naturally take its place as a quasi-census for family history researchers. Thus, the 1951 Census, which took place on 8 April 1951, will understandably become more significant for tracking changes in society over the thirty-year period of lost census material between June 1921 and April 1951. It was the first census to ask questions about household amenities (including toilets) as Britain began to clear slums following the Second

World War. Questions about fertility and the duration of marriages were reinstated, making this an important feature once again for future family historians. The fertility question was asked of all married women aged under 50.

The 1961 Census took place on 23 April 1961, and a computer was used for the first time to process the data (it took 5.5 years to produce a full set of statistics). This was the only census to use a long and short form. Every household received a short form, while every tenth household received a much longer form to complete. Additional questions concerned whether the building was wholly or partially residential and if it contained more than one dwelling. The fertility question was now asked of all women who were, or had been, married. Other questions involved qualifications, migration and household tenure.

The 1966 Census took place on 24 April 1966. This was trial form of census, and additional questions asked about car ownership and method of travel to work. This was the only census that breached the normal ten-year period in England and Wales, having been permitted under the 1920 Census Act.

The 1971 Census took place on 25 April 1971. Ordnance Survey maps were used for locating households in this census for the first time, and National Grid references were given for each household.

The 1981 Census took place on 5 April 1981. A follow-up coverage survey was carried out to improve accuracy by estimating the number and type of households that were not included in the original count. This was the forerunner of today's Census Coverage Survey (CCS), an independent survey used for similar analyses. The 1991 Census took place on 21 April 1991. The results revealed that 90% of the

population lived in urban areas (16% in 1831). The average household contained 2.4 persons (4.6 in 1901). 98% of the population filled in their forms. This census introduced questions on ethnic groups, long-term limiting illnesses, central heating and term-time addresses of students.

The 2001 Census took place on 29 April 2001. A voluntary question on religion was included for the first time (7.7% of the people left this question blank). Other new questions involved the size of the workforce and supervisor status. The population of England and Wales had now risen to just over 52,000,000 (under 9,000,000 in 1801). Images of the forms were stored securely on 15,000 reels of microfilm. For the first time since 1841 paper records were destroyed, and the paper recycled.

The 2011 Census took place on 27 March 2011. This census could alternatively be completed online. Several identity and status options were introduced, including those relating to national identity and to civil partnership. Migrants were asked their date of arrival in the country, for how long they intended to stay, and which passport they held. A rehearsal census had been conducted on 11 October 2009.

The future of the census. The 2011 Census could mark the end of an era. Radical changes to the system may be in the pipeline. A consultation document was produced, listing six options for the future - only one of which would involve the continuation of the census as we know it, yet internet-based. Among other options is a rolling census, where 10% of the population is surveyed each year (as in France).

Although some genealogical representatives will be included in the process, it will probably matter very little in the greater scheme of

things. By the time that the 2011 Census becomes public, under current legislation, genealogical research would have evolved well beyond our recognition today. Technology has already advanced at a breakneck speed in recent decades, and we could never imagine the situation in a hundred years' time. We are standing here in the present, attempting to determine the requirements of our descendants and others who will be living in a completely different world from the one we know. We need only compare our lives in 2013 with those of our ancestors in 1913 - nobody in 1913 could ever have imagined how we live today.

So, does it really make sense that we - as family historians - should become involved in discussions about how the future census, or whatever may replace it, will be formed? From the outset, the census was constructed to aid governmental planning - and that is how it should remain. For us, our only real interest in a census will lie in when it becomes available for public investigation. Any information that comes forth from it will be invaluable to us.

So, it is the 100-year closure rule that we need to deal with. The main argument against relaxing this rule is that a person recorded on a census could still be alive when it is released. Yet, according to popular belief, we are supposedly living longer now. So, then there must equally be a need to extend the 100-year closure rule, possibly to 120 years. I doubt that such an idea will be popular among family historians. But, you never know, in 100 years' time there will probably be no reason at all for having to await the opening of a census to the public. By that time our descendants could all have their complete ancestry at their fingertips. As we've already advanced this far in relatively few years then the situation in 2111 will be wholly beyond our imaginations. So, why worry about it?

Ken Smallbone (Editor)

Sources include:

<http://www.1911census.org.uk> ;
<http://www.british-genealogy.com> ;
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/> ;
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/> . Peter Calver,
Lost Cousins (1 June 2013)
www.lostcousins.com

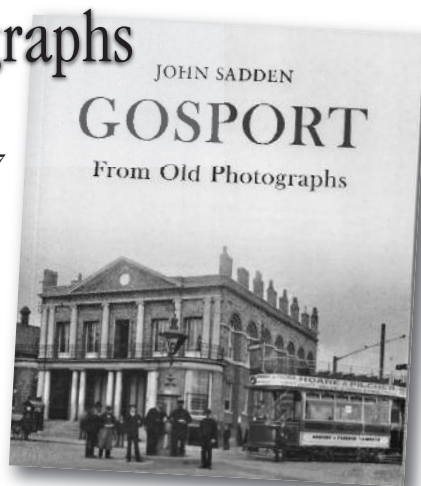
Some of the surnames featured in this issue

ANNELLS	BLUNDEN	GRAY	LITTLEWORTH	SHAWYER
ARMSTRONG	BOOKEMASTER	HALL	MACDONALD	SMITH
AUSTEN	BROADLEY	HEDGES	MILLARD	SMITHER
BANTING	BURBANK	HOLFORD	MORSE	STEVENS
BARTLETT	CAWTE	HUMBY	POPE	TWYNAM
BECKFORD	CHAMBERS	HURDLE	PROUDFOOT	VAN RIXTEL
BEEMS	ELKINS	INSTONE	YEOMANS	WHITE
BENBOW	FARRELL	JARVIS	ROGERS	WHITE
BERNARD	FIELDER	JONES	RUSSELL	YEOMANS
BINNEY	FIGES	KERVILL	SCORER	

Gosport in Old Photographs

John Sadden

Amberley Publishing, ISBN 978-2-84868-147-7
Paperback, 128 pages. Price £12.99



For those of us who remember Gosport from years ago, this book comes as a real delight, for it evokes and renews memories of times past.

Containing over 200 photographs and scenes from old postcards, this excellent book is divided into chapters covering the areas of Gosport and aspects of daily life. The chapters range from 'Beside the sea', 'School and church', 'leisure and pleasure', to 'working life', etc. Also not to be forgotten is 'In Defence of the Realm'. Gosport was, and remains, one of the principal areas for HM Forces, having been home to army barracks, Royal Naval Training Establishments (including the 'nursery of the Navy', HMS St Vincent), as well as Royal Naval Air Stations and, of course, the very highly regarded Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, now sadly closed. The book opens with a photo of Gosport Ferry, used by thousands over the years to commute to Portsmouth and HM Dockyard. We are treated to pictures of the surrounding coast: Stokes Bay with a Fleet Review, Stoke Bay and Lee-on-Solent Piers, along with Lee Tower - all now long gone. There is also a picture of Lee Swimming Pool - for those of you who remember it (perhaps you had your school swimming lessons there), you will know that it was outside, unheated and always freezing cold! The Gosport Lido also pictured, but now gone, was much more fun on a sunny summer afternoon.

Gosport High Street is well represented, as are the other shopping areas, with pictures of Stoke Road and Forton Road. Shops have changed ownership, of course, and some of the buildings shown are no longer there. Transport is featured - the railway stations,

the floating bridge and an early traffic jam (something that has continued over the years on the A32 from Gosport to Fareham). People are well represented with pictures of schoolchildren and church outings. Some are shown enjoying carnivals, outings, pageants, sailing model boats, fancy dress parades, flower shows and blackberry picking at Rowner. There are pictures of Gosport War Memorial Hospital and the Children's Home at Alverstoke. Familiar names of Gosport residents abound: Chapman's Laundry, Priddy's Hard, Camper and Nicholson, Ultra, Blake's Maternity Home.

HM Forces have a chapter to themselves, with many photos of personnel at work and play. The final chapter focuses on famous people associated with Gosport - Thomas Lipton of Lipton's Tea fame and Thomas Mumby, remembered in the road named after him, are among the list with photos and pictures.

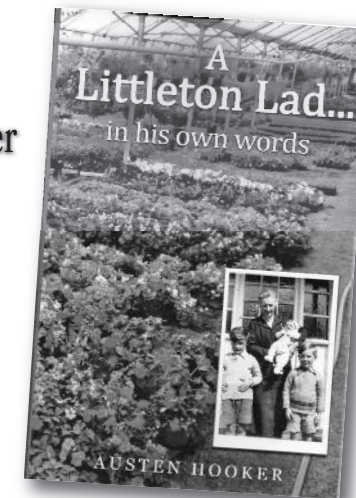
This is a truly evocative book, with so much that will be familiar. It comes well recommended to anyone who has Gosport in their past, either personally or with an ancestor who lived there, or even service men or women stationed in the area.

Review by Chris Pavey

A Littleton Lad

— in his own words by Austen Hooker

Published by Austin & Macauley
214 pages. £10.99
mail@austinmacauley.com 0207 038 8212



I knew the author and his wife, Connie, when I was growing up in the 1950s. I played cricket with Austen, attended every Gilbert & Sullivan production they starred in with the Winchester Operatic Society and, of course, Hooker's Nursery was already a local name of repute.

Although Austen's many achievements as community leader, plants man, performer and, latterly, BBC-TV South personality, impress the reader, each line is quietly written - understated even - with a touch of self-deprecation. It awakens old memories and chronicles how Austen and his elder brother, John, learnt on the job, not at college (apart from a short stint at night school), to pick up some tips for expansion of the business. With the benefit of two retail outlets - in Parchment Street and Fullflood - and hard, but enjoyable, work, Hookers was a fitting enterprise for its time. The book is rife with amusing anecdotes and, for the local genealogist, includes a host of people's names and what they were doing in the city and surrounding villages.

Austen describes his childhood at a time that now seems worlds away and, as he progresses, reminds us of the revolution that has taken place in the last 70 or 80 years. He shows that the contrast between then and now is probably greater than for any other similar span, not least in social behaviour. He charts the differences, but does not condemn. The work also underlines the importance of a diary account that every would-be genealogist should appreciate. It seems to urge those of us who have not done so to start committing

our personal memories and observations to paper - for the sake of our descendants. Accuracy is important: I don't think I am alone in distrusting the way censuses are being completed and paper records transcribed onto the computer. But style, sophistication of prose and spelling, even, are not something to worry about. And it really does not matter if the writer is subjective, since this sort of colour illustrates frame of mind and the personality of a diarist.

Austen's life story is one to envy, but for all that he has never gone abroad. There is the wealth of a close and loving family, the bliss of a healthy open-air environment in rural Hampshire and the social panoply offered by nearby historic Winchester. With obvious affection Austen describes how he and his brothers, John and Richard - and sister Anne - valued their parents and grandparents, learned from them how to make the most out of what they had, and enjoyed the simple but rich pleasures of life. Indeed, the account is a testimony to the saying that what you put into life you will redeem in spades. For any Wintonian born since the late 1920s, this memoir is a must and worth every penny.

Review by Anthony Paice

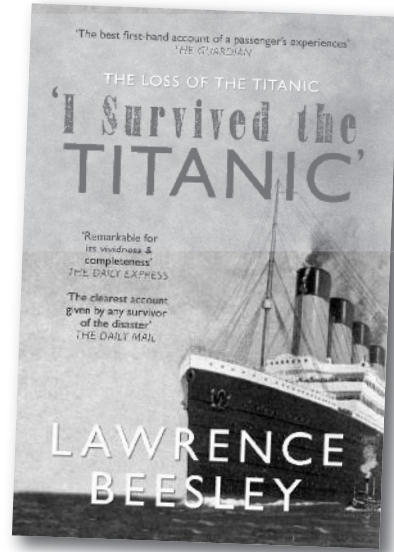
The loss of the Titanic: 'I survived the Titanic'

Lawrence Beesley

Republished by Amberley Publishing, 2013
ISBN 978 1 4456 1383 3 Price £9.99

Last year's centenary commemoration of the Titanic disaster saw two new museums opened (in Southampton and Belfast) and a shoal of publications, including the re-issue of this classic account of the voyage by a survivor.

Lawrence Beesley was a schoolteacher in his thirties on his way to meet his brother in Toronto. He was a second-class passenger and was one of the fortunate ones who got on board a lifeboat, and was rescued by the Carpathia. He started to write this book on board that vessel, completed it within weeks, and it was published in 1912. He was an alert and keen observer, and gathered eyewitness accounts from fellow survivors. It is a thoughtful and balanced narrative that avoids the sensational. There is anger about the mistakes he describes as contributing to the sinking and loss of life, but his tone is always restrained and rational. He is particularly interesting when he describes the atmosphere surrounding the abandonment of the ship:-
".... the principal fact that stands out is the almost entire absence of any expressions of fear or alarm on the part of passengers"



His detailed account of the collision with the iceberg (almost imperceptible in his cabin) and of the following events is graphic and still holds the attention today. He was not right in every particular, but undoubtedly his is a convincing story.

This edition is enhanced by a generous selection of illustrations, mainly related to the ship but including some of the author. It also includes a very useful preface, written in 2011 by Beesley's grandson, which fleshes out the portrait of the man himself, who comes across as a fascinating, if unconventional, individual. All in all, a book well worth reading!

Review by Charles Kaye

Have your Query published in the journal?

Send to searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk

Aldershot – Through Time

Paul Vickers

ISBN 978-1-4456-1026-9
Paperback, about 180 illustrations, 96 pages.
£14.99

Aldershot is famous as the 'Home of the British Army' and the early character of the town was formed by the choice of the Army to make Aldershot Heath the site of its first permanent training camp.

Before 1853 Aldershot was a small rural village of around 870 people, but this underwent a dramatic change when some 15,000 soldiers arrived. To meet the needs of the troops, a new town centre grew up about a mile to the west of the original village. Constructed within a relatively short period, the new town was a perfect example of Victorian design, architecture and business.

In the 21st century Aldershot sees more change, such as the new Westgate Centre and the Aldershot Urban Extension, which will build thousands of new homes on land previously used for barracks across South Camp. Despite these developments much of the town's Victorian heart remains, giving Aldershot its special character.

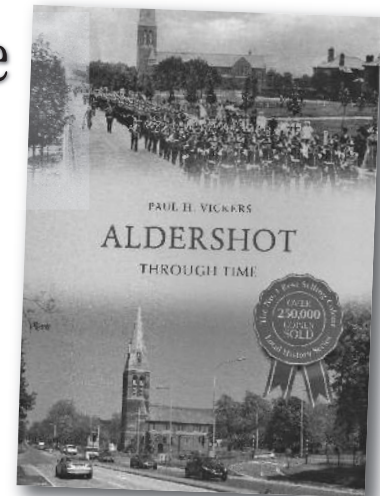
By comparing many fascinating old photographs with their modern equivalents, this book shows not only some of the huge changes that have occurred in military and civilian Aldershot since the early days, but also how much of its rich history can still be seen and enjoyed.

This is a really interesting book that practically relates the history of Aldershot, from its earliest known photographs in 1870 and right up to the present day. For example, on p 10, we view "North Camp Huts. From 1854 the Army established two camps north and south of the Basingstoke Canal. All North Camp and most of South Camp consisted of

wooden huts. The old photograph dates from 1883 and shows a typical battalion hutment; the larger building with the wagon outside is the canteen. In this area today are some of the most recent accommodation blocks; those in the photograph are for the new sergeants' mess". We are shown the 1883 photo and a very recent one – nothing looks the same. As we progress through the book, the old and new photos on each page can show major changes, yet surprisingly, there are still a few cases where there have hardly been visible alterations, particularly in the centre of the town, save for parked motor cars. Elsewhere, we can see changes, but with certain characteristics being retained.

The changes cannot be surprising. As Mr Vickers states, "Today the Army is still an important presence, with around 4,800 personnel in the garrison, but the town has diversified to find new sources of prosperity and attract new residents ..." Thus, this book is an essential pictorial document that reveals the changing character of the town over the years as more and more former military buildings are being turned into civilian establishments, and the town is now expanding at the cost of the military, hence reversing the situation of the past 160 years.

Review by the Editor



Men (and women) of the cloth:

Clergymen and cloth merchants have to be reckoned amongst the more affluent of ancestors - and, even among the array of farm servants and agricultural labourers, there are bound to be, in many families, a few from the higher echelons of society, cited within the accompanying quantity of documents. Bound to be - that is, provided one digs far enough into the past, for the Burbanks, who were one of my ancestral families, arrived in Hampshire in the sixteenth century. I, like everyone else, have 8,000 ancestors from that time, and of these, there has to be at least a handful boasting a somewhat superior social status.

Thomas **BURBANK** (c1540-1611), an ordained priest, arrived in Sherborne St John, near Basingstoke, as a curate in 1564. The Burbanks were a prestigious Cumberland family, breeding lawyers and clergymen, two of the few professions that required the abilities to read and write. The most famous Burbank - probably related to Thomas - was William, secretary to Cardinal Wolsey. Thomas Burbank managed to acquire two simultaneous livings in Hampshire, at Sherborne St John from 1564 as perpetual vicar and rector, and in King's Somborne from 1573 as vicar. He held both until his death in 1611. He was the ancestor of all the Burbanks traced in Hampshire up to 1820, with the exception of a couple of Southampton register entries, which may or may not belong. The surname disappeared from the county at that point.

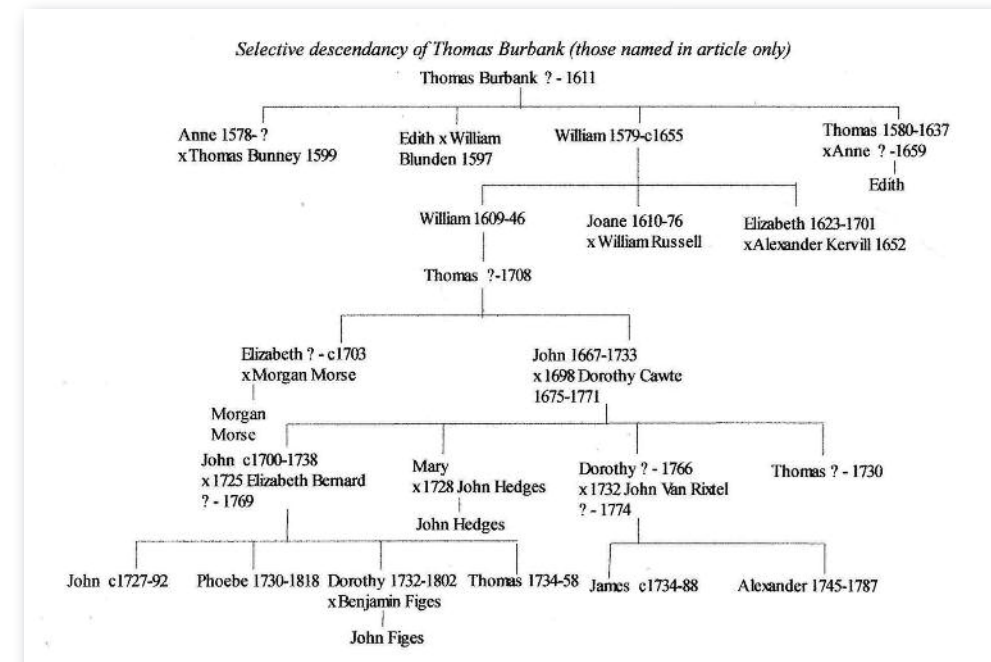
Thomas anchored the family firmly within the local yeomanry. His eldest son, William (1579-c1655), inherited the already substantial land

holdings, and two of Thomas's daughters, Edith and Anne, married men of yeoman status, William **BLUNDEN** and Thomas **BINNEY**, respectively. William's own daughters continued the tradition, Joane marrying William **RUSSELL** of King's Somborne, and Elizabeth marrying Alexander **KERVILL**, a prosperous yeoman, son of a rich clothier and wool dealer of East Wellow. It is from the latter that our Moodys are descended.

Thomas (1580-1637), the rector's second son, took the family into a new direction, establishing himself as a clothier with two looms in Basingstoke. There is a touching provision for his daughter Edith in his will. After the death of Thomas's wife Anne, Edith was to have the use and benefit for life of a room with a chimney in their house, together with another room for a buttery and a convenient back entrance.

The cloth business seems to have prospered, for Thomas's great-nephew, Thomas of Romsey, grandson of William the yeoman, was a prominent local cloth merchant. In 1699 he was signatory to a petition calling for changes to the Wool Bill before Parliament, as was his kinsman Walter Kervill, likewise a clothier/cloth weaver in Romsey. Like many other merchants, Thomas Burbank was a nonconformist, and a famous preacher, Thomas Warren, was probably licensed to use Burbank's house as a meeting house. In his will, Thomas left a bequest of land to the Corporation of Romsey, from which the rents were to be distributed to 'the ten poorest widows at Christmas'. He was less fortunate in his family life than in business, for his first wife died less than a year after their marriage,

the Hampshire Burbanks



and nine of his eleven children from his second wife died before the age of 21.

Of the two surviving children, Elizabeth married Morgan **MORSE**, a rich pewterer from Salisbury. The son John acquired the elevated status of 'gentleman' and became another man of the cloth, vicar of Longstock, near Stockbridge, from 1695 until his death nearly 40 years later. His will itemises a tangle of land holdings around Romsey, and a later terrier of 1761 indicates that the Burbanks also held 140 acres at Southington, outside Overton. John's wife Dorothy (née **CAWTE**) probably sets the record for longevity among the Burbanks, surviving him by an astonishing 38 further years. Her will talks not of land, but

of damask tablecloths and napkins and of portraits of her daughter Mary (who married into a rich merchant family, the **HEDGES**) and her sister-in-law Elizabeth Morse (née Burbank), which she bequeathed to her grandson John Hedges and her husband's nephew Morgan Morse, respectively.

Their daughter Dorothy made the most spectacular marriage of all the Burbanks - to a Dutchman John **VAN RIXTEL**, merchant of the City of London and Fellow of the Royal Society, naturalised British in 1723. In his will of 1774 Van Rixtel left £100 to each of his Burbank in-laws, and charitable bequests - for example, to the Dutch Church in London and the Orphan Working School at Hoxton - but to his eldest

son he left £5,000, and to each of his other two sons £3,000, as well as cancelling the debts they owed him. His bequest to one of his sons strikes a poignant note, reminding us of the difficulties of getting news of relatives in an age long before the telephone, e-mail and skype. His son Alexander had gone to the East Indies, wrote Van Rixtel, 'but not having heard from him for a considerable time past, I am doubtful whether he be living'.

However, he put aside the £3,000 'in case he is alive'. Alexander was indeed still alive, though his father probably never received the news he was hoping for: he died in Calcutta in 1787, aged 42, one year before his brother James, Van Rixtel's last living son, at his house in Upton, outside Romsey.

John the vicar had two sons who survived into adulthood: John and Thomas, both 'gents'. Neither would enjoy adulthood for long. Thomas had written a will in his early twenties in May 1729, when he was about to leave Britain and settle for a time at Leyden in Holland, but, in the following February, while still in London, he added a hasty codicil, fearing (rightly) that his days were numbered – he had been struck down by smallpox. His brother John fared only a little better. A mercer in Romsey, he married in 1725 Elizabeth **BERNARD**, already a haberdasher in her own right; not surprising, for she was



King's Sombourne church

one of an important Southampton family of merchants and ship owners. There is still a Bernard Street in Southampton. John died in 1738, leaving seven young children, but Elizabeth continued in business.

Their son John served apprenticeships as a stationer and as a haberdasher in the City of London, and in the latter capacity formed a long-term City partnership with John Town in Cornhill. One member of the family, perhaps John, also had shipping interests, and we know of one ship, *Elizabeth*, possibly named after his mother or even his daughter, born in 1768. In 1763 John married Susannah SOUTHEY from a family of wealthy Somerset cloth merchants. Robert Southey, the poet and friend of Wordsworth, came from the same family.

John's status within the City of London rose even higher when he was elected to the post of junior bridgemaster of London Bridge in

1784, and bridgemaster in 1787. Bridgemasters were responsible for the management and maintenance of London Bridge and the Bridge House estates: the post brought with it a handsome salary and residence in the Bridge House. But John died suddenly in 1792, his death being reported in *the Gentleman's Magazine* (volume 62, part 1, p 580), as a result of 'a fit, occasioned, it is supposed, by a violent rheumatism'.

But the magazine was concealing the truth, for his servant, Ann Gilderson, had reported to the Coroner that she had found him 'in a room adjoining his bed room lying upon the floor undressed'. That afterwards she observed a small piece of cord fastened to the tester of the bed, and another piece was lying upon the floor, so that she 'apprehends the deced had hanged himself'. He had, she said, 'been for some time past exceedingly low spirited and dejected'.

John's two sons married in London and had no further links with Romsey. So, the last of the Hampshire Burbanks (apart from one of the two stray Southampton records) was John's unmarried sister Phoebe, who died at the grand age of 88 at Romsey in 1818. Among her effects were five portrait paintings, presumably of Burbanks, which she left to her nephew John **FIGES**. Did these include the earlier paintings bequeathed to others by her grandmother Dorothy? I wonder whether they



London bridge

have survived, and, if so, where they are now.

Michelle Moody (Member # 13047)

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orosie5x@orange.fr

Sources:

(HRO = Hampshire Record Office; TNA= The National Archives)

<http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/>; HRO: 1611B 11/1; HRO:1637A14/2; HRO: 44M69/G2/T3; *Dictionary of National Biography*; HRO: 79M79/E/T105; HRO: 1733B/11; HRO: 5M52/E57; HRO: 1771A19; TNA: PROB 11/1000; HRO: 102M71/T69; HRO: 100M99/B1/1/28; HRO: 1758AD10; *Freedom of the City Admission Papers 1681-1925*; *Hants Chronicle* 1792 June 8; *City of London Committee for letting the Bridge House estate, 1787*; *City of London Coroner's Report* 1792 June 8; *The Times* 1792 July 1; TNA PROB 11/1611



Dear Editor...

Dear Mr. Smallbone,

Though not a member of your Society, I am a keen amateur local historian. My main interest is actually in Sussex, but a recent purchase intrigues me, and I wonder if any of your members may be able to help me.

My query concerns a painting, described as a "19th century watercolour study, interior scene with figures." On the back is written "Interior of Cottage, W. Basing, Hants". I should like to identify the house depicted, and hope this may lead me to the identity of the couple portrayed. I would be most grateful if you were able to publish my enquiry in your journal, and hopefully solve my puzzle.

With kind regards,

Kim Bayne

bkdaisies@btconnect.com



Dear Ken,

I just had to write to you and tell you just how much I enjoyed your article in the March journal on Lord Denning. I always liked the man, and thought that he brought a breath of fresh air into the various departments of Law in the UK. Really great!

Whilst I am writing, I would like to ask Chris Pavey to slow down a little in his Way Forward Project. I appreciate that we all must move with the times, but not so fast that we forget where we came from! I have been a member of the HGS for almost 30 years now, Mr Pavey is a newcomer, at least to being involved in progressing the Society forward, using the latest technology, but please don't forget that not all HGS members have an Internet connection at home.

I go into my local library every Saturday, for two free hours that we can have. That suits me fine, so please Mr Pavey include us ALL in your future plans. I know how to use the Internet, but I don't want to pay for something that I wouldn't use very much. We also count. Mr Pavey says "Discussions will be underway to hopefully rebrand HGS with a new logo etc". Remove our HGS and Hampshire Rose logo at his peril. Don't you dare, Mr Pavey!

Yours sincerely

Linda Atkins (Member # 3692)

76 Burhill Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4JF

Thank you, Linda. Chris Pavey is Mrs Pavey, who is an extremely valuable executive member and trustee, Bookstall manager, group organiser of Waltham Chase, and co-ordinator of The Way Forward project. As pointed out in the last journal, we are now offering members many choices - where there weren't any previously. Thus, the website is vitally important in this process, as a vehicle through which we can easily and efficiently introduce items and schemes that could not be accommodated in any other way. Members can now choose whether they want to use the technology or not - young and old alike can therefore benefit from whichever kind of HGS they would want, and can even change their minds later, if they so wish, either to adopt the new online process or, conversely, forsake it. To date, we have found that the new website has been highly successful, and the outlook for HGS is very much brighter because of it - Editor.

Dear Editor,

I am having a clear out of 'stuff' prior to moving house and have a working microfiche reader and cards of surnames for Dorset, Glos, Hereford, London, Somerset, Worcs and Norfolk, plus a few other cards. Could you please see if any of your members would like to make an offer for the whole lot? Although I live in Southend on Sea, I do come down to Southampton fairly regularly, so could arrange delivery.

Kind regards,

Peter Hobbs (Member # 13062)

01702 313934 ; peter.hobbs@blueyonder.co.uk



Dear Sir,

I always read my wife's HGS magazine as there is usually a military contribution which interests me. This month [June] I was glad to see Steve Rogers of the War Graves Photographic Project had given two groups a talk on his work. I would recommend all of your groups look at his work, it is very expansive (but not expensive) and professional. I received an email type photo of my uncle Archibald **PROUDFOOT**'s grave marker from the Black Watch Museum in Perth, showing my uncle's details and that of a South African officer in the RAF on the same marker. I contacted the War Graves Commission to see why this would be, and received an explanation as to why sometimes up to three men were remembered on the same gravestone. They also suggested I contact Steve Rogers for a better quality photograph. In fact he sent two photos, one close up and a longer shot one of St Omar cemetery looking down on the row where my uncle is buried. The stone to his left shows the details for a young Australian soldier, and to his right a 19 year old from Troon in Ayrshire. My father and two other uncles also served in the Black Watch, but none of them in the same battalion, so no matter where your family came from it is well worth giving Steve Rogers a ring and obtaining a photograph to add to your family tree.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Proudfoot (husband of member Maureen Proudfoot, Member # 450)
61 Oak Hill, Alresford SO24 9JZ (Telephone 01962 732579)

I would like to point out that, as the husband of a member, Mr Proudfoot is technically also a member of HGS - Editor

Hello Hon Editor,

Like the new logo and am entirely supportive of your para concerning carping and unconstructive criticism. I feel you have set out the case for a revised web very well, and regret the attitude of the few who may not truly appreciate the privilege they have of being allowed to belong to HGS.

Re Amalgamation of Police Forces – Arlotts's career at page 42 [June 2013]. The Police Forces did not amalgamate until 1966. What was set up before 1939, roughly after the 1938 Czech crisis, was the appointment of a Regional Civil Defence Controller, which in our case was the Hampshire Chief Constable, and encompassed the Portsmouth City and Southampton Borough Forces for the purpose of Civil Defence affairs. Kent took over the Civil Defence of all that County, including the many more smaller Forces in that County at the time.

Sincerely

David Painter (Member # 7205)
daal@alma13.f9.co.uk

Dear Ken,

Members who were active in the Society in the 1990s will be sad to hear that we have been advised, by the Rector of Milton, of the death of Bernard Sercombe (3711), who attended that church from his home at Barton on Sea. For several years he held the Society's copy of the IGI in the days when applications for look-ups were made by post. He was in regular attendance of Development Committee meetings and took me to my first meeting on the grounds that I would never find the venue - then the Twyford scout hut.

Early in the war he was sent to South Africa to train as a pilot, where he was retained as an instructor, and married there. This was the career we understood him to have followed on his return to England.

He regularly attended the meetings of both the New Forest Group and the Barton Group, which he sometimes still attended after it was necessary for us to move to Highcliffe. At one of our meetings when members were invited to bring any interesting document connected with their family history, Bernard brought a framed letter signed by Nelson ordering one of Bernard's ancestors to take a prize into port.

Always bright and cheerful, it was always a pleasure to see Bernard come through the door.

John Heighes (Member # 5732)

Group Organiser of New Milton & Christchurch Group

Dear Ken,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the June 2013 journal, particularly the article 'Memories of 40 years ago' and 'We are the chosen' - the latter I plan to read out to my U3A Family History Group here in Spain when we re-convene in September. Another item I will have on my agenda for that meeting is to draw attention to the new WW2 Award - the Arctic Star - and the fact that it can be applied for by relatives of those veterans of the North Atlantic who have passed away. I just wondered if it could be mentioned in a future issue of the Journal, or perhaps you already have it in mind.

Best wishes

Lynda Kiss (Member # 12893)

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lakiss@telefonica.net



Dear Ken,

Jane Hurst's article about William Inwood referred to Miss Maria **BECKFORD**, whom I thought members might like some background on.

Maria Beckford was the niece of William Beckford, Lord Mayor of London, who died in 1770. Maria had 'taken on' John Charles's six children after his wife, Charlotte, Maria's older sister, had died after only ten years of marriage in 1803. The Beckford family were extensive and many of them had returned from Jamaica as wealthy slave and plantation owners, with Maria as the daughter of Francis, whose son Francis Love Beckford had married Mrs Johanna Leigh and initially lived at his father's estate, Basing House. Of the six children looked after by Maria, Charlotte Maria Middleton married her cousin, the Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford of Southampton, one of the seven children of Francis Love and Johanna. Charles Douglas and Charlotte Maria lived and died at 5 Cumberland Place in Southampton, both being buried in the Hill Lane Cemetery in about 1889. It was indeed Charlotte Maria who got to know and love Jane Austin during her time at Chawton House, and prior to her death gave some new descriptions of Jane, since welcomed by historians. Miss Maria Beckford had lived at South Stoneham House on the outskirts of Southampton, for some years prior to her death in 1854.

Terence Pook (Member # 7065)
1 Evelyn Crescent, Southampton, SO15 5JF
oscroft@one-name.org

A selection of genealogical websites

More and more online genealogical services are being posted on the internet week by week and month by month. Here is just a small selection to try out if you have not already done so.. None are listed through recommendation, but merely because they exist. They are listed in alphabetical order.

www.ancestry.co.uk (or .com)
www.archives.com
www.cyndislist.com
www.familysearch.org
www.findmypast.co.uk
www.forces-war-records.co.uk
http://freebmd.rootsweb.com

www.genesreunited.co.uk
www.genuki.org.uk
www.hgs-online.org.uk
www.myfamily.com
www.myheritage.com
www.thegenealogist.co.uk
www.ukcensusonline.com

Additional sites

www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk (Anglo-Italian FHS)
www.catholic-history.org.uk/cfhs (Catholic FHS)
www.fibis.org (Families in British India Society)
www.jsgsb.org.uk (Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain)
www.qfhs.co.uk (Quaker FHS)
www.railwayancestors.org.uk (Railway Ancestors FH Group)
www.rtffhs.org.uk (Romany & Traveller FHS)

From Small Beginnings...

Following Mary Talbot's excellent article ('Memories of 40 years ago') in HFH Vol 40/1, June 2013, I am pleased to have received three new articles from other early members on their reminiscences of those many years past when the first seeds of our Society were sown. So, thank you, Joyce Baker, Daphne Slawson and Mike Smith for your contributions – and we can only hope that your words may even encourage other original members to come forward and write a few lines within the next few months (Ken Smallbone, Editor).

During 1972/3 I took advantage of the wide range of classes held at our local Cosham Institute – my family were subjected to hostess cookery, wine making and my artistic expression in pottery and china painting. One day my attention was drawn to 'Tracing your Family History'. A series of lectures was to be given by Michael Walcot. I signed up, and from week one I was hooked. My interest in researching has never waned as I explored not just my own family tree but also wider social and economic history.

Michael invited me to a meeting he was organising of like-minded people at his home. His contacts included the local members of the Society of Genealogists. Despite the passing of 40 years, I still remember some of those who were gathered in his lounge: Mrs Martin, an extremely knowledgeable, experienced genealogist from Hayling Island, Peter Christie from Portsmouth, and Mike Talbot from Gosport. Others joined, and - if my memory is correct - they were George Wakelin, Muriel Allen, Clive Colpus and Betty and Fred Edwards. Betty and Fred's front room in Lodge Avenue, Cosham, became our

regular meeting place, and from there we worked together to see Michael's vision emerge -- The South East Hampshire Genealogical Society.

Unfortunately, very soon afterwards both Michael and Peter moved away, but - not to be despondent - most of those early members went on to form a committee with George as Chairman. Cost of membership was agreed with Fred as Treasurer. Betty took the job of Secretary, and I believe she also produced the first format 'journal'.

The first 'open' meeting was held in January 1974 at The Friends' Meeting House in Hilsea, Portsmouth, when over 50 new members joined.

Research was so different 40 years ago. It was necessary to visit the appropriate record offices. There was nothing online; there were very few published records and almost nothing was indexed. Time, energy and money were needed as census records, BMDs and wills were in separate buildings in London. Family outings and weekends away were thinly disguised for research purposes - visits not just to London, but also to record offices in Nottingham, Leicester, Portsmouth, Winchester, Southampton University, Society of Genealogists and the British Museum Library, House of Lords Library and a number of others. The rewards for this were the joys of discovery, and being able to actually handle those early records.

Betty Edwards and I worked voluntarily for over twelve years in Portsmouth Record Office and for a while I worked for Debretts. We were also involved in recording gravestones and researching for the names of sailors who were on the Mary Rose – unsuccessfully, I may say.

It is a pity that a number of those

founder members are no longer with us to enjoy the opportunities offered for researching today, and I'm sure they would be delighted to see how the Hampshire Genealogical Society has flourished. So much has been achieved and members are continuing to work in order to preserve and add more information for the future. A big thank you is due to all those who have contributed over the past 40 years.

Joyce Baker (Member # 2)

94 Old Manor Way Portsmouth PO6 2NL
(jo.baker@talktalk.net)

After our marriage at Eling in 1959, we refused to have a television in our new house, so the 'wireless' was on constantly, and a TV did not appear until the 1980s, when our four daughters had grown up a little and were concentrating on their school work and hobbies.

Why did I start looking into my family history? I really cannot remember, but I give thanks to John Piper, who was the mid-morning host of BBC Radio Solent throughout the 1970s. Perhaps it was his regular feature, called Give a Neighbour a Hand - and whoever was probably being interviewed on that programme - that inspired me to contact the new Hampshire society. I was so excited to have done this, and to receive my membership number of '43'.

My parents, like many others, did not discuss their ancestors even if they knew of them, so when I joined the Society soon after its formation, I became aware how much I did not know about my mother's family in particular, for I did not even know either of her parents. Mother used to talk to her sisters

when they visited, but stopped immediately if I came into the room, so I never learned anything I was supposed not to overhear! Most of my immediate family knowledge came from my adopted cousin, eleven years my senior, who lived close by.

By 1974 we had three daughters, so my father was left in charge of them when Bill and I went out for the evening to the then local family history group at Bitterne, I think, or maybe it was in London Road, Southampton.

The names in HFH Vol 40, No.1 (June 2013) of Mary Talbot's memories are very familiar, and I remember some of them were at the 25th Anniversary party - the photo appeared in the journal. I now go to the local meetings in Romsey whenever possible, where the talks and company are excellent.

Daphne Slawson (Member # 43)

2 Shepherds Hey Road, Calmore,
Southampton SO40 2RD
(anda2@tiscali.co.uk)

I have always had a strong interest in family history. During childhood I had met many of my grandmother's and great-grandmother's brothers and sisters, and knew about their families.

There was one family story that I very much wanted to investigate and, if possible, confirm its truth. Apparently, my great-grandfather John Brufton **SMITH** was one of a dozen or so soldiers of the Royal Sussex Regiment who attempted to rescue General Gordon from Khartoum. There was no real reason to disbelieve the story, as his son, my father's father, was very proud of his father's army

exploits, but I wanted to see the proof.

One day in the early 1970s, at work in the laboratory in Gosport, a colleague from Portsmouth gave me details of a Workers' Educational Association (WEA) course on Genealogy. It was being run as an evening class in The City of Portsmouth Girls' School in St Mary's Road, opposite the church. My colleague lived very close by and offered to give me tea if I was willing to join him. At that time I was married and living with my wife and two children on Hayling Island, so the trip into Portsmouth was a slight deviation on the way home.

That was how I came to meet Michael Walcot, and I think he was helped sometimes by a student named Peter Christie. I still have the notes somewhere from what was a twelve-week course during which time I learned about many sources of information. I don't remember an inaugural meeting of the Genealogical Society, but do remember Michael Walcot's enthusiasm for us to join up - which is why I came to be member 44. I recently decided to dispose of all the old publications, having checked that the library had a full set, and just kept the list of names and addresses of the first 55 members.

My colleague did not continue with any interest in genealogy as far as I know, but I

attended the members' meetings as often as possible at the Friends' Meeting Room in Hilssea. There are a few names that I remember - Mr & Mrs Tazewell, Mr Wakelin, Alan Colpus, Mr & Mrs Edwards and a lady who was rather formidable in my eyes - Miss Martin. In my recollections she was a professional genealogist, whereas I was never more than a low-level family history amateur, but she helped me to get going by obtaining marriage and birth certificates.

I was able to go up to London about three or four times a year to attend afternoon lectures relating to my career. By travelling up on the earliest cheap-day train, I could get an hour of research in before arriving at my 'official' destination. I started in Somerset House, progressed to St Catherine's House and still have my Portugal Street census room pass somewhere at the back of my wallet!

I'm still just a family history amateur, but with access to the web in the last ten years, I have been able to complete the seize quartier that Michael Walcot gave me 40 years ago, albeit on a commercial family history database and I have documentary evidence for all.

I'm also at least 99% certain that the story of the soldier who went to the Sudan is true.

Michael P J Smith (Member # 44)

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For all the latest news visit
www.hgs-online.org.uk
or **www.hgs-familyhistory.com**



HGS Research Centre

52 Northern Road, Cosham,
Portsmouth PO6 3DB

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 & 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Booking in advance is essential -
Maximum of 4 people per session

Please telephone Dolina Clarke,
Manager on 02392.387000 (Tuesday
or Thursday) For more details see the
HGS website www.hgs-online.org.uk

Recent Changes in Personnel...

Our Members' Interest Coordinator, Pam Thacker, has now stepped down from the role. We wish to thank her for her contribution over the past three years operating this important post. The service will continue, but by being administered from our offices in Cosham.

Another person to have stepped down recently has been Keith Hayward, our Fareham Group Organiser. I have known Keith more or less since I joined the Society in 1980, and he has been the group leader in Fareham for many years. He has also been very much involved in the various projects that the Society has been running, i.e., transcribing memorial inscriptions, transcribing and checking baptisms and marriages for our indexes, along with the help given at Open Days and AGMs. So a big thank you goes to Keith. We wish him a happy "retirement". Fortunately, a volunteer has come forward to take over the organisation of the Fareham Group - Jane Painter.

As noted earlier in the year, John Manning, our Portsmouth Group Organiser, had sadly died. We have been fortunate that Sue Decicco had taken over the Portsmouth Group and is now firmly in control.

Dolina Clarke, *Chairman*

AGM 26th May 2013, Winchester Discovery Centre

Another successful Annual General Meeting for our second held at the Discovery Centre. Attendance was down on 2012, but this was probably due to the fact that it was necessary to change the planned date earlier in the month, and that it was a glorious Bank Holiday weekend.

A few changes were made in the layout, and it helped that everyone had plenty of room to visit the Bookstall and meet up with existing members, plus some new ones - and one that only joined three days before. In adjoining rooms our usual non-Society stands had a steady stream of visitors, plus some who had only popped into the Centre for their library book and thought they would have a quick look.

Our speaker this year was Jane Hurst, who is group organiser for Alton, and known throughout the Society as an expert on family history, and especially on the life and times of Jane Austen. Her talk was extremely interesting, taking us on a walk from Chawton, where Jane Austen was living, into the nearby town of Alton. We started off in the leafy lanes, and eventually reached the streets, and Jane was able to tell us about the houses and who lived in them in Jane Austen's time. She pointed out the various shops and what they stocked, together with such individuals as the doctor and banker. It really sounded a pleasant place for an afternoon shopping. Jane's talk was very well received.

There has been some changes to the Executive



Committee, starting with Dolina Clarke, who is now our Chairman, having taken over from Ken Smallbone, who had done a great job seeing the Society through the many changes this last year (The photograph, taken by Sandra Naish, shows Dolina with Judy Kimber, our President). Keith Turner, joint organiser for Fair Oak, is now one of the representatives from the Development Committee serving on the Executive. The Membership Secretary, Gordon Clem, has now also joined the Executive Committee.

As mentioned in last year's report, we are going to be looking for somewhere special to hold our 40th Anniversary General Meeting, so watch out for news in the forthcoming Hampshire Family Historians.

Sheila Brine, *Secretary, HGS*

**YOUR stories and features to:
editor@hgs-online.co.uk**

Bookstall report

The HGS Bookstall continues to attend events both locally and around the country.

So far this year we have been to: Bracknell in January, WDYTIA for three days at Olympia London in February, Gloucester FHS Open Day at Gloucester Rugby Club in May, and Wiltshire FHS Open Day at Wilton in June. In July we went to the South Western Area Genealogical Societies (SWAG) Open Day at Weston-Super-Mare and Portsmouth Family History Fair at Portsmouth Library. We have also attended group members' evenings at Fair Oak in February and Fareham in April, as well as the HGS AGM at the Winchester Discovery Centre in May.

Takings at these events have varied: extremely well at some, and not so good at others. We always consider how cost effective our attendance is and if worthwhile to continue attending loss-making events. However, we also remember that other aims of the Bookstall are to increase publicity for HGS, to encourage new members to join us, and to provide help and research for people.

Our 'look-up' service at events is extremely popular and keeps us busy all day. We hear interesting stories: the tale of the two marriage certificates a few months apart for the same couple - why? We still don't know the answer to that one, although there are several theories; 'I am related to Brusher Mills' - followed by an interesting anecdote about how the famous New Forest 'snake catcher' operated; 'I'm looking for a Melchizedek Meredith' - well, that's an unusual name for a start, and we soon uncover the fact that this particular ancestor was a tailor in Portsmouth, and very probably supplied the Royal Naval uniforms. Eventually, the shop

sold out to a Mr Gieve and subsequently became the well-known naval tailors Gieves and Hawkes. Not only that, but the connection with George Meredith the author was also found. It is really surprising what a short tentative enquiry can reveal.

Once more I must give my thanks and appreciation to all those who help us out on the stall, and also to those who generously donate books to be 're-housed'. Without your help we could not do the events that we do, and without the donations the profits for the stall would be much lower. While on the subject of books, should you ever have any difficulty in obtaining a particular book, do let us know. For a small fee we can usually turn up a copy.

You can catch us next at Romsey Heritage Open Day on 15 September at Botley Road Cemetery, Romsey, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, and at our HGS Open Day on Sunday 29 September at Horndean College. We look forward to seeing you and helping you with your research and enquiries.

Chris Pavey, Bookstall Manager

Bookstall Dates

- 15 Sept Romsey Heritage Open Day, Botley Rd Cemetery
- 29 Sept HGS Open Day, Horndean
- 5 Oct Oxfordshire FHS Open Day, Marlborough School, Woodstock
- 13 Oct Family & Local History Fair, Basingstoke Discovery Centre
- 26 Oct West Surrey FHS Open Day, Woking

Membership Numbers Reminder And Subscriptions Renewal

Is your Membership Number between 13,292 and 13,340, inclusive, or between 13,472 and 13,535, inclusive?

If so, then you need to be aware that at some time between September 1 and November 30 this year your membership will expire - unless you renew your subscription before the due

date of the anniversary when you joined HGS. It is up to you to discover when your membership will expire by contacting the Membership Secretary (contact details are on the inside of both covers). If it expires then you will no longer receive the benefits that membership provides.

Diary Dates out of County

FFHS General Meeting & FH Fair
Doncaster College for Deaf, Leger Way,
Doncaster
DN2 6AY

Saturday 21 September 2013

Oxfordshire FHS Open Day The
Marlborough School, Shipton Road,
Woodstock OX20 1LP

Saturday 5 October 2013
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Glamorgan FHS Open Day Merthyr Tydfil
Leisure Centre, Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Village
CF48 1UT

Saturday 12 October 2013
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Suffolk FHS FH Fair & AGM Needham
Market Community Centre, Needham Market
IP6 8BB

Saturday 19 October 2013
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

FAREWELL

With the deepest regret we wish to inform readers of the deaths of the following HGS members:-

- Mr Dennis A. Boryer (Member # 4380), 35 Oakshott Drive, Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire
- Mrs J. M. Dunford (Member # 10701), Charley Crag Farm, Finsthwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria
- Mr D. G. Lock (Member # 7972), 75 Gadwell Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire
- Miss M. N. B. Tyrell (Member # 407), 283 Forton Road, Gosport, Hampshire

Courses for research using the internet

The one-day "Family History Using the Internet" study days were run on 20 April and 4 May this year. There were 12 places on each, and all were filled. Both courses were held in the IT Suite of the WEA Omega Centre in Portsmouth. Overall, there was a very positive response from the attendees including:-

"I enjoyed the course and learnt more than expected" - "I thoroughly enjoyed the day and my brain was buzzing with excitement ..." - "A much appreciated course – short and precise" - "A very useful and professionally run course"

The course covered the basics of researching family history, including: How to get started; civil registration; parish records; census returns; other sources of information. Extensive use of the Internet was the key to the course and the sites accessed included FreeBMD, FamilySearch, FreeCEN, FreeREG, Ancestry, Findmypast, The National Archives, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, GENUKI and Cyndislist.

The approach to learning was that the tutor would briefly talk through the topic, and then demonstrate accessing the website by working through an example. This was followed by the learners being given a printed handout and exercises on which to practice. The handout contained details of the topic and a step-by-step guide to the use of the relevant website. Learners would work on the exercises with the tutor, with helpers available to assist anyone who needed help. This approach appeared to be successful, and in the feedback the

students commented that this approach was one of the best things about the course, as well as the available expert help on hand.

There was a return of 14 evaluation forms (73.7%), and all those who attended reported that they had improved their ability in most of the areas covered. All now felt partly able or fully able to tackle the five areas of the study day. All would recommend the course to others, although some thought it was a lot for a beginner, being more in-depth than expected.

Learners were asked if they would recommend the course to others, and what are their plans following the course. There was a "yes" response from everyone to the first question, and the majority felt they would very much like to attend similar courses covering other topics, such as Military, Wills, etc.

So what next? The success of the course was such that future courses are likely to be held in Spring 2014. Analysing the responses, it is clear that there is a place for a beginners' study day and an internet-based day for the more experienced. The venue did not suit all, as it is somewhat a rabbit warren, and for some the computers did not function as expected. But WEA allows full access to their building without charge. When the arrangements are in place, the courses will be announced in the HFH journal, the HGS website and at group meetings.

Anthony Trice

Study Day Lead Tutor

Members' Surname Interests Database

Progress has been made for placing members' interests on the HGS website. See p113 for further details of the new service being provided.

Members' interests and updates to the catalogue are published quarterly in the Society's journal. There is a restriction of a maximum of 15 entries per person whenever submitting interests (new or updates), so required to keep entries published quarterly in the journal to a manageable size. Such constraint does not apply to the database, however, so it is possible to add further interests quarterly - within reason! It is also possible to remove redundant entries, and this is encouraged - deletions are not notified in the journal; they simply won't appear in the database. Updates should be BLOCK printed and submitted in the format used in the following section. The county Chapman Codes are published at least once in any yearly HFH volume and should be used when submitting interests, e.g. HAM for Hampshire etc.

Please note that addresses published in this section refer only to members who have submitted their interests. Data held on the database can be amended, added to, deleted etc. at any time by contacting Members' Interests (see above). All queries concerning this section should also be sent to the HGS office (address above).

Please note that this HFH article has to be with the editor by the deadline noted on the first page, so please don't leave it until the last minute to submit a change. The Society reserves the right to restrict the number of entries submitted to (or retained on) the database by any member if these are considered excessive and would have an impact on any publication.

Members' Surname Interests Database

HGS Office, 52 Northern Road, Cosham,
Portsmouth PO6 3DP

Telephone 023 9238 7000

Email:

membersinterests@hgs-online.org.uk

N. B. Changes to Email will no longer be noted in the journal as many are already obsolete when published. Please contact the HGS Office for a member's current details if you encounter problems.

But please inform the Membership secretary (membership@hgs-online.org.uk) of your current address.

The section on the following pages is arranged alphabetically by surname, then area and place name. Once you have located an entry in which you are interested, note the number on the right hand side of the column and turn to the end of the section.

Look up the number, which will give the name and address of the person who submitted the information.

Notes:

date+ = after that date;
predate = before that date;
cdate = circa (about) that date;
Cxx = xx th. Century;
parish a = area around parish

Remember that your addresses are your contact point, so keep them up to date.



Armstrong	Fer Any	pre1800	5927
Armstrong	USA Any	pre1920	5927
Atwell	IOW Any	All	12269
Bailey	Brk Kintbury	pre1826	4771
Bailey	Brk Wantage	pre1826	4771
Ballard	HamSouthampton a	1800-1870	13486
Beare	HamAndover	1600-1680	13655
Bellamore	HamAny	pre1826	13572
Billimore	HamAny	pre1826	13572
Blanshott	IOW Any	All	12269
Bradbury	BkmQuainton	pre1830	13568
Broomfield	Ken Eastry	1700-2013	9363
Burbank	HamAny	1800+	2442
Burnet	IOW Any	All	12269
Cannee	Ssx Compton a	1700-1770	13486
Catchlove	Ssx Westbourne a	pre1730	13486
Cleverley	HamAny	All	3660
Cooper	IOW Any	All	12269
Cosens	HamSouthampton	1800+	13477
Couzens	HamSouthampton	1700-1850	13477
Coward	HamNorth Stoneham	pre1800	13486
Cox	HamPortsea a	pre1800	13486
Cozens	Dor Blandford Forum	1800+	13477
Cozens	Dor Sherborne	1800+	13477
Cozens	HamSouthampton	1800+	13477
Crick	Ken Dover a	1800-1900	2442
Cubitt	Any Any	pre1826	4771
Dibbly	HamCliddesden	Any	13474
Ellard	Nth Brackley	pre1820	13568
Ellard	Nth Whitfield	pre1820	13568
Farrell	HamAlverstoke	All	9016
French	Wil Wilton	1800+	13477
Fryer	HamRomsey a	1800+	2442
Fuller	IOW Any	pre1800	13568
Gibb	Fif Balmerino	pre1824	13568
Gibb	Fif Ceres	pre1824	13568
Hatton	IOW Any	All	12269
Hawkins	HamBasingstoke	pre1820	13474
Hughes	Brk Bray	1830-1875	13655
Hughes	Brk Leckhampstead	1810-1830	13655
Hughes	Brk Mortimer	pre1810	13655
Hughes	Brk Reading	1875-1940	13655
Jeffery	IOW Any	All	12269
Johns	HamDogmersfield	1650-1800	13474
Kinchin	HamBasingstoke	C18	13474
Larner	Lnd Camberwell	pre1815	13568
Larner	Lnd Peckham	pre1815	13568
Linter	HamMeonstoke	1300-1820	1043
Lister	Yks Bradford	1500-1900	9363
Lister	Yks Leeds	1500-1901	9363

Macey	HamLyndhurst a	pre1770	13486
Mariner	HamAny	pre1826	13572
Marlow	HamAlverstoke	pre1845	13568
Marlow	HamPortsea	pre1845	13568
Marnier	HamAny	pre1826	13572
Marriner	HamAny	pre1826	13572
Martill	Any Any	All	3692
Misselbrook	HamAny	1690-1750	13486
Monk	HamSouthampton a	1775-1840	13486
Moody	HamSouthampton	1600-1800	4559
Newell	HamAny	All	13626
Newell	HamSoutham	All	13626
Norris	HamAndover	1640-1788	13655
Norris	HamLongparish	pre1640	13655
Norris	Mdx Poplar	1788-1920	13655
Phillips	HamCliddesden	Any	13474
Philpott	Dor Poole	Any	13474
Philpotts	Dor Poole	Any	13474
Pink	HamBotley	pre1826	4771
Pink	HamSwanwick	pre1826	4771
Porter	IOW Any	All	12269
Prangnell	Mdx Any	1880+	2442
Prangnell	Sry Any	1800-1900	2442
Pratt	HamCatherington a	pre1790	13486
Richardson	Ldn Lambeth	1866+	13474
Shears	HamAny	All	3660
Simes	Dor Cranborne	1800-1850	13477
Simes	Wil Alvediston	1750-1800	13477
Smith	HamCowplain	1920+	13592
Smith	HamWaterlooville	1920+	13592
Smith	IOW Freshwater	All	12269
Spinks	HamPortsmouth	pre1826	4771
Spinks	Ham Any	pre1826	4771
Stares	Ham Any	All	3660
Stuckey Lee	HamSouthampton a	pre1850	13486
Summers	IOW Any	All	12269
Symes	Dor Bournemouth	1800-1830	13477
Symes	Dor Cranborne	1800-1850	13477
Symes	HamNursling	1840-1870	13477
Talmage	HamAny	All	3660
Taplin	HamAny	All	3660
Taplin	HamCliddesden	Any	13474
Taplin	Wil Any	All	3660
Thicks	HamSouthampton	1720-1760	13477
Upton	HamTunworth	C18	13474
Vince	HamCrandall	pre1750	13474
White	IOW Shalfleet a	1800-1840	13486
Young	HamChristchurch	1755-1805	7642
Young	HamPortsmouth	1720-1780	7642



Contributors' addresses

Please note that the addresses listed here relate only to the member numbers in the preceding sections. Addresses of members who have published interests previously will not be published here but can be found on the interests CD or in previous Journals.

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 3660 Mrs C A Blairs, 117 Millway Road, ANDOVER
 3692 Mrs L R Atkins, 76 Burhill Road, Hershaw, WALTON ON THAMES, latkins45@hotmail.co.uk
 4559 Miss J McCombe, 5 Hilltop Cottages, East Lymington, CORNHILL-ON-TWEED, jjpoppy2-house@yahoo.co.uk
 4771 Mr R A Pink, 8 Gifford Road, Stratton St. Margaret, SWINDON, richardpink1@gmail.com
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 7642 Miss J Young, 90 Roedale Road, Hollingdean, BRIGHTON, janet.young23@ntlworld.com
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 13486 Mrs S Ballard, 8A Lyndock Place, Woolston, SOUTHAMPTON, suballard@yahoo.co.uk
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Members' Interests on the HGS Website

In due course HGS will offer an online search service, making its Members' Interests accessible via its website.

Searches can be made of the Members' Interests list. The individual member's email address will not be made available, only their name and a contact form.

If you would like your interests to be made available on the website, then you need to visit www.hgs-online.org.uk/research-resources/members-interests-signup/ and enter your membership number, name, and email address. These will help identify you to the Society.

The Society's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act have been fully considered and your contact details will not be made available directly from the search service. Searches requested from the HGS Research Centre will not change.

Please opt in if you haven't already done so. Up to 100 surname interests can be added each time you submit the form, but note that only 15 names of interest per submitter will be printed in the Journal each issue.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859)

As a mechanical and civil engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a genius. He built dockyards, the Great Western Railway, a series of steamships and numerous important bridges and tunnels. His designs revolutionised public transport and naval and modern engineering.

He was born in Britain Street, Portsea, on Wednesday 9 April 1806, the son of a French civil engineer, Marc Isambard Brunel, and his wife Sophia Kingdom Brunel, and had two older sisters. His father created machinery for making ships' blocks, and the family moved to London in 1808 for the elder Brunel's work. Isambard had a happy childhood, with his father acting as his teacher during his early years. He was educated at Caen and Paris, 1820-22.

When Isambard was 15, his father was sent to debtors' prison. After three months with no prospect of release, Marc announced that he was considering an offer from the Tsar of Russia. In August 1821, faced with the prospect of losing a prominent engineer, the government relented and issued him £5,000 to clear his debts, in exchange for his promise to remain in Britain.

In late 1822 Isambard returned to England. He worked for several years as an assistant engineer on the project to create a tunnel under London's River Thames, funded by the



Thames Tunnel Company. His father was the chief engineer, and had designed an ingenious tunnelling shield that helped protect workers from cave-ins, but two incidents of severe flooding halted work for long periods. The latter incident, in 1828, killed the two most senior miners, and Brunel was seriously injured. The event stopped work on the tunnel for several years.

Isambard Brunel was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1830. He is perhaps best remembered for designing the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. Spanning over 700 feet, and nominally 200 feet above the River Avon, it had the longest span of any bridge in the world at the time of construction. Work began in 1831, but was suspended due to the Queen Square riots caused by the arrival of Sir Charles Wetherell. The riots drove away investors, leaving no money for the project, and construction ceased. Brunel did not see the bridge finished. The Institute of Civil Engineers felt it would be a fitting memorial, and raised new funds. Work recommenced in 1862, and was completed in 1864, five years after Brunel's death. The Clifton Suspension Bridge still stands, and over 4,000,000 vehicles traverse it every year.

In the early part of Brunel's life, the use of railways began to take off as a major means of transporting goods. In 1833 - before the

– our Engineer Most Extraordinaire

The famous, not-so-famous & downright infamous - Hampshire Celebrities of Yesteryear



The Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol

Thames Tunnel was completed - Brunel was appointed chief engineer of the Great Western Railway (GWR), running from London to Bristol, and later Exeter. He surveyed the entire length of the route between London and Bristol himself. It became Brunel's vision that passengers would be able to purchase one ticket at London Paddington and travel from London to New York, changing from GWR to a steamship at the terminus in Neyland, South Wales.

Brunel made two controversial decisions: to use a broad gauge for the track, which he believed would offer superior running at high speeds; and to take a route that passed north of the Marlborough Downs, and then to follow the Thames Valley into London. His decision to use broad gauge was controversial in that

almost all British railways to date had used standard gauge. He proved through both calculation and a series of trials that his broader gauge was the optimum size for providing both higher speeds and a stable and comfortable ride for passengers. In addition, the wider gauge allowed for larger carriages and thus greater freight capacity. After his death, however, the decision was taken to revert to standard gauge.

Drawing on Brunel's expertise, GWR gained a series of impressive achievements - soaring viaducts (such as at Ivybridge), specially designed stations, and vast tunnels (including the Box Tunnel, which was the longest railway tunnel in the world at that time). He designed many railway

bridges - including the Royal Albert Bridge spanning the River Tamar at Saltash near Plymouth, Somerset Bridge near Bridgwater, the Windsor Railway Bridge, and the Maidenhead Railway Bridge over the Thames. This last was the flattest, widest brick arch bridge in the world, and is still carrying main line trains to the west. In 1845 Hungerford Bridge - a suspension footbridge across the Thames near Charing Cross Station in London - was opened.

The present London Paddington station was designed by Brunel, and opened in 1854. Examples of his designs for smaller stations on GWR and associated lines still survive in good condition, as do wooden train sheds in his style. Brunel and Daniel Gooch, Superintendent of Locomotives, chose to locate their locomotive works in the village of Swindon.

Brunel's "atmospheric caper" was the atmospheric railway, the extension of GWR southward from Exeter towards Plymouth, technically the South Devon Railway. Instead of using locomotives, the trains were moved by Clegg and Samuda's patented system of atmospheric (vacuum) traction, whereby stationary pumps sucked air from a pipe placed in the centre of the track. The technology required the use of leather flaps, but these either rotted or were eaten by rats, and vacuum operation lasted less than a year, to 10 September 1848. The whole project was an expensive flop.

In 1835, before GWR had opened, Brunel had proposed extending its transport network by boat from Bristol across the Atlantic Ocean to New York, and the Great Western Steamship Company (GWSC) was formed by Thomas Guppy for that purpose. Technological

developments in the early 1830s made longer journeys more possible, but it was generally thought that a ship would not be able to carry enough fuel for the trip and have room for a commercial cargo. Brunel formulated a theory that would mean moving a larger ship will take proportionately less fuel than a smaller one. To test his theory, he offered his services for free to GWSC, which appointed him to its building committee and entrusted him with designing its first ship, the *Great Western*.

When it was built, the *Great Western* was the longest ship in the world at 236 ft, with a 250-ft keel. It was constructed mainly from wood, but Brunel added bolts and iron diagonal reinforcements to maintain the keel's strength. In addition to its steam-powered paddle wheels, the ship carried four masts for sails. The *Great Western* embarked on her maiden voyage from Avonmouth to New York on 8 April 1838 with 600 long tons of coal, cargo and seven passengers on board. Brunel himself missed this initial crossing, having been injured during a fire aboard the ship as she was returning from fitting out in London. As the fire delayed the launch several days, the *Great Western* missed its opportunity to claim title as the first ship to cross the Atlantic under steam power alone. Even with a four-day head start, the competing *Sirius* arrived only one day earlier and its crew was forced to burn cabin furniture, spare yards and one mast for fuel. In contrast, the *Great Western's* crossing of the Atlantic took 15 days and five hours, and the ship arrived at her destination with a third of its coal still remaining, demonstrating that Brunel's calculations were correct. The *Great Western* had proved the viability of commercial transatlantic steamship service, which led GWSC to use her in regular service



The *Great Eastern*, 1866

between Bristol and New York from 1838 to 1846. She made 64 crossings, and was the first ship to hold the Blue Riband. The service was commercially successful enough for a sister ship to be required, which Brunel was now asked to design.

He had become convinced of the superiority of propeller-driven ships over paddle wheels. He incorporated a large six-bladed propeller into his design for the 322-foot *Great Britain*, which was launched in 1843. *Great Britain* is considered the first modern ship, being built of metal rather than wood, powered by an engine rather than wind or oars, and driven by propeller rather than paddle wheel. She was the first iron-hulled, propeller-driven ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Her maiden voyage was made in August 1845, from Liverpool to New York. In 1846, she was run aground at Dundrum, County Down. She was salvaged and employed in the Australian service, and today is fully preserved and open to the public in Bristol, UK.

In 1852 Brunel turned to a third ship, larger than her predecessors, intended for voyages to India and Australia. The *Great Eastern* was

cutting-edge technology for her time: almost 700 ft long, fitted out with the most luxurious apartments, and capable of carrying over 4,000 passengers. She was designed to cruise non-stop from London to Sydney and back, and remained the largest ship built until 1899. Like many of Brunel's ambitious projects, the ship soon ran over budget and behind schedule in the face of a series of technical problems. The ship has been portrayed as a white elephant, but it has been argued that it's simply because it was years ahead of its time. Brunel's vision and engineering innovations made the building of large-scale, propeller-driven, all-metal steamships a practical reality, but the prevailing economic and industrial conditions meant that it would be several decades before transoceanic steamship travel emerged as a viable industry.

After two trial trips in 1859, *Great Eastern* set forth on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on 17 June 1860. Though a failure in her original purpose of passenger travel, she eventually found a role as an oceanic telegraph cable-layer, playing a significant role in



laying the first lasting telegraph cable between Europe and North America.

In 1854 Britain entered into the Crimean War, and an old Turkish barracks became the British Army Hospital in Scutari. Injured men contracted a variety of illnesses, due to poor conditions there, and Florence Nightingale sent a plea to *The Times* for the government to produce a solution. Although working on the *Great Eastern* and other projects at the time, Brunel nevertheless



accepted the task in 1855 of designing and building a temporary, pre-fabricated hospital that could be shipped to Crimea, and erected there. The Renkioi Hospital was subsequently assembled near Scutari Hospital. Brunel's designs were fêted as a great success, with only 50 deaths among the 1,300 or more patients treated in the hospital. Nightingale referred to them as "those magnificent huts".

On 5 July 1836 Isambard Brunel married Mary Elizabeth Horsley, the eldest daughter of composer and organist William Horsley. The couple had three children, and established a home in Duke Street, Westminster, London. In 1843 Brunel purchased an estate at Watcombe in Torquay, Devon. Here he designed 'Brunel Manor' and its gardens to be his retirement home. Unhappily, he never saw its completion.

Grossly overworked and being a heavy smoker, Isambard Brunel suffered a stroke in 1859, just before the *Great Eastern* made her first trial voyage. He died ten days later (15 September 1859) at the age of 53 and was

buried, like his father, in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

A celebrated engineer in his time, Brunel remains revered today, as evidenced by numerous monuments to him. There are statues in London at Temple and Brunel University, Bristol, Saltash, Swindon, Milford Haven, and Paddington station. A statue in Neyland was stolen in August 2010. Contemporary locations bear Brunel's name. A road, car park, and school in his home city of Portsmouth are also named in his honour,

along with one of the city's largest public houses.

Many of his bridges are still in use, having stood the test of time, while Brunel is credited with turning the town of Swindon into one of the largest growing towns in Europe during the 1800s. In 2002 a public poll conducted by the BBC to select the "100 Greatest Britons", placed Brunel second, behind Winston Churchill. His life and works have been depicted in numerous books, films and television programmes. At the 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony, he was portrayed by Kenneth Branagh in a segment showing the Industrial Revolution.

Ken Smallbone, Editor

References:

The History Today Who's Who in British History, ed. Juliet Gardiner (Collins & Brown, Cima Books, London, 2000), p 115;

The Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia, ed. David Crystal (2nd Edition, CUP, Cambridge, 1998), p 150; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



Family History



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Talks from guest speakers

Working lives: Occupational photographs & working dress 1870-1950

Jayne Shrimpton, an independent photograph, artwork and dress history specialist for over ten years, will be giving an insight into working clothes of various occupations.

Headley: Life and labour in a Hampshire village

JANE LEWIS will be talking about the period from 1870 to 1914 and looking at sources used to study a rural area, and why this is useful to genealogists who are researching their Ag Lab families. Whilst this talk centres on Headley, the research methods and resources described will be of interest to anyone wishing to learn more about rural ancestors and their communities

Getting the most out of family search

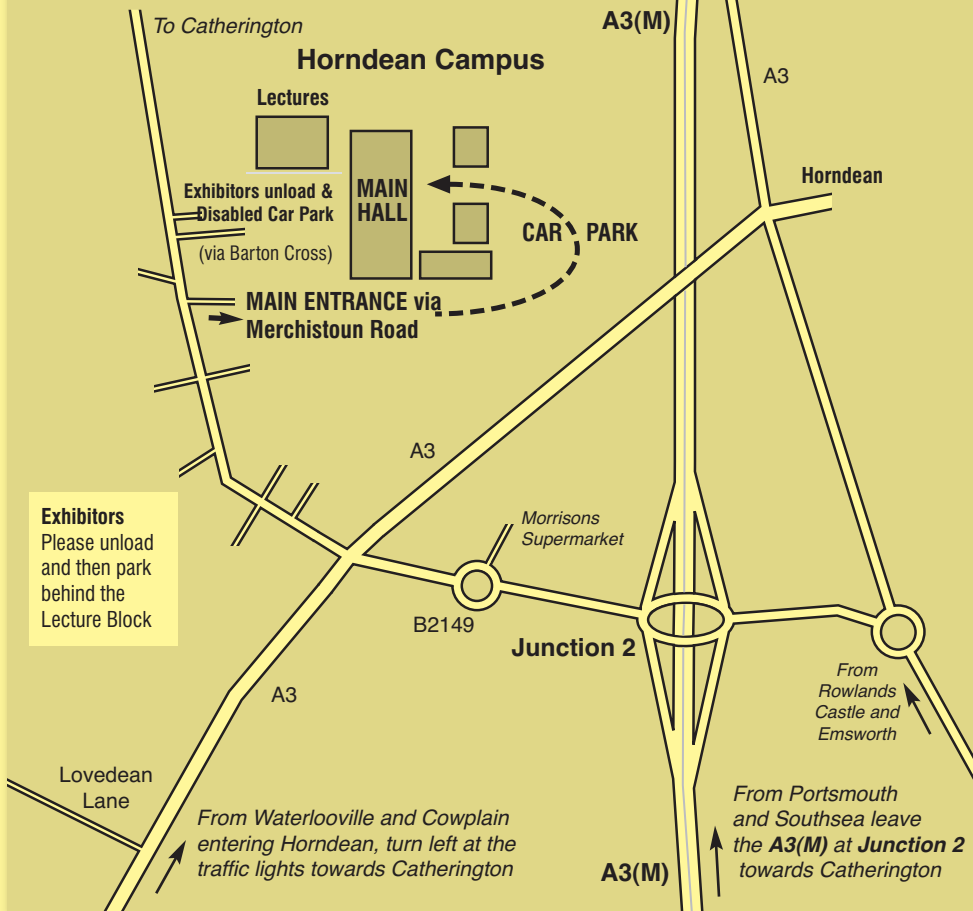
Sharon Hintze from the **London Family History Centre**, currently based at the National Archives, Kew. The Family Search facilities, including the IGI, are some of the oldest and most useful resources freely available for all family history researchers. This talk will be of value to all those wanting to know more about the new style site, and how to get the best information from it.



Open Day

Horndean Technology College

From the north, continue from the A3 on to the Motorway A3(M) and then leave at Junction 2. Turn right at the exit roundabout and across two more roundabouts towards Catherington.



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Please unload and then park behind the Lecture Block

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Problems with on-line pedigrees

Catching up with some overdue reading of the Hampshire Family Historian, I read with considerable interest and concern Peter Calver's article regarding the sale of family trees placed on websites being sold to other websites (HFH Vol 39/2, Sept 2012). I would add to Peter's concerns my own anxieties regarding inaccuracies in on-line trees.

I have been researching the families of both my parents and my husband's parents for more than 20 years. As on-line genealogy developed I undertook with all of them that I would never place our family trees on-line. All accepted that material obtained from publicly available sources would inevitably appear from time to time.

In the course of my research I have enjoyed the excitement of discovering distant relatives from material placed on-line; although I may have found the same material, I would not have made the connections with these 'new' relations. Contact has been made, information verified, and limited current info has been exchanged with the agreement that this was for private use only.

However, more recently, when searching on Ancestry, I discovered two generations of my family in someone else's on-line tree – my grandfather and his siblings, along with his father and his siblings. OK, these had been sourced from available census material. To my great dismay, however, and my father's distress, the wrong person had been identified as my great grandfather's father, and a link made to a family with no connection with ours whatsoever.

I have, on several occasions, left correcting comments with this tree and also messages for the tree owner to contact me to discuss our shared interests. I have received no response at all.

I have contacted Ancestry, on-line and at the

Family Tree Fair, in an attempt to make contact with the owner of this tree, and have met only with a brick wall attitude and the claim that Ancestry does not have this info. Is that really so? When taking out a subscription to Ancestry, details of email and postal addresses have to be supplied. I would dearly love to contact the owner of this faulty tree as I have details of the family going back to 1646, all detailed in our family bible. I can see where the correct connection lies between her tree and my family, and would enjoy meeting her to compare notes.

My other concern is this: I have found this one error; how many others are there likely to be – in this tree or in any others that are on-line? I know that I cannot trust the information in these trees without being able to make contact with their authors, or personally checking each trail. The terms and conditions are not enough. Ancestry should make a very prominent warning on its website that users should be aware that material in the trees it hosts may not be accurate, and, as with all information sourced, needs to be checked and verified.

Peter Calver's drawing of our attention to the possibility that Ancestry may transfer or sublicense family tree data that subscribers have created in Ancestry's website I find alarming. He is right, as in so many other things, we should all pay more attention to terms and conditions before putting family trees on-line. But how many people do go through the mass of small print in any situation where Ts and Cs are involved before signing up to anything? Very few - and I acknowledge that I am as guilty as anybody. For one thing, the quantity and print size discourage proper attention to such details. Therefore, a prominently displayed warning is a must.

Janet Carter (Member # 5861)
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The last of the Instone blacksmiths

The village blacksmith or farrier has been part of the fabric of England for countless centuries. Although this was a sought after position because of its high status and long history, it was not open to just anyone. Traditionally, the profession of blacksmith would pass from father to his eldest son in order for the latter to take over the family business. Other brothers would learn the trade, but would normally have to leave home to find work elsewhere.

Just as farming methods had remained unchanged for generations, blacksmiths had been established centuries ago as the most important craftsmen in any rural community. What agricultural workers needed was dependent on the seasons, and blacksmiths responded to the cyclical needs of farming. They made tools, such as billhooks, spades and axes during the year, but at harvest time they would be busy making or mending scythes or pitchforks. At sheep-shearing time, shears would need sharpening or new ones be made. The new farming season would begin with ploughshares produced at the smithy. In addition to this central role, some smiths were shoeing cattle, as well as horses, from the 18th century onwards, as drovers had to cover longer distances. Most blacksmiths produced items for more general consumption, including iron fittings for gates, fences and wagons. It is clear that we often think of them as farriers, but most shod horses in addition to their support of the agricultural community.

A typical smithy has a rectangular floor plan with one wall left open to provide ventilation and to accommodate horses needing shoeing.

Next to the anvil, hand-operated bellows are used to bring the fire up to the correct temperature. At the centre of the smithy, the focal point of most of the activity, stands a solid wooden block, which not only serves as a mounting for the anvil, but also absorbs some of the vibrations. The traditional anvil shape dates back to the 13th century, and it is used together with a swage block, which has holes in it so that holes can be punched through the iron, and also has curved surfaces to help with the shaping of metal objects.

Many of the **INSTONE** family were farriers more than blacksmiths because they specialised in the shoeing of military horses. Their workshops would have been designed with horses in mind. The animal was kept still by attaching it to solid wooden horsestocks next to a wooden shoeing platform. The worn shoe was removed with pincers, the hoof was filed flat and the new shoe, pre-prepared as a blank, was fitted and nailed on.

The story starts not in Hampshire, but in Benthall, Shropshire, where Henry Instone was born in 1739, and learned his trade as an apprentice to his father John. Luckily, there was plenty of work for Henry as a blacksmith, for coal mined at Benthall had to be transported down to the busy Bower yard on horse-drawn vehicles for onward shipping via barges down the River Severn. Later on, deposits of ironstone and clay were exploited in the same way. Henry married a local girl called Elizabeth **BENBOW** in Benthall in 1768. Between then and 1785 they had three boys and three girls. This family witnessed the construction of the world's first bridge made of iron, which was finished in 1779. In about 1800 it is thought that Henry, then aged 61,

was unable to carry on working. Normally his son John (born 1769) should have taken over, but this was not the case. It should then have passed to Thomas (born 1777), but with the large number of Instone blacksmiths in the area, he had left Benthall at least six years earlier to find his fortune in London. The youngest son William was 15 years old and was also not considered. Finally, it was left to Henry's nephew, Joshua Instone (born 1781 in Harley), to take over the business, as can be seen in the 1841 and 1861 censuses.

In a scene reminiscent of *The Graduate*, Thomas Instone found not only lodgings in London, but also romance with his landlady. This might explain why the woman he married at St Sepulchre in 1794, Ann **BOOKEMASTER**, was ten years older than he. Expectation turned to sadness for Thomas and Ann because they lost four children between 1794 and 1799. The first male child to survive was named William, and he became a blacksmith along with his younger brother Thomas, who would settle in Winchester.

By 1810 the family had moved to Frimley, Surrey, and when his father branched out and became a saddler, harness-maker and businessman in London, William found himself in charge of the blacksmith's business at a young age. He was an outsider in Frimley, and astutely married a local girl from Hawley named Hannah **YEOMANS**, who came from one of the largest and most well-known families in the area.

It is remarkable that all four of William's sons served apprenticeships with their father and became blacksmiths in their own right - especially as it became clear that, in the 1840s and 1850s, when the sons were learning the

trade, their profession was generally in decline.

William's son Joseph Instone was born in Yateley in 1840, and grew up in Yateley, Farnborough and Ash. In 1849 the railway station opened for business in Ash. The consequences of this were to hit Joseph like a steam train a few years later. In 1863, he married Elizabeth **REED** (the sister of his sister-in-law). Ideally placed to serve the Aldershot barracks, which had an enormous number of horses, Joseph was working as a blacksmith and farrier in Ash. Not even two years after he married, the *Illustrated London News* reported his bankruptcy on 11 March 1865.

Joseph bounced back, and just six years afterwards was living with wife and four children in Sand Pit Lane, Farnham. In the *Post Office Directory* of 1875 he was listed as a farrier in Short Street, Aldershot. By the time of the 1881 census, Joseph, Elizabeth and seven children were living at Edward Street, Aldershot, but, more importantly, he was employing Henry Burrows as an apprentice.

Ten years later, Joseph and his family were at the Shoeing Forge in Alexandra Road, Farnham, where he was recorded as a smith (master). In 1898 Kelly's *Directory* listed Joseph at "Edgely", Southampton Street, Farnborough, where he remained until his death in 1913. He had slightly changed direction, keeping the traditional, yet declining, blacksmith's business, but branching out into horse-drawn coach-building. This was a shrewd business move because by the time he died - after an 18-month struggle with cancer - he had

an estate of eleven properties, which would have made him the equivalent of a property millionaire by today's standards: three properties in Farnborough and eight at Aldershot.

None of Joseph's children became blacksmiths, so it seemed he was the last of the Instones in that trade. However, nobody seemed to have known about Joseph's elder brother George, who was born in 1837. An article later appeared in the Surrey and Hants Star reporting the discovery of the remains of a large house in Cove Road at its corner with Elmsleigh Road. An enormous fresh water cistern, some six feet across, and with a capacity of about 3,500 gallons, had been unearthed by a builder's digger. This cistern was originally fed by gutters that collected rainwater from a large roof area. Even though the brickwork had been underground for about 100 years, it was in remarkably good condition. This led to an interesting exchange with Arthur Lunn, the local historian of Cove, whose help has been invaluable as he identified it as the Instones' house.

It is not immediately obvious why George and Elizabeth should have decided to settle in the village of Cove after their marriage in 1861, which village would be dwarfed by Farnborough in the years to follow. The combined population of Cove and Farnborough in 1850 was just 500 people, and most of the surrounding countryside was heathland. There had been an economic downturn in the 1840s and agricultural workers in rural areas had been hit very hard. For the vast majority of workers, life was a perpetual struggle to earn enough to fend off hunger and illness. A number of consecutive poor yield or wet

harvests and low pay caused real hardship in that decade. In this context, George Instone had made the right decision to move to Cove. In 1853, the government purchased most of the local land around Cove for military use, which virtually doubled the population and provided George with secure employment and a ready market for his services as a blacksmith.

George junior, born in 1863, also became an apprentice to his father and learned his profession. George senior and junior worked in a smithy behind what was to become the garage in Tower Hill, Cove. Although he described himself as a blacksmith, George junior branched out and became a wheelwright.

Although he was probably the last of the Instone blacksmiths, it is not the end of the story. The workshop at Cove was boarded up when it fell out of use and, fortunately, it was kept just how it was left. This is what made it possible to preserve the original tools of the trade used by George Instone and his son for future generations. Many of the tools on show at the Rural Life Centre, Tilford, Farnham, as part of the fully working reconstruction of a village blacksmith's workshop, came from the Instone smithy.

A final thought about how history turned full circle: Henry Instone back in Benthall had witnessed what we now call "The cradle of the Industrial revolution". He could not have known what effect it would have on his family's profession. With the arrival of the 19th century, the status of the community blacksmith was quickly eroded. The Industrial Revolution caused their economic decline, but

the attacks on their traditional business came from several directions. Those blacksmiths who used their knowledge of metals in the construction of steam-driven engines were often well rewarded. However, the mechanisation of farming caused unemployment in that community. Almost immediately there was less demand for the hand tools previously produced by blacksmiths because of unemployment. Worse still, new factories were springing up to produce tools previously made by blacksmiths on an industrial scale. Such enterprise would not have been possible before the 19th century because it was only with the arrival of paved

roads, canal and rail transport networks that the distribution of manufactured goods became viable. These alternative transport links reduced the importance of horse-drawn transport and dealt a final blow to many of the once important village craftsmen. When Aldershot Barracks chose rail over horse, Joseph Instone lost his livelihood. Whilst blacksmiths were gradually dying out, some of the Instones flourished, and some ended their lives in poverty, but by the end of the century, all of them had to adapt.

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News from Archives and Local Studies at Hampshire Record Office

Forthcoming events

Exhibitions

The Foyer, Hampshire Record Office

The Showpeople of Hampshire, 8 October – 12 December

The Foyer and Top Floor Gallery, Hampshire Record Office

Wellow then & now, 3 August – 3 October. Early Victorian times to the present day (presented by Wellow History Society), together with a display of artwork from pupils of Wellow Primary School, inspired by the 1840s Wellow Album

Hartley Library, University of Southampton

The British in India, 14 October – 6 December: Drawing on the collections at the Hampshire Record Office and the Special Collections, University of Southampton, this exhibition will explore aspects of British life in India and connections between the nations from the late 18th century to independence in 1947 (www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/newsandevents/calendar.html)

Lunchtime lectures

(Free, but donations in the region of £2 welcomed; no need to book)

Last Thursday of each month, 1.15-1.45pm.

26 September. Woodfidley: 40 years of a folk group – an archive film presentation

31 October. William Cobbett, Botley's radical farmer – by David Chun

28 November. Edward Costello, The story of a Peninsular War rifleman – by Major Ken Gray, Keeper of the Archives, Royal Green Jackets Museum

Family History for Beginners

£12 per person each session. Booking essential (01962 846154)

(You only need to attend one session)

Practical advice and help in starting your family history research - Discover the main sources available and how to use them - Access material on microfiche/film with staff on hand to answer any questions - All you need to know to begin researching your family tree

5 September, 10 October, 7 November, 5 December, 2.00-4.00 pm

24 September, 22 October, 26 November, 6.00-8.00 pm

Local and family history workshops

£12 per person each session. Booking essential (01962 846154)

Thursday 19 September (2.00-4.00 pm).

House History for beginners: Find out how to use archive sources to discover tales about the people who lived in your house, and how it fits into the history of the local community.

Thursday 3 October (2.00-4.00 pm). **How to find your Army Ancestors:** Find out more about the soldier in your family tree with this workshop, revealing the many types of records that throw light on your soldier ancestors, including those from the First World War.

Friday 18 October (2.00-4.00 pm). **Meet the archive conservators:** Find out how archive documents suffer damage through poor storage, damp and pests, and how conservators repair the damage and protect archives for their long-term future.

Tuesday 12 November (2.00-4.00 pm). **Their**

Names liveth for Evermore': Researching **First World War memorials.**

Family events

Secret Stories from the Archives family event

Drop in to the archives on Saturday 12 October between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm to make and decorate your own Story Box, add your personal story to our Story Wall or listen to our very own Storyteller telling stories old and new. All ages and abilities welcome, especially children with disabilities.

Booking required: call us on 01962 846154 or email nicola.pink@hants.gov.uk. £1 per child.

Special events

Did you miss our over-subscribed event marking the 250th anniversary of Barings Bank and celebrating Hampshire's links with the **Baring family, at Stratton Park, Northington Grange and Norman Court?** We are repeating it on Monday 23 September, 5.00 for 5.30 pm. Once again, this will include talks by Lara Webb on The Barings at Work and by Stuart Bridges on The Barings at Home and Abroad, plus a special display of original Baring family archives, and light refreshments.

Booking essential; please ring for details.

Wednesday 9 October, 2.00-3.00 pm: **Is there a book in you?** Practical guide to writing and publishing your book by Dr Alison Baverstock, Kingston University.

£6 per person. Advanced booking essential.

Wed 13 November, 10 am-3.30 pm: **The Archive Ambassador** training scheme. Sign

up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and film and sound archives. **£18 per person, booking essential.**

For more information about events, visit www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/whatson-hro or ring 01962 846154.

Recent additions to the holdings

In the classroom

Over the last few months several interesting series of school records have arrived, notably from Ringwood. These include admission registers for the school variously known as Ringwood National and Church of England School, listing girls, 1876-1921, boys, 1890-1929, and infants, 1899-1919 (58A13). We have also received a series of records of Ringwood British School, subsequently Ringwood Council School and (from 1948) Ringwood Secondary School (60A13); these include log books, 1869-1967. A log book for Kingston School, covering the years 1887-90, was received with these records (60A13/LB8). Early entries show some of the reasons why attendance might be lower than usual, such as picking blackberries or camomile, or a visit to the town by a circus. Occasionally, individual pupils are mentioned, such as **Bessie Dean** and **Herbert Hutchins**, who left in 1887 because *'they are over 13 years of age and are wanted to help at home'*.

Other new arrivals of school records include some photographs of Bursledon C of E School classes at Bursledon Church Fete, 1935-8 (72A13), and a set of photographs of the classes of Swanmore C of E Primary School



One of a series of photographs of classes and staff at Swanmore School, 1908: Hampshire Record Office 80M96/54

taken in 1908 (80M96/54). Poignantly, on the back of the Swanmore photographs there are messages, written by one of the teachers, **Ernest Targett**, who was later to die in the First World War (86M96/54): on the photograph reproduced here he has written 'I made Miss White laugh', presumably a reference to the fact that the teacher appears rather more out-of-focus than her charges. We have also received a useful history of the school, *The Story of Swanmore Church School* by Bob Smith (80M96/62).

Churches and chapels of northwest Hampshire

A recent additional batch of records of Andover Methodist Circuit included an unusual album compiled by **Marie (Marion)**

Turner, relating to the history of chapels in northwest Hampshire and the adjacent part of Wiltshire, mostly in the East Street (Andover) Methodist Circuit (96M72/NMC30). For each chapel there is a short history, often including Marie Turner's own memories of the building and the people associated with it, and also photographs and news-cuttings. Some of the information relates to earlier times, such as extracts from the journal of the preacher **William Fowler**, who preached in villages, such as Leckford and Longstock, in the 1830s. As many of the chapels have now closed, this provides a valuable record of their activities and appearance, and the local families connected with them.

Also from northwest Hampshire we have received a collection of joint parish magazines



Members of Wildhern Methodist Chapel, photographed outside the chapel following the felling of a tree in the 1930s (their names are shown on the reverse of the print) - Hampshire Record Office 96M72/NMC30

for Amport, Appleshaw, Fyfield, Hatherden, Kimpton, Monxton, Tangley, Thruxton, Vernham Dean and Weyhill, covering much of the first half of the 20th century. There are gaps, and not all the parishes were covered in all the magazines, but this was a very welcome arrival, enabling us to fill in spaces in our holdings of this magazine. The issues dating from the First World War include some poignant obituaries of young men from the parishes, such as **Youth Alderman** from Thruxton, who died of wounds sustained while defending a railway bridge at Hill 60 in 1915, and was described by his sergeant as one of his best men, 'quiet and willing'.

The streets of Alresford and Winchester

A small group of material from Alresford

includes a notebook containing hand-drawn maps of the streets in about 1946, marked with house names and businesses, and a key listing the residents by house number (32A13/1). Especially given the lack of a 1941 census, this could be very useful as a way of locating the homes of family members, and of finding out about house names for those properties too small to be named individually on Ordnance Survey maps.

Some delightfully evocative photographs of Winchester in the early years of the 20th century are contained in an album believed to have been compiled by Councillor **Frederick Holdaway**, who was Mayor in 1912 (194M84W/43). It includes photographs of the Fire Brigade cleaning King Alfred's statue, and policemen marching along the



Retrieving fish from a net on the banks of the River Itchen near Winchester, from an album possibly compiled by Cllr Frederick Holdaway, c1910 - Hampshire Record Office 194M84W/43

Broadway, as well as the more rural scene reproduced here.

Local Studies Collection: some new books and pamphlets

A good many interesting family history books have arrived recently. Some deal with aspects of family history in general, some with particular periods such as the World Wars, and others with particular occupations.

The family and local history handbook 14, edited by Robert Blatchford and Elizabeth Blatchford, (published by the editors, 2013) is an enjoyable miscellany, including new articles on beginning the search for your family history, and specific areas of research ranging from tracing prisoners of war to British volunteers in the Spanish Civil War.

How our ancestors died: A guide for family historians, by Simon Willis (Pen & Sword Family History, 2013) is a study of causes of death in the past, how disease was investigated and treated, and what our ancestors thought about illness and the accidents that might befall them.

Second World War lives: A guide for family historians, by James Goulty (Pen & Sword Family History, 2012) is a guide to locating and understanding wartime sources.

There are two notable series of books about occupations: *My Ancestor was ...* published by the Society of Genealogists, and *Tracing Your ... Ancestors*, published by Pen & Sword Family History. Examples we have recently acquired (shelved at 929) include:-

My ancestor was a lawyer, by Brian Brooks and Mark Herber (Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2006); this includes chapters about lawyers and their societies, institutions, manuscript and published records of lawyers, records of the courts, and much more.

My ancestor was a merchant seaman: How can I find out more about him? by Christopher T. and Michael J. Watts (Society of Genealogists, 2nd edition, 2002).

Tracing your canal ancestors: A guide for family historians, by Sue Wilkes (Pen & Sword, 2011). This concentrates on sources relating to canal boatmen and their families, who lived and worked on the waterways, and those who

depended on the canal trade for a living.

Tracing your rural ancestors: A guide for family historians, by Jonathan Brown (Pen & Sword Family History, 2011): a guide to tracing ancestors who lived and worked in the countryside as farmers, labourers, landowners, village tradesmen and professionals.

David Rymill

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Just a word... or two

Rector, Vicar

Every Anglican parish has a Rector, but not a Vicar.

In the English Church the **Rector** (Latin *rector*, ruler, governor, from *rego*, *rectum*, to rule) was a clergyman with the charge and cure of a parish, and formerly held the parsonage and appropriated the tithes. Before the Reformation the rector was sometimes a monastic or ecclesiastic institution or religious house, which was thus obliged to appoint a **Vicar** (Latin *vicarius*, substitute, deputy) to perform parochial duties in return for a portion of the tithes. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the tithes of many such parishes were "impropriated", or granted, to laymen, who had purchased or received former monastic lands and rights from the Crown. Thus, lay rectors kept the Great Tithes while passing on the Small Tithes to their vicars in a system that was intended to pay an income to the incumbent of a church for (religious) services rendered to his parishioners. Hence, where you find a vicar, there is also a rector - a layman, bishop, cathedral chapter or even a university college. A **Parson** (*persona*, person) was either a rector or vicar.

[Based on several sources, including John Ogilvie, LL.D, *The Imperial Dictionary* (1850-83); JP Kenyon (ed), *The Dictionary of British History* (1981); John Richardson, *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia* (1986)]

The postcard age

A hundred years ago the sending of postcards was just as up-to-date as the internet is today. Postcards were fast and postcards were new.

In 1869 the Austro-Hungarian post office issued the first prepaid postal cards - letters without envelopes. Those first cards were very simple, with one side reserved for the message, the other for the address. They were an instant success. Customers sent them by the millions, earning the post office a tidy profit. Very soon almost every postal service in Europe, the Americas, and Asia followed suit. The cards filled a clear practical need, a cheap and efficient way to send a note. They quickly came to embody the concept of the rapid message at a time when telephones were rare. Instant communication technology - in some cities, cards mailed in the morning reached their destination later the same day.

By the 1890s postcards had become an essential part of everyday life. They were the very cheapest thing to mail - at half the price of a letter - and people did so with an enthusiasm verging on mania. They offered an inexpensive way to communicate with loved ones who were far away and also spread the latest news. Photographers using film specially made to print directly on postcard stock could capture a key moment, print it right away, and immediately begin distributing the cards. They offered a pictorial record of the latest newsworthy events, whether global or local, to spread quickly and over long distances. At a time when telephones were used only on special occasions, when movies were still a novelty and newspapers were typically illustrated with line drawings rather than halftone photographs, postcards formed a media that allowed the current events and

burning issues of the day to be circulated easily and rapidly.

A postcard craze swept the world as billions of cards were bought and mailed. Many cards were thrown away after they had served their purpose, but not all, as the fad for buying and sending was married to a mania for collecting them. Postcard collections from this age record the technological, social, political and artistic developments of a time when rapid and broad transformations shook the world.

During the first six months of 1898 Germans mailed over 12,000,000 postcards; four years later they were sending almost that number in a single week. Tourists spent their time on vacation seeking out the best postcards of local attractions rather than actually visiting them themselves. The humorist Jerome K. Jerome remarked that the typical German tourist did not even know where he had been until he returned home and examined the postcards he had sent to family!

Just as today's electronic means of communication, especially text messages, are seen as a threat to the proper use of language and social propriety, so too were postcards "the biggest gift to human laziness". For one thing, the short messages that fit on the cards could hardly convey the erudition of a traditional letter, a long-time sign of refinement. Some felt that the postcard's open nature promoted the circulation (and, in effect, endorsement) of potentially libellous statements. The lack of an envelope also exposed one's personal affairs in an unprecedentedly public manner, not only to postal workers, but also, perhaps more threateningly, to the servants who brought the mail to the final recipient! Some believed that sending an unsolicited postcard was an

unmannerly violation of the recipient's privacy.

How many postcards from the past are a valuable part of your family history research? I have one or two which I treasure. One is the only record I have of my grandmother's handwriting - a short note to her eldest

daughter, my Aunt Beatrice, sent in 1935 from Lymington, Hampshire, where my grandparents had recently gone to live. They had moved from Lambeth, London. Granddad obviously wanted to end his days in the county of his birth. Arthur Henry **JARVIS** was born in Romsey in 1873, but his father Charles Coulson Jarvis, a bricklayer, took the family to London a few years later. Arthur died, aged 67, working at Wellworthy's as a labourer in piston ring manufacture. There is a very nice



Silver Jubilee 1d stamp on the card, but the picture of the High Street, Lymington, is of a period a little earlier than 1935.

The postcard view is one that is very familiar, but my second postcard is an earlier photograph postcard sent in 1927 to Aunt Beatrice by her brother Uncle Arthur Henry Jarvis, my grandparents' eldest son. The picture is of a cable-laying gang, and I am sure he is in the photograph, as on his death certificate his occupation was foreman cable-layer. His handwriting and brief message to

his sister is the only personal information I have of him.

I do have official information about him - his naval record from 1911 as a boy entrant, aged 16, until his discharge in 1918. Family recollections are that he was torpedoed, and had a metal plate in his head from

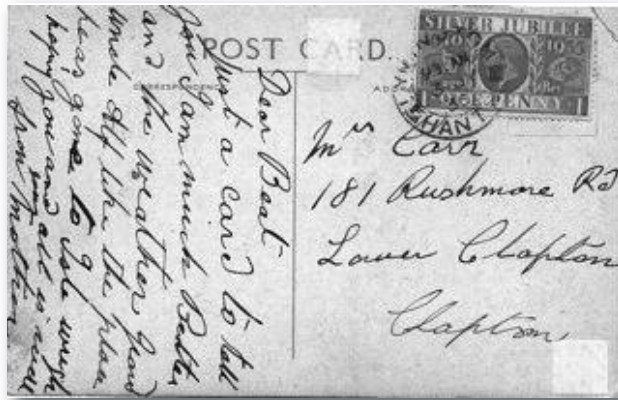


Cable laying gang

his injuries. No record of this; the transcript shows not an illustrious career, but one spent mostly "in detention", many references to "run", and on discharge his character was "indifferent". I think he was a bit of a rebel and not happy with the constraints of life in the Royal Navy. As far as I know, he had no other family, and he returned to his parents' home to die, aged 41, of pulmonary tuberculosis. He is buried with them in Lymington churchyard.

In order to discover more information about him as a cable-layer, I contacted the Porthcurno Telegraph Museum and forwarded a copy of the postcard. A member of staff, Charlotte Dando, was extremely helpful, identifying the cable drums in the photograph as being 'Prescot Cables', manufactured by British Insulated Cables. As the postcard was sent from Edinburgh, she thought it was probably a power cable that was being laid, not a communications cable, at the time the photograph was taken. She was able to tell me that a foreman cable-layer usually referred to men working on cable ships. Their job was to see that the cable goes out of a cable tank and into the machinery correctly during the laying of a cable. At the first indication of a kink he can signal to the engine room to stop in order that the cable may be straightened out. They would have received special training.

I tried to discover whether there were any staff records from British Insulated Cables and the Company's eventual owners, Balfour Beatty, but with no luck. My husband and I did



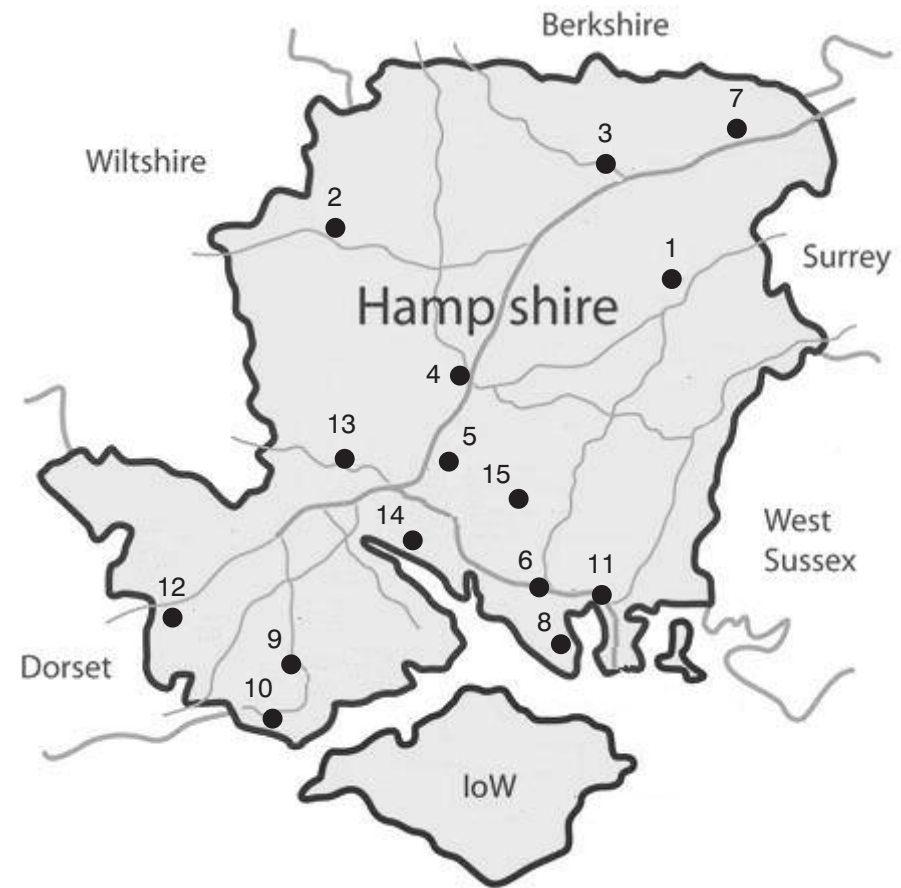
visit the Museum of Submarine Telegraphy, Porthcurno, Cornwall, and I was able to personally thank Charlotte Dando for taking the time to correspond with me. It is an extremely interesting museum. It is well worth visiting this tiny spot on the Cornish coast from where the first transatlantic cable was laid and to explore its underground caves, the centre of England's wartime telecommunications.

My postcard illustrated part of the story of early telecommunications, but, in fact, nearly every role the postcard played in the decades around 1900 has an analogy in today's electronic technology. They too conveyed quick messages, made appointments, invitations, shared images, and made contact with loved ones far away. With pictures of goods and services on their fronts, quick notes about costs and orders on the back, whole businesses ran on postcards. They were part and parcel of a busy, rushing time-saving age - today it is the internet!

Lynda Kiss (Member # 12893)

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HGS Groups 2013



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Alton | 9. New Forest (Brockenhurst) |
| 2. Andover (Weyhill) | 10. New Milton & Christchurch (Highcliffe) |
| 3. Basingstoke | 11. Portsmouth (Cosham) |
| 4. Computer Group (Twyford) | 12. Ringwood |
| 5. Fair Oak | 13. Romsey |
| 6. Fareham | 14. Southampton (Bitterne) |
| 7. Fleet & Farnborough (Fleet) | 15. Waltham Chase |
| 8. Gosport | |



Alton

Meetings are held monthly on the second Monday at 7.30 p.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Queens Road, Alton. If anyone attending our evenings wishes to take advantage of the fully operational hearing loop installed in the hall would they let Jane Hurst know beforehand so that it can be switched on.

Marilyn Rix reports:-

(April) **Members' Evening: Soldiers, sailors & airmen.** Members brought along and shared various service documents, photographs and stories of ancestors who had served in World Wars 1 and 2. Much discussion took place and the sharing of information helped to give a better understanding of the service personnel.

(May) **Steve Rogers – 'The War Graves Photographic Project'.** Steve served in the Royal Navy, and his interest started from wanting to know more about his grandfather, who had served in WW1 as a stoker, along with a general interest in his family's history. He initially wanted to record any Rogers in foreign cemeteries, and then thought that it would be an idea to record and ensure that all service personnel who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country should be remembered.

With the help of a very understanding family, Steve continued with the project after leaving the navy, and expanded its scope with the cooperation and association of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to try and include every war grave worldwide. There are over 1,750,000 war graves and memorials to photograph.

He set up a separate website (www.twgpp.org) to the CWGC website (www.cwgc.org) with the help of what now are just over 1,000 volunteer photographers worldwide, sending in pictures of headstones for inclusion. The website has also been expanded to include a photograph of the deceased if the family so wishes, as well as the headstone or name extracted from a memorial.

A copy of a record can be purchased from the website for a minimal sum. There is no funding for the project. It only exists due to Steve and his family and the large band of volunteers giving their time and effort freely.

(June) **Members' Evening: Looking at 17th century documents together.** Jane Hurst took us on a very interesting journey with the group trying to interpret two wills and part of a house inventory from the 1600s. A crib sheet of the alphabet was handed out and, looking at it, many wondered just how many different ways a letter could be written.

The later will, 1697/8, was very neatly and clearly written, and fairly easy to decipher. The earlier will, dated 1685, for an Alton gentleman, was more difficult. The page of the house inventory, dated 1647, was even more difficult: the values were

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easy to read, but the handwriting seemed to use many of the different alphabet symbols, and, of course, names of rooms and items that needed explanation from Jane. What was surprising was the high value of the linen items, presumably luxuries at the time. It demonstrated the wealth and status of the household.

July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

9 September	Members' Evening: Wills & administrations	
14 October	Probate records	Les Mitchenson
11 November	Upstairs & downstairs at Hackwood Park	Brian Spicer
9 December	Members' Evening: Share a mince pie & a family Christmas item	

Andover

Meetings are held on the second Thursday, September to July, commencing 7.30p.m. at The Fairground Hall, Weyhill, Andover SP11 0QN

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Jim Duncan reports:-

(April) **Else Churchill – Researching the female line.** The lack of information published on the fairer sex makes researching the female line that bit more difficult. For example, a birth notice in 1816 records "at their house Charlton, Kent, on Thursday last, the wife of Captain John Richard Loudon, Royal Navy, a daughter". However, the female population slowly started to appear in directories under various occupations: corset maker, dressmaker, midwife, etc. Servants' registries are a good source, as one in three Victorian women aged between 15 and 25 were in service.

Else went on to cover many other aspects where, with a little digging, one can turn up records of female ancestors. Much general information on their lives can even be found in print. The usual online genealogical sources can also provide considerable data, if researched properly.

(May) **Open Forum / Discussion on parish records before 1837.** Jeanne Renshaw opened the meeting with an in-depth look at parish records before civil registration came into being. For many, when they reach the period before 1837, taking the step to look at original parish records (OPRs) can be quiet daunting. An understanding of these records is essential - when they began, what form they took, how they were written, and the laws governing their existence.

Parish records were the mainstay of the parochial system, and contained many other sources than baptisms, marriages and burials. If they survive, the various records may comprise vestry minutes, churchwardens' accounts, poor rates, settlement and removal certificates, bastardy bonds, apprenticeship indentures, etc. As more and more of the surviving records come to the surface, many are made available through the several family history websites.



(June) **Louise Taylor – Adoption & fostering, 1850-1930.** Louise managed to dispel some of the myths that surround adoption and fostering, and covered early practices where adoption was by private arrangement: These gave no legal protection for the child or rights for the adopters; and money sometimes changed hands.

Several case studies of children who went through the trauma give a clear picture of the process. The Poor Law Union’s Board of Guardians also played a part in dealing with this subject, as they had the power to adopt children, and subsequently board them out to foster homes.

Various forms of legislation were introduced to try to improve the situation. Two versions of the Infant Life Protection Act and the 1908 Children’s Act led to the formation of two adoption societies in 1917 (National Adoption Society and National Children Adoption Society). They lobbied vigorously, and legal adoption came into being for England and Wales (1926), Scotland (1930) and Northern Ireland (1931). In the early days many informal arrangements were made legal, with over 3,000 in the first year.

“Because something is difficult doesn’t mean it’s impossible” - was the message that Louise gave to her audience. There are many clues out there that may unlock the secret of your adopted ancestor: family stories, family bibles, BMD certificates, parish registers, Board of Guardians’ registers and minute books, census returns, handwritten notes, and private adoption agreements.

July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

12 September	London labyrinth (London records)	Kathy Chater
10 October	Open Forum: Discussion on nonconformist records	
14 November	Naval record cards	Steve Jarvis
12 December	Christmas Meeting	

Basingstoke

Meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. and are held on the fourth Wednesday every month (except August and December) at St Michael’s Church Cottage Hall, Church Street.

Lin Penny reports:-

(April) **Members’ Evening: Our World War I ancestors.** We had a variety of talks from Malcolm Bottrill, Jim West, Jane Hussey, Ken Smallbone, Peter McNulty and Lin Penny, and also included details from reticent speaker Jenny Banks, as well. We showed Jenny’s photo of her grandfather in a prisoner-of-war camp. We commented on the letters ‘KG’ printed on the trousers of one of the prisoners, and it was hoped that this might help Jenny pinpoint



which camp her grandfather was in. Peter researched this and discovered that it was the abbreviation for Kriegsgefangener, meaning “prisoner of war”. Apparently, prisoners of the Germans in both wars were required to have ‘KG’ on their clothing. Sadly, it doesn’t take Jenny any further forward, but at least it’s a question off the list.

(May) **Beverley Walker – Was your ancestor a gypsy?** Beverley’s talk on gypsy ancestors was illuminating, as she gave a detailed account of the history of persecution of these people in this country, as well as the way they lived. Many of us are probably looking at our hawkers and hurdle makers now, and wondering if they were gypsies.

(June) **Members’ Evening: Our ancestors in the workhouse.** Ken Smallbone and Jane Hussey gave very different sides of the coin relating to the workhouse system. Ken opened with the very few surviving records pertaining to Basingstoke Union Workhouse, which, unfortunately, were limited to 1835-45 and predominantly dealt with punishments and the darker side of the institution. Jane talked of her great-uncle, who was a very humane and sympathetic master of a Welsh workhouse in the 1930s. Lin Penny discussed Southwell Workhouse Museum, Nottinghamshire, which she and her husband had recently visited. She had also received a letter from Brian and Jean Beagley of Leicestershire, relating to an ancestor who had purchased his wife from Basingstoke Union Workhouse. A mixed bag indeed!

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

25 September	Members’ Evening: Having another bash at our brick walls
23 October	The lost countryside: Images of rural life Speaker from the Rural Life Centre
27 November	Christmas Function

Computer Group

Meetings are held in the Gilbert Room of the Twyford Parish Hall (car park and entrance off Hazeley Road) on Mondays of alternate months (not Bank Holidays). Doors are open for 7.30 p.m. start. Meetings are open to all members, with or without computers. New members & visitors are welcome.

Contact

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There have been no Computer Group meetings since January, and the next and last one will be on:-

23 November	PowerPoint & presentation techniques	Colin Daniels
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Following the November meeting the Computer Group will cease to exist



Fair Oak

Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Tuesday monthly at St Thomas' Church Hall (attached to the church) Mortimers Lane. Doors open approx 7.30pm

Sandra Naish reports:-

(April) **Chris Humby – The Humby family in Bishopstoke.** A Bishopstoke native, Chris **HUMBY**'s family home was Hillside Cottage in Spring Lane. **ELKINS** at 66 Spring Lane were also connected to his family. He had attended Wyvern School, but in retirement his main interest was local history. His grandmother's **POPE** family came from Dorset, with Methodist links back to 1874 in Bishopstoke. William Pope opened a New Bible Christian Church in 1904, and had preached under police protection. His Durley-born paternal grandfather moved to Bishopstoke, an extremely large parish that abounded with grand country houses before Bishopstoke Junction Railway Station opened in 1840 (now Eastleigh Station). His family occupied faculty pews in the old Bishopstoke Church under a rigorous class system in force then. Chris found a long line of agricultural labourers in his research before his family worked for the London & South Western Railway Company, or served as soldiers at Droxford Army Camp, 1903-1914, or World War I Royal Naval Air Service. His father, an apprentice polisher at The Carriage Works, was made redundant, but was taken on again to serve 50 years. The family's rent was four shillings weekly on Longmead Estate in 1928, a place where council houses were built post-World War II. Chris's wife had been housed in a hut at Velmore Camp, Chandlers Ford. Lots of local photographs, and specifically many of old Bishopstoke.

(May) **Meryl Catty – 'To coin a phrase'.** Have you ever wondered how everyday phrases like 'post-haste', 'going at it hammer and tongs', 'learning the ropes' or 'plumbing the depths' came to be incorporated into the English language? Well, Meryl explained that many of them have their origins in occupational trades of yesteryear, and a great many of them come from seamanship or Royal Navy phraseology in the days of sail. 'Hammer and tongs' relates to the work of a blacksmith, but 'getting down to brass tacks' was not related to the same, but to a draper's measuring device. 'Post-haste' comes from the early days of letters being carried by horse. None of the sayings were in any way genealogical, but their origins were all interesting to the wordsmiths among us. One that had never been encountered before indicated that weak tea was "water bewitched and tea begrudged."

(June) **Eric Reed – A guided walk of Fair Oak.** Meeting with us at St Thomas's Church (built 1862), Eric outlined its history before progressing to Fair Oak Square and the George Inn, where the ancient track from Bishopstoke formed a junction with the Gosport-Winchester turnpike road. Fair Oak became a parish, independent from Bishopstoke, in 1871. Henry **TWYNAM** resided at Quobleigh Farm, and owned property in the area. It was his 1834 bequest of three cottages for the poor in Fair Oak Road that led to 20th-century rebuilding into the Twynam's Terrace residences viewed. Fair Oak Lodge stands in Allington Lane, with parts dating back to the 1600s, although today used as the King's School. One of its two tiny

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lodges (named Fair Oak Cottage in 1994) was pointed out, but the building had been greatly extended - John GOSS in our party added that son Trevor had built the matching extension.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

10 September	Members' Evening	
8 October	Records of death	Celia Heritage
12 November	Coroners' records	Kathy Chater
10 December	Christmas Social	

Fareham

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Meetings are normally held from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Wallington Village Hall, Broadcut, Fareham.

Joan Dickson reports:-

(April) **Bookstall & members' record keeping.** Chris Pavey brought along some of the books and CDs from the Society's Bookstall, and members were buying items as soon as they were set out. Chris told us that she and her helpers on the Bookstall attend about seventeen venues each year, and, although the sales at 'Who Do You Think You Are' are good, the cost of renting table space, electricity and internet is enormous. She went on to say that there are plans to have bookstall sales online in the future. During the second half of the evening members shared ways of storing and displaying records and artefacts related to family history.

(May) **Dolina Clarke – The Research Centre.** Dolina outlined a brief history of the research facilities that the Society has operated in the past, and then went on to identify those in the present Research Centre. The initial Research Room began to operate in April 2003 at Drayton. In 2011 the contents were moved to the present location (renamed HGS Research Centre) at Cosham, where it is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Members are encouraged to visit, but must telephone first to book.

Our evening ended with a presentation to Keith Hayward, who is standing down as the group leader. He had shown commitment and dedication to our group for many years, being one of the longest serving group leaders in the Society. As he is not actually leaving, we shall hopefully call on his expertise from time to time.

(June) **A visit to the Hampshire Record Office.** We met in Winchester and had a guided tour by archivist David Rymill. It began in the search area and we soon discovered that there is far more information available than most of us had realised. We were also shown



behind the scenes, and even those of us who regularly use the Record Office had no idea there was so much going on out of public view. The evening finished in the lecture theatre with some archive footage of Fareham.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

12 September	Tracking down missing relatives	Colin Chapman
10 October	First World War research	Jane Fox
14 November	Ask the experts: genealogical questions answered by a panel	
12 December	A light-hearted look at life in Tudor times / American Supper	Mary Kinoulty

Fleet & Farnborough

Contact:

David Broomfield, 1 Burghead Close, College Town, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0XL Tel: 01344 761375. Email david.c.broomfield@btinternet.com

The group meets at the United Reform Church Hall, Kings Rd, Fleet GU51 3AF second Thursday of every month except August at 7.30pm.

Lesley Bull reports:-

(April) **AGM / Members' talks.** With business swiftly concluded we had four short talks from members. Dominic Harper began with a computer presentation, supported by a static display, about his ancestor Thomas COKER, who was a boatswain. Dominic has traced his naval career. Carole Brownlee talked about her **HURDLE** and **BARTLETT** families, who were blacksmiths in North Farnborough. She had a display shown at our Open Day in Farnborough Library. Richard Forster's interest was sparked by an inscribed china mug, dated 1861, found amongst a maiden aunt's possessions when she died. He told us about his successful search to find the sender of the mug. The last short talk was from Colin Broadley. He suggested that a future meeting could be 'One document that has helped'. His document was a 'demand' by his grandfather, Alfred **BROADLEY**, for a copy of his birth certificate required under the terms of the National Insurance Act of 1911. Alfred had to give many details about himself and his parents, which could prove invaluable to a family historian.

(May) **George Yalden – Friendly societies.** George brought along a very impressive collection of regalia. His talk centred on the Ancient Order of Foresters - he is Secretary of the Portsmouth Court - but included all friendly societies including Oddfellows, Rechabites, Druids and others. The Foresters Heritage Trust in Southampton has a large collection of documents in its archives, at national and local level: accounts, minutes, reports, and membership registers, for example. It welcomes enquiries from researchers. Currently, there is a policy of not charging for dealing with enquiries, but donations are always welcome from satisfied users.



(June) **Paul Vickers – Aldershot Camp in 1910.** Paul used many varied photographs of Aldershot Camp to give us a snapshot of how it was in 1910. It had just been rebuilt - wooden huts replaced by brick buildings. Paul's on-screen presentation gave us a real insight on the layout of the camp: what kinds of sports facilities and activities there were; pictures of the barracks, inside and out, including the Officers' Club - a social centre for the garrison; and much more. Three exceptional photographs were taken from the air, possibly a year or two later. In 1910 there were 17,500 soldiers based in Aldershot Camp, now there are about 4,500. Paul is Chairman of the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum, and with others is campaigning to protect the best of each kind of army building and keep them standing, preserved so that future generations can see what they were like.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

12 September	Members' Evening: Ask the Panel	
10 October	Hooked on family history	Len Ruffell
14 November	Upstairs, downstairs	Ian Waller
12 December	Christmas Meeting	

Gosport

Contact:

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Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Centre, Green Road, Alverstoke, Gosport at 7.30pm.

Pauline Powell reports:-

(April) **Members' 10-minute talks.** Peter Elliott told us how he solved a mystery about two sisters, and why they were not with their father Francis Guise **STEVENS** on the 1891 census. They were with their aunt. Bridget Pelling talked about the Havant watchmaker and photographer William **SCORER**, who was involved in x-ray photography, and applied for various patents. Marilyn Lovett spoke about Percy **FIELDER**, who mysteriously disappeared to Australia, leaving his wife and son behind. Jack, his son, met his father again before the latter's death in 1948. Penny Poulter's research arose from an enquiry in the December 2012 HFH from George Quibell in Australia seeking a link between the **HALL** families of Fordingbridge and Breamore in the 1600s. Pauline Powell displayed a portrait of the **CHAMBERS** family around a piano, painted by John Thomas Seaton in about 1762, and gave details of the family members. Mary Duly spoke about the four **MACDONALD** sisters, the daughters of a Methodist minister, who were notable for their marriages to well-known people of the Victorian era - a fascinating insight into the Pre-Raphaelite artistic community. Mick Roberts, Secretary of the Dockyard Historical Trust, explained the Index of Dockyard



Workers, 1760–1900, which, for a donation of £10, can be searched for family members.

(May) **Alison Mayor & Martin Davies – Project Kedge Hook.** Southsea Sub-Aqua Club (SSAC) divers carried out their most challenging wreck investigation yet on the wreck of a British WW2 tank landing craft in the eastern approaches to Portsmouth Harbour in July 2011. The wreck (HMLCT 427) sank on her return to Portsmouth after delivering her cargo of tanks on D-Day. Just four miles from home, at 3 am, 7 June 1944, she was in collision with the battleship HMS Rodney. She was sliced in half and sank immediately, with the loss of all hands. The wreck lies in two pieces at a maximum depth of 32 metres. Diving conditions are extremely challenging, primarily because the wreck lies on both sides of the main shipping lane to the Solent ports, but also due to poor visibility and strong currents. It is in remarkable condition, complete with anti-aircraft guns and ammunition boxes.

SSAC arranged a memorial service for those lost in the tragedy. It took place on 17 November 2011, when wreaths were laid at sea over the wreck by veterans and family members, and a service was held in St Ann’s Church in the Dockyard. Alison is also trying to get the wreck recognised as a historic wreck, as it cannot be protected as a military maritime grave because human remains have not been found there.

(June) **Roy Harris & Toby James – St Mark’s Church, Alverstoke: cemetery renovation.** Robert Cruickshank built St Mark’s as a “chapel of ease” in 1853. Never popular with the church authorities, it fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1911. The shape of the church is “capped off” with concrete in the churchyard, and it is closed for burials. It became overgrown with brambles and weeds. In 1970 an attempt was made to renovate it, and in 2003 local residents banded together to form the Friends of St Mark’s. Gradually the churchyard has been returned to a manageable state. Gravestones have been carefully repaired - many famous names came to light, all carefully recorded. There were six generals, eight admirals and two baronets, several church dignitaries, relatives of Nelson, Earl Jellicoe, W. G. Grace, and other great names - including Churchill and Bonham-Carter, well-known local families, Cruickshank’s family vault, and more. A host of plants, trees and shrubs had been beautifully planted to encourage wildlife into this now clean and tidy churchyard. It was awarded the best Small Graveyard Award in 2012, a fitting reward for such a dedicated band of Friends.

July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

11 September	Portsmouth’s World War 1 heroes	James Daly
9 October	Getting the best from FindMyPast	Howard Benbrook
13 November	Happy ever after (Marriage, divorce laws & customs)	John Hurley
11 December	Members’ Evening / Christmas Social	



New Forest

*Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month in the **Exhibition Room** of the Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Road, Brockenhurst and commence at 7.30 p.m. Lift and full disabled access available.*

Contact:

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Allison Shelley reports:-

(April) **George Yalden – Education records.** Few school records go back hundreds of years. Those that survive include National School, railway, workhouse, German Society, Roman Catholic, naval, etc. Private school records may not be publicly available, while those of Sunday schools can often be found among parish records.

School log books can contain interesting entries. In 1900 a Hampshire log recommended washing thoroughly and treating head lice with paraffin. In July 1934 there was the church outing to Hayling Island, and in May 1935 the King’s Silver Jubilee brought forth another day’s holiday. Teachers’ wages and punishment records were also occasional entries.

Photos can sometimes be found among school records. Newspaper cuttings were often included, with mentions of school sports days and other community events, sometimes recording names of relatives. In September 1939 the main topic was evacuees and their inclusion in local schools.

(May) **Stephen Ings – New Forest Victorian cottages.** A cob cottage was built using materials found nearby: clay, cow dung, heather or straw, and with flints and rubbish from the fields as footings. Usually one storey high, its floor was beaten earth. A piece of waste land was found, and a cottage was built, sometimes with one room or perhaps two. Later additions would perhaps include an upper storey, accessed via a wooden ladder.

Water had to be fetched from a well some distance away. At Wellow, Marion Harding regularly climbed two stiles, crossed two fields and clambered down a steep bank to the stream where she collected drinking water for the family. There was little regular work for the men, so they often kept pigs, a cow, and chicken. In 1910 a man could earn seven shillings a week hand-threshing. Women and children would earn money by making match faggots for lighting fires.

With various cheaper food commodities being imported, by the end of the 19th century local farming was in severe depression and village populations had declined. Families left their homes and moved into the towns - cob cottages were left behind to collapse, as the roofs fell in and rain penetrated their walls.

(June) **Gareth Owen – New Forest remembers: Do you?** Gareth, from the project ‘New Forest Remembers’, told how, with funding, the 280 sites first targeted for research has now grown to 3,000.

He explained ‘Lidar’ (light-detecting and ranging), a method of terrain mapping that has proved invaluable for ‘looking through’ trees and ground cover to discover areas of World



War II activity. 'Huff Duff' (high-frequency direction finding stations) were 30-ft wooden towers, situated 30 miles apart, to give early warnings of incoming enemy planes.

150 war diaries had been discovered, with many people interviewed, relating fascinating wartime memories. Anything relating to the war that members may remember or possess would be most welcome, and could play an important part in the project. Some amazing scrapbooks, put together by Sir Morgan Crofton, had come to light, comprising a collection of military orders, defence plans, and hand-drawn maps.

Setley Prisoner of War camp was also featured. Originally built in 1941 to house Italian prisoners, and later Germans, it was eventually used for people who had lost their homes through bombings. While the Italians were there, they were often seen working in the sawmill, on farms, and in local gardens.

July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

4 September	'The Flying Enterprise' & the Tug 'Turmoil'	John Avery
2 October	St Barbe Museum	Sarah Newman
6 November	Some stories from Lyndhurst church	Angela Trend
4 December	Christmas Meeting: American Supper & mince pies	

New Milton & Christchurch

Meetings are held in the Library of St. Mark's Church, Highcliffe, on the second Friday of each month at 7.30 p.m. The church is about 100 yards off Lymington Road on Hinton Wood Avenue, the turning opposite The Galleon

Daphne Austin reports:-

(April) **Mike Hobbs – Crimea to Korea: A family at war.** Mike's story began with the Crimea and ended with Korea. With the use of a collection of postcard sent home during the period, he was able to fill in some details on various documents and medals. One family member was a very keen photographer, so we were able to see what the people actually looked like. It also helped that they were hoarders of family papers. Mike talked us through the way he found items and where to look for information.

(May) **Tony Cross – The romance of letterboxes.** Tony spoke of the early postage system, how the letterboxes developed, and the significance of the various types. At first it sounded odd to have a talk on postboxes, but it was enlightening and informative, particularly accompanied with photographs. Some of the overseas boxes looked very uninviting – even to



the point of appearing to be rubbish bins! Tony made us really think about the subject and how the boxes are beginning to disappear because we are not posting letters now - just emailing instead.

(June) **John Avery – Titanic's people.** The evening was spent learning about the stories behind some of the people who were on the Titanic, and the effects it had on their lives and families. John covered all grades of people - from the very top to the lower paid workers. These included those sailors who accidentally missed the boat, and so others had to take their place. When he came to talking about Southampton and the devastating effect it had on that town, we realised that from over 1,500 people who were lost, over 700 hailed from Southampton.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

13 September	Peterson's Sway Tower: The use of concrete	Paul Freeland
11 October	The changing 19th-century Forest	Peter Roberts
1 November	Memories of Wartime Hampshire	John Heighes
13 December	Bits & pieces	Daphne Austin

Portsmouth

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except January and August Bank Holidays) at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. in the Baptist Church Hall, Havant Road, Cosham.

Sue Decicco reports:-

(April) **Matthew Jones – Documents at West Sussex Record Office.** Matthew, assistant archivist, explained that the record office at Chichester was purpose-built in 1989 to accommodate 1,200 years of history. However, it is now full. 10,000 visitors come to the record office each year, and 65% of these are looking at family history records. Resources include maps, an online catalogue, and also the archives for the Royal Sussex Regiment. Conservation is an ongoing operation.

250,000 photographs are housed here. They include those of the devastation caused by the bombing of Portsmouth during World War II, and obviously taken just after the event. The Record Office also houses the Screen Archive for the Southeast, including West and East Sussex, Kent and Surrey. They have 10,000 films dating back to 1896, with a short one of Portsmouth in the 1930s. This was shown to us with the photos, and members recognised many areas on the foreshore, by the docks, and Commercial Road. A lot of the shops bombed are still in business today.

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(May) **Members' Evening: Websites for family historians.** This had been arranged by the late John Manning, who had a great knowledge of family history websites. We did, however, have lots of discussions about the websites used by members, with the advantages and disadvantages.

(June) **Roger & Barbara Glancefield – Historical navy/army uniforms.** We were treated to a very informative and humorous evening concerning the uniforms. Barbara and Roger both wore costumes and uniforms from 1795, and also the WWII period. Roger detailed all the parts of his uniform, from hat to shoes, including the sword. We were informed about prize money and its distribution to the ranks; the changing uniforms when either the King or Queen was on the throne, and how the officers had to pay for their uniforms. Also, some everyday sayings that we use today that had originated from this period.

July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

2 September	Sources for family history at the Hampshire Record Office	Sarah Farley
7 October	Members' Evening: Your questions answered by an HGS 'expert panel'	
4 November	Lesser used sources for family historians	Jane le Cluse
2 December	Christmas Social	

Ringwood

We meet at 7.30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road, Ringwood. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

Paul Pinhorne reports:-

(April) **David Lee – Wessex Film Archives: New Forest on film.** As always, David is able to find films that relate to our area. It is not just the presentations he provides, but the information about the Archives, and where the contributions arise. Due to the very many changes in technology, he emphasised how important it is to ensure you move your films and sound recordings on to up-to-date media. Not only do the media deteriorate after time, but the equipment for playing back becomes less available.

(May) **Members' Evening: Internet access, &c.** This was an evening with laptops, accessing the internet to search out those long-lost ancestors for our members. We were able to locate a number on various censuses.

(June) **Mary, Lady Teviot – Wills & administrations.** I am unable to provide a report for this, as I was in Germany meeting cousins for the first time, going around cemeteries and picking up some very old photographs. I believe the talk went well.



July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

18 September	Enumerators Tale	Meryl Catty & Audrey Gillett
16 October	Lunatic asylums	David Chilton
20 November	Commonwealth War Graves Commission Photographic Project	Steve Rogers
18 December	Christmas festivities (Members only)	

Romsey

Meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at Crosfield Hall, Romsey, at 7.30 pm. Newcomers are welcome.

Val Dawe reports:-

(April) **Colin Moretti – Talking about wills.** Colin's very informative talk told us how useful wills can be in giving information about our ancestors. Procedures regarding wills and probate, including intestacy, were explained. Finding a will is not always easy, but Colin gave many hints and options of how and where to start searching.

(May) **Pat Goodwin – Working the land in the Lower Test Valley.** Pat's talk, covering the 19th century, was split into three categories: wealthy landowners, tenant farmers, and the poor agricultural labourers. There were three main landowners in the Romsey district, Lord Palmerston being one of them. Censuses showed that the numbers of agricultural labourers lessened drastically in the period 1851-1901. It was during this time that mechanisation was introduced into farming. Pat's talk was well illustrated with maps, photographs and charts, and she showed her vast knowledge of this topic, including local farming families.

(June) **Phoebe Merrick – Romsey Workhouse.** Concern for the poor in Romsey can be traced back to the 10th century, and Phoebe outlined the procedures of how they were dealt with. Poor people from outside the parish would be removed and sent back to their own parishes. The Workhouse was divided into separate quarters for men and women. Boys and girls were taught in two separate schools. Nursing care was provided and some inmates became nurses in the Workhouse. A Board of Guardians was appointed annually. The staff, headed by the jointly appointed Master and Matron, also included a clerk, treasurer and relieving officers. A porter guarded the gate. Vagabonds and beggars would be allowed admittance, but there was no separate accommodation for them until 1930. Gradually, the need for Workhouses diminished and the Romsey buildings became a home for the elderly, still having the same use today.



July meeting to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

2 September	Using newspapers for family history	Jane Hurst
7 October	Members' Evening: Looking at our family histories	
4 November	Cameos of the Western Front, 1914	Marc Thompson
2 December	Members' Evening / American Supper & quiz	

Southampton

Contact:

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Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Commercial Street, Bitterne, Southampton, at 7.30 p.m. Car park is adjacent.

Anne Lawrence reports:-

(April) **George Yalden – Foresters' Heritage Trust.** The Ancient Order of the Foresters came into being at a time when ordinary working people, who became ill and could not work, had no money to look after their family. Similarly, if the head of the household died, his family could become destitute. For a few pence a week, they could join the Society, then, in the event of an illness that prevented him from working, the Society would help financially. If the person died, the children would be looked after and receive training for employment.

The meetings were accompanied with all sorts of regalia. George brought along many different colourful sashes. As members were awarded badges ("jewels") for merit, they were attached to these sashes. On the back was plain black material, and the sashes would be reversed when attending funerals. Ladies' sashes were made of silk.

A local museum, library and archives at 29/33 Shirley Road, Foresters House, Southampton, where minutes and membership books can be viewed, is open to researchers through appointment.

(May) **Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez & Irina Nelson – The Basque children evacuees in Southampton.** In May 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, a ship containing 4,000 Basque children departed on the SS Habana to come to Britain to escape the atrocities of the war. The British Government, however, were reluctant to receive them and no public funding was given. The children were taken to a camp site at Stoneham, near Eastleigh. Charitable organisations went into action to help, donating large sums of money to help fund the children's needs.

Initially, it was thought the children would only be there for three months. After that time they were sent to "dispersal camps" across the UK. In May 2007, the 70th anniversary of the Basque camp, commemorative events took place in Southampton. In Eastleigh there was a symposium where former Basque refugees came together.

(June) **Beverley Walker – Tracing missing beneficiaries.** Beverley used to work for one of the firms that are shown on the television programme Heir Hunters. She told us how they would get the list of people who had died intestate. If the estate is not claimed within 30 years, details would be put on the list of Bona Vacantia. Some wills would even be put on the list if they were not legal - if the will is not properly filled out, or the named beneficiary had already died, or the person named in the will cannot be found. The researchers can look for relatives who are entitled to be beneficiaries, going back to grandparents and downwards. When they send letters out to possible beneficiaries, they often don't get a reply, possibly because people are suspicious. BMD indexes and census returns are used extensively but parish records cannot be used because they need certificates as proof.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

16 September	Swaythling Remount Depot	Harry Willis Fleming
21 October	Childhood in a village	John Pitman
18 November	Settlers, visitors & asylum seekers	Philip MacDougall
16 December	Members' Evening: Quiz, Brains' Trust, &c	

Waltham Chase

Contact:

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Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Waltham Chase Village Hall, Winchester Road, Waltham Chase, and commence at 7.30 p.m. Car parking at the Hall. Newcomers welcome.

Chris Pavey reports:-

(April) **Rod Whale – Fun in Faversham, sex in Shoreditch and sin in Southampton.** Rod based his talk on his wife's ancestry, and centred on the lies perpetuated since her maternal grandparents – namely, Alice Maud SMITHER and George William JONES – never married. It took 14 years of research to unravel the story.

Iris Forsdyke reports:-

(May) **Ann Baxendale – The poor house & paupers, St Christopher's, Fareham.** The premises were built between 1834 and 1839. Some extra land was purchased where vegetables were grown, including the planting of fruit trees. The first Board of Governors was formed in 1834 and the first meeting was held in Fareham in 1835. At that time the guardians of each parish were responsible for the poor inmates. With its final construction a master and matron were employed. Detailed minutes had been kept and a picture was built up of life in the workhouse. The living conditions were poor; and the inmates were compelled to wear

particular clothing. A separate diet was arranged for the children. Married couples were allowed one hour together on Sunday afternoons, and the elderly and middle-aged were sometimes split up. Those in charge could be dismissed if it was considered they were not treating the poor in a proper manner. As the children became young adults, they were sent out into the world with very little help regarding money and clothing. Over time, the whole system needed reform - as a result of which, a large amount of research took place that brought many parishes together. St Christopher's in Fareham and other workhouses finally became infirmaries controlled by proper staff. In the 20th century some records were gathered up by the Diocese; some had been destroyed by vermin and some moulded away. This year (2013) a housing development is now on the site of St Christopher's.

(June) **Beverley Walker – Heir hunters.** Mrs Walker had given the same talk to Southampton HGS Group only a week beforehand. Please refer to the Southampton group reports in this current journal for details.

July & August meetings to be reported in the next journal. Future dates are:-

24 September	Using manorial records for family history	Ken Smallbone
22 October	The history of Coghlan's, Fareham	Richard Coghlan
26 November	Buffet (Christmas) Evening	

Executive Committee and Development Forum Meetings

Executive Meetings are held at the HGS Office in Cosham on the last Wednesday of alternate months, beginning at 7.15 pm.

Development Forum Meetings are held in the Gilbert Room at Twyford Village Hall three times a year on Sunday at 2.30 pm.

Attendees must inform the secretary if they are unable to attend. They are however able to send a substitute on their behalf.

Dates for 2013 Committee Meetings:

11 September	Executive Meeting	20 October	Development Forum
29 September	Open Day (Horndean)	13 November	Executive Meeting

Were they cousins?

While tracing my wife's family, I discovered the name BANTING on both her grandfather's maternal and paternal sides. Her mother Isabel had some recollection that there was a cousin marriage in the family, but did not think that it was of 'first' cousins or as recent as her grandparents. While Banting is not a common name, there is a large group in Hambledon. Isabel grew up in nearby Soberton, but was told that they were not related to each other. This may seem unlikely, and the connection was probably back in the Andover area, but we have not yet found it for sure.

Isabel's grandparents were Charles William Banting, son of Charles and Elizabeth (Bennett) Banting, and Elizabeth Adelaide **HOLFORD**, daughter of George Henry and Ann (Banting) Holford. So, were they cousins?

Ann's father - according to her marriage certificate - was John Banting, a bailiff, and George Henry Holford, his son-in-law, was the informant for the death of a John Banting, farm labourer, at Mislingford in 1883.

Charles Banting senior's parents were John Banting (born Upper Clatford) and Elizabeth Plimmer (born East Meon), who married at East Meon on 8 October 1821. Several years ago I had discovered from the IGI that they had at least three children baptised in Bishops Waltham: Harriet (1822), Charles (1824) and Jane Ann (1827). There was an Eliza, baptised 1830 in Tichborne, who turned out to be of the same family. The Banting family in nearby Hambledon also had a Charles in 1826, but there is enough evidence to follow the correct Charles down the years.

In 1841 John and Elizabeth were in Tichborne with Harriet, Charles and Eliza, but, unfortunately, Jane Ann was not with them.

There was a 14-year-old female servant, Ann Banting, in Winchester - so, that might have been her.

In 1851 John and Elizabeth were in South Wickham with daughter Eliza. Charles was on the Isle of Wight, where he married Elizabeth Bennett that year. Harriet, as we later discovered, had married. Ann Banting, born Bishops Waltham, who was a servant in Alverstoke, appears to have been the correct Ann.

In 1861 John and Elizabeth were in Soberton with Eliza (now with the surname Weston) and their granddaughter Roseanna Weston. Charles was still on the Isle of Wight, now with several children, including Charles William. There is no sign of Ann, who is now Ann Holford (Interestingly, I cannot find her mother-in-law, also Ann Holford, in 1861). In 1871 and 1881 John and Elizabeth were still in Soberton and Eliza Weston was even with them in the latter census.

So, this looks to be John, whose death certificate informant was George Holford, but could I be absolutely sure? There were three things that concerned me.

- Was Jane Ann the same as Ann? I had found no later mention of Jane Ann.
- Where was Ann in 1861? George, whom she married in 1855, was at sea.
- Only on Ann's marriage is John Banting mentioned as a bailiff. Elsewhere, he was always recorded as a labourer or agricultural labourer, apart from 1881, when he was 'care of Brook'.

The second point was the first to be resolved. When looking for Ann in 1861, I found that I had made an earlier note: *Might she be the Ann Holland, 33, Dressmaker, born Bishops*

Continued on page 156 

The 'Way Forward' – A Success Story

After months of hard work our new website continues to settle down and we are now seeing the results of our efforts and labour.

We have had some 'up and downs' - a particular problem being when there were issues beyond our control with 'Wordpress', the program we use for our website. The result was that the site was very slow for a while, with other serious technical matters erupting 'behind the scenes'. Nevertheless, they were solved by our hardworking IT team. Also, the introduction of PayPal and our new membership database - as well as the various website contact, membership and sales forms, email addresses and distribution network of emails - meant a steep learning curve for all those involved in both the office and research work.

Our technical team still continue to constantly review, upgrade and update as we work towards adding more content and ensure that the site remains secure. Our volunteer IT team are all in full-time work, sometimes away from home, as well. Despite this, they continue to give many hours (all unpaid) to this project, and without them, this new website would not exist.

Our Treasurer reports that we are now able to compare our website sales from GENfair and PayPal. We continue to run both these systems, so that members have a choice in how they make purchases. We commenced using PayPal at the end of February, and have to date (end of July) taken £6,801 in sales through this means. Sales via GENfair from January to date have been £2,130. For the same period last year (with no website sales via PayPal available) GENfair sales were £2,715. As a comparison, the last full year's sales from GENfair were £5,872. Therefore,

we have taken more via PayPal in the last five months than for the whole of last year through GENfair. It is also cheaper for both the purchaser and HGS to use PayPal as the commission rates are very much lower. This is very good news indeed for HGS to see our sales improve. Due to this, our financial position is now much improved on the same time last year.

We have also now started to distribute our e-journal (via an email link at present) to all our new members (unless there is a reason they cannot receive it that way) and to those current members who have requested to receive it in that format. We will also be putting a sample e-journal on the website so that all members can see how it looks.

The advantage of the e-journal on a tablet device, such as Kindle or iPad, is that it is portable and can be read anywhere. Print and image sizes can also be changed to your personal preference. A negative is that with a tablet it is sometimes more difficult to read in bright sunlight (although not on Kindle). One cannot flick through it as you can with a paper document. However, we continue to provide choice, so the printed journal remains available. There are no plans to phase this out for our members who prefer it and wish to have a printed copy.

The popular Village Booklets are now available as a download and our technical team is currently working on downloads for Members' Interests and Monumental Inscriptions. The Monumental Inscriptions Index will be free to view, but the details will be on a pay-to-view basis. In due course we hope to be able to introduce a forum, so that members can contribute and discuss topics of interest. We are currently working on the 'Members' Area' on the website. Some of these additions will

be 'locked away' from non-members and will need log-ins and passwords for access. Again, the precise formats have yet to be decided upon and the above information could change. We need to ensure that we have something that is right for our society and of benefit to our members.

People can now contact us via the website using specific forms. We have seen our research queries increase significantly through this source. As well as requests for our free searches, we have also seen an upsurge in people requesting our fee-paying research services. Members can now also join and renew using the site and there is an increasing take-up of this facility. We have plans to use the social media more: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, for example. The first use of this is likely to be advertising for our Open Day. Updates on progress can also be seen on the website in the 'News and Events' section.

It is extremely important that we try to keep our site fresh with new content and, to this end, we are helping members to write and put items on the site. If you are interested in getting involved in this, please let us know - guidance and training will be available. The

more people we have making contributions, the easier it becomes for all of us.

It is pleasing to be able to report that various people and outside sources have taken the time and trouble to write to us or to tell us that our website is excellent and easy to use. This encourages us to carry on and try to improve, so please take time to look at it and browse. Updates on progress can now be found on the website under 'News and Events'.

Finally, I know that you will wish to join with me in thanking all The Way Forward Team for the excellent work and commitment they have given to this project. In particular, we need to thank our webmaster John Collyer and Amanda Moore and Helen Banham, our IT and web-content experts. Also, Liz Collyer for all the proofreading work she has so far undertaken. Also, thanks to everyone who has worked on the project, and to all those who have supported and encouraged us in what has been a very challenging time for all The Way Forward Team.

Chris Pavey

The Way Forward Co-ordinator

Need help with your research?

All requests for research assistance to the HGS Research Room.

Telephone: 023 9238 7000

or Email: society@hgs-online.org.uk

Were they cousins? (Continued from page 153)

Waltham, sister-in-law of William Harris (wife Harriot) at 50 Duke Street, Portsea, in 1861 census?

So, I checked that record again. Harriot was also recorded as born in Bishops Waltham, so Ann must have been her sister. Did Harriet Banting marry William Harris? Free BMD was probably good enough to show this, but I did subsequently buy the certificate to make sure.

As for Jane Banting, I decided to check the parish records in Winchester in case I had missed something - maybe a Jane Ann death. It was there that I learned a lesson I should have known. I had obviously never checked the IGI record against the original. Jane was

struck out and replaced with Ann – she was never Jane Ann!

What about John Banting the bailiff? I do not have an answer for this, but expect that such a job might have been occasional, and, whether true or not, Ann may have felt that it sounded better on her marriage certificate.

It was a long time before I dared to combine the two Ann Banting records in my Family Historian software, but I now feel confident in doing so.

Robert Bryce (Member # 13514)

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HGS Publications

A full list of currently available HGS Publications was featured in the December 2012 Hampshire Family Historian journal (Vol 39, No 3), and updates have been published in the March and June 2013 editions (Vol 39/4 and Vol 40/1).

To view a full current list please visit www.hgs-online.org.uk, and you can now purchase such items online. You can also refer back to your back copies of HFH 39/3-4 and 40/1, and note the following amendment:-

Additions

Hampshire Village Series (Roy Montgomery): **Dummer** (60), **Bishops Waltham** (61),

Hartley Wintney (62), and **Warblington & Emsworth** (63) –

£2 (collected); £3.00 (post, UK); £4.50 (post, overseas).

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Sunday 29 September

10.00am to 4.00pm

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