

# *The Hampshire Family Historian*



Volume 42 No.1

June 2015



*Bedford family in Strawberry Fields taken 1900-1920 in Bursledon or Old Netley  
Photo courtesy of Nellie Carter nee Bedford – see page 16*

## **Inside this Issue**

In search of the French connection • Elsie meets Bill • A sad life in Hampshire and Kent

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

*Journal of the Hampshire Genealogical Society*



# Hampshire Genealogical Society

Registered Charity 284744

**HGS OFFICE**, 52 Northern Road, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3DP

**Telephone: 023 9238 7000** Email: [society@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:society@hgs-online.org.uk)

**Websites:** [www.hgs-online.org.uk](http://www.hgs-online.org.uk) or <http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com>

**PRESIDENT** Miss Judy Kimber



**CHAIRMAN**

Dolina Clarke  
22 Portobello Grove,  
Portchester, Fareham,  
Hants PO16 8HU  
Tel: **(023) 9237 3925**  
Email:  
**chairman@hgs-online.org.uk**



**SECRETARY**

Mrs Sheila Brine  
25 Willowside, Lovedean,  
Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9AQ  
Tel: **(023) 9257 0642**  
Email:  
**secretary@hgs-online.org.uk**



**TREASURER**

Ann-Marie Shearer  
64 Sovereign Crescent  
Fareham,  
Hants PO14 4LU  
Email:  
**treasurer@hgs-online.org.uk**



**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Gwen Newland  
52 Northern Road, Cosham,  
Portsmouth PO6 3DP  
Tel: **(023) 9238 7000**  
Email:  
**membership@hgs-online.org.uk**

**EDITOR**

*Position vacant*  
52 Northern Road, Cosham,  
Portsmouth PO6 3DP  
Tel: **(023) 9238 7000**  
Email: **editor@hgs-online.org.uk**

**PROJECTS**

*Position vacant*  
Email: **projects@hgs-online.org.uk**

**BOOKSTALL**

Chris Pavey  
Email: **bookstall@hgs-online.org.uk**

**MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

John Sims  
Email: **membersinterests@hgs-online.org.uk**

**WEBMASTER**

John Collyer  
Email: **webmaster@hgs-online.org.uk**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES:**

Sheila Brine  
Dolina Clarke  
Eileen Davies  
Gwen Newland  
Chris Pavey  
Lin Penny  
Paul Pinhorne  
Ann-Marie Shearer  
John Sims  
Keith Turner  
Angela Winteridge

**GROUP ORGANISERS** – See Group Reports Pages

***SUBSCRIPTION RATES:***

**ALL MEMBERS £15**

This journal is designed and laid out by  
**Acadia PR & Design** Southampton  
Telephone 023 8023 5780 Email: [info@acadia.co.uk](mailto:info@acadia.co.uk)



# Contents

## The Hampshire Family Historian

June 2015

<b>Introduction</b> by The Executive Committee	2
<b>Literate gunners of the 18th Century</b> by Len Ruffell	3
<b>Chairman's annual report</b>	4
<b>Searchers</b> compiled by Lesley Bull	6
<b>The Re-Marriage Case of Greywell</b> by Sue Wright	11
<b>Book reviews</b>	14/15/70
<b>Bursledon archives</b> by Jeff Martin	16
<b>In search of the French connection</b> by Keith Hayward	18



<b>Dear Editor</b> – Your Letters	22
<b>HGS News</b>	25
<b>Bessie Jackson – The Dedicated Fiancee</b> by Len Ruffell	30
<b>Members' surname interests</b>	32
<b>Elsie meets Bill</b> by Brian Ashford	36
<b>A sad life in Hampshire and Kent</b> by Margaret Bowman	39
<b>News from Record Offices/Libraries</b>	42
<b>L.E.L. Church Crookham Hants</b> by Dominic Harper	47
<b>Local Group Programmes</b>	48
<b>Surnames appearing in this issue</b>	66
<b>Memories of Bitterne library</b> by Cora Ashford	67
<b>SE Hampshire Roman Catholics – Part 3</b> by Roy Montgomery	68
<b>Alternative to Bradshaw's Railway Guides</b> by John Heighes	71

### Deadline

Material for possible inclusion in the September 2015 Family Historian should be received strictly by **10 July 2015**. All contributions are, however, appreciated as early as possible.

### Disclaimer

The Hampshire Family Historian is the official publication of the Hampshire Genealogical Society. Material is copyright of the Society and may not be reproduced without written permission. The Hampshire Genealogical Society does not accept responsibility for personal views expressed in this publication, or in any articles.

### 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...

**As many of you already know, Ken Smallbone is no longer Editor of this journal. We wish to thank him for the hard work he has done producing this publication over the past five years.**

In order to maintain the standards that we have become used to we now need someone who is willing and able to take over this role. In the short term an editorial committee could carry out the necessary work required to ensure a journal is produced for the enjoyment of our membership. We are therefore asking any of our members who think they can help us with such a production, and would be

willing to work as part of a team, to get in touch with the Executive Committee. We also want interesting articles to continue to be sent to us for inclusion in future editions.

The Website and other social media sites have meant that communication is provided in a variety of ways, but the Hampshire Family Historian remains the main source of information for our members. We want this to continue and would welcome any comments from you, our members, to continue and improve this.

## **The Executive Committee**

---

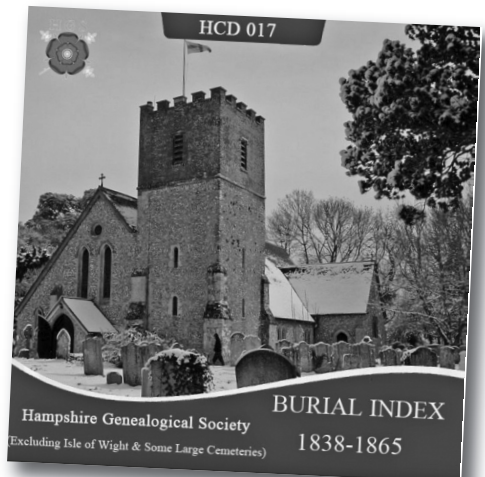
# New publication

## HCD017: Hampshire Burial Index 1838-1865

Collect in person £23 By Post: UK £25.50; Overseas £26.30

### **Searchable index to Anglican (Church of England) burials in mainland Hampshire for the period 1838-1865.**

Excluding the Isle of Wight but including Aldershot Military Cemetery and the Royal Marine Church, Eastney whose registers are held at TNA, Kew. Incorporated in the database is a revised version of HCD010 (Burials 1838-1841) which includes Portsea Mile End Cemetery and Winchester West Hill. Requires Windows XP or later. There is a PDF index by parish and surname for Mac users and earlier versions of Windows; this also has a list, with contact details, of municipal etc cemeteries which are not included in the database.





# Literate gunners of the 18th Century

We are frequently told that few of our ancestors could read and write. However, I often come across examples where this does not appear to be the case. Take this Army Pay List (right) of 1700 from the National Archive, Kew (WO10/146 131199).

Only one of the 21 soldiers, Lieutenant James **DUNBAR**, was an officer who we might reasonably assume to have been formally educated. One was a Bombardier and the others were ordinary Troopers. The Army did not provide education in those days yet all, save one, was able to sign for their pay in what seems to me to be strong hand-writing. They were:

Richard **MANSELL**, John **ROBERTSON**, Richard **COCKBURN**, James **CUMMINGS**, James **BROWNLIE**, John **McGREGOR**, William **GRINDLAY**,

Jas **ELDER**, Alexander **MCDONELL**, James **GRINDESTONE**, Robert **IRELAND**, David **BURTON**, John **THOMPSON**, Henry **DERRY**, John **SMITH**, Alexander **FRASER**, William **SPRATTS**, Peter **GRINDESTONE** and James **LARMENT**.

Only Trooper William **WATSON** made his mark.

The men, incidentally, were a detachment of the First Battalion of the Royal Artillery and were transferring from a company commanded by Major Forbes **McBEAN** of Perth. They embarked at Greenock to join one commanded by Captain John **CARTER** at Gravesend, prior to a voyage to Canada to become attached the 31st Regiment of Foot in the American War of Independence.

I have read a number of published memoirs written by private soldiers in the 18th and early 19th century and remain astounded at the extent of literacy which existed in the

*Pay List for May, 1700*  
*We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed do hereby declare to have received from Lieutenant James Dunbar the several sums against our Names Express'd, it being in full for one Months Subsidies beginning the 1 and ending the 31 day of May 1700 Inclusive*

No	Names	£	s	d	Received by
	Lieutenant James Dunbar	5	16	3	James Dunbar
	Commander Richard Mansell	2	2	7 1/2	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Mansell
1	John Robertson	1	4	6 1/2	John Robertson
2	Richard Cockburn	1	4	6 1/2	Richard Cockburn
3	James Cummings	1	4	6 1/2	James Cummings
4	James Brownlie	1	4	6 1/2	James Brownlie
5	John McGregor	1	4	6 1/2	John McGregor
6	William Grindlay	1	4	6 1/2	William Grindlay
7	James Elder	1	4	6 1/2	Ja Elder
8	Alexander M'Donell	1	4	6 1/2	Alex <sup>r</sup> . M'Donell
9	James Grindestone	1	4	6 1/2	James Grindestone
10	Robert Ireland	1	4	6 1/2	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Ireland
11	David Burton	1	4	6 1/2	David Burton
12	William Watson	1	4	6 1/2	William Watson
13	John Thompson	1	4	6 1/2	John Thompson
14	Henry Derry	1	4	6 1/2	Henry Derry
15	John Smith	1	4	6 1/2	John Smith
16	Alexander Fraser	1	4	6 1/2	Alex <sup>r</sup> . Fraser
17	William Spratts	1	4	6 1/2	William Spratts
18	Peter Grindestone	1	4	6 1/2	Peter Grindestone
19	James Larment	1	4	6 1/2	James Larment
	Total	31	5	2	

ranks. I would be interested to hear of other examples which readers may have come across. In particular I enjoyed "The Reminiscences of Private **HARRIS** of the 66th Regiment" and the "Letters of Private **WHEELER**" regarding their experiences in the Peninsular and Napoleonic Wars and they are obtainable in book form. (*Published by The Windrush Press [www.windrushpress.com](http://www.windrushpress.com)*). Their accounts show that not only could they read and write, but were entertaining story tellers.

**Len Ruffell** (Member # 606)

21 Abbotts Ann Road, Winchester, SO22 6ND  
 Email: [lenruffell@ntlworld.com](mailto:lenruffell@ntlworld.com)



# Chairman's Annual Report (2014/15)

## **Family History is continually changing and we the Hampshire Genealogical Society have to adapt to deal with this.**

The biggest changes we are continually dealing with are our online presence, Amanda Moore, with the help of our Webmaster John Collyer, continue to work hard in dealing with, as they have done for over two years now. We do require a volunteer who is capable of interacting between the HGS Committees and these two IT specialists to be able to drive us forward with regards Website and other Social Media avenues. Whether we like it or not this is the way forward.

**HGS Bookstall** Chris Pavey and her husband Geoff continue to travel to family history events in the south. It is evident that numbers attending these events are reducing and so Chris is monitoring the situation and attending those to which her efforts will be best placed. They do require help from other Society members to continue to be able to offer an effective service. Many thanks to them both, along with their helpers, for the continuing enthusiasm and hard work they show when attending these shows.

**HGS Open Day** This year the venue changed from Horndean, where we have been for the past several years, to the Everest Community Academy in Basingstoke. A hardworking committee led by the Basingstoke Group Leader, Lin Penny, successfully organised the day. Thank you to the team – Lin, Sue Wright and David Broomfield, along with many other volunteers rounded up from the Basingstoke Group, who ensured we had a successful day.

**Membership** Gwen Newland has settled in as Membership Secretary and is dealing with the intricacies of the web generated new

members. Membership numbers are not as robust as they have been but we do still have a membership of nearly 2,000. It is now evident that new members dip in and out with regards their membership meaning we do have quite a turnover and this means more work for the Membership Secretary. Thank you to Gwen for her continuing hard work and also the Office Team who back her up by dealing with the post and queries through the office.

**Projects** All of the parish register indexes have now been completed. Thanks must go to Eileen Davies for the very hard work she has put in over many years keeping the continuity of the parish register index going. Trevor Bumstead has continued to help Eileen with the data along with many other volunteers who have been working on and off with this project for over 15 years. We do require a new Projects Co-ordinator, someone who can come up with fresh ideas for useful projects that our members can get involved with and that will be of use to other family historians. One particular Project that needs overseeing is the "Britons Dying Overseas" which started life as the Wakelin Index then was taken over by Dennis Pearce and is now back with us after languishing with the FFHS.

**Members' Interests** We have been without a co-ordinator for this service. John Collyer our webmaster has been dealing with it for some time but now we have John Sims as our Members' Interests Co-ordinator, so we thank him for coming forward.

**HGS Groups** The 14 groups we have countywide are continuing to thrive. Jim Duncan, the organiser for the Andover group, has stood down after several years of hard work, along with his wife Vera, they succeeded



in expanding the group and thanks go to them for the work they did. Now the group is organised by John Bowman and his wife Margaret. Thanks go to all of the Group Organisers who continue to work hard at providing interesting speakers and organising the venues etc., no small task!

**HGS Journal** Ken Smallbone is no longer Editor so we now need someone who has the skills to be able to keep producing our Journal to the standard we have become used to and expect. Thanks go to Ken for the hard work he has put in over the last five years. We are hoping that an Editorial Committee will be formed, as it has been done in the past, until a suitable candidate comes forward.

**Administrative Centre** The Centre remains open five mornings a week along with Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The number of drop in callers ebbs and flows and we have been able to help members and non-members with their many and varied family history problems. Royal Mail has succeeded in causing us more hard work with their ever changing rules but our volunteers are rising to the challenge. Thanks therefore go to the Volunteers who give their time freely week in and week out. I must not forget to mention Roy Montgomery and the phenomenal amount of work he puts in producing the Village Family History Booklet series.

**Constitution** Last year at the AGM we stated that an updated Constitution was going to be introduced, in order to deal with the changes that have changed Family History research so much in the 40 years since our inauguration. At the Open Day on 12th October 2014 the amended Constitution was passed at a Special General Meeting.

Thank you to all members of the Executive Committee, they are the people that ensure the Society runs as smoothly as possible, and that we adhere to all of the legal requirements necessary with such an organisation. Special thanks go to our Treasurer Ann-Marie Shearer, who is ever vigilant with regards our money matters. Also many thanks to our long suffering Secretary, Sheila Brine, still in that chair after more than 10 years.

Several of our long standing members have passed away, in particular I must mention Mary Talbot. She attended our last AGM at Portsmouth but sadly died not long after. She and her husband Mike, were amongst our early members and supporters of this society. As I mentioned at the beginning of this report we are adapting to the ever changing technological world of family history. However I do not want those members who don't have computers or the inclination to deal with a totally computer based world, to miss out. We the Executive Committee strive to ensure that non-computer members are able to access our research centre and data. We do still continue to answer the telephone and letters along with the e-mails. We will also continue to produce our journal in both hard copy and electronic versions.

Although I am continually asking for new Volunteers and it would seem that no-one new is coming forward to help those long suffering ones who have helped out for many years. We do in fact have new people coming forward, for which we are grateful, but I will continue to ask for more, as many hands do make light work. Thank you to the many Volunteers who keep this Society going.

**Dolina Clarke**



# 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](mailto: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.*

---

## Missing: Albert Edward HARVEY



**Mrs. Barbara Scott, Idaho Farm, Wycombe Road, Prestwood, Bucks, HP16 0PJ**  
**Email: [bascott@talktalk.net](mailto:bascott@talktalk.net) Tel. 014944 865369 (Member No. 13630)**

I have been searching for my paternal grandfather, Albert Edward **HARVEY** for 30 years – all to no avail. The only fact I have of his actual presence is shown on his marriage certificate to Emily Louisa (shown as Emily Laura) **ROLLS** on 1 May 1893 at the Baptist Mission Hall, Eastleigh, district of South Stoneham.

His age was 27 years, bachelor, compounder

of medicine, 29 Lodge Road, Bevois Valley, South Stoneham (same address as his bride) – father Albert Victor Harvey (deceased), gentleman. No banns as it was a Baptist ceremony, but a certificate was signed by the Minister and the Registrar.

He supposedly fathered three children: Reginald Thomas Rolls Harvey born 26 Jan 1894 at 29 Lodge Road, South Stoneham,



father's occupation given as a compounder of medicine; Harold Albert Harvey born 6 Sep 1898 at 15 Gladstone Road, Croydon, father's occupation again compounder of medicine and Arthur Ernest Harvey born 21 October 1901 at 20 Neville Road, Croydon, father's occupation then stated as dispenser. Harold's baptismal record 31 Dec 1899, St. James, Croydon, gives correct name of mother, but father as Albert Victor Harvey, doctor's assistant.

Father Albert Edward Harvey cannot be found on the 1901 census but mother Emily is 32, married, servant, cook/domestic at 50 Coombe Road, Croydon. Seven year old Reginald is living with his maternal Rolls family grandparents at Wilton Street, Southampton and Harold, aged 2, is a boarder,

living with Ann **LEAH** at 20 Neville Road, Croydon.

By the time of the 1911 Census Emily is a widow, living with youngest son Arthur, aged 9, at 33 Lower Alfred Street, Southampton. Harold, aged 12, is still boarding with Ann Leah at 115 Albert Road, Croydon

Albert Edward Harvey is rumoured to have fallen into a dock and drowned, don't know where or when, but presumably before 1911. Why did Emily Harvey farm her children out? Was he missing early on? I cannot find any birth or death records that might fit, despite extensive searches. It seems that the given name of his father as Albert Victor Harvey may be incorrect. Until I can find him, I can't move forward with my family tree. Any suggestions will be much appreciated.

## A second missing person: William Edward **CORDERY**

**Len Ruffell, 21 Abbotts Ann Road,  
Harestock, Winchester, Hants SO22 6ND  
Email: lenruffell@ntlworld.com  
(Member 606)**

It took me ages to discover what happened to Ella Eva Mary **HAYES**. She was the only child of my great grandfather's sister, Sarah **RUFFELL**, and her husband John Hayes, Blacksmith, and was born at Overton, Hants in 1883.

I am now trying to find out where her husband William Edward Henry **CORDERY** disappeared to. When they were married on 21st June 1916 at Rotherfield Grays, Oxfordshire, he was shown on the Certificate as 21 and a chauffeur. They do not appear to have had any children.

After that I lost track of them until I found Ella recorded as "present at the death" of her parents, both in 1924, at Englefield,

Berkshire. However, I have found no mention of William since their marriage. After trawling countless indexes, I finally found that Emma died alone, miles away from her Hampshire roots, in a Warwickshire hospital. She was described on the Death Certificate as "widow of ---- Cordery" in 1972 when she was 89.

This gap in my research needs to be filled so if anyone can help, I would be most grateful. Other than his marriage to Ella, the only sighting I have of William Edward Henry Cordery is on the 1911 Census at Henley, Oxon. However, that gives his age at 23 (ie born 1883) which does not match the 21 shown on the Marriage Certificate in 1916. Was he perhaps killed in the 1st World War or a victim of the flu epidemic?



## And a third: a mislaid great-great-grandmother!

**David Wilkins, 47 Rushendon Furlong, Pitstone, Buckinghamshire, LU7 9QX**  
Email - david@davidwilkins.net  
(Member 9253)

The missing 2 x great grandmother's name is Caroline **REEVES** (nee **COOPER**) and I last saw her in the 1851 Census – she was living with her married sister Emma **CHARLTON** in Alverstoke, Hampshire. Caroline was 29 years old and with her were her two daughters Sarah (aged 2) and Lucy (aged 2 months). I can't find any trace of her husband Frederick Reeves in that Census, but as he was a Royal Navy seaman I guess he was away somewhere. They had married 17th Sept 1849 in Portsmouth.

In the 1861 Census however, Fredrick is found living in Queens Road, Alverstoke with a new wife – 27 year old Mary Ann, born in Droxford. I believe that she's probably Mary Ann **BLACKMAN** born 1834. His daughter Sarah seems to be living with Fredrick's father Robert Reeves, while Lucy is with Caroline's father John Cooper, both in Alverstoke.

On 13th June 1861 Frederick and Mary Ann's son Frederick was born, so presumably they

were together in some form by mid-1860.

But where is Caroline? So far I've found five different Caroline Reeves who died between 1853 and 1860 in the area but having ordered their death certificates all five proved to be not "my" Caroline. I can't find any trace of her in any other census after the 1851, or any potential remarriage. Did she die elsewhere? Was she in an institution of some form?

I also can't find any record of Frederick and Mary Ann's marriage, if indeed they did marry. Certainly their son Frederick was christened in 1861 in Alverstoke, where they all lived and given how small a village it was then, and that Caroline's father was there, I'm sure there would have been issues christening an illegitimate child. Perhaps Caroline was dead by then, divorce probably being unlikely for such working-class people.

Is anyone else researching the Reeves, Cooper or Blackman families and who recognises these names?

## Barge Inn, Basingstoke

**Linda King, 4 Kibbles, Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0JR**  
Tel: 07967 883461

I am planning to write an article (or booklet) on the Barge Inn, 64 Wote (sometimes Oat) Street, Basingstoke.

Barge Inn dates back to 1784 when it was converted from an old cottage to a tavern to serve the navvies from the Basingstoke Canal. It closed in September 1966 and was sadly soon demolished to make way for town development. My family were innkeepers from about 1842 to 1907 which is why I have developed an interest in the building.

My 2 x great grandfather, Henry **WATTS** (born 1823 Swallowfield, Berks) was innkeeper and fly proprietor from about 1842 until his death in 1872. His wife, Jane, died later that year.

His son Henry (1851-1916) took over the licence but by 1881 his sister, Elizabeth Jane (1855-1943) is innkeeper, assisted by her two younger sisters. She is still in charge in 1901 (also cab proprietor) until 1907. Henry disappears before 1881 and I found him again as a cabman when he married in 1892 at Camberley, Surrey.



*LB: This image of The Barge is from the website Sense of Place, South East – [www.sopse.org/](http://www.sopse.org/) and owned by the Hampshire Library and Information Service*

In 1911 Elizabeth is still living in Wote Street but now with her sister and brother in law, Herbert **ANDREWS**, a butcher. She never married.

After searching the internet I have gained a fair bit of information about the inn, including: Newspaper reports of Henry Watts excellent catering as well as outside catering, assault, sudden death, murder, hauntings, inquests, auctions

Other landlords:

1927 Herbert William **STEER** (Kelly's Directory)

1959 Jack **HOPKINS** then the Goat and Barge  
Apparently it ended its final days known as the Night Jar.

I would be very interested if anyone has any further information or photographs which I could use and share.

## Can you solve a 100 year old mystery?

**Barry Morrison, 7 Edgerly Gardens,  
Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants P06 2SX**  
Email: [barry.morrison2@btopenworld.com](mailto:barry.morrison2@btopenworld.com) Tel: 02392 382397

My mother, Violet **MORRISON** (nee **DAVIS**), was born 2 August 1914 at 112 Brompton Road, Southsea, Portsmouth. She was the youngest of eight children of Henry William Davis and Ada Eleanor **HARRISON**. William was a Portsmouth Corporation Tram Car conductor. My mother remembered little about her father as he deserted his family while she was a young child and apparently returned to

his family roots in Birmingham. With all relatives from that time gone I cannot find out the exact circumstances of his leaving and when it happened. Was it a breakdown of the marriage? Did he move back to Birmingham for a better job related to war work? What is known for certain is that he never came back.

The only other part of the story that is known is that a number of years later



(again it is not known when) a letter was received by his wife from Henry's sister, Rose Davis, saying that he had or was intending to emigrate to Canada. I do not know if Henry sent money to support his family and, if so, if this letter was a lie and a ploy to escape that responsibility. Nothing was ever heard from or about my grandfather after that letter.

Henry William Davis was born on 21 June 1875 at 20 Court, Bradford Street, Aston, Birmingham. He was the son of Henry Davis, pearl button maker, and Jane **HORTON**. He was one of four children, Jane (b 1873), Rose (b 1876) & Herbert T. (b 1879).

Henry and Jane were married on 23 February 1873 in Sparkbrook, Aston, Birmingham.

My grandparents Henry William Davis and Ada Eleanor Harrison married on 31 March 1900 in Clerkenwell, London. Their first three

children were born in London, Henry Frederick (b 1901), Lilly (b 1902) and William (b 1904). The other children were born in Portsmouth, Harold (b 1906), Nellie (b 1908), John (b 1910), Albert (b 1912) and Violet (b 1914). My grandmother, Ada Eleanor Harrison, was born on 16 March

1876 at Anchor, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire, the daughter of Frederick Harrison and Mary **LIGHT**, who also had four sons and three other daughters.

What became of my grandfather has been a family mystery for nearly 100 years. Having failed in my best endeavours, I would welcome information from anyone who has links to him or his immediate family in Portsmouth or Birmingham or elsewhere, plus any suggestion of any avenues of investigation I could follow that may lead to him.

---

## Portsmouth History Centre

### Portsmouth History Centre

Norrish Central Library, Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth

Hampshire PO1 2DX

Telephone number: 023 9268 8046

Fax number: 023 9283 9855

### Opening Hours:

Monday and Friday: 9.30am to 5pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday: 9.30am to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 3.30pm

---

## Southampton City Archives

### Southampton City Archives

Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY

Phone: 023-8083-2251

Fax: 023-8085-2156

Email: [city.archives@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:city.archives@southampton.gov.uk)

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday only

10 am to 4 pm



# The Re-Marriage Case of Greywell

**My ancestor, Dinah BULL, was the daughter of travellers William BULL and Rosamond ANDERSON and sister to Luke BULL, the founder of the chimney sweep firm of Andover (see Lesley Bull's article Volume 41 No 1).**

Diana married Francis **FREEMAN**, another chimney sweep, at All Saints Church, Odiham in 1816. They settled in North Warnborough where they raised their seven children - one of whom, Keziah, was my great great grandmother.

There is no evidence, besides the baptisms and marriages of their children, to suggest that the Freeman family were particularly religious but by the end of 1855 the youngest son, also Francis Freeman had become one of the central players in a court battle which became known throughout England as the re-marriage case of Greywell. It was a case that both highlighted the deep divide between the Dissenting and the Established Churches and became the source of deep debate in the Houses of Parliament. I have pieced the story together, using access to British Newspapers Archive, from the very many newspaper reports that were printed at the time.

Given their family backgrounds it must have come as some surprise when Francis Freeman and Sarah Ann **ROGERS** saw the Registrar and then were married in the Independent Chapel in Odiham on 5 June 1854. Later reports would suggest that they did so because Sarah was only 19 and the family disapproved of her marrying so young. If this is the case the families were soon reconciled. Shortly after their marriage Francis and Sarah moved to Greywell where the Rogers family lived and Francis became a sawyer possibly

working with his father-in-law, Edward. The family seemed happy and their first child, Emma Freeman, was born in the October quarter of the following year. It is around this time that Sarah was paid a visit by the curate of St Mary's Church, Greywell, Albert **LUSH**, who claimed that it was a parochial visit because Sarah was dangerously ill. No mention was made of the fact that Sarah was heavily pregnant at the time. Whether Lush convinced Sarah that her marriage at the Independent Chapel was void in the sight of God or it was Sarah's wish to be re-married in the Church of England is open to some debate. However on the three consecutive Sundays Lush published the banns as if the first marriage hadn't taken place - that is to say with the couple described as bachelor and spinster, and with Sarah's maiden name. The couple were then re-married in the parish church on 15 October 1855.

The local Dissenting community were incensed by Lush's conduct which they regarded as an attack on the act of Parliament legalizing marriages in other places of worship than the Church of England. So began a battle of words played out across the national press with Francis and Sarah caught up in the middle.

Even before the case went to court the Dissenting Minister, the Rev J.G. **HUGHES** was getting in the first salvo. A public meeting was convened at the British School room, Odiham on 16 November to (as the handbill had it) "consider" recent re-marriage case at Greywell... All friends of Protestantism are invited to attend." Puseyism was a derogatory term for the Oxford Movement which espoused a "Catholic" revival amongst



Anglicans. *The Berkshire Chronicle* published the next day not only relates the meeting but condemns Lush wholeheartedly. They repeat Hughes' accusation that Lush, visiting Sarah, bribed her with offers of a free wedding ring, bells, and marriage feast, as well as paying for the loss of a day's wages for Francis. "No doubt" says the *Chronicle* "the man saw great force in this last argument, as the difference between sawing all day and being married is appreciable by the meanest capacity." The newspaper then goes on to accuse Lush of disturbing the harmony of the community.

The following months saw a rebuttal of the charges, in the form of letters, from both Lush and his supporter Lt Col **SHORT** which were published in many newspapers. In his letter of December 1855, also published by the *Chronicle*, Lush suggests that no persuasion was needed as Sarah had told him that both her and Francis had doubts about the validity of the marriage which were encouraged by their neighbours and that her husband had gone so far as to check with the Registrar whether the marriage was legal. He further states that Francis acknowledged the doubts which Sarah had referred to and agreed to the banns being read. As to the allegations of giving the couple money in return for their consent Lush asserts that he gave them money to cover their costs "not letting their poverty be an obstacle" and "that the church bells,...may, and ought to be rung at a poor man's wedding as well as at a rich man's." As the months passed interest in the case spread. Lush fuelled the controversy by

preaching four sermons in which he justified his actions based on the conscientious scruples of the couple - in other words that their marriage in his parish church was the only valid one. This, in turn, galvanised the actions of some wealthy London Dissenters who felt the law passed for the relief of Non-Conformists was being held in contempt. They brought an action against Lush and he was summoned to the Petty Sessions held in Odiham to answer two charges - one for failing to issue due banns or a licence and secondly making false entries into the register of marriages (in both cases describing Francis as a bachelor etc). In the end the case, which took place on the 11 February 1856, was a bit of an anti-climax. Francis who could not or would not remember anything that had taken place just four months before did not even recall, (as he was, in his own words, no scholar) his age, his first marriage or when his first child was born. Sarah's testimony was more helpful. She remembered that Lush had indeed approached her but that she was willing to be re-married if it was what her husband and their friends wanted. After hearing testimonies from the parish clerk, Rev Hughes, and some of Greywell's 300 inhabitants the decision of the court was that they needed a higher power to make a judgement and Lush was committed to trial in Winchester.

Although Lush's case came to trial in March 1856 at Winchester Lush's defenders issued a writ to have it moved up even further to a higher court - that of the Court of the Queen's Bench (the High Court in London). I can find no other mention of the proceedings until August



when it is stated that Lush had been compelled to pay the fees of the prosecution and make an apology. In an open letter addressed to the Committee of Protestant Dissenters Lush admits his impropriety in re-marrying the couple. In his conclusion he was forced to admit that he felt marriages taking place in a dissenting place of worship or Registrar were not only legally valid, but binding in the sight of the church. It was a massive reversal on the behalf of the curate and it didn't impress everyone. The Reading Mercury commented that "after kindling the bitterest feelings of religious animosity in an obscure locality, this re-marriage case was made the theme of irritating and exciting controversy throughout the kingdom, and now it ends in humiliation of the church and the exaltation for dissent."

Rev Albert Lush remained curate of Greywell until 1858 when he moved to Kibworth,

Leicestershire. He died in Ilfracombe in 1886 aged 60.

Francis and Sarah continued to live in Greywell having a further ten children after Emma's birth - all of whom were baptised in St Mary's Church in Greywell. Francis died in 1895 and Sarah followed him in 1905.

As a direct result of the case an act was made in May 1856 to amend the Provisions of the Marriage and Registration Acts which sought to prohibit one marriage superseding another once the Registrar's certificate had been produced. However in 1863, in an almost exact copy of the Greywell case an Anglican vicar of St Briavel's, Coleford in the county of Gloucester re-married a couple who were previously married in an Independent Chapel in Monmouth. It never fired the imagination of the press reading public - after all they'd seen it all before.

**Sue Wright** (*Member # 2147*)

## New Monumental Inscription CDs

Two new Monumental Inscription CDs have been released

### **HMI048**

(*Over 7700 entries*)

**Alverstone area** including:

Alverstone St Mary,  
Haslar Hospital, Gosport St  
Mark, Gosport St Mary War  
Memorial, Gosport  
Anns Hill Cemetery

### **HMI052**

(*Over 5300 entries*)

**Southampton Hill Lane Cemetery**

These can be ordered online, [www.hgs-online.org.uk](http://www.hgs-online.org.uk) or by sending a cheque to the HGS Office: 52 Northern Road, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3DP

**Cost:** Collected from Office £5, UK Post £6.50, Overseas £7.80

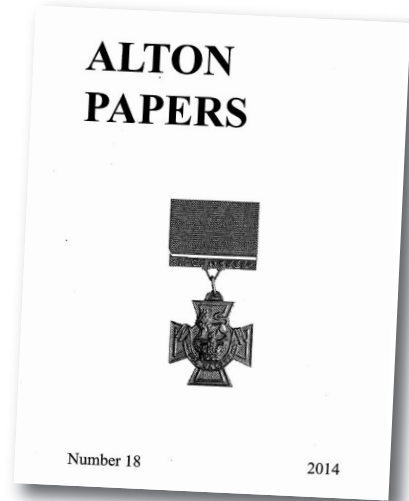
# Alton Papers No. 18

The Alton Papers series has maintained its high standard since its inception covering many aspects of life in Alton and the surrounding villages. The latest issue, No. 18, is no exception.

The highlight of this edition is of Alton hero Edward George **HORLOCK** who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1914. George, as he was known, and his battery were under heavy shell fire and although twice wounded, he persisted on each occasion to carry on firing after his wounds had been dressed.

The story includes his family history. George was the son of John **HORLOCK** and Emily **HASTED** of Privett and he was born at Beech Farm in October 1885. Their background has been well researched by author, Digby **HORLOCK**, and describes George's schooling at Shalden and Hartley Maudit, his work as a groom on leaving school, and his enlistment in the Royal Field Artillery in 1904. He went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1914. He took part in several battles and was promoted to sergeant major. According to "VC's of the 1st World War", he married Ethel May **HASTED** at Littlehampton, Sussex, in 1917.

Having survived actions on the Western Front, George was tragically killed when a passenger on HMT Aragon which was attacked and sunk by a U-boat in Alexandria in 1917. He was buried in the War Memorial Cemetery in Hadra. Among many illustrations in the article, is the Victoria Cross which he won. The second article in the publication is Vera Hunt's "Chawton's Part in the Boer War". It



includes 10 pictures of the 13 men whose names are recorded in the Old Testament at the village church. They are: Major Evelyn **BRADFORD**, Lieutenant Edward **BRADFORD**, Captain Lionel **KNIGHT**, Lieutenant Henry **KNIGHT**, Private Albert **APPLEFORD**, Charles **CLINGER** (Hampshire Regiment), Gunner Henry **JACKSON**, Driver Henry **LANGRISH**, James **LANGRISH** (Royal Army Medical Corps), Private John **SKATES**, Corporal Walter **TRIGGS**, William **WHITE** (Mounted Infantry) and Corporal Ernest **WHITE**.

The main body of the book is a scholarly and well researched article by Jane Hurst, detailing the history of Hill House, 1 High Street, Alton. Of particular interest to family historians will be the family trees of the **PACK**, **EDE** and **BLOSE** families of the 17th and 18th centuries and their histories. Finally, there is a short article by Steven Knight, "Alton's Breweries in 1974". Steven is a photographer interested in industrial locations and one fine day in 1974, he took



pictures of brewery buildings in Lower Turk Street. As well as the Courage Brewery, the Bass Maltings (demolished in 2008/9) can be seen in the background of one of his photographs.

Alton Papers No. 18 has 50 pages including an index of names and places and over 20 black

and white illustrations. It is published by The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery and costs £3.00 plus £1.00 p&p. Copies can be obtained from Mrs J R Hurst, 83 The Butts, Alton, Hants. GU34 1RD. Tel: 01420 86701 Email: [janehurst1@gmail.com](mailto:janehurst1@gmail.com).

**Review by Len Ruffell**

## My Ancestor was a Lunatic

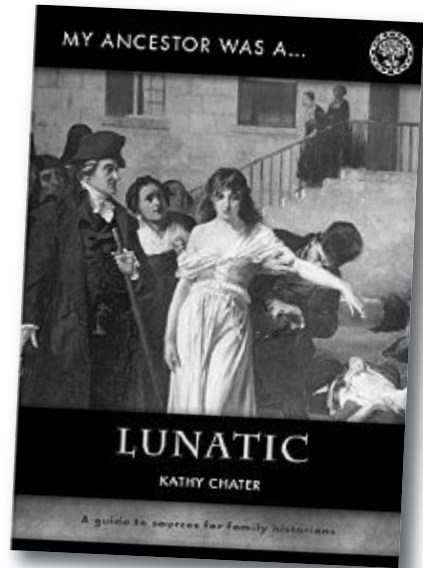
by Kathy Chater Published 2014 by the Society of Genealogists; £8.99; ISBN 978-1-907199-32-5

**This is another volume in the well established series from the Society of Genealogists. Dr Chater is a highly qualified and experienced family historian and she has produced a thorough and workmanlike survey of the subject.**

The book consists of eleven chapters which each trace the history of mental illness and its treatment from the Middle Ages to the present time. Each chapter starts with an historical review, gives a list of sites and locations where records can be found and finishes with suggestions for further reading. The author defines the subject in both historical and contemporary terms showing the influence of religion, superstition and science. She highlights key changes in attitude and treatment (at one stage both masturbation and homosexuality were considered evidence of mental illness).

As well as the general chapters there are detailed considerations of suicide, the criminally insane, those with learning disability and of the relevant systems in Scotland and Ireland.

Overall the book is of a high standard but the



index is rather sketchy and several of the illustrations are so faint in reproduction as to be almost unreadable. And why do we have to have a French illustration as the cover? We have our own pioneers in this field to celebrate.

A practical and useful survey which can be fully recommended.

**Review by Charles Kaye**



# Bursledon archives

**Bursledon Local History Group (in conjunction with Greyladyes Arts Foundation) are building a Community Archive.**

It includes documents, photos, maps and notes of people's memories relating specifically to Bursledon. That is to say the ancient parish of Bursledon and the bits of Hound it has absorbed (Lowford, Old Netley and Maidenstone Heath).

Despite being a small parish of 1000 people prior to the 20th Century, our chosen remit is large; ANY Bursledon Person, building, event, landscape or view, at whatever time.

We recognise two common weaknesses of local history and try to combat them. First, we are keen to copy any material from private individuals (family or household archives, documents/photos from people from people who have moved away, pictures they do not consider 'history' or 'of general interest'), as well as public archives.

Secondly, we try to present findings in the area via occasional public slideshows.

Despite gathering a wide breadth of information, little is so far indexed.

Projects have included listing the M.I.s in the 20th century churchyard (only the oldest churchyard had previously been transcribed) studying old newspapers, school photos, wills, War Memorial, local place names and buildings. A copy of the M.I.s will be deposited with the HGS and Record Office once finished.

If you have any Bursledon connection, be it ancestral or having lived or worked here, then I would be delighted to hear from you. It

would be great to supplement the village archive with notes, family trees, scans/copy photos or documents.

In return, I can try to help with your Bursledon queries, with a knowledge of local sources.

Perhaps you have a photo of unidentified place or person that Bursledon elders may know? Do you have a picture of a lost Bursledon building? Have you any family story, photo or document you would be willing to share with us.

I make no charge for research, but at this stage I intend to reciprocate your efforts. i.e. tell me what you already know and I will try to add to it. Unless you specify otherwise, material could be publicly shared, but you would be accredited as the source.

Please bear in mind that I ask the group something, we only meet monthly.

**Jeff Martin** (Member # 4462)

Contact e-mail [jeffre\\_martin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeffre_martin@yahoo.co.uk)  
Post (with S.A.E. if reply expected)  
Jeff Martin, Morellos, Providence Hill,  
Bursledon, Southampton, Hants. SO31 8AU





Above:

*Pickers circa 1912 from the thriving strawberry industry on what is now Bursledon Green housing estate, between Tesco and Lowford village, Bursledon. Courtesy of Margaret Bevis nee Martin*

Right:

*Gilbert and Eliza Martin above Lowford 1930s. Courtesy of Doreen Paskins*





# In search of the French connection

**When my wife and I first started this research 35 years ago one of the things given to us by my father in law Ronald Victor WELLS was a scrap of paper stating that the name of his paternal grandmother was Marie Louise Séraphie NOTILLÉ, and suggesting a connection with the name OPILLART which was supposed to be connected with a department store in Paris.**

This soon turned out to be at least partly wrong. Reference to the birth certificate of his father Edward Victor WELLS showed that the mother's name was Nottelet. Further research into GRO records resulted in the following; note that when registering the birth of her daughter Clemence in 1847, Susanna implied to the registrar that she was married, although no record of a marriage has been found prior to 1855.

John NOTTELET. He had issue:

A01 Victor Elionie NOTTELET, (aka Victor aka Elionie Victor aka Leon Victor). He is variously described as a hatter or hatter's manager. He was married after banns 12th March 1855 at St Giles Camberwell to Susanna Mary Ann SAUNDERS, daughter of William Stephen SAUNDERS, carpenter. They were then described as of full age, living at Wyndham Road. He died 10th September 1870 of brain disease at 4 Somerset Place, St Marks Road, Kennington. She died 13th December 1896 at Wandsworth Union Infirmary, aged "62". Three children are known:

B01 Clemence Adelaide NOTTELET was born 14th August 1847 at 43 Queen St Lambeth, and died 20th October 1847 at Collingwood Court, Christchurch, St Saviour, of marasmus. The birth was registered by "Susan

NOTTELET formerly SAUNDERS", as "daughter of Victor Elionie NOTTELET, Hatter". The death was registered by V E NOTTELET of Collingwood Court Christchurch as "daughter of Victor Elionie NOTTELET, Hatter".

B02 Marie Louise Séraphie NOTTELET was born c1857 in France. She was married after banns 24th November 1877 at St Mary Newington to Edward WELLS, then a clerk on the Southern Railway, by whom she had ten children including Edward Victor WELLS. Another of her sons, born 31st May 1881, was named Leo Nottelet WELLS. Marie committed suicide on 24th September 1914 aged 57.

B03 Emma Adel Obeline NOTTELET was born 27th June 1858 at 4 Somerset Place, St Marks Road, Kennington, and died there 10th January 1864.

Reference to a booklet issued by the now-defunct Anglo-French Family History Society revealed that – unlike in this country – there are no comprehensive indexes to French births marriages and deaths. The only collated indexing that is done is that every ten years an index or "table decennale" is compiled to the births, marriages and deaths that have taken place during that decade in each individual commune. It follows that knowledge of the name of the commune of origin of your ancestor is required to enable research to be carried out. Another difficulty, which happily did not affect us, is that the French authorities will not release information less than 100 years old except to proved direct descendants, and reportedly can be reluctant even then.

How then to find out where the Nottelets came from?

In the early 80s, searching censuses in the



London area was extremely difficult, and they were only available up to 1881 anyway, but over the years a complete list of “birthplaces” for Marie was obtained. In 1861 and 1871 it was France, in 1881 Marchi Normandy, in 1891 and 1901 France, and in 1911 Picardy. The 1881 entry nearly had me going, but I held off because of doubts over the handwriting and the spelling. The problem here is that U.K. censuses routinely do not give precise places of birth for people born abroad. Occasional exceptions do exist, but not this time. Even when they do, foreign names are often mangled.

There the matter had to rest, until the relatively recent appearance on Ancestry of a database of alien arrivals. This lists Victor **NOTTELET**, chapelier [hatter], place of origin Marchais, travelling from Boulogne to London in 1849. Many places of origin are not so precisely stated, but we got lucky. This proved to be the key.

Marchais was quickly found to be located in the Département de l’Aisne. The chief town is Laon, and the Archives départementales de l’Aisne are located there. Aisne is one of an increasing number of départements whose archives now provide free-access digitised images of civil registration entries of birth marriage and death from 1792 up to about 1890, and of register entries of baptisms, marriages and burials up to 1791.

What we believe to be Marie’s acte de naissance or birth record turned up a couple of years earlier than expected, and there is an anomaly with her name: she is registered simply as Louise Séraphie. However, given the fairly obvious garble of Saunders/Seauders it is difficult to see who else this could be. No

other child of this parentage is registered in this book:

Lan mil huit cent cinquante cinq, le deux avril à huit heures du matin pardevant nous Pierre Francisse Bernier Maire et officier de létat civil de la commune de Marchais, canton de Sissonne, arrondissement de Laon, département de l’Aisne a comparu Victor Elionie Nottelet âgé de quarante ans chapelier domicilié à Liesse lequel nous a présenté un enfant du sexe féminin né à Marchais chez le Sieur Jean Louis Nicolas Nottelet âgé de soixante cinq ans manouvrier domicilié à Marchais, son père, hier à deux heures du matin, de lui déclarant et de Suzanne Seauders âgée de vingt six ans son épouse sans profession, domiciliés ensemble audit Liesse auquel enfant il a été donné les prenom de Louise Séraphie. Le présent acte a été rédigé en présence de Jean Louis Nicolas Nottelet ci-dessus dénommé y de Jean Baptiste Philogène Nottelet âgé de cinquante six ans tisseur, tous deux domiciliés à Marchais, le premier aïeul paternel et le second son grand oncle paternel. Et ont les témoins et le comparant signé avec nous le présent acte après lecture faite.

[Signed:] *Nottelet Nottelet Nottelet Bernier*

The year one thousand eight hundred and fifty five, the second of April at eight o’clock in the morning before us Pierre Francisse Bernier Mayor and registrar of the town of Marchais, district of Sissonne, arrondissement de Laon, département de l’Aisne appeared Victor Elionie Nottelet aged forty years hatter resident at Liesse who reported to us a female child born at Marchais at the house of M Jean Louis Licolas Nottelet aged sixty five years day-labourer resident at Marchais his



father yesterday at two o'clock in the morning of him the notifier and of Suzanne Seauders aged twenty six years his wife of no occupation resident together at Liesse, which child has been given the forenames of Louise Séraphie. The present record has been drawn up in the presence of Jean Louis Nicolas Nottelet aforesaid and of Jean Baptiste Philogène Nottelet aged fifty six years weaver both resident at Marchais, the first the paternal grandfather, the second her paternal great uncle. And the witnesses and the appearer signed the present record with us after it had been read.

Victor's birth registration dated 6th June 1814 named him as Victor Elonnie **NOTTELET**, son of Jean Louis Nicolas **NOTTELET** and Marie Reine Elizabeth Séraphie **HOPILLIART**. This showed that Marie was not merely connected to the "**OPILLART**" family, but her paternal grandmother was named Hopilliart. The Parisian department store, however, remains an unresolved question.

The same book yielded his parents' marriage record on 3rd January 1813:

Note that in these registers a female is recorded under her maiden name irrespective of any marriage.

One problem which we have had the good fortune to avoid is the French Revolutionary Calendar, which was in use from 1793 to 1805. For a detailed description and advice on converting dates refer to

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_Republicain\\_Calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republicain_Calendar) . Suffice here to note that the twelve months are Vendémiaire, Brumaire, Frimaire, Nivôse, Pluviôse, Ventôse, Germinal, Floréal, Prairial, Messidor, Thermidor and

Fructidor, that these do not match the months familiar to us, that each is divided into 3 "décades" of 10 days, each with its own new name, and there are 5 or 6 complementary days in each year depending on the leap year.

The above entries are all from the civil registration records. The pre-1792 parish registers are nearly as informative, but have to be browsed because they lack even the tables decennales of the later books

The handwriting is far from copperplate, but is usually legible. If you can cope with English parish registers you should be able to manage the French ones.

Obviously, even a very basic knowledge of French will be of some help. However, even if you don't know any French at all, don't let that fact put you off. A conversational ability in French is not needed. What you will need for civil records are né (born), marié (married) and décédé (deceased), and for church records baptisé (baptised), ondoyé (baptised where the child is not expected to survive), marié and inhumé (buried). Entries for females will have an additional <e> at the end of the word. You should also obtain a reasonable quality dictionary to get the numbers, the names of the months and days of the week, family relationships and any other words, e.g. occupations, that you may wish to understand. Especially before the Revolution, expect to find septante, octante and nonante for 70, 80 and 90 instead of the more familiar soixante-dix, quatre-vingts and quatre-vingt-dix. Expect also to find frequent spelling anomalies, missed accents, erratic use of capitals, adjectives that don't agree with their nouns, and a seemingly odd word order. So – not all



that different from English registers?

A couple of years ago I compiled a brief list of signposts to sources of French information in response to a query raised at a Fareham Group meeting. Here is an updated version. It is possible that you may get lucky and find a site or database that will help you.

**YEO, G: The British overseas. 3rd ed.,** Guildhall Library. Pages 36-41 list many of the French vital records available in this country, and their whereabouts

**Cyndi's List:** [www.cyndislist.com/](http://www.cyndislist.com/)  
A worldwide gateway to genealogical sites, with (as of 11th Nov 2014) 590 sites specific to France.

**FindMyPast:** [www.findmypast.co.uk/](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/)  
the births 1761-2005 include what used to be the GRO miscellaneous indexes covering some births outside England & Wales.

**Ancestry:** [www.ancestry.co.uk/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/)  
has a file of publicly available family trees claiming to include nearly 148 million hits for the keyword <France>. A search for relevant surnames/dates/places might yield useful information, and if so, contact details for someone else working on the same family.

**FamilySearch:** [www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/)  
has some information relating to vital events in France

**Geneanet:** <http://en.geneanet.org/first-step/search-your-french-ancestors/online-departmental-archives>  
has a directory, alphabetically by département, of French departmental archives, indicating where parish registers and civil registers have been posted online, and which are free access. If the above link does not work, do a simple Google search on keywords <France> and <archives>; the required hit (as of 12th Apr 2015) is the 6th on the list.

**Google:**  
[http://www.google.co.uk/advanced\\_search](http://www.google.co.uk/advanced_search)  
It may seem an act of desperation, and it certainly wouldn't help with common names, but if your subject has a distinctive name you have nothing to lose except a few moments of time by trying a Google phrase search. In the case of the **NOTTELETs** of Marchais such a search led to a tree taking the family back to the start of extant registers in the 17th century.

**Keith Hayward** (Member # 69)



Two booklets have been commissioned and published by Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council, detailing the lives of those

**Fair Oak men who served in the Great War  
and made the ultimate sacrifice.**

The booklets cost £3 each and are available from the Parish Office, Village Hall, Shorts Road, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7EJ.



# Dear Editor...

## Dear Editor,

During a sort out of my parents' house I came across these two photographs which may be of interest to those who had family who worked for Portsmouth Evening News in the 1920s.

The large group photograph was taken from a book celebrating the Jubilee of the Evening News (1877-1927). There is no description so I imagine it is a photograph of the staff working for the Evening News in 1927.

The photograph of a charabanc outing was on one side of a post card. On turning it over it just had a handwritten date "September 2nd 1923". As the building appears quite substantial and my grandmother came from Southsea, I guessed it may be Portsmouth.

I scanned it and zoomed in to the name at the front of the vehicle and could just make out "Evening News No. 5". As my great grandfather, Richard **SHEPHARD** (1852-1918) was a compositor for the Evening News; I felt I needed to know more. Fortunately the Portsmouth Evening News can be obtained online, so I searched under "September 1923" and "outing". On page 4 of the 3rd September 1923 edition of the paper is an article describing the annual "wayzgoose" (#) for 200 employees of Portsmouth Evening News and Hampshire Telegraph Co. Ltd. The trip was undertaken in eight Southern Tourist Company vehicles.

The article goes on to describe how they visited Hindhead and the Devil's Punchbowl before stopping for lunch at Bretts restaurant in Guildford High Street. There, the grandson of the company chairman, Major Maurice Storey Moore, is described as being in the chair. After lunch and a toast to the company, there were speeches by Mr J G Hogan and Mr F J H Young. After leaving Guildford the party then went on to Winchester via the Hog's Back where tea was produced by Messrs Dumper Ltd in a part of the Guildhall set aside for them.

I have no idea why the postcard has been kept in my family - as my great grandfather pre-deceased the trip he cannot be in the photograph. However, someone may recognise a family member and, if so, they will now know what they were doing on 2nd September 1923.

# According to Wikipedia a wayzgoose "was at one time an entertainment given by a master printer to his workmen each year on or about St Bartholomew's Day (24 August). It marked the traditional end of summer and the start of the season of working by candlelight. Later, the word came to refer to an annual outing and dinner for the staff of a printing works or the printers on a newspaper."

**Keith Turner** (Member # 868)





Group photograph taken from a book celebrating the Jubilee of the Portsmouth Evening News (1877-1927)



A charabanc outing dated on the reverse – September 2nd 1923



**Dear Editor,**

Some years ago I found a pile of paperwork on the pavement in Lodge Road in Portswood. I didn't examine it all, but one sheet jumped out at me. It was someone's family history research. I copied the details, meaning to try and trace the owner, after I had taken all the papers to the Police Station in the Civic Centre in Southampton.

I hope that the police traced the owner.

I have included all the details of this 'tree' (below), feeling sure that at least one of your readers will recognise it as their family.

I apologise to the owner of this information that it has taken so long to take action, but it was in my 'pending' tray!

Yours faithfully

**Maureen Westwood** (Member # 5811)  
56 Whalesmead Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 8HL

Albert **SMETHAM**

Albert Smetham was born 6 September 1864 at Lower Street Winchester.

The son of James Smetham (soldier) and Emma JESSOP.

Albert enrolled in the Muster Roll 1st Volunteer Battalion Hants Regiment  
27 May 1887.

Sergeant A. Smetham No 2625 was awarded 'Certificate of Efficiency' (for Rifle Volunteer Corps) dated 1 November 1894.

His father James Smetham was later a Sergeant in Scots Fusilier Guards.

Albert Smetham married Rose **NEWELL** at Awbridge Parish Church on 4 May 1889.

Albert aged 24 was a carpenter. Rose was aged 23.

Witnesses at the marriage were Emmeline Newell and Joseph Newell.

Albert was awarded an old age pension 1 April 1931 and Rose 12 February 1931.

Albert Smetham lived at 20 Church Terrace Romsey, on 11 December 1941, and in October 1953 at 17 Mainstone, Romsey.

Albert Smetham died 1954.



## AGM report

**The Annual General Meeting was again held at the Discovery Centre in Winchester, as it had been prior to the special event last year for our 40th Anniversary which was held at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Attendance was down on last year and a quorum was only just reached.**

We had only limited exhibitors along with our HGS Bookstall, but attendees had plenty of time to browse and shop prior to the talk. The speaker this year was Colin Chapman, a well-known and respected lecturer, a Vice President

of the Federation of Family History Societies and well known to our Society. He gave a fascinating talk on the POW Camps in the First World War, with particular emphasis on those in Hampshire. He did ask if anyone had any information on the camp at Romsey, if so he would like to hear from you!

There have been some changes to the Executive Committee since last year. Ken Smallbone is no longer Editor or a Committee Member but new to the Committee is John Sims, who has taken on the role of Members' Interests' Co-ordinator.



*The Executive Committee with President Judy Kimber (pictured centre front) at the AGM*

# Editors' seminar

**On Saturday 31 January three HGS members: Liz Collyer, website editor, Gwen Newland, membership secretary and Chris Pavey, bookstall manager, attended an Editors' Seminar organised by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) at University College Peterborough.**

Unfortunately the HGS Journal editor was unable to attend, so substitutes stood in for him. The seminar was attended by many family history society members from around the country who either wrote, or had an editorial interest in, preparing articles for their journals, newsletters, websites or Facebook pages.

At the seminar, which was hosted by Steve Manning the FFHS Education Officer, we heard presentations on editing and sub-editing as well as on using various media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter as well as computer programmes such as Microsoft Publisher etc. Most of us were familiar with writing articles for our journals etc, but there was much to learn on editing and sub-editing skills. The seminars showed how we, as contributors or editors, could best use, prepare, write and post the various types of articles for different media outlets. We were fortunate to have presentations from Helen Tovey, the editor of Family

Tree Magazine and her sub-editor on writing and editing, as well as from Steve Manning on using social media such as Facebook etc. There was also the opportunity to contribute to discussions and learn from both the speakers' and other attendees' knowledge and experience.

We heard some interesting facts and figures: the UK population is approximately 64.1 million. Of these around 40 million use Facebook (47%), 15 million use Twitter (23%) and 10 million use LinkedIn (15%). Whether we agreed with these figures or not, the message was, 'like it or loathe it social media in all its forms is here to stay'. However, the main lesson we took away from this worthwhile day was that all sources – from a printed magazine to a 'tweet' – are essential and now inextricably linked communication tools. Our impression of our day was that we had learnt a great deal which we hope will be a help to HGS in the future.

*Liz Collyer, Chris Pavey and Gwen Newland*





# The Bookstall Apprentice – a personal view

**Those with a good memory will recall that in the December 2014 Journal there was an item drawing attention to the forthcoming 2015 WDYTYA exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham and an appeal for local volunteers to help on the HGS bookstall.**

Compared to London (Olympia), Shropshire could be considered local to Birmingham so I mulled it over for several weeks as to whether I should volunteer my services for a couple of days. Chris Pavey, the Bookstall Manager, had outlined what was expected in her article so, being persuaded, I took the plunge and threw my hat into the ring.

As there were several months to go, I had plenty of time to get cold feet and pull out. To my amazement, this didn't seem to be happening but on the day before the exhibition was due to start, I was beginning to wonder if I had made a big mistake after having been on the internet and read all about the show.

Now the usual negative thoughts crossed my mind: would I be good enough?; did I know enough? (visitors were paying £22 on the door for a ticket so wouldn't take kindly to be speaking with a half-wit); how will I get on with adding up the money with prices ending in 99p and the change to work out as well!? Not that I could have done anything right then as I knew Chris and her husband Geoff were already 'on the road' as it was necessary for them to be there the day before in order to set up the stand.

After a somewhat restless night, it was off to Birmingham International by train (this being cheaper than taking the car, what with the M6

toll charge and car parking), allowing me to arrive stress free and in good time before the opening.

Proudly displaying my Exhibitor's Pass, I was warmly greeted by Chris and Geoff and then introduced to the ladies in the team, all neatly attired in their HGS logoed sweatshirts and there was me, looking unusually tidy, dressed like an office manager! Chris showed me around the bookstall and how to record the sales in the ledgers, although I was initially stumped by the phrase '5-bar gate' when used in the context of a sales count; to my relief there were no prices ending in 99p!

I became aware that, over the 'Tannoy' system, a time countdown was being given and then the fateful announcement "the show is now open". Oh dear, into the unknown and out of my comfort zone with no chance of backing out now.

Well, how did it go? It was all very enjoyable and when I couldn't answer a local knowledge query there was always someone on hand to help me out and take over. Handling the money wasn't a problem either, although entering the sales details in the ledger may not always have been as Chris had instructed. It seemed to me that the 'plum job' on the bookstall was manning the ever popular help desk database laptop computer because then you were able to sit down with the enquirer - sadly I was not far enough up the pecking order!!

One thing that I hadn't bargained for was an electric mobility scooter crashing into the tables and nearly depositing the books and CDs at my feet. Thankfully nobody was hurt,



just a red faced and apologetic driver. My reward for good behaviour was to be allowed time off in order to wander around the show. After the final 'Tannoy' announcement closing the show and advising when the 2016 event was to be, workmen immediately appeared from nowhere and started to dismantle the stands and with the carpets being taken up the show seemed to disappear before your very eyes. Then, having helped Geoff load up his car with all the equipment and unsold stock, it was

farewells all round and for me, back to Shropshire.

In summary, should I have worried? - No; did I make the right decision? - Yes; would I recommend volunteering? - Yes; and finally, did I learn anything? - Yes, that we were all very partial to calorie busting cakes! To the Thursday and Saturday team, a very big 'Thank You' for cheerfully putting up with: 'The Apprentice'.

**Robert Toomer (Member # 11752)**



The bookstall team at the WDYTYA



# HGS Bookstall Report – WDYT YA

## **A new venture for HGS in April was taking our Bookstall to the NEC in Birmingham for WDYT YA which has moved from its previous home in Olympia, London.**

A longer, but slightly easier journey, was made to Birmingham by road and rail by HGS volunteers. Grateful thanks go to Geoff Pavey, Sheila Brine, Dolina Clarke, Ann-Marie Shearer, Liz Collyer, Jane Painter, Eileen Davies and Robert Toomer for all their hard work selling items, researching enquiries and offering knowledgeable advice to the many visitors to our stall. Thanks also to Robert, an 'out of county' HGS member, who travelled from Market Drayton to help out, for delicious cakes from his 'naughty box' to augment our bag of 'nibbles'. He also helped to move and reload all our heavy items for the journey home – a vital task when we are all tired after three enjoyable but exhausting days. Everyone was kept very busy, but there were enough helpers to ensure we all had breaks to look around and/or attend the talks on offer etc. We were also entertained on the Thursday evening by a 1940s style buffet in the '1939 tearoom' with musical accompaniment by the 'D Day Darlings' and their 1940s era music.

Attendance at FH events is a great opportunity for HGS to 'network' and get to know volunteers from other societies, as well as the visitors to our stall, many of whom are regulars. We also have the opportunity to meet the commercial FH traders, the staff of Ancestry.co.uk, Findmypast, The Genealogist and the various editors etc of FH magazines and of course the many knowledgeable FH speakers. This all adds to our knowledge and ability to help HGS members with their queries.

Our takings were lower than in previous years which reflects the general trend at most Family History events. Despite this our research help and advice was eagerly sought from the many visitors to our stall. We were able to publicise our society to a wider audience and sign up some new members.

**Chris Pavey, Bookstall Manager**

### **Forthcoming Date**

20 June Wiltshire FHS Open Day,  
Trowbridge

*Other dates will be announced in the  
September journal*

## **FAREWELL**

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

Mr K. J. Adam-Smith	(Member # 9383)	112 Osborne Road, Farnborough, Hants.
Mrs B.A. Witt	(Member # 2222)	6 Woodglade Close, Marchwood, Southampton
Mr. L. Longdon	(Member # 1268)	103, Merlin Park, Portishead, Bristol
Mr. T D. Grindrod	(Member # 10777)	Jamaica Cottage, Malthouse Lane, West Ashling, Chichester, W. Sx.

# Bessie Jackson – The Dedicated Fiancee

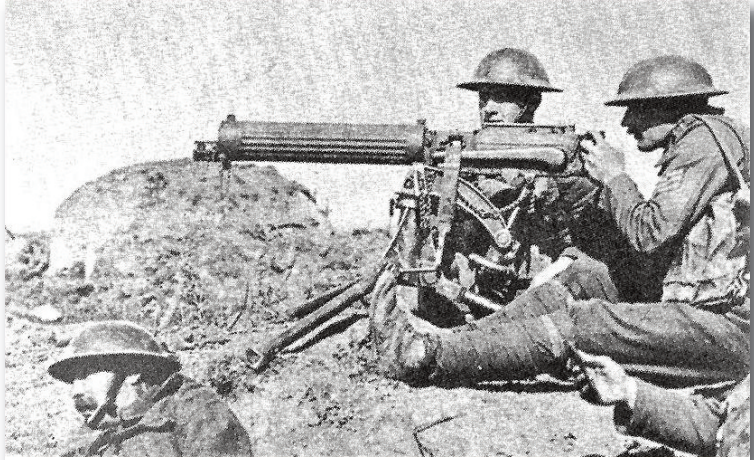
**We hear much about wounded heroes of WW1 but seldom about the dedication of the wives and sweethearts who waited for them to return home.**

I still have the letter I received from Mrs Bessie Glover way back in 1969. It provided me with

information about the family of my great-grandfather's brother. He was Henry **RUFFELL** who had been Bailiff of the Rotherfield Park Estate at East Tisted, before retiring to become the landlord of The Trooper Inn, Froxfield in 1917. Bessie said she knew about the East Tisted family as she was engaged to Henry's youngest son, George, who died there in 1922.

When she wrote, Bessie, whose maiden name was **JACKSON**, was 73. She was born at Bighton, the heart of "Ruffell Country", only a few miles from East Tisted and Froxfield. She was not related to us but after her fiancé died she remained a life-long friend of George's sister, Mrs Ada **PULLINGER**, who took over the Trooper Inn with her husband, Alfred, when her father died in 1932.

Bessie never forgot George, the first great love of her life. In fact, seven years elapsed before



she eventually married Hubert **GLOVER** in 1929. I wanted to find out why she and George had not married as they were both 24 when he died. Petersfield public library had a copy of the Hants and Sussex News and I found the explanation in a report of George's burial at Froxfield Church on 23 June 1922.

*Much regret and sympathy has been occasioned by the death of Mr George Alfred Ruffell, the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ruffell, of the Trooper Inn, Froxfield. He was only 24 years of age. During the war he was in the Machine Gun Corps for nearly three years and served in France, where he was wounded. He was invalided out of the Army in March, 1919, and has been ailing ever since. For the last three months he has been seriously ill suffering from a distressing complaint, during which time he was nursed by his fiancée, Miss Bessie **GLOVER***



For those three years George was in increasing agony from Pyelitis, an inflammation of the renal pelvis. Bessie nursed him in those last few months, when it was at its most painful, being accompanied by tenderness in the loins. It was made more unpleasant with irritability of the bladder, prurient urine and a peculiar pain on flexion of the thigh. It was, in the end, a blessed release.

George was very popular. He had been a member of the Froxfield Cricket Club and whilst he was still able, assisted behind the bar at The Trooper. A large number of parishioners followed his coffin, which was covered in the Union Jack and the church was filled to capacity. In addition to the many beautiful floral tributes, several bunches of flowers were placed on the grave by children. One in particular stood out. It read:

*To my darling from his devoted and broken-hearted Bess.*



*George Ruffell of Froxfield, Machine Gun Corps*

There is a sad sequel to the story. George's mother, Charlotte (nee **RUSTELL**) died two weeks after her son.

Bessie Maria **GLOVER** went to live at Tooting, London. She died in 1973.

**Len Ruffell** (Member # 606)

---

## The National Archives (TNA)

### **The National Archives**

Bourne Ave, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876 3444.  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

### **Opening Hours:**

Tuesday/Thursday 9am to 7pm  
Wednesday/Friday/Saturday 9am to 5pm

**Free parking**





# Members' Surname Interests Database

**Please continue to check the members' interests webpage at <http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/research-resources/members-interests/> for latest details and service updates that will be announced there first.**

Members' interests are published quarterly in this journal. There is a restriction in each journal of publishing a maximum of 15 entries per person to keep the journal to a manageable size. Such a constraint does not apply to the database, however, so it is possible to add further interests - within reason!

Updates to your surname interests can be made online by following the examples on the page or by post. It is also possible to remove redundant entries, and this is encouraged - deletions are not notified in the journal; they simply won't remain in the database. Updates should be BLOCK printed and submitted in the format used in the following section or as shown on the form on members' interests webpage. 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.

All enquiries and queries concerning this section should be sent by post to the Research Centre at the HGS Office (address on inside front cover), or via the red enquiry button on our website, or by e-mail to [membersinterests@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@hgs-online.org.uk).

*N. B. Changes to email addresses 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 remember to inform the Membership Secretary ([membership@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:membership@hgs-online.org.uk)) of any changes to either your current email or home 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.

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

**Notes ('1900' given as example of 'date'):**

- 1900+ = after that date;
- pre**1900 = before that date;
- c**1900 = circa (about) that date (+/- 5 yrs);
- C**20 = xx th. Century;
- parish **a** = area around parish

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

**If communicating by post remember that an SAE is essential these days, as not everyone has email. Please note that HGS cannot guarantee a response to any enquiry made of a member.**

# Members' Surname Interests Database



Alee	HAM St Mary Bourne	pre1800	13957	Hunt	HAM	pre1851	14036
Baker	WIL Corsham a	pre1811	12354	Jackman	Michelmersh a	pre 1841	14012
Bendal	HAM Kimpton	pre1800	6407	Jackman	HAM		
Bendle	HAM Kimpton	pre1800	6407	Jackman	South Tidworth a	1841-1870	14012
Bill	ANT Donegore	pre1861	10915	Jackman	HAM Andover a	pre 1841	14012
Bill	LKS Glasgow	1861-1871	10915	James	WIL		
Bird	BRK Thatcham	pre1800	13957	James	North Tidworth		
Bird	BRK Greenham	pre1800	13957	James	HAM East Wellow a	pre1827	14036
Boman	HAM Pamber	1600-2000	12356	James	HAM Romsey a	pre1827	14036
Boman	BRK Any	1600-2000	12356	Jeffery	CON Any	pre1791	1535
Boman	HAM Tadley	1600-2000	12356	Jenkins	CON Any	pre1791	1535
Boman	HAM Baughurst	1600-2000	12356	Jessop	HAM	1852-1910	14012
Bowman	BRK Any	1600-2000	12356		South Tidworth		
Bowman	HAM Pamber	1600-2000	12356	Kent	HAM Any	pre1806	1535
Bowman	HAM Tadley	1600-2000	12356	Laing	HAM Waterlooville	1925-1940	13819
Bowman	HAM Baughurst	1600-2000	12356	Lawrence	BRK Crookham	pre1830	13957
Butler	HAM Kingsclere	pre1861	13957	Lee	BRK Thatcham	1800-1870	13957
Butler	SUR East & West Clandon	1990-1915	13957	Lee	HAM	pre1800	13957
Cansell	HAM Empshott a	1899-1901	3347	Legg	St Mary Bourne	pre1750	6407
Carpenter	WIL Broad Hinton	pre1850	13957	Lillywhite	HAM Holybourne	pre1751	12354
Carter	BRK Any	pre1789	1535	Littlefield	HAM Hambledon a	pre1751	12354
Cheverill	HAM Any	pre1751	12354		HAM		
Collins	HAM Any	pre1858	1535		Bishops Waltham a		
Earl	HAM Kinglsey	1820-1826	13456	Long	HAM Otterbourne a	pre1827	14036
Earl	HAM Binstead	1700-1826	13456	Long	HAM Hursley a	pre1827	14036
Earle	HAM Kingsley	1820-1826	13456	Lord	OXF Denchworth	pre1850	13957
Earle	HAM Binstead	1700-1826	13456	Lovegrove	HAM Portsmouth	1910-1950	13819
Emmery	HAM Any	pre1835	1535	Merritt	HAM Froxfield	1888-1892	3347
Farlow	HAM East Meon a	1630-1700	3347	Mills	HAM Froxfield	1834-1863	3347
Freeland	HAM Any	pre1751	12354	Mowle	HAM Medstead a	pre1751	12354
Grace	HAM Andover	pre1801	12354	Munford	HAM Any	All	12279
Griffin	KEN Any	pre1792	1535	Munford	DOR Any	All	12279
Griggs	KEN Any	pre1816	1535	Norris	HAM Andover	pre1751	12354
Grover	HAM Any	All	13459	Oakley	HAM Froxfield	1866-1891	3347
Hall	KEN Any	pre1811	1535	Old	HAM Any	pre1801	12354
Harvey	HAM South Stoneham a	1750-2015	13630	Painter	HAM	pre1751	12354
Hayward	HAM South Tidworth a	pre1841	14012		Bishops Waltham a		
Hayward	HAM Andover a	1841-1870	14012	Palmer	HAM Any	pre1835	1535
Hayward	WIL North Tidworth	pre 1841	14012	Parden	HAM Any	pre1758	1535
Horner	HAM Any	pre1811	1535	Passmore	HAM	pre1751	12354
Hounsom	HAM Any	1700-1826	13456		Penton Mewsey a		
Hounsosome	HAM Any	1700-1826	13456	Pendry	BRK Any	pre1759	1535
Howse	OXF	1800-1900	13957	Phillips	DOR Lulworth	pre1801	12354
	Shipton-on-Cherwell			Potnell	HAM East Meon a	1600-1660	3347
Hulbert	WIL Any	pre1811	12354	Purvis	HAM Any	pre1819	1535
Humphrey	HAM Any	pre1839	1535	Rivett	Any Any	All	12354
Hunt	HAM East Wellow a	pre1851	14036	Rivett	HAM Portsmouth	pre1801	12354
				Rogers	SSX Westbourne a	pre1801	12354
				Roles	HAM	1800-2015	13630
					South Stoneham a		
				Roles	DOR Weymouth a	1700-1850	13630



Rolls	HAM			Stacey	HAM Petersfield	1856-1895	3347
	South Stoneham a	1800-2015	13630	Stephens	CON Any	pre1791	1535
Rolls	DOR Weymouth a	1700-1850	13630	Stocker	HAM Kingsclere	pre1851	13957
Savage	HAM Froyle	1750-1880	13957	Stocker	BRK Newbury	pre1870	13957
Savage	SUR East Clandon	1880-1930	13957	Strugnell	HAM Droxford a	pre1801	12354
Sewell	SUR Dorking	1840-1940	13957	Stubbington	HAM Petersfield	1878-1926	3347
Shelley	HAM Any	pre1839	1535	Tolfree	HAM Whitchurch a	pre1801	12354
Shrubs	HAM Emsworth a	pre1801	12354	Treeweke	CON Any	pre1791	1535
Smith	HAM Arreton IOW	pre1801	12354	Tucker	HAM Portsea	pre 1853	14014
Smith	HAM Binstead	1700-1826	13456	Tucker	SUR Camberwell	1890+	14014
Southwell	HAM East Wellow a	pre1850	14036	Wakeford	HAM Hawkley a	1786-1920	3347
Southwell	HAM Lockerley a	pre1851	14036	Watts	HAM Basingstoke	1842+	14014
Sparshett	HAM Any	pre1754	1535	Watts	SUR Camberwell	1880+	14014
Sparshott	HAM Any	pre1754	1535	Westbury	OXF Charlbury	1760-1920	13957
Spicer	DOR	1560-1750	205	Weston	HAM Hambledon a	All	12279
	Iwerne Courtney			Willis	HAM Holybourne	pre1830	6407
Spicer	HAM Portsmouth	1763-1948	205	Wiseman	HAM Ringwood	1580+	10915
Stacey	HAM Froxfield	1825-1856	3347	Wiseman	QC Any	1780+	10915

## Contacts, name, address and e-mail

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

- 205 Mr E Spicer 8 Symonds Street, Golden Square, Victoria, 3555, Australia  
espicer@bigpond.com.au
- 1535 Mrs S A Johnson 17 James Grieve Avenue, Locks Heath, Southampton, SO31 6UB  
sue@suekei.co.uk
- 3347 Mrs V Tucker Westmeston Place, Lewse Road, Westmeston, Hassocks, Sussex BN6 8RH  
gamco@netcomuk.co.uk
- 6407 Ms R Wright atlooncall@hotmail.com
- 10915 Mr D Bill 27 Grove Avenue, Portchester, Fareham, PO16 9EU  
dennis.bill@turnstone77.plus.com
- 12279 Mr A Munford 16 St. Nicholas mount, Hemel Hempsted, Herts, HP1 2BB  
alan.munford@btinternet.com
- 12354 Mrs H Irwin Rooklea, Titchfield Lane, Wickham, PO17 5NY  
hazel.i@btinternet.com
- 12356 Mr & Mrs M & MJ Bowman 11 Elbe Way, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 4LD  
G.john.Bowman@mjb Bowman.demon.co.uk
- 13456 Mrs H McDonald 57 Amarina Avenue, Mooloolaba, Queensland 4557, Australia  
helen\_macdonald@opusnet.com.au



- 13459 Mrs Y Banning 27 Burleys Road, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 7DB  
grover.yvonne@blueyonder.co.uk
- 13630 Mrs B Scott Idaho Farm, Whycombe Road, Prestwood, Bucks, HP16 0PJ  
bascott@talktalk.net
- 13819 Mr C Lovegrove 2 Oaks Close, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7EP  
cwl320@hotmail.com
- 13957 Miss NJ Carpenter Gavel Acre Cottage, Forton, Nr. Andover, Hampshire, SP11 7AL  
j.butler394@btinternet.com
- 14012 Mrs J Rundle 46 Grebe Circuit, North Lakes, Brisbane, Queensland 4509, Australia  
jan.rundle@gmail.com
- 14014 Mrs L King 4 Kibbles Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0JR  
Lindajking50@gmail.com
- 14036 Ms A Moore 249 Gebbies Pass Road, Christchurch, Canterbury, RD2, New Zealand  
almmoore.3@gmail.com

## HGS Research Centre

52 Northern Road, Cosham,  
Portsmouth PO6 3DB

**Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday**  
9.30 a.m. - 12.30pm

**Open Tuesday & Thursday**  
9.30 a.m. - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 4.30p.m.

No appointment is necessary, but if a member specifically wants to use the Find My Past website or wants to guarantee the use of a computer, then a booking should be made via telephone (023 9238 7000) or email (research@hgs-online.org.uk).

## HGS VACANCIES

Editor; Projects Co-ordinator; Publicity Officer;  
Assistants for Research Room, Office and Bookstall;  
Minutes Secretary to Executive Committee;  
Volunteers for Website (technical or proofreading/editing/articles)

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



# Elsie meets Bill

**My story begins on 7th November 1905 at the Military Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt. The happy event was the birth of my Mother, Elsie May Pring, third child of Henry and Florence Pring.**

Henry **PRING** was a soldier serving with the Army Service Corps and by trade a master baker. At the time of Elsie's birth her father's address was given as Kasu-el-nil barracks, Cairo. As a long-service soldier Henry spent much of his military service overseas. From 1892-95 he was in Gibraltar, Egypt in 1898, South Africa in 1900 and Egypt again from 1903 to 1906. At the completion of 21 years' service he received a number of medals – Khedives, the Queen's Medal, South Africa Medal and long-service medals. Henry's army life came to an end when he was discharged on 27th July 1907 with the rank of Staff-sergeant and was awarded a pension for life.

The Pring family consisting of Henry and Florence and their three children, Henry Albert **PRING** born 1901, William James **PRING** born 1904 and Elsie May **PRING** 1905, returned to England in 1907. They set up home in a pub in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire where Henry's army trade as a baker, no doubt suited his new occupation as a publican. I would imagine his baking skills were much appreciated by his customers.

Tragedy struck the family shortly after their return from Egypt. Elsie's mother, Florence, aged just 34, died of blood poisoning. We were told the story that whilst she was skinning a rabbit, she cut her finger and died from the resulting infection. Sadly the days of antibiotics had not yet arrived!

Henry Pring was left with major problems – a pub to run and three small children to care for. An arrangement was made for Elsie, aged two,

to live with her uncle, William **CANT**, who was her late mother's brother. William and his wife, Elizabeth, had no children of their own and history seems to suggest that they felt the arrangement was permanent, although Elsie was never legally adopted. Elsie lived with her new family at Parkstone in Dorset. When she was about ten years old the family moved to Eastleigh in Hampshire where her uncle William Cant found work as a wood machinist. I know very little about Elsie's childhood in Eastleigh – the family lived at 23 Cranbury Road and she probably went to the school in Cranbury Road which still exists and is now a college and further education centre. Elsie left school at the age of thirteen and went to work as a chambermaid for a solicitor who lived in Blenheim Avenue, Southampton. She worked a six and a half day week and every Sunday afternoon would walk from Blenheim Avenue to St. Denys station to catch the train to Eastleigh to spend a few hours with her Aunt and Uncle.

It was at St. Denys station that Elsie met Albert **ASHFORD**, my father, who worked in the ticket office. He was attracted to the pretty, shy, dark-haired young lady. Albert also lived in Eastleigh at 23, Leigh Road, having moved there from Twyford when his father's business went bust!

Elsie married Albert at the Parish Church in Eastleigh on 30th July 1928 when Elsie was twenty-three years old and Albert was twenty-five. The couple set up home in a small flat in Kings Park Road, Southampton where their first child, Sylvia, was born in 1929. The family then moved to a flat above the fish shop in High Road, Swaythling, a short distance from Swaythling station where Albert now worked. Doreen, their second child, was born



*Elsie and family 1906*

in the Swaythling flat in 1931.

The family were beginning to outgrow the High Road flat and in 1932 they were on the move again to a council house in Pansy Road, Bassett, barely a mile from their Swaythling flat. Three further children were born at the new home, Brian (yours truly) in 1933, Jean in 1937 and Beryl in 1939. Over the following years the family did all the usual things, bearing in mind there were six years of war which at times made life frightening, but also offered plenty of adventure in the fields and woods surrounding their Bassett home.

All five children married and between them produced seventeen grandchildren, of whom Elsie and Albert were very proud. Sadly Beryl died in 1985 at the young age of forty-six. In 1987 Elsie's husband Albert died aged eighty-four leaving a sad, lonely and confused Elsie who had enjoyed fifty-nine years of marriage .

Sadly, over the long years that Elsie was separated from the Pring family, she was discouraged from trying to trace any living relations she might have had as it was suggested that it was best to "leave well alone" as they had obviously not tried to find her! I have since learned that in fact attempts were made by her relatives but without success. In 1988, in an attempt to brighten Elsie's life and to give her some hope for the future, I suggested that perhaps we could try to make contact with the Pring family. We had so little to go on that we felt the chances of success were slim.

A newspaper article about the Salvation Army's Missing Persons Bureau finally started the ball rolling. I composed a letter to the Salvation Army who are based in Queen Victoria Street, London, requesting their help and giving them



as much information as we could. A prompt reply was received requesting further information about the Pring family which we were unable to supply. At that point the chance of success seemed doubtful.

On the 16th November 1988 I received a telephone call from Major Colin Fairclough of the Salvation Army and to my delight and amazement he informed me that he had located Elsie's one surviving brother, William aged eighty-four, who was living at Clacton on Sea in Essex. Within minutes I was talking to my new "Uncle Bill" and he was as excited as I was.

The following few days were hectic, and when I told my mother Elsie that we had found her one surviving brother her reaction was not very encouraging. Her first comment was "it's a bit late in the day!" Nevertheless three days later on a cold Saturday morning my wife and I together with a very nervous Elsie were on our way to Clacton for the momentous meeting of siblings which fate had separated for eighty-one years! For a brother and sister to be reunited after a separation of 81 years was a world record, which appears in the Guinness Book of Records for 1990.

On arrival in Clacton we booked into a hotel near the sea and I telephoned my uncle Bill to arrange the meeting which would reunite the family and introduce us to our new cousins, Valerie and Roger and their families. The Salvation Army had requested permission to attend and take photographs, which we were happy to agree.

The day of the meeting was very cold, but the warmth of the welcome will always stay in my memory, Elsie was very nervous, so I knocked



*Elsie, Bill and Captain Fairclough*

on the door of the 1930's semi-detached house to be greeted by Uncle Bill, who could have been my mother's twin!! His first words were "Welcome to my home, Elsie". After all the introductions photographs were taken by the Salvation Army, and these appeared in both the National and local newspapers. We received phone calls from several TV companies offering hotel accommodation and chauffeur-driven limousines to take her to their studios, if Elsie would agree to appear on TV. Being such a shy person we knew she would not agree, and the family thought this was the right decision.

Elsie visited her brother several times before her death in 1991 at the age of eighty-seven. The final cruel act of fate was that none of the Pring family were present at the funeral. Unfortunately, due to a family misunderstanding, the information about the date and time of the funeral was not passed to them.

It seems that she spent her life separated from her family, and even at the end she was still alone!!

**Brian Ashford, (Member # 5484)**



# A sad life in Hampshire and Kent

**An intriguing entry in the Bramley baptism register showed that the vicar recorded in 1871 that Mary Ann BOMAN was about 13 years of age, father deceased, mother in Fareham Lunatic Asylum.**

It was easy enough to find that her father had died in 1867 but searches in the Hampshire Record Office could not help as in the records the inmates were only referred to by their initials. I resigned myself to the fact that I would never know what had happened to Ann, the mother.

Searching the internet late one night and browsing for Fareham Asylum I came across the name of a lady at Southampton University who had written a thesis about this very place and there, by lucky coincidence, her e-mail address. After some correspondence this led me to the unhappy tale of James **BOMAN** and Ann **TAYLOR**.

In 1841 James was apprenticed as a wheelwright to James **GUNNER** in Herriard which is a few miles south of Basingstoke.

James married Ann on November 22nd 1845. She was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah **TAYLOR** and James was the son of John and Sarah **BOMAN**, both families lived in Tadley in North Hampshire.

Their first son George was born in Tadley on January 10th 1846. James and Ann then moved to Reading as their son William was born there in 1848. Another son, Charles, was also born in Reading in 1849. By 1851 James and Ann were living in Silver Street, Reading together with their three children where James worked as a wheelwright.

In August 1851, William, who had been suffering from a fever for six weeks, died at home in Silver Street. Ann was already

pregnant with their fourth son. James and Ann left Reading and by the time that James was born in January 1852 had moved to Pamber which brought them nearer to their families. Sarah Ann was born in 1854 and Mary Ann in 1856 while the family lived in Pamber. Mary Ann was only 8 months old when her elder sister died of diarrhoea. Their youngest son, Daniel, was born in August 1858.

By the time of the next census in 1861 James senior was living in Pamber but without Ann. His son George, then aged about 15 years was working for Thomas **DOWNHAM**, a farmer in Basing near Basingstoke. Charles and James were living with their father in Pamber while Mary Ann was boarding with David and Eliza **NEVILLE** in Bramley about five miles from her father and brothers.

In 1867 James senior died and left his children fatherless.

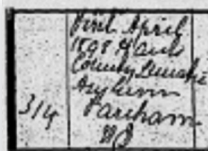
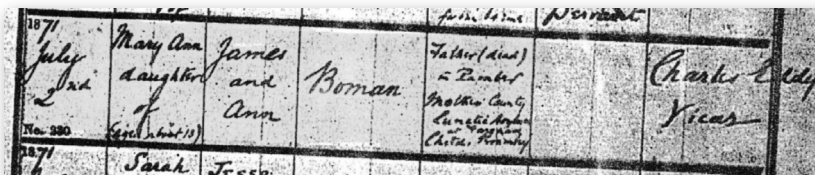
In 1871 George had moved to West Stratton Farm in Micheldever and was working for Owen **RICHARDS** who farmed nearly 900 acres.

Charles was a farm servant and had moved to Bramley where he lodged with Ann **PINK**, a widow.

James had moved to Mattingley and was working as an agricultural servant for George **CLARK** at Bannister Farm.

Meanwhile Mary Ann was still living in Bramley with Eliza **NEVILLE**, now a widow. In July 1871 Eliza took Mary Ann to church in Bramley where she was baptised by the vicar, Charles **EDDY** who made the entry in the register which I had found many years previously.

This was the family's story so far but



Mary Ann Bowman's birth record

how did Ann end up in the asylum and where had she been in the years since the birth of her last child?

The entry for Fareham Asylum showed that she had arrived there from Kent – a long way from Pamber

In Kent I uncovered the following story.

On Monday April 4th 1859 Ann was taken to Dartford Union Workhouse by police. She was destitute so presumably had been begging. She stayed at the Workhouse until her removal on January 16th 1860 to Barming Heath, the County Asylum for Kent.

Unfortunately the police records for 1859 were unobtainable otherwise there may have been more detail as to where she was found in Dartford

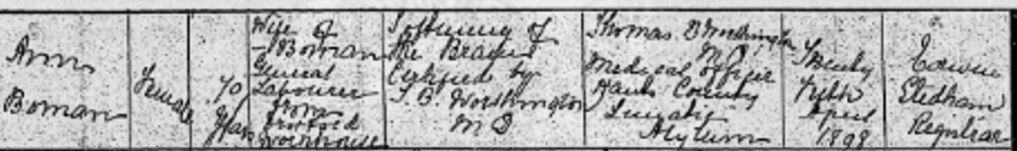
She was committed to the Asylum by the Justice of the County and the medical certificate was signed on January 14th by R **TIPPETS**. Ann was said to suffering from acute mania over a period of several months.

Quote "On admission she was listed as Ann **BOONES**, servant, aged 32 years. She was married but supposed deserted by her husband. She said that she had four children, that she could read and was a churchwoman. Although free from known bodily ailment she had headaches. Duration of insanity was several months but had been much worse during the last 2 or 3 weeks. Symptoms noted that she was generally very quiet and sullen for days together, talking to herself and "threatening" to knife the "b----y throats" of those in the same ward. No attempt at suicide – sometimes leaves food for 2 days then eats it all at once. Memory probably injured – has taken up food and thrown it at the nurse. Cause not known. No further particulars. Altho' she has been sometime in the Union House she went there first as a destitute person and her friends are not known. Acute mania.



Oakwood Hospital, Barming Heath near Maidstone, founded in 1833 as the Kent County Lunatic Asylum

January 1861 Has fits of excitement and violent conduct and her glacial appearance supports the idea of her imbecility.



Ann Bowman's death record ???

October 5th 1861 Remains the same, having paroxysms occasionally. Recently removed to the Hants Asylum her place of settlement being in that county". Unquote

September 30th 1861 Ann was admitted to Knowle Farm, Fareham after being transferred from Barming Heath Asylum in Kent because her parish of settlement was in Hampshire.

In the census of 1871 and 1881 John **MINLEY** from Binfield in Berkshire was the superintendent. By 1891 Thomas Blair **WORTHINGTON** from County Dublin, Eire had taken over the post.

Ann died in the asylum and was buried on April 1st 1898 and had therefore survived her husband by just over 30 years.

Theory That James had taken his family to Kent in search of work.

That Ann was suffering from depression/post natal depression aggravated by the loss of two children at a young age.

That he had deliberately taken her as far away as possible and then abandoned her because he could not cope with her depression.

Whatever the reason *it was a sad life*.

There I thought that the matter rested until in March I found an entry in the *Reading Mercury* dated 12th March 1859, under the heading ODIHAM, it said the following:-



Rear of the Asylum at Barming Heath

"About two months ago, a poor middle aged woman of weak intellect, wandered from Pamber, Hants. She was next seen in Hannington, and has not been heard of since, her name is Ann **BOWMAN**, wife of James **BOWMAN**, labourer, of that place. She is about five feet three inches in height, fair complexion, blue eyes and carries her head on one side; she speaks in a drawling manner, and sometimes is able to tell where she lives. She had on a very old white satin bonnet, an old brown gown much torn, no shoes or stockings, and supposed to have had an old shawl; she left a baby about five months old". She left Pamber in about January and was in Dartford by April of that year having, presumably, walked through the worst of the winter weather.

*A very sad life.*

**Margaret Bowman**, (Member # 12356)



# News from Archives and Local Studies at Hampshire

## Forthcoming events

### Exhibitions

*At the Record Office unless otherwise indicated:*

11 June - 30 September:

**Magna Carta and Hampshire:**, Exhibition to mark 800 years of Magna Carta produced by The Odiham Society in conjunction with Hampshire Record Office.

### Lunchtime lectures

*Lunchtime lectures: last Thursday of each month (except Dec), 1.15-1.45pm, no need to book. Free, donations welcomed.*

25 June:

**Flora Thompson in Hampshire**

– by John Owen Smith

30 July:

**Eastleigh casualty hospital**

– by John Lankaster

27 August:

**Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War**

– by Stephen Fisher

24 September:

**A Huguenot Hero - Henri Portal**

– talk and film show - by Mark Pitchforth

### Uncover the history of your house

*£13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Discover the stories housed in the collection of bricks and mortar you call home. When was it built? What was it used for? Who lived there? Find out how to use archive sources to answer these questions and more.

18 Jun, 2-4pm

**Family History for Beginners**

*£13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

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.

11 Jun, 3 Sep, 2-4pm, 22 Sep, 6-8pm  
*(You only need to attend one session).*

### Was your ancestor a soldier?

*£13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Workshop on tracing army ancestors.

25 Sep, 2-4pm

### The Archive Ambassador training scheme

*£18, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. Wednesday 26 August, 10am-3.30pm. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and oral history recording.

*For more information about events, please visit [www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro](http://www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro) or ring **01962 846154**. To receive our **monthly e-newsletter**, which provides regular updates about events, activities and archive news, please go to [www.hants.gov.uk/rh/maillinglist](http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/maillinglist) – then enter your details and select 'Archives' from the pick-list.*

### Recent additions to the holdings

Our catalogue database includes descriptions of more than one million items: charters, deeds, registers, court rolls, letters, diaries, accounts, minute books, drawings, photographs, postcards, drawings, films, sound recordings and digital images. Here are



## Record Office

a few of the latest additions.

**School records** provide a wealth of information on village and family history, and are always in demand by researchers. Official records – managers’ minutes, admission registers, Inspectors’ reports, log books – can often be quite dry and formal, so we’re always pleased to be offered snapshots of a more personal sort, perhaps compiled by teachers or pupils. In March we received one such item in the form of a scrapbook of cuttings, photographs, programmes, etc., relating to plays performed by Odiham Grammar School pupils. The album (21A15) was compiled by Mr Mackintosh, the plays’ producer, and covered the period 1924-36. The deposit also included a black and white formal group photograph of Form IV at the school, featuring Mr Steadman, headmaster, and form tutor, George Holmes, OBE, dated November 1925, and a black and white aerial shot of Queen Mary’s School, Basingstoke, taken in Coronation year, 1953.


Other school records received in recent weeks have included yearbooks for Peter Symonds’ College, Winchester, for the years 2005 to 2010, and 2014, to fill gaps in our existing series. These additions mean we now hold a complete set of yearbooks for the college for nearly 30 years, from 1987 to 2014 (59M95W).

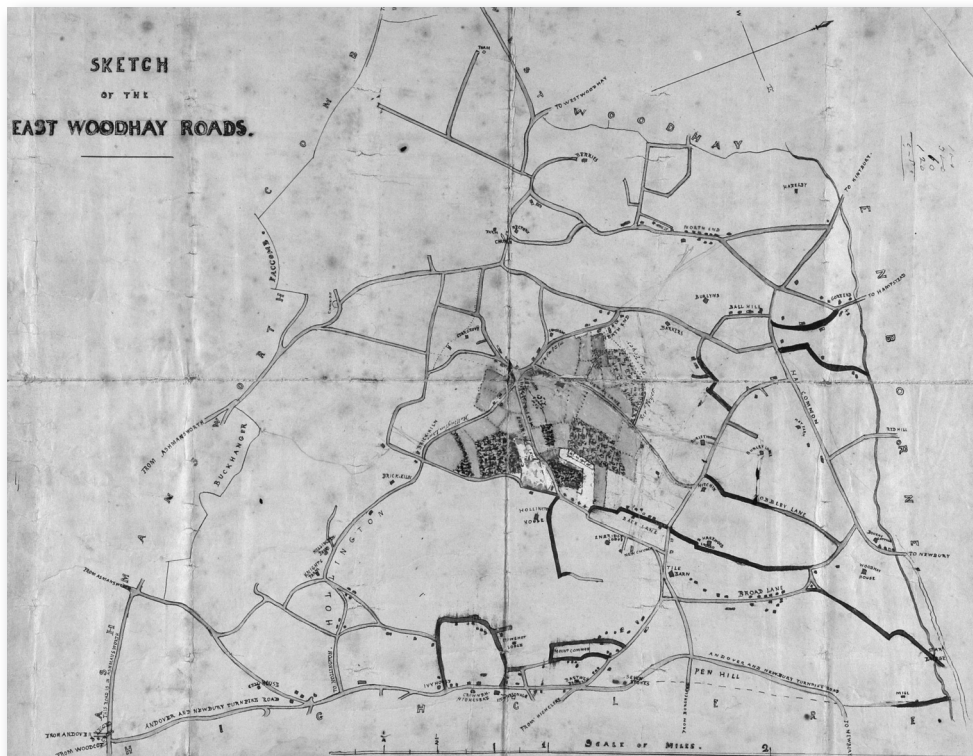
**Records of clubs and societies** received in recent weeks have included minute books from Rowlands Castle Golf Club, 1902-7 and 1912-68 (5A15), and Fordingbridge and District Horticultural Society, 1971-93 (2A15).

**Charity records** have included Basingstoke charities (139A14), comprising: minutes of Basingstoke Municipal Charities, 1875-1952, Blunden’s Charity, 1917-58, and Smith’s Almshouses Charity, 1911-59; also draft

accounts for various charities, 1917-38, along with correspondence, legal documents and related papers, c1820s-1960s. Charity Commission schemes and orders for various charities are also included in the deposit, dated 1882-1902, and 1934; as are architect’s plans for improvements to Reading Road Almshouses, and a new housing block for Deane’s Almshouses, 1950s.

**Estate records** continue to be received from various sources. In March this year we were offered several boxes of material by the Police Staff College at Bramshill, near Hook. The College, located at the imposing Bramshill House, a Grade I listed Jacobean mansion built in 1612, was about to close, and needed to find a good home for its historical material. The College has been the training base for senior police officers since 1960, and included accommodation, sports facilities, a canteen and two chapels, and also housed the British National Police Library, the largest policing library in Europe. Subjects covered by the papers include: architecture, furniture, paintings, books, the Cope and Brocket families, and occupation by the Police Staff College. There are also many files arranged by subjects such as house fires, a shooting accident in 1621, visits, celebrations and fairs, etc. The estate and grounds are also covered, with references to cottages, the well, lakes, the gazebo and the chapel – as well as the natural and even supernatural history of the house. The whole collection (17A15) covers the period from Domesday to the 21st century.

Other estate papers have included a bundle of documents relating to Malverleys, East Woodhay (26A15), deposited by East Woodhay History Society. This small collection comprises a sale brochure of the estate, 



*Sketch-map of roads in East Woodhay, c1850-50. Hampshire Record Office: 26A15/1/2*

with a map, 1855; a coloured sketch plan of East Woodhay, showing principal properties and road layout, c1850-60; a sale plan of the estate, c1911; a typed schedule of tenant's fixtures at the house, dated 23 May 1911; and correspondence relating to the poor quality of the water supply, 1911. Perhaps most interesting of all is the unprepossessing cardboard cover for the above items, which gives detailed instructions for use of hot and cold water supply, drains, pipes, etc., at the property (undated, but c1911). Its tatty condition suggests that it must have been much in demand by staff at the house!

**Personal papers** can bring the most unexpected surprises at times, and the diaries and letters we receive are often of interest to both family and local researchers. One such item arrived a few weeks ago in the form of a diary compiled by George 'Stumps' Titheridge of Swanmore (141A14). The diary mostly comprises single line entries recording personal, family, local and national events, with occasional brief comment, for the period 1860-1937.

Born April 1853, George was known as 'Stumps' due to disability from birth. He was never able to work, and relied on poor relief to

Headquarters Staff 4KRR Feb 1914



Sgt Johnson Atkinson Harlett Brooks Dickinson Sjt Kero  
 Pls Smith SM Jones Purdy P Sw Widdington Jones BM Robinson QMS  
 Morgan ORS Cam

Headquarters staff, 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, Feb 1914.

Courtesy of the Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum: Hampshire Record Office: 170A12W/P/3322

cover his living costs. As an adult he lived in a cottage at the bottom of Hampton Hill, Swanmore (now demolished), and kept a parrot whose favourite remark was 'Give us a Grape'. George was scorer for the local cricket club, and took a keen interest in all aspects of village life. The diary begins in April 1860, includes gaps, and is not always recorded in chronological order. Consistency of layout and handwriting suggest that the diary was written up from earlier notes or drafts; the last entry is dated February 1937, shortly before Titheridge's death. The news he reports is presumably heard second-hand, through local gossip, or read in the newspapers, but there are occasional brief commentaries added. National and international events referred to

include: the resignation of William Gladstone, 1893; the opening of the Forth railway bridge, the death of W G Grace in January 1892; the election of Lady Astor to the House of Commons and the appearance of the first ten-shilling note in October 1919. The entry for 14 April 1912 reads simply: 'The Loss of the Biggest Liner in the World the Titanic with 1635 lives. The Biggest Disaster Known.' Other entries include: births, marriages and deaths among family and in the village; illnesses; extreme weather conditions; house fires, incidents and accidents; leases being taken and residents moving house; buildings being constructed; events such as fairs and shows, races and competitions, football matches, celebrations and commemorations.



**Photographs** have included a set of albums illustrating aspects of the history of Hythe. The albums (15A15) were gathered and captioned by Pam Whittington during the writing of her books, *Hythe Hospital*, 1991, and *Hythe Fire Brigade*, 1998 (Itchen Press), and include three albums on the history of Hythe Fire Brigade covering the period 1922 to 1999; and a further album about Hythe Hospital, 1922-2002.

Other photos have included a set of 35mm colour transparencies, taken by the late Charles Stock, showing marine landscapes around the Solent, including Calshot, Eling, Ashlett Creek, Keyhaven, Hamble, Hurst Castle and Kings Quay Creek, Isle of Wight, taken in mid 1980s (19A15). Stock was a member of Blackwater Sailing Club, Maldon, Essex, and was a prolific marine photographer in the 1980s. He sailed in a 14ft engineless boat, creek-crawling along the coast, taking photos mostly from the seaward viewpoint.

Researchers interested in the history of Odiham will be pleased to hear about a large deposit of photographs and related papers received in February (76A05d6). The papers were collected and arranged by the late Sheila Millard as honorary archivist for The Odiham Society, and comprised a large photographic collection of originals and copies, late 19th-20th centuries; listed building folders consisting of useful information, photos, publications, extracts, cuttings, sketches and

notes; a box file consisting of correspondence, published items, billheads, receipts, and catalogues, etc., c1827-2000; a file of photos showing the renovation of the Pest House in 1984; and a set of slides 1960s-70s. More unexpected items included posters for Kensett's clothier's, High Street, Odiham, dated around 1918.

**Maps, plans and drawings** continue to arrive in all shapes and sizes. Church historians will be interested to hear about a set of plans for St Thomas' church, Charlton, near Andover, received in February (12A15/PW1-2). The plans include a floor plan, elevations and sections of the new church, by architect Hugh Cecil Benson, dated 1907, with useful additional notes written by R W Sore concerning the drawings, and noting the differences between the original designs and the church as it was actually built.

**Contact details:**

*Hampshire Record Office,  
Sussex Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TH  
Telephone: (01962) 846154;  
Fax: (01962) 878681  
Email: [archives.enquiries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:archives.enquiries@hants.gov.uk)  
[www.hants.gov.uk/archives](http://www.hants.gov.uk/archives)*

*You might like to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HampshireArchives](http://www.facebook.com/HampshireArchives) and [www.facebook.com/wessexarchive](http://www.facebook.com/wessexarchive) or on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HantsArchives> and <https://twitter.com/WessexFilm>*

**Have your Query published in the journal?  
Send to [searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk)**



# L.E.L. Church Crookham Hants

**Some institutions used only initials in their census returns. This can make it more difficult in tracing a person's life.**

In the 1901 census there was L.E.L., female, single, age 55, born Church Crookham, Hants. She was a patient in Barnwood House Hospital for the Insane near Gloucester. L.E.L. was also listed there in the 1891 census, age 45, in 1881 as L.E.Q. age 36, and in the 1911 census as L.E.L. age 65 of private means. For this institution the initials have been converted to full names using the admission registers held by TNA at Kew, their MH 94 series. Ref Genealogists' Magazine of The Society of Genealogists June 2013 page 66.

L.E.L. was Lucy Eliza **LEFROY**. She was admitted to Barnwood House on 16 November 1877 and died there on 2nd April 1933 (Ref MH 94/24). She was age 86 when she died. This implies she was well cared for there. It is predicted that she was there for the 1921 and 1931 censuses. Barnwood House was a private institution.

Her birth was registered in the June quarter of 1845 in Hartley Wintney registration district. She was christened on 11 May 1845 at Crookham cum Ewshott. In the 1851 census she was age 5, living in Crondall with her parents and three sisters. Her sisters were

also all born in Crondall. Her father was a perpetual curate. Ref Piece 1680/F52/P7/Sch68. The family were still in Crondall for the 1861 census Ref Piece 706/F159/P20/Sch110, but in 1871 they were in Upton on Severn in Worcestershire, Ref piece 3056/F84/P1/sch4. In 1871, at the age of 25, she was listed as an annuitant. After her death the probate calendar shows she left £847 16s 9d. Admin was granted to Antonina Russell, widow. Antonina was the name of a sister.

The references for the census returns for Barnwood house were

1881 RG11/2529/Folio 9/page15

1891 RG12/2011/Folio 64/page 2.

1901 RG13/2423/Folio 66/page 5.

1911 RG14/PN15280 RD325 SD1 ED15

Page 7.

There are other instances where initials only were used in the census. However there are often other sources available to enable the full names to be derived from initials. This is best undertaken by a small group. The group needs to identify the source, photograph the documents, identify the pattern used by the census enumerator, then allocate names to the initials.

**Dominic Harper**, (Member # 5484)



## Email addresses

Could all members, who have an email address, please ensure this is registered with the Membership Secretary at:

**membership@hgs-online.org.uk**



## 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.*

**Contact:**

Jane Hurst – 82, The Butts,  
Alton, Hants GU34 1RD  
Tel 01420 86701  
Email: janehurst1@gmail.com

Marilyn Rix reports:-

(January) **Members' Evening - Problems and Successes.** The topics discussed during the evening included the Selborne Riots, postcards of Bexhill, Quakers registers, German pork butchers, the Battle of Jutland, William Curtis the botanist, the Coleby and Holmes families and a Roman Catholic war memorial.'

(February) **Members' Evening.** The first part of the evening was the Annual Review when the future programme was discussed. The Group then shared information about researching overseas. Areas mentioned included Canada, Ireland, Australia, South Africa and United States.

(March) **Jane Fox - Foreign Records – tracking down records from overseas.** Jane suggested that the best plan was to go back to basics when starting to research overseas – looking into what records there were for the area of interest. These were often kept locally in Europe. Jane then gave examples of good web sites to use and reminded the group that many would not be in English.

13 July	<b>Problems and Successes</b>	Members' Evening
August	<b>No meeting</b>	
14 September	<b>Share your latest research</b>	Members' Evening

## Membership renewal

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



## Andover

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

### Contact:

John Bowman, 11 Elbe Way,  
Andover, Hampshire SP10 4LD.  
Tel 01264 351361.  
Email:  
andover@hgs-online.org.uk

Margaret Bowman reports:-

(February) **Les Mitchinson – R.A.F. Records.** A very informative evening where we learned how personnel moved between all three services with comparative ease. Service records may be confusing as personnel began life as either a soldier or sailor with Navy records arranged by date the individual joined the service, Army records when the person left the service and R.A.F. Officer records arranged alphabetically and Airmen by service number. All records are a potential 'minefield' especially as the service number usually changed with each move. Websites can be a great help, as can various museums when one needs to 'flesh' out the record and operational records also help in this way. It was interesting to note that most men in the R.A.F. at the end of WW1 were ground crew. The National Archives holds information up to about 1920, after that date all are with the MoD and one has to submit an application form for service records

(March) **Members' evening.** Our first meeting under the leadership of a new Group Organiser made for a lively debate as to how the group could be taken forward in terms of introducing our newer members to a basic knowledge base while keeping the interest of the more experienced among us. Subjects of interest were identified either by members wishing to learn or those who could share their knowledge with others. It was hoped that this system would set the agenda for the forthcoming member's evenings during the year.

(April) **Members Sharing and Learning evening.** This meeting found us sitting in small work groups learning about Scotland's People, Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker, Census Returns, Irish Records, Surrey Parish Records on Fiche, Manorial Records and Wills & Probate, all without the internet. This gave our newer members an idea of the information available to them and there was lively debate and many questions being asked and answered during the course of the evening.

9 July	<b>Napoleonic Prisoners of War</b>	Tony Cross
August	<b>No meeting</b>	
11 September	<b>Learning and Sharing</b>	Member's Evening



## 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.

**Contact:**

Lin Penny, 39 Barn Lane, Oakley  
RG23 7HT  
Telephone: 01256 780947  
e-mail:  
basingstoke@hgs-online.org.uk

Sue Wright reports:-

(January) **Members' Evening: My ancestor's house.** This was a busy meeting with seven members talking on this subject and written displays on the table for those we were unable to include. There was an interesting variety of houses in all parts of the UK (and overseas), ranging from a beautiful mansion to quaint cottages and more modern mid-terrace properties. Presentations included a property where one walked through three periods (Tudor, Stuart and Georgian) and, as an alternative, the coincidence of addresses of dissimilar names on a gravestone.

(February) **A presentation was given by Chris and Judy Rouse entitled "Mayhem on the Midland".** It was an in-depth look at three incidents on the Midland Railway during the nineteenth-century. The first related the case of Lady Zetland's maid who was seriously wounded but not killed in a railway accident of 1847. The second incident was the sad story of railwayman Ralph Thompson, who could not work due to a bout of influenza which eventually led to him taking his own life. Finally the intriguing story of William Thomas and his murder of Emma Hollis, a coffee house keeper, in 1884 was presented. In each case Chris and Judy showed how one snippet of information could be built upon to create a detailed story through the use of records such as Railway staff ledgers, newspapers, Assize Records, census returns, parish records and military records.

(March) **A presentation was given by Ken Smallbone of the subject of "The Manor, its records and your ancestors."** Ken started his talk by explaining how the manorial records are relevant today. All land is owned by the Crown, advised Ken, before explaining in detail the meanings of Freehold, Leasehold and (now defunct) Copyhold and what these mean in finding details about our ancestors. Ken then talked about the Courts (specifically the Court Baron and Court Leet) and how these worked. Finally Ken finished up by advising where manorial records could be found if they still existed. It may be difficult to find manorial records, advised Ken, but persistence could be repaid with a lot of information on more than one ancestor in your family tree.

22 July	<b>Female inebriates in Victorian Britain</b>	Jane Fox
26 August	<b>An outside event: To be advised</b>	
23 September	<b>Research discussion &amp; advice</b>	Members' Evening



## 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*

### Contact:

Keith Turner, 13 Archers Rd,  
Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9AQ.  
Tel 02380 611730  
Email: fairoak@hgs-online.org.uk

Sandra Naish reports:-

(January) **Cynthia Warren - From Prison Hulk to Respectability.** Cynthia's mother had spoken of a relative with a French connection, and this sparked her interest in research leading to the discovery that Charles Norris **NUTES** was that Frenchman who married a local girl at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke. A written family account related how the British Navy had taken Charles prisoner whilst sailing alone in his boat off the French coast in 1805. He spent years in captivity onboard the prison hulks offshore from Portsmouth and Gosport, where he found the warders kind, despite rigid food rationing owing to the general scarcity of food prevalent at the time. 800 men were often aboard one hulk, although their multiple skills led to bartering, plus butter or cheese could be purchased if you had money. Charles's new wife worked locally for the **THORNGATE** family so, with their patronage, he had no wish to return to France - and never did. The couple's descendant, Emma **NORRIS**, married Emmanuel **CHURCHER** from Bridgemary. Cynthia also mentioned her grandmother's link through cousins to the wealthy **PINK** family, a Portsmouth grocery firm.

(February) **Members Evening.** Concentrating on past ways of getting unmarried, members related stories in advance of March's speaker. Peter Gardiner told how Sophia **EATON**'s 1812 marriage to James **TASKER** ended when he was transported for seven years; he remarried Mary Smythe with a better life in Tasmania. Showing the offender's first legal 1935 wedding photograph, Sandra related intimate details of a male family member's bigamous marriage during World War II with consequences arising from it. Mary Steele showed an official 1915 document, issued under the Habitual Drunkards Act 1879, allowing a wife legally not to cohabit with her husband. Group members agreed that past sins cannot be changed, so you research facts and accept them without judging individual behaviour.

(March) **Vicky Green – Divorce and Other Ways of Getting Unmarried.** Vicky related several researched cases of the ingenious methods employed by those seeking to become unmarried, when there was little option but to remain unhappily tied. Describing her talk as "semi-humorous", we were treated to amusing stories gained from printed newspaper accounts.

The Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes was established in 1858, whereby a divorce could be gained due to adultery (although women also had to cite additional reasons until 1925). Divorce before 1858 was solely possible through a private Act of Parliament, so only the rich had such access. Of 318 granted, five were to women. Pre-1858 one alternative was a comparatively rare decree of separation applied for through the church consistory courts. A person had to be found guilty of adultery or life-threatening cruelty but neither party could remarry until their spouse died. The criminal court too was used to gain financial compensation from men who transgressed with a wife: £3,000 was awarded to one husband whose wife fell pregnant during his absence abroad.



Public wife sales, although illegal, were also used to indicate that an original marriage contract was terminated. In January 1815 at Maidstone, John **OSBORN** sold his wife Mary and child for £1 to William **SARGENT**. Wives were sold at Smithfield Market in 1801 and 1850, but had magistrates foiled either sale, all three parties would be sent to the treadmill. Bigamy was very common and more likely at great distances away from home territory. Some cases involved multiple bigamy on both sides! A marriage could be annulled through bigamy.

14 July	<b>Napoleonic Prisoner of War Work – Some Hampshire Connections</b>	Tony Cross
11 August	<b>Summer Outing – Guided Walk of Netley</b>	Eric Reed
8 September	<b>House History</b>	Archivist from Hampshire Record Office

## Fareham

*Meetings are normally held from 7.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Wallington Village Hall, Broadcut, Fareham.*

**Contact:**  
Jane Painter.  
Tel 01329 835367.  
Email: [fareham@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:fareham@hgs-online.org.uk)

Carol Russell reports:-

(January) **Jane Fox – Online newspaper resources.** Newspaper articles were one way of adding "flesh" to the bones of family research, especially when an inquest has taken place. Often, although the information about an inquest has not been kept, it has usually been reported in a local newspaper and should be easy to find.

The British Newspaper Archive requires a subscription to view papers, but can be used free in Hampshire libraries, as well as being free if you subscribe to Find My Past. Jane gave us several tips for finding articles easily, including the need to be creative with names and phrases. For example Elizabeth Jones nee Adams could be named as Lizzie Jones/Adams, Mrs Jones, Mrs Arthur Jones etc. Also, phrases we may use today would not have been known at the time, for example "World War One" as people would have had no idea a second one was on the way.

Research can be limited to region, and it is possible to enter dates from and to in order to restrict your results. The check list under Article Type can also be used to find only family notices or advertisements, you can also choose to look at the front page only.



Jane gave a list of several nineteenth century on line newspaper resources. She said the Australian resources are particularly good, (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>) as family events are well recorded and from 1842 onwards there is a lot of information about "ordinary" people.

(February) **Members' evening – old newspapers.** This meeting was a follow-up to the input from Jane Fox the previous month.

The members had unearthed a lot of fascinating information during the month. One discovered that her great great grandfather had bred prize Bassett hounds, another member had read about a court case involving a dog which had bitten an ancestor. One man had everyone amazed when he read court cases of an ancestor who had appeared in court on two separate occasions, charged with murder, and who had somehow walked free both times.

One member had unearthed a suspected illicit relationship concerning her great grandmother and was now uncertain she was researching the correct family. Another member had been able to track her great great grandfather's previously unknown management of two public houses, where at both addresses he had been taken to court, once for serving beer after hours and secondly for being drunk in charge of his premises.

A lot of information had been gleaned from funeral reports, retirement letters and inquests. One member was surprised to see a previously unknown suicide of a relation which was written up in the local paper. Another member was shocked to see a school attendance order taken out against the parents of a poor attender.

(March) **Charles Haskell – Women in WW1.** Charles's interest in WW1 began when, as a child, he asked his gran to tell him about the family and heard how her brother had died in the Great War. In Fort Widley, Portsdown Hill, Charles has established a WW1 Remembrance Centre. At our meeting he talked about women in WW1, focusing on the more unusual ways women became involved. We heard about Hertha Aryton, inventor of a fan used to dispel poison gas in the trenches, and Dorothy Lawrence who had wanted to report on the war but wasn't allowed to go to the front. She self-funded her trip, hired a bicycle for the final part of the journey, then dressed as a sapper and saw for herself what conditions were like. After all her efforts, she wasn't allowed to write about what she had seen. On a lighter note, a little known fact is that women played very well attended football matches during the war but these matches were banned in 1921.

9 July	<b>'Unto Southampton we do shift our scene...'</b>	Geoff Watts
13 August	<b>My Eureka! Moment</b>	Members' Evening
10 September	<b>Lifeboatmen</b>	Simon Wills



## Fleet & Farnborough

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

### Contact:

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

Lesley Bull reports:-

(January) **Phyl Ralton – Fleet and Crookham Local History Society.** Talks with local interest always attract a large turnout of members and this was no exception. Phyl talked about the similarities and blurring of the edges between local history and family history: when you discover your ancestors you want to find out about where they lived and if you research a place it leads you to find out about the people that lived there. Phyl talked about the large collection of archives that the local history society holds, from house deeds to carnival programs to maps and plans. Using some of the plans of the area, she talked us through the development of Fleet. In 1826, there was only a peat moor where Fleet town is today. Phyl suggested that we should always look for local history societies and local historians in any area that we have an interest in.

(February) **Member's meeting – Every Picture Tells a Story.** Several members chose a photograph from their family history albums and gave a short talk about why they'd chosen a particular one and what significance it had for them. We began with a picture of a Golden Wedding Anniversary party and how a family tree was started with the people shown. One member talked about his ancestor who served in the Royal Naval Reserve from 1915-1916 aged 68, another had an ancestor who learned to fly during WW2 under The Arnold Scheme in the, then neutral, United States. There was a photograph of another Golden Wedding chosen because of what the couple had achieved from very humble beginnings. We heard the story of a 96 year old ancestor traced to Canada who had kept all the family birth, marriage and death certificates but had no photograph of her mother, and how she was given a framed photograph of her parents marriage for her 100th birthday. The 2 x great grandfather of another member was a Master Mariner and unusually named Porter Hero Aylmore. He had two marriages and 16 children. Manchester born Thomas Milton learned to speak German and became the only member of the British Army to be decorated with the German Red Eagle.

(March) **Member's talk – Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves.** Lesley Bull talked about her husband's ancestors, who were, until a couple of generations back, tent-dwelling, living on the downs, hop-picking gypsies one and all. The Bull family tree has been well researched. Armed with a 13 page descendant tree sent by one family member to kick-start her investigations, Lesley spoke about what she had been able to find, what sources she had used to verify and expand on the facts, and a bit about some of the interesting characters on the tree's branches. Her husband always said 'You won't get far with my lot!' but that hadn't proved to be the case: there's a surprising number of records available for gypsies and travellers.



9 July	<b>House History</b>	Archivist from Hampshire Record Office
13 August	<b>Social Event – Visit to Imperial War Museum</b>	
10 September	<b>Old England – A Golden Age?</b>	Judy Davies

## Gosport

*Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Scout Hut, Clayhall Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, at 7.30pm.*

### Contact:

Marilyn Lovett, 2 Anglesey Road,  
Alverstoke, Gosport  
Tel: 02392 585194 e-mail  
gosport@hgs-online.org.uk

Marilyn Lovett and Pauline Powell report:-

(January) **Ken Morey - The Gosport Ferry.** Back in 1598 when fights were common among the watermen, Elizabeth I sent what was probably the first Royal Commission to look into the matter of water transport between Gosport and Portsmouth. They found that there was more work in Portsmouth so Gosport residents were awarded the franchise, to ferry people back and forth in their strange double ended row boats called wherries.

In 1840 with the arrival of the railways in Gosport, a floating bridge appeared on the scene powered by two steam engines and capable of transporting carriages, carts etc as well as passengers. By 1870 steam launches were in service in opposition to the floating bridge and operated by the Watermen's Steam Launch Company. The Floating Bridge Company then invested in steam launches of their own to cater for foot passengers, complementing the floating bridge. The floating bridge survived until 1959 and the steam launches were gradually replaced by the ferries as we know them today. After various mergers over the years Gosport Ferry Company was incorporated in 1988. Since Gunwharf Quays opened in 1998 the Ferry Company has never looked back and now Falkland Islands Holdings owns 100% of the ferries.

(February) **Members' Evening - Skeletons in the Cupboard.** Several of us were prepared to reveal our pet family skeletons. Diane Jenkin-Rees told of her Auntie Violet who was companion to Margaret Rutherford. When Margaret Rutherford died, and Violet's plans to marry Margaret's husband fell through (he died), she forged Margaret's will and sold off a lot of her valuables including her DBE. Released from police custody on bail she disappeared and has never been heard of since!

Then there was Ann Mullice's husband's GGG Uncle ex RN, who jumped ship in Hobart, changed his name to Stephens and in New Zealand fathered a hoard of children. He remained British to the bone and kept on his career at sea. Ann's point was there are many, many Mullice's in New Zealand but now known as Stephens.

Peter Elliott told about his search for a friend's mysterious Grandmother Gertrude Gibbons



who, after marriage and the birth of her twins in Cambridge, he found to have been admitted as a voluntary patient in the Asylum. After some hard searching, Gertrude was discovered in Waringham Asylum where the Admissions Register indicated that she had died in 1954 and was buried in the Asylum cemetery. No trace of the graves remain, apart from a few lead markers.

(March) **Graham Spiller – The Cowboy, the Revolutionary and the Novelist.**

This intriguing title led to an appreciation of three unsung pioneers of the early aviation world and their work.

The Cowboy turned out to be Samuel Franklin Cody (no relation to “Buffalo Bill”) who was a colourful and entertaining aviation pioneer. With a boyhood spent on the American prairie he brought his Wild West shows to England in 1890 with considerable success. But in 1900 he followed his passion for kite flying and finally produced a man carrying kite. This led on to the Army adopting his system for observational purposes and weather research. He achieved powered flight and, in 1908, became the first man in England to fly an aeroplane. In 1913 he and his passenger were killed in a flying accident. He was buried with full military honours in Aldershot.

The Revolutionary was Robert Smith-Barry who revolutionised pilot training during the First World War. A gifted pilot himself, and believing that the average life of a pilot of three to six weeks was due to poor training, he started the School for Special Flying for instructors at Alverbank House. The “Gosport System” was based on dual-control flying with the pupil sitting in the front cockpit with the instructor behind and connected by the “Gosport Tube” down which the prepared instructions were communicated. The method was so successful that it was adopted by other flying schools.

Finally the Novelist, none other than Neville Shute Norway, the novelist and aeronautical engineer. He used the name Neville Norway for his engineering career to keep his two careers separate. Starting out with de Havilland Aircraft Company in 1924 he transferred to Vickers Limited and worked on the passenger carrying R100 airship. But with the R101 tragedy interest in airships was ended in Britain. In 1931 he co-founded the aircraft construction company Airspeed Ltd at Portsmouth. Airspeed had considerable success with its Envoy aircraft which was chosen for the King’s Flight and a military version called the Airspeed Oxford. Sadly Portsmouth Airport closed in 1972 after a couple of skidding incidents on the wet grass in 1967.

Soon after Neville Norway lost faith in the company but for his work on R100 and other innovations, including the Great Panjandrum, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

8 July	<b>Parcel of gold for Edith</b>	John Owen Smith
9 September	<b>Harlots, dung &amp; glory</b>	Andrew Negus



## 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.

Mike Hobbs reports:-

(January) **No Meeting**, There is no Group meeting this month.

(February) Who, What, Where - Tessa Davis. Tessa is one of our most experienced members in family history, and her talk was about putting more meat on the bones. Who was your ancestor, what did he do for a living? What was this type of work like? Where did he do it? Where did he live, and what was the area around like? The idea was to build up a picture of him and his surroundings, and Tessa gave us lots of ideas of how and where to get this information.

(March) **Members Evening - My Workhouse Ancestors**. This was an interesting evening talking about why some of our ancestors went into the Workhouse - no work, sick, to have a child or too old to work etc. We also talked about the Workhouses around the area. One question we did not know the answer to, but we found out at our next monthly meeting from our speaker George Yalden. The difference between an Idiot and an Imbecile. An Idiot you become, an Imbecile you are born as. Some have come across this on the census.

(April) **Census Records - George Yalden**. A most interesting talk. George started with the history of the census and why they were held. He then went on to the ones that are of help to us, and the different information in each one. He had lots of examples of these census. He finished with an example of the next census to come out, the 1921

1 July	<b>Woman, work &amp; wool (Tudor women of So'ton)</b>	Cheryl Baker
August	<b>No meeting</b>	
2 September	<b>Dust on their shoes</b>	John Avery

Have your Query published in the journal?  
**Send to [searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:searchershfh@tiscali.co.uk)**



## 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

### Contact:

John Heighes,  
7 Wharncliffe Rd, Highcliffe on  
Sea, Christchurch  
Dorset BH23 5DA  
Tel 01425 275800 Email:  
J.Heighes@btinternet.com

Daphne Austin reports:-

(January) **Our New Year started with the return of two of our members Janet Heighes and Audrey Vincent to finalise their previous talks.** They ended their earlier reminiscences when they had just qualified as a Nurse and a Teacher. Now they talked about their careers. Janet went on to become a midwife with all that entails and, as she had no car, travelled to her various cases on a bicycle. Some of the places she went to were described. Her experience in learning to drive in order to get to patients quicker, a useful matter when it concerns the coming of babies, was covered. Audrey spoke of the type of schools she went to in her teaching career, some of the pupils she had and how she had kept newspaper reports both good and bad of some of them. Both kept us very much entertained.

(February) **John Heighes talked about the effect the railways had on the lives of the people in Hampshire.** How they brought the workers who built them from various parts of the country to the area, some of whom settled permanently and some moved on. Details were given of the number of railway lines built in the area and how some lasted and others were eventually closed. He showed us the implications of this on our family history searches. Also the way the villages along the lines sometimes changed into towns in a very short time to cope with the influx of people.

(March) **Mike Hobbs paid us another visit in March and we had a problems evening with him chairing a panel with two of our members.** There were a number of questions asked which included the search for a particular name and where it could have come from. This caused a reasonable amount of discussion with the audience joining in. Another was how to find a person with a very common name, but who came from a small village. Again various solutions were put forward. The next problem was how to chase the ownership of a shop for a project that included a post office. This made a change from genealogy which also gave rise to further discussion and possible solutions.

10 July	<b>The Romsey Remount Camp</b>	Phoebe Merrick
14 August	<b>How I got into family history</b>	Members' Evening
11 September	<b>The three bombings of New Milton</b>	Nick Saunders



## 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.*

### Contact:

Sue Decicco.  
12 Romford Road, Warsash,  
Southampton SO31 6GZ.  
Tel: 01489 576932. Email:  
Portsmouth@hgs-online.org.uk

Sue Decicco reports:-

January – **No meeting.**

(February) **Andrew Negus - Harlots, Dung and Glory – Part 1.** Andrew spoke of the history of Portsmouth and how it started as an island city whose main industries were agriculture and salt. King Alfred invented the navy and the changes that happened to Portsmouth from then have been dramatic. In 1440 Henry V decided it was vital for Portsmouth and the UK to be defended against invasion. In 1500 Henry VI gave permission for Portsmouth to build ships and the Grace Dieu, Peter Pomegranate and the Mary Rose followed. With each ruler Portsmouth changed and the Dockyard enlarged and by 1782 three thousand people were employed. The sinking of the Royal George, with the loss of 900 lives, was just one of the events affecting Portsmouth. By 1805 and the Battle of Trafalgar four thousand employees were working in the Dockyard. The Harlots were attracted by the sailors, the Dung was the result of all the animals kept and slaughtered mainly by the Camber Docks to feed the transient population and the Glory is we can now take any country in the world thanks to our navy.

(March) **Les Mitchinson – Getting Organised.** Les explained that two of the seven rules of getting organised is to 'Set Your Sights' and 'Organise Yourself'. Les's system organises each of your four grandparents into a colour and this is taken through all generations. He starts by having a simple drop in box for each one, you then know where each family details are stored, e.g. certificates, maps etc.

Les explained that he did not use a Family History program but used instead a combination of word documents saved on his laptop under each family name, these are colour coded to reflect which family. These include Family data sheet, Census table, Parish registers and Family group sheet. He also uses PowerPoint and can quickly compile a Pedigree Tree and to the required size.

He also emphasised the planning that goes into a visit whether to a records office or the National Archives, make a shopping list for each piece of information you require and if you don't find it make sure you note that fact, this will save time by not revisiting the same information in the future. If you take your laptop with you this can be immediately stored.

6 July	<b>Titanic People</b>	John Avery
27 July	<b>A walk round Old Portsmouth</b>	Andrew Negus
August	<b>No Meeting</b>	



## 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.*

### Contact:

Paul Pinhorne, 84 Fontmell Road  
Broadstone BH18 8NP  
Tel: 01202 383736  
Email:  
ringwood@hgs-online.org.uk

Paul Pinhorne reports:-

(January) **Members' evening – Skeletons in the cupboards.** Illegitimacy unsurprisingly proved to be the most common skeleton. Pat Hilbert had a female 2 x great grand-aunt named Harriett who, in the early 19th C, had three illegitimate children in Oxfordshire and was part of a wider family containing several others. She had eventually married in her 40's but to a younger man who was far too young to be the father of her three children. Ray Alexander had discovered some detailed Bastardy proceedings in Wiltshire relating to an ancestor which gave an interesting insight into the haggling between the parties as to the amount of maintenance to be paid. Meanwhile Alison Davis was left pondering on the dilemma of which of her illegitimate ancestor's parents' surnames should be used by the child.

Sheila Williams related the story of her ancestor who deserted his wife leaving her in Aberdare to bring up four children. He returned after several years and fathered another child. It transpired that in the interim he had enlisted in the army under a false name and as unmarried. His army records had however been traced by Sheila as they had been annotated with his true name and the fact that he had used an alias.

Val George had an ancestor from a Bucklers Hard family who had served 7 years for wounding a gamekeeper with a shotgun when part of a gang of poachers. Pat Hoskins brought a file of papers relating to her father-in-law who had not only served in the Observer Corps and the Home Guard in WW2. He had also been a member of an embryo underground group trained to harass any occupying enemy forces in the New Forest.

George Hilbert's skeleton was the 2nd marriage in 1873 of his great-grandfather Edward.

Edward's 1st marriage seven years earlier had been to the now deceased sister of his 2nd wife. The 2nd marriage to the deceased sister was therefore void under a deeply unpopular Act of 1835 which was widely ignored in practice. Despite repeated attempts over 70 years (during which the 1835 Act was widely ignored) the law was not changed until 1907 when marriage to a deceased wife's sister became valid. George's uncle, John Henry Smith, married George's father's older sister. He was the son of John Henry Child and Anne Smith from Norfolk. He was illegitimate as his parents married after he was born. His mother died young and he was brought up in London by her parents always believing that his surname was Child. He married in that name and registered his first daughter as Lillian Child.

In 1908 he had to obtain his birth certificate in order to join the Met Police and discovered that his true name was Smith. He proceeded to have the names on his marriage certificate and the daughter's birth certificates changed from Child to Smith and have the revised Certificates with the reason for the changes fully annotated.



(February) **Roger Coleman – The Road to Flanders, Part Two.** A report told of 334 casualties in the Hampshire Regiment at Esters St Dennis. The battalion was at Wizernes on 11th October and moved on to Hondeghen. On 14th October they were in Meteren.

On October 20th, reported that Pte Eldridge and Major Connellan killed by shell outside Armentieres. Between 21st October and 31st December, the battalion covered about 2,800 yards in a straight line. After 10 hours of bombardment on C Company at Ploegsteert Wood there were a large number of casualties with two thirds of battalion killed, wounded or missing at this time. Guns were starting to wear out and shells fell short.

Roger had a photograph of the 1st Battalion showing the officers, of which all were killed, taken prisoner or wounded at least once. Known as the Chums, they were referred to as the Old Contemptibles and were awarded the 1914 Star as they fought between 5th August and 22nd November 1914.

(March) **Dr Trevor Fulton – Irish Ancestry.** He explained that tracing your Irish ancestors is not difficult as long as you understand the history of Ireland. Approximately 80 million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry.

A fire destroyed many of the Church of Ireland registers. 1,006 parish registers were lost, but 637 registers retained in local custody survived, along with many wills. The Internet will advise what Church Registers are available now.

Ireland was the most densely populated county in Europe in the early 19th century, though this has substantially reduced through migration following the potato famine and other troubles. Dr Fulton spoke of the emigration of Presbyterians from Scotland and these people often did not fare any better than the Catholics.

Places to search are the Public Record Office in Dublin, along with the GRO in Dublin and Belfast. GRO records commenced in 1864.

Census returns for 1901 and 1911 are available, with most of the others having been destroyed.

The Register of Deeds has been indexed, and shows what land your ancestor had, but generally show the name of the Lessor.

Further sources available are Wills and Newspapers, with many of the newspapers now available on-line.

Estate Records are available, but you have to consider the make-up of Ireland. There are first Counties, Baronies, Parishes and finally the Townland.

15 July	<b>Non-Conformist Records</b>	John Hurley (at Meeting House)
19 August	<b>Skittles</b>	Members Only
16 September	<b>Conspiracy of family secrets</b>	Bobby Neate



## Romsey

Meetings take place on the first Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays) at Crosfield Hall, Romsey, at 7.30 p.m. Newcomers are welcome.

**Contact:**

Kay Lovell  
E-mail [kay.lovell@ntlworld.com](mailto:kay.lovell@ntlworld.com)  
Telephone 07905 798136

Val Dawe reports:-

(February) **George Yalden - How to draw up your Family History.** George presented an evening of thoughts and discussion on various ways to hand draw charts to display our Family Trees. Aspects covered included ideas on how to show twins and how to place an illegitimate child whose mother later married and had further children. We were shown different layouts including the bow-tie shape, semi-circle and circular. Members were asked for their ideas e.g. how to differentiate between males and females. George brought along examples of completed charts which illustrated just how different they can look; from the 'cramped' to the visually ornate. To round off the evening, from data provided by George, we were all invited to draw a small Family Tree chart. The evening, with much audience participation, was appreciated by all present.

(March) **Jane Fox - Don't Believe Everything You're Told.** We research our families with the help of various sources; Census information, Birth, Marriage and Death certificates and family knowledge, to name a few. A good place to start is to interview relatives but, Jane warned, be aware that family stories might contain only an element of truth. Likewise, when understanding how Census information was gathered it is easy to see how inaccuracies were often recorded. Information on BMD certificates cannot be relied upon either. Illegitimacy caused problems and was sometimes covered up with a father being 'invented' to cover the truth. Jane showed examples of certificates from her research which proved to contain untruths. On one marriage certificate a bride gave her age as 48, when she was actually aged 60. On another an ancestor claimed to be a widower when he married for a second time; in fact his first wife was still alive and was raising a new family with another man. These variations on the truth can seriously hamper the next step in the researching of individuals. Information gained from those who display their trees online can be useful, but always validate the information yourself. *The morals of the talk – Question everything and keep an open mind!*

6 July **Member's Evening**

August **No Meeting**

7 September **Using Maps: Tithes, Enclosure, Ordinance Survey and Estates**

Les Mitchinson



## Southampton

*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.*

### Contact:

Mike Lawrence, 84 Missenden Acres, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2RE. Tel 01489 790505. Email southampton@hgs-online.org.uk

Anne Lawrence reports:-

(January) **Members' evening – Original Documents.** Members brought original documents they had acquired doing their family history.

The documents were varied, ranging from old postcards to immigration records of a member's grandfather's visit to the USA when only 17. Another member brought in his father's apprenticeship documents and another had found details of her ancestor, who had applied to become a Chelsea Pensioner and had become an "out pensioner" at 29 pence a day.

A member brought in her great great grandfather's Denization papers dated 1812. He was German born but wanted to have a kind of Naturalisation. It was granted - he could buy property but could not vote. Another member recalled seeing, when he was only 8 years old, some Army vehicles parked in his road. They were waiting to take them for the D-Day invasion. The occupants in the road looked after the soldiers and the documents he produced were postcards from the 2 soldiers that his parents received as they kept in touch.

A member produced a book mentioning some of the band members that he had told us about last month and lastly, a member had received from a cousin many interesting papers about her relative who became a nurse and went to work in Tripoli during the war. There was a marriage certificate showing that she married in Libya. All of this was completely unknown before.

(February) **John Fish – The Swaythling Remount Centre.** He started by giving us the background to why the Centre was set up. The government had learned from the lack of resources eg. men and horses, in the Boer War. So, in the build up to the First World War, it was decided that Southampton was a strategic area for amassing men and horses to go across to France.

We saw a diagram of the Remount Centre which was laid out for the examination of horses to pass them fit to go to war. It straddled Bassett Green Road, Southampton and employed 60 blacksmiths and vets. Over 10,000 horses were registered for "call up". They were light draft, heavy draft and ponies. Horses were also imported from Canada and America. Southampton had good railway connections and horses were brought by train. John told us that one consignment arrived at the station and outriders were there to escort them to the Depot. Unfortunately, they stampeded and raced along the country roads collecting some farmers' horses on the way! It must have been quite a sight to see the stampede going across Cobden Bridge!



Embarkation started on 10th August 1914. It was reported that the Solent was "black with ships". We saw pictures of horses being loaded on to the ships at the Docks.

One of our members lives in the area where the Centre once stood. When digging in her garden she finds horseshoes etc. Also found in the area, horse tails! Apparently they don't rot down.

(March) **John Avery – Cable Ships of Turnchapel.** This was the potted history of submarine cables. Turnchapel in Cornwall had been a rescue base. It was situated at the mouth of the two rivers, Plym and Tamar River in Plymouth Sound. It was an ideal situation for one of the cable bases. Submarine cables would allow instant information to be sent around the world and were invented by Sir Charles Wheatstone.

The first cable went from London to Paris. The underwater section was laid in 1891 by the Cable Ship "Monarch". It opened up easy and quick communications from Britain to the continent. The firm, Siemens, were pioneers in this field. The next cable went across the Atlantic. The cables had to be resistant to seawater and resistant to damage such as underwater earthquakes, submarines, icebergs, and fish and fishing. The tension was also very important. We saw a picture of the hold of a ship containing the cables.

There were 2 categories of cable ships, one actually laid the cable and the other, was a repair ship,

Gradually, the cables spread out across the world. The cable network nowadays is equivalent to today's internet. It can actually be in use for longer hours. During the First World War, some of the crew members deserted as they were in fear of the German U boats.

20 July	<b>Firemen in WW2</b>	Alan House
17 August	<b>Second World War Memorabilia Member's Evening – 5 minute talks</b>	
21 September	<b>The Origins of the Red Cross</b>	Shirley Lawson

## **Need help with your research?**

All requests for research assistance to the HGS Research Room.

**Telephone: 023 9238 7000**

**or Email: [research@hgs-online.org.uk](mailto:research@hgs-online.org.uk)**



## Waltham Chase

*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.*

Hazel Irwin reports:-

(January) **Les Mitchinson – The use of maps in genealogy.** Les talked about the various types of map produced at different times, and how they can help us to pinpoint exactly where our ancestors lived. The earliest were estate maps, drawn up in the 16th century to value property and assess rents. When combined with manorial records and rent rolls they can give valuable information about tenants and their holdings. By 1750 land enclosure was underway, and maps were created to match the holding to an individual landlord. The Tithe Commutation Act legislated good, detailed maps of most districts, and between 1836 and 1851 12,000 such maps were made for England and Wales. The attached schedule or 'apportionment' even lists the occupier/s of each parcel of land, numbered to correspond with that on the map, and can often show where an individual might have lived around the time of the 1841 Census. Three copies of each tithe map and apportionment were made, and can normally be consulted in the county record office or at the National Archives.

(February) **Members' evening – Maps.** Members brought along interesting maps they had found to illustrate their family history research. The bookstall was also in attendance with maps etc for sale and with the advent of Wi-Fi in the hall, research advice was also available via the internet and HGS resources.

(March) **Phoebe Merrick - Romsey Local History Society (LTVAS).** Her subject was the 'Romsey Remount Depot'. Established in 1915, the depot was tasked to provide and train horses for the troops in WW1. This was the last war where animals were (initially) more important than mechanised transport. A countrywide 'census' of horses had been taken with the animals categorised according to the work they would be suitable for, but left on the farms until 'called up' by the remount depots. As well as UK horses, animals were recruited from South Africa and America (many of them half-wild). Around 500,000 horses were actually supplied for WWI, against an original estimate of 160,000 being needed.

Phoebe explained how the horses were supplied, delivered and trained and how the Remount Depot operated. It ceased after WWI and although most of the land used has now been returned to farmland some evidence of it can still be identified in the local landscape. An old building was also removed and is still in use locally.

Phoebe finished her most interesting talk with the information that plans are well advanced for a memorial to the Remount Depot which is soon to be unveiled in Romsey.

### Contact:

Chris Pavey,  
15 Spring Lane, Swanmore,  
Southampton SO32 2PT.  
Tel: 01489 895462. Email:  
walthamchase@hgs-online.org.uk

28 July	<b>Photographic Restoration</b>	David Tipper
25 August	<b>No meeting – Summer Holidays</b>	
22 September	<b>Members Evening</b>	



### Some of the surnames featured in this issue (with page number)

ANDERSON.....9	DRISCOL .....70	LANGRISH.....12	REEVES.....6
ANDREWS .....7	DUNBAR.....3	LARMENT.....3	RICHARDS.....39
APPLEFORD .....12	EATON.....51	LEAH.....5	ROBERTSON.....3
ASHFORD .....36	EDDY.....39	LEFROY.....71	ROGERS .....9
AUSTIN .....68	EDE.....12	LIGHT.....8	ROLLS .....4
BLACKMAN .....6	ELDER.....3	LUSH .....9	RUFFELL .....5
BLOSE.....12	FARMEN .....69	MANSELL .....3	RUSTELL .....31
BOMAN.....39	FRASER.....3	McBEAN.....3	SARGENT.....52
BOONES .....40	FREEMAN.....9	McDONELL .....3	SAUNDERS.....18
BOWMAN.....41	GLOVER.....31	McGREGOR .....3	SHEPHARD.....23
BRADSHOW.....68	GOLDFINCH.....69	MINLEY .....41	SHORT.....9
BROWNLIE .....3	GRINDESTONE.....3	MOLTON .....69	SKATES .....12
BULBECK .....69	GRINDLAY .....3	MOORE.....69	SMETHAM .....22
BULBICK .....69	GUNNER .....39	MOREY.....70	SMITH .....3
BULL .....9	HARRIS .....3	MORGAN .....68	SONE.....68
BRADFORD .....12	HARRISON.....7	MORRISON .....7	SPRATTS .....3
BURTON .....3	HARVEY .....4	MURPHY.....70	STEER .....7
CALLANAN .....70	HASTED .....12	NEVILLE.....39	TASKER.....51
CANT.....36	HAYES.....5	NEWELL .....22	TAYLOR .....39
CARTER .....3	HIGGINS .....70	NORRIS .....51	THOMPSON .....3
CHAMP.....68	HOPKINS .....7	NOTILLÉ.....18	THORNGATE.....51
CHARLTON .....6	HOPILLIART.....20	NOTTELET.....18	TIPPETS .....40
CHURCHER .....51	HORLOCK.....12	NUTES .....51	TRIGGS.....12
CLARK .....39	HORTON .....8	NYREN .....69	WATSON .....3
CLINGER .....12	HUGHES .....9	OPILLART .....20	WATTS.....6
COCKBURN.....3	HYDE .....69	OSBORN .....52	WELLS .....19
COOKE .....69	IRELAND .....3	PACK .....12	WEST .....70
COOPER .....6	JACKSON .....12	PINK.....39	WHEELER .....3
CORDERY .....5	JONES .....70	PINKE .....69	WHITE.....12
CUMMINGS.....3	KEEVIL.....70	PRATT .....69	WORTHINGTON...41
DAVIS .....7	KNAPP .....68	PRING .....36	
DERRY .....3	KNIGHT .....12	PULLINGER .....31	
DOWNHAM.....39	LANGRIDGE .....68	QUIN .....70	



# Memories of Bitterne Library

**I returned to Southampton after the war in 1945 when I was 7 years old. The first thing my mother did was to register the family with the library at Cobbett Road in Bitterne. Of course, there was no television so we read a lot of books.**

My mother would collect my sister and I from Bitterne Park School at 4.00.p.m. and we would walk to the Library. We used to do this at least twice a week in those days you were only allowed two books each.

What a great thrill it was going in through those big glass doors to the entrance foyer and reception desk. The Children's library was on the left and the Adult section was on the right. I was always thrilled at how light and airy it was, and how high up the windows were. (This was probably due to the fact that it was so dark and dingy at home!) Even these days my idea of Art Deco is due to the design of that place.

I could not wait to choose my two books (and two for my sister who was only three years old) I remember there was a round settee divided into three sections just inside the adult section I thought this was the epitome of luxury being in red, soft plushy material, and I would sit there and start reading my books whilst waiting for my mother. I often read a whole book right through when I got home and couldn't wait to start the next book, and then back to the Library for some more.

I used to try and read all the books from one author, and was often disappointed when there were no more there. I started off reading all the Little Grey Rabbit books, then the Milly Molly Mandy series, Winnie the Pooh, Wind in the Willows and of course, the Enid Blyton "Five" books and Arthur Ransome. What a life of adventure I led in my dreams!!



After I passed the scholarship and went to St. Annes Grammar School I used to get off the bus at Bitterne on my way home, rush into the Library and choose some more, then dash back to catch the next bus back to Bitterne Park where I lived.

What a great day it was when I was old enough to join the Adult section. I remember feeling very grown-up the first time I went in there and came home with two books which I did not enjoy at all. Again, once I found an author I liked, I would read the lot. I discovered Monica Dickens, Dick Francis and F Scott Fitzgerald. I occasionally used the Library for more useful study purposes, but mainly it was for the pleasure of reading and transporting myself to a make-believe world.

I still use my local Library regularly, as do all my children and grandchildren. Nothing will ever replace books for me, and all this lives fondly in my memory due to my days spent in Bitterne Library.

**Cora Ashford, (Member # 5484)**

47 Channels Farm Road, Swaythling



# South East Hampshire Roman Catholics

**For the sections in the registers that were written in Latin, having no knowledge of that language did present a problem when trying to interpret the entries as they were written. Fortunately, what was written generally followed the same format as the entries in English so in a lot of cases the problem was not a great one.**

One of the biggest problems though was with translating Latin names into English, some were quite obvious, such as Henricus for Henry, whilst others not so obvious, such as Gulielmus for William, were no problem because once known there is no alternative. A few were also a problem because there are two or more possible English names, for example, Jacobus could be either Jacob or James, so when indexing from the volume I've chosen James as being the more common. One final problem with the names comes when the Latin name has an English equivalent but can also be used in its original form, like Maria that can be used as either Mary or Maria. Several websites were helpful with these names as was a Latin-English Dictionary website when trying to work out what a lot of the other words meant.

One of the strangest baptism entries appears on page 67 where as well as the original entry an additional statement was written in English at the bottom of the page duplicating the dates and names. Elizebeth [Elizabeth] Willan **BRADSHOW** was born on 3 August 1781 and was baptized at Brockhampton two days later; her parents were Eduardi [Edward] and Jenny, whose maiden name was **MORGAN**. The godparents were named as Joannes [John] **SONE** and Eliz. **BRADSHOW**, and rather

unusually there were also names of five other people who were present. Jacobi [James] **KNAPP**, Joanne [John] **SONE**, Eliz. **BRADSHOW**, Maria [Mary] **SONE** and Eliz. **CHAMP**. The English version helped to confirm some of the name translations although it did use abbreviations, such as Jas. and Jno. One other interesting difference between the two entries was that in the first one the Latin word patrini for godparents was used but in the English version the word "Gossips" was used which surprisingly enough does also mean godparents.

An added complication with the Latin entries comes when the Latin name had been abbreviated, usually with the colon character of: in most cases the abbreviations, such as Gul: for William and Rich: for Richard, are very obvious. However, there was an entry for the baptism of Elisabetham [Elizabeth] **LANGRIDGE** on 9 March 1783 where her parents were recorded as Joan: & Elisabethæ. At first glance Joan would appear to be a female, but with: after the name and followed by Elisabethæ [Elizabeth] her father's full name must have been Joannis [John]. This conclusion is supported by the earlier entry for Joannen [John] **LANGRIDGE** who was born on 20 June 1777, was baptized on 23 June 1777 and whose parents were Joannis [John] and Elizebethæ [Elizabeth]. Incidentally, Elizabeth's maiden name was **AUSTIN**.

One famous local name that appeared as godparents to Franciscam Margaretam [Frances Margaret], who was born on 20 November 1782 to parents Caroli [Charles] and Susannæ [Susanna] and who was



## – Part 3

baptized at Horndean a day later. Susanna's maiden name was **NYREN** and the godparents were Richardo [Richard] and Francisca [Frances] **NYREN**. A footnote in the volume mentions that they were part of the cricketing family of Hambledon. Of interest, in the HGS Marriage Index Charles **FARMEN**, from Catherington, married Susan **NYREN** in Hambledon on 24 August 1780. However, the surname is missing completely from the HGS baptism index up to at least 1874, there are no male marriages and Susan is one of only three female marriages before 1837 possibly indicating that the Nyren family had been Catholic for generations.

Undoubtedly the majority of the children survived but there were a few entries made that indicated otherwise. Having been born the day before, Mariam [Miriam] **GOLDFINCH** was baptized on 13 January 1788 to parents Joannis [John] and Annæ [Ann] but a later addition to the same entry stated that the baby died on 13 October that year. Another entry a month later, on 13 February, was for the baptism of Mariam-Annam [Miriam Anne] **WEST** in Bedhampton, then a later addition to the same entry said that the baby had died on 9 June. A further entry later in 1788 was for the baptism of Georgius [George] **BULBICK**, son of Joannis [John] and Catharinæ [Catharine], on 30 July in Havant, apparently in anticipation that the baby was not expected to live. This would appear to have been true because later in the same entry the date of 10 August appears to confirm his death.

A comment added to the book in August 1789 said that the first baptism according to the new rules was for Elenora [Eleanor] **PINKE** who was born on 19 August 1789 in

Stockheath and was baptized on 30 August in Brockhampton. Her parents were Caroli [Charles] and Marthæ [Martha] whose maiden name was **MOLTON**. The godparents were Joannes [John] **BULBECK** and Maria [Mary] **MOORE**. One of the big changes from previous entries was that the place of birth was added in addition to where the baptism took place. As well as this it looks as though the new rules defined how the information should be written down because most of the subsequent entries followed the same format. Some of the entries carried personal tragedies, such as the event on 28 March 1793 in Langstone when twins Anna [Ann] and Jacobus [James] were born to Gulielmi [William] and Elizabethæ {Elizabeth} **BULBECK**. The health of the twins was such that they were baptized the same day in Langstone by the baby's aunt Maria [Mary] **COOKE** with Anna [Ann] **HYDE** making a solemn promise on their behalf by acting as sponsor. Unfortunately the anticipated death of both twins took place on 12 Sep 1793. The burial for Ann and James took place in Havant two days later although there is no indication in the burial register that they were Roman Catholics.

A number of the later baptisms are interesting with further sets of twins appearing. The first was for Æmilia [Emily] and Maria [Mary] **PRATT** who were born on 31 May 1848 and were baptized the same day, maybe because of the possibility that they would not survive. Their parents were David and Mariæ [Mary], nee **MOREY**. They did survive and a further ceremony took place in the chapel on 16 July that year, possibly as a "formal" baptism. The sponsors, instead of appearing as



godparents, for Mariæ were Georgius [George] **WEST** and Anna [Ann] **MURPHY**, whilst Eduardus [Edward] **KEEVIL** and Æmilia [Emily] **MOREY** sponsored Æmilia. In 1851 the family were living in West Street in Havant. The second set was Carolus [Charles] and Georgius [George] who were born on 28 November 1850 to parents Joannis [John] and Helenæ [Helen] **HIGGINS** [maiden name **DRISCOL**] and were baptized together on 5 January 1851. This time the sponsors were Jacobus [James] **CALLANAN** and

Joanna [Jane] **JONES** for Georgius, and Jacobus [James] **QUIN** with Maria Anna [Mary Ann] **WEST** for Carolus. In 1861 Helen, then a widow, had Charles and George living with her in East Street Havant, and thirty years later, still as bachelors, Charles and George were living with their mother in Back Lane in Havant.

**Roy Montgomery** (Member # 3759)

102 Sunnymead Drive, Waterlooville, Hants  
PO7 6BX Email: sunnymead@ntlworld.com

## Southampton in the Great War By John Eddleston

Published by Pen and Sword (Military) Paperback £9.99 ISBN 978 1 78346 296 4

**We are not students of 1914/18 history but we found this book to be eminently readable and informative. In his introduction, he shows the importance of Southampton during the war. For example, between 1914 and 1918, 7,000,000 men, 820,000 horses and mules, 14,000 guns, 110,000 vehicles and 3,500,000 stores and ammunition were sent out to France alone, from Southampton..**

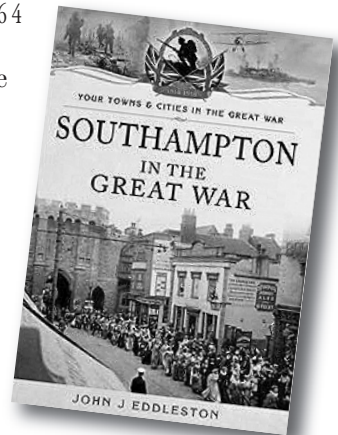
The author has treated the subject in chronological order and has interwoven international politics with local interest stories (with names of many local people) at the same time as reporting the horrors of the war. At the end of the book, he has set out the movements of the Hampshire Battalions during the war. During this time, it lost 7,580 men.

There is also a section describing the

aftermath of the war, as people were trying to get back into some sort of routine, though grieving for the loss of brothers, sons and husbands in so many families.

We found it very informative and would recommend it to all who have a limited knowledge of the events endured by the residents of Southampton. The absence of notes on the source material would perhaps be regretted by the more serious researchers.

**Review by Anne and Mike Lawrence**





# Alternative to Bradshaw's Railway Guides

**The television series *Great Railway Journeys*, presented by Michael Portillo, has revived interest in Bradshaw's Railway Guides, less well known from the same period however, are Murray's Handbooks, travel guides published from 1836 until 1915, when they became Blue Guides.**

Knowing of my interest in Hampshire railways, I was fortunate to be given a copy of the guide for Surrey, Hants & Isle of Wight, by one of our New Milton & Christchurch Group members. Dated 1859, it is probably a first edition as the only edition I can find listed is the third in 1876.

The guide contains much social history to interest the family historian, both in the descriptive content and the advertisements. For example, under Hotels is a heading, "Passengers by the South Western Railway are requested to observe the following notice boards at Bishopstoke" (Yes, there was a station named Bishopstoke about a mile West of the village that was re-named by the Southern Railway in 1923 as Eastleigh) The advertisement has the following list:

Town	Hotel	Proprietors
Christchurch	King's Arms	N.S.Newlyn
Cowes	Fountain	T.E.Bull
Dorchester	King's Arms	W.Manley
Gosport	India Arms	T.Attrill
Landport	Bedford	W.Towsey
Newport	Bugle	H.Mew & Sons
Poole	Antelope	J.Shepherd
Portland	Breakwater	T.Sansom
Portsmouth	George	Kemp
Ryde	Eagle	Newman

Southampton	Pier	W.Battcock
Wareham	Red Lion	C.Yearsley
Weymouth	Royal	T.O.Luce
Ventnor	Esplanade	J.Cummings.

In the text, other hotels are listed. In Portsmouth, The George and The Fountain were in High Street, "In Landport, a suburb of Portsmouth at which the railway ceases is the Sussex Hotel, close to the terminus". Under Southampton, there is an advertisement for Bacon's Railway Hotel, which reads: "For Families and Gentlemen, opposite the Terminus and close to the Docks and Customs House. The arrangements of this Hotel will be found unexceptionable, and the charges, which include Servants' attendance, strictly moderate".

By 1859, Southampton was already receiving and dispatching ships to and from many parts of the world, following the re-development of the docks in the 1830's and the arrival of the railway, (the first in Hampshire). "The magnificent steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company leave and arrive four times every month; for Lisbon and Gibraltar 6 times. Southampton is also a station for steamers to and from the West Indies, New York and Rio de Janeiro; and the perpetual arrival and departure of passengers gives an animation and interest to this town not readily to be found elsewhere."

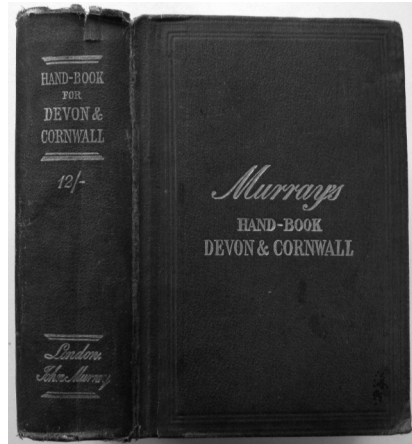
The steamer crossing from Southampton to Cowes took about one hour. Steamers also made complete circuits of the Island; "steamers do this frequently during the season" and "coaches leave Cowes for Newport 5 times daily". A ferry service from Lymington to Yarmouth was also in

operation. The population of Cowes is not given, Newport was 8047 and Ryde, 7147.

There is an interesting advertisement for the newly opened direct route from Waterloo Bridge Station to Portsmouth, which must have been the Town Station, as the extension to the Harbour Station was not opened until 1873. The train journey took 1 hour 55 minutes; only 20 minutes was allowed to reach the Steam Packet and there were departures for Ryde with a crossing time of 20 minutes and to Cowes, taking one hour. Return tickets from Waterloo Bridge station to Ryde or Cowes, First Class 8s, Second, 5s. and Third, 3s. 6d. included the train fare, omnibus, pier dues and steamboat.

(Interesting that Waterloo dropped "Bridge" and London Bridge Station has not) The entry for Portsmouth also states that in addition to the regular crossings to Cowes and Ryde, in the summer months, steamers also run from Portsmouth to Southampton, Plymouth, Falmouth and Dublin. This shows members with Irish ancestry, how they may have come to have a connection with Portsmouth.

The earliest Murray's Hand-books predate the Bradshaw railway guides. I had assumed (always dangerous for a family historian), that New Alresford, like New Milton, came with the railway. Not so! Murray's states, "New Alresford, although by far the most important place, is a chapelry attached to Old Alresford, the superior antiquity of which, however, is not considerable, since its "newer" offset existed at the period of the Conquest". The railway came to Alresford in 1865. Murray's makes no mention of watercress - but then, neither does Arthur Mee nearly a century later!



*Murray's Hand-Book 1872 – A Handbook for Travellers in Devon and Cornwall (ebay £37.13p)*

The guide tells us that in 1859, Alton had a population of 3139, Andover, 5400, Basingstoke, 4066, Christchurch, 7474, Fareham 4000, Portsmouth, 55,000, Romsey, about 2500, Southampton, 36,000. Although places where other Groups meet have an entry, the population figure is not given. Also given are Petersfield, 1838, Havant, 2101, Winchester, 13,704.

Many churches are described as are the major houses in the county, together with the names of the then current owners. Some places get no more than a dismissive "There is nothing here to detain the traveller". But what a gem of Victorian social history; for those who like me, were not aware of Murray's Hand-books, look out for them, they cover many counties and to those of you who have long been familiar with them, why have you not told us about them?

**John Heighes** (Member # 5732)



# Renewal Instructions

## **All members £15.**

All members may now renew online via **[www.hgs-online.org.uk](http://www.hgs-online.org.uk)** and pay by PayPal or credit card (at no additional cost). Alternatively, you may go to **[www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)** and enter 'Hampshire Genealogical Society' in the search box (which would cost an extra 50p for administrative purposes).

If you wish to pay by Direct Debit, you can download a form from our website ([www.hgs-online.org.uk](http://www.hgs-online.org.uk)) or request a form from the **Membership Secretary** at the address below. The completed form should be sent to the Membership Secretary and not direct to Eazipay. The reference number is your membership number prefaced by a zero. Please remember to cancel any other method of continuous payment that you may have set up (eg, Standing Order). A direct debit instruction will ensure continuing membership unless cancelled by you.

Payment can also be made by UK bank cheque, a sterling cheque drawn on a foreign bank, CAF cheque or postal order made out to '**The Hampshire Genealogical Society**'. Please send your payment, with your membership number on the reverse, to the **Membership Secretary** at the address below. Cash payments can also be made, but only at the HGS office.

If you are a UK income taxpayer you may wish to add a Gift Aid your payment. A Gift Aid form can be downloaded from the website or sent from the Cosham Office. Gift Aid helps the Society's funds with no extra cost to you.

If you are unable to obtain the forms you require, or have any other problem, please contact the Membership Secretary.

**Please include your membership number in all communications.**

## **Address to:-**

The Membership Secretary,  
Hampshire Genealogical Society  
52 Northern Road,  
Cosham,  
Portsmouth,  
Hampshire  
PO6 3DP  
UK



*Hampshire Genealogical Society*

# Family History Open Day

**11th October 2015**

10.00am to 4.00pm

**Everest Community Academy**

Oxford Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9FP

**Free entry  
Refreshments**

**Research help • Publications  
BMD records on CD • Free talks**

**100 extra  
parking spaces**

**For more details visit the HGS website:**

[www.hgs-familyhistory.com/hampshire-family-history-open-day-2015/](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/hampshire-family-history-open-day-2015/)