

**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 22 No 8 Dec 2020



Market Place, Bedford

**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

A member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Founded 1977

Registered Charity No. 281677

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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

“Market Place, Bedford. This is the most beautiful old building in Bedford - pure Jacobean, the pride and chief jewel of the High Street. For years it has been a fishmonger’s shop; but it was built about 1664 as an Exchange, Shire Hall and Judge’s Lodgings, and many famous county lords and gentlemen have walked up its staircase and looked out of its ancient windows. It was used as a Court House until the first Shire Hall was opened in 1752. In his ‘Old Bedford’, the late Rev. C.F. Farrar draws a vivid word-picture of this house in its great days, and gives Judge Jefferies lodging there. When it lived in pomp and purple it was known as ‘Market Place’, a prosaic title ill-befitting such a presence. It must, indeed, have been a splendid place before the shop fronts were put in. The artist realized this, has, without prejudice, visioned the shop fronts ‘through a darkly’ - very darkly!”

This illustration and text are taken from 'Our Heritage: A Bedfordshire Sketch Book' drawings by G Alan Fortescue FRIBA, notes by 'Touchstone', published 1943. □

THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

Paul Woodcraft

I have looked at both the current Market Square and the High Street but I am unable to identify the building in the sketch. This could be a research project for you! I followed this up by a Google search for Street View Bedford Market Square UK and what a splendid array of buildings you see. Try it and see if you come up with the same answer as me.

Could it be the right hand side of Wilko?

I would not be surprised if one of you can give us the correct location.

Please do let me know at distribution@bfhs.org.uk. □

THE TILLYS AND THE MAYFLOWER

Mary Wooldridge

The Society has had an email from Dwight Mason, a historian with the Mayflower Society, suggesting that as it is the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower in New England, we mark this occasion with an article on the TILLY family who sailed on it, and whose original ancestral home was Henlow, Bedfordshire.

I am reprinting with permission of Gail Adams, Editor of The Howland Quarterly, an article by the late Caroline Kardell, that appeared in their quarterly journal, about the quest of Joy Helen FORSTER, a member of The Mayflower Society. Gail tells me she met Joy in 1999 when the Howland Society visited Holland, England and Scotland.

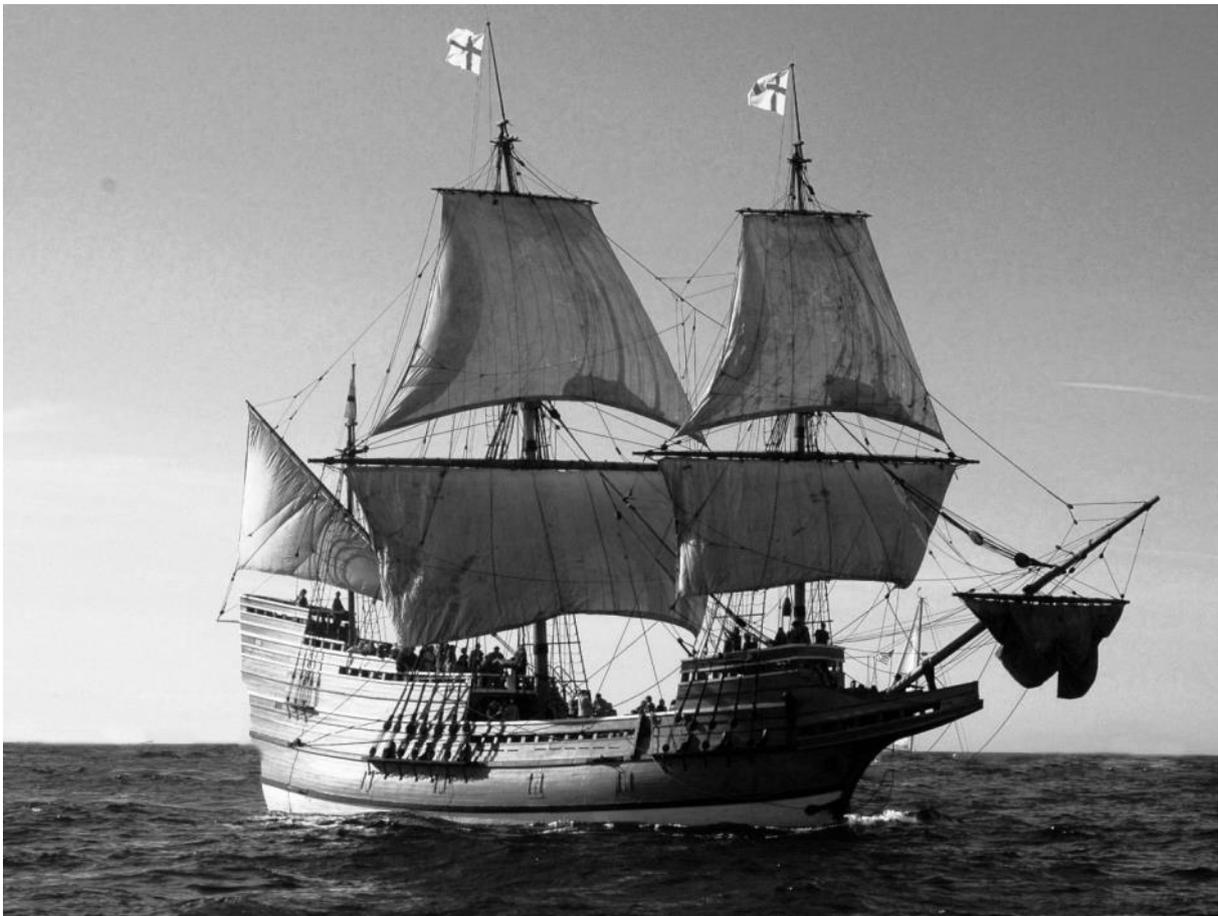
Note from the Editor of the Howland Society Journal: Since this story first came out in 1999, our Society has acquired hundreds of new members. I thought it would be good to run it again as I think it is very interesting and shows the wonder of doing genealogy and the exciting lines you can find.

From the September 1999 Howland Quarterly:

New Line Spotlights Elizabeth Tilley's Brother

By Caroline Kardell

When John and Joan (HURST) Rogers Tilley sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620 they left at least one living son and a step-daughter behind in Bedfordshire, England. We now have a new member of the Mayflower Society through their son Robert Tilley. Miss Joy Helen Forster of Bromham, Bedfordshire, has completed all of the documentation for a proven line from herself back to Robert Tilley. Joy has been working on her Mayflower lineage



and for nearly two years has been corresponding with me in my capacity as historian general of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

I did not broadcast the news until I was certain that she was going to document each generation. She has done a perfectly marvellous job and I passed her along to Judith Elfring, historian of the Maine Mayflower Society and registrar of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, for completion of her final application

papers. This new line¹ is the first European breakthrough since the Dutch descendants of Moses FLETCHER were found. This is the very first proven line from an English family whose descendants never came to America.

By the time young Robert had finished his apprenticeship² in Bedford his parents and uncle were all dead in Plymouth and his younger sister Elizabeth had already married John HOWLAND. So Robert remained in Bedford and married Mary HAWKINS. His half-sister Joan ROGERS married Edward Hawkins, probably a brother of Robert's wife. If that can be proven, then the six Hawkins children baptized in Bedford could be Mayflower descendants through their grandmother Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley.³

Mayflower research is still a very lively endeavour, between tracing of the family homes of Eaton, Rogers and Hopkins and the new work in English parish registers, anyone can still turn up one new item or an entire family.

I am very grateful for all the help from Susan E. Roser, Editor, *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*. The beautiful image of the Mayflower is the picture in the cover of my last book, *Mayflower Passenger References*.

¹Joy's Mayflower Line

- 1 John Tilley m. Joan (Hurst) Rogers
- 2 Robert Tilley m. Mary Hawkins
- 3 Robert Tilley m. Sarah SMITH
- 4 Thomas Tilley m. Ann LINFORD
- 5 Ann Tilley m. John CATLIN
- 6 William Catlin m. Sarah MAIN
- 7 Mary Catlin(g) m. James AIMES/AMES
- 8 Joseph Ames m. Martha VALENTINE
- 9 Harry Ames m. Caroline BEARD
- 10 Albert James Ames m. Daisy Gertrude DARNELL
- 11 Gladys May Ames m. George David Nunn Forster
- 12 Raymond Forster m. Hazel Joy WILSHER
- 13 Joy Forster

²In October 1617 Robert was apprenticed to a Bedford tailor named John JONES for a period of eight years, so he could not travel with his family to the new world in 1620.

³Joy found the will of Edward Hawkins which stated that he left twenty shillings "to my sister Mary Tilley" proving the relationship. She also extracted all the Hawkins entries for the records of St. Pauls in Bedford and found that Edward Hawkins married Joan Rogers in 1620 - the year the Mayflower sailed! □

Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer

If you pay your 2021 membership by SO or BT please drop an email to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.
Your help would be appreciated.



Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the March 2021 *Journal* is **31 January 2021**

Bedfordshire Family History Society (BFHS)
Draft Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting
Held at 7.00 pm on Friday 9 October 2020
Held Online via Zoom

(Postponed from June 2020 because of COVID-19 Regulations)

Present:

Noel Evans - Chairman

Pamela Birch - President of the Society and County Archivist

Committee Members

Society Members: A total of 31 members were present including the above.

Noel introduced the President of the BFHS, Pamela Birch, who then proceeded to chair the meeting and welcomed all members to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were given online. The following were added, subsequent to the online meeting, having been noted at previous Committee meetings: Mark Tresidder, Lynn Manning, Christine Horsler, Jan Darts.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM.

2.1 The President, Pamela Birch, asked if any member present had any corrections for the 2019 AGM minutes. None were received and the minutes were signed as a true copy. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Kerr Clement and seconded by Cathy Friend and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

2.2 Noel reminded the Members that the 2019 AGM minutes were included in the September 2020 Journal and accessible on the BFHS website and as such had been available to members for comment.

3. Matters Arising

None were raised.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 The Chairman's Report had been posted on the BFHS Website and had been printed in the September issue of the Journal. It could be accessed by any member. This report covers the period June 2018 to May 2019 and remains unchanged since issue.

4.2 **Chairman's Remarks.** The Chairman, Noel Evans, gave the following update to the published report to cover the gap between their issue and the current position to the end of September 2020. (This is not part of the 2020 report but will be covered again in the 2021 report).

4.2.1 AGM Postponement. Since the Mark Rutherford School was not available to hold the AGM the Committee decided to postpone it. When it became clear that meeting in July would not be possible the Committee decided to conduct the AGM using Zoom.

4.2.2 Meetings by Zoom. The Committee has now held 5 of its meetings by Zoom. Noel thanked Mark Tresidder for introducing us to Zoom and Peter Sharp for developing its use.

4.2.3 Members Meetings. The July and September Members' Meetings have been held using Zoom.

4.2.4 FH Fairs. Noel stated that there had been no FH Fairs held since March 2020, but there were online Fairs in the pipeline.

4.2.5 Jan Darts, Journal Coordinator. Noel confirmed and thanked Jan Darts for filling the position of Journal Coordinator for the BFHS for a period of two years. Noel also requested that Members, in support of Jan, the BFHS and the Members, submit their stories for inclusion in the Journal.

4.2.6 Committee Members. Noel stated that last year he had been concerned about the lack of Committee Members. There had been 8 Members which was only one more than stipulated in the BFHS Constitution and no Minutes Secretary. The current healthy position, 3 Officers and 9 Committee Members gave a total of 12 Committee Members, with the role of Minutes Secretary being filled by Kerr Clement, was welcomed by Noel. Noel also stated that any Member wishing to join the Committee would be both welcome and appreciated.

4.2.7 Mark Rutherford School. Noel stated that, in accordance with Government COVID-19 advice, he did not expect the BFHS would be able to use the school facilities until March 2021 or possibly later.

4.3 Future Events. The future, with respect to Fairs, Meetings, Talks etc., is and will remain uncertain for an indeterminate period but the FHF, Societies and FH magazines, FH websites etc were working to redress the social disparity by introducing material and facilities online. One advantage is that Members may be able to attend virtual events that were further away than they would normally travel. Noel stated that he was confident that BFHS could continue to give help to those people with a family interest in Bedfordshire.

4.4 Question. Vicki Manners stated that there had been a FH Fair the previous week and that BFHS were listed as having a Virtual Stand available. Some Societies though did not have Experts available. Did the BFHS intend to provide support at future events?

Answer. Noel replied that the BFHS was unable to give their support at the event but that GenFair had listed the Society without asking if anyone was available. Vicki Manners volunteered her services should any further request be made of the BFHS for an expert to be in attendance. Noel accepted the offer

and agreed to keep Vicki informed of any future request.

5. Treasurer's Report.

5.1 The Treasure's Report was published in the September Journal and is available on the BFHS website should any Member so wish to access and read.

5.2 **Summary.** The Treasurer, Peter Sharp gave the following brief summary of the financial position since the full Report as mentioned above is available online on the BFHS website.

5.3 **Surplus.** The BFHS made a surplus of £2,738 last year. The Treasurer thanked those members who had signed the Gift Aid Forms; this had given an additional £698 of funding.

5.4 **Cash in Hand.** The Cash in Hand had increased to £56,000. Included within this amount is the £46,000 in the NatWest 95 day account. The interest paid was 0.85% but from July 2020 this had been reduced to 0.15%. The Society did have £3,000 in a NatWest Reserve account with interest at 0.20%. This was closed and the money transferred to the 95 Day account.

5.5 **Membership.** The income from Membership Fees decreased by around £200 to £5,545 in 2019. There were reduced costs and this amounted to £5,812, resulting in a shortfall of £267.

5.6 **Number of Members.** The total membership number was 582 in 2015, 509 in 2017, 502 in 2018 and 481 in 2019 which included 37 new members.

5.7 **Income and Spend from Publications and Membership.** Some details of income and expenditure are:

Sales of Publication	£4,387	a drop from the previous year of £5,131
Total Expenditure	£9,696	reduced from £10,365 last year
Royalty to BARS	£336	from CD sales of £3,185
Members Meeting Costs	£742	for the payment of the Meeting Speakers

5.8 **Independent Examiner.** The Treasurer on behalf of himself and BFHS thanked Richard Chaloner for maintaining and preparing the BFHS accounts. Richard has relinquished his role of Independent Examiner for the BFHS due to family commitments.

5.9 **Adoption of the Treasurer's Report.** Peter Sharp recommended the Report for adoption. Acceptance proposed by Kerr Clement, seconded by Noel Evans. The Report was unanimously accepted using the Zoom polling facility.

6. Election of Members of the Executive Committee.

The Officers of the Society are all in their third year of the three year period for which they were elected in June 2018. They are:

Chairman	Noel Evans
Treasurer	Peter Sharp
Secretary	Lynn Manning

The proposals for the Executive Committee were as follows:

Kerr Clement	(co-opted since 2019 AGM)
Catherine Friend	
Kevin Friend	
Christine Horsler	(co-opted since 2019 AGM)
Vicki Manners	(proposed new member)
Brian Payne	(proposed new member)
Mark Tresidder	
Paul Woodcraft	
Mary Wooldridge	

All proposed members elected unanimously.

7. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner.

7.1 Peter Sharp in announcing the step down of Richard Chaloner advised the Committee of his potential replacement, a Mr Alan Feasey. Alan had before retirement worked in the financial environment for over fifty years as an Advanced Book Keeper. In years past Alan had held the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary within BFHS, as well as being Treasurer for various voluntary organisations.

7.2 Peter recommended that we adopt Alan as the Honorary Independent Examiner for the 2020 accounts. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

With no other business being raised the President, Pamela Birch, closed the 2020 AGM.





PROGRAMME

4 DEC	THOMAS ARMSTRONG: THE SMUGGLER KING OF CULLERCOATS	DR NICK BARRAT
5 JAN	1939 REGISTER	ROBERT PARKER

The meetings above are online meetings with details notified to members by email and a notice on our website.

The meetings below will hopefully be online meetings with details notified to members by email and a notice on our website.

12 FEB BUNYAN, BEDFORD AND BEYOND JOHN PESTELL

5 MAR LIFE IN NELSON'S NAVY MAJOR ALAN
GILMORE

(Note: underlined dates do not follow the "first Friday of the month" pattern)

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2021

Meetings later in the year, the availability of our Library, our Bookstall and refreshments are subject to Covid 19 Guidelines and the availability and agreement of Mark Rutherford School.

MEETING VENUE

MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL,
WENTWORTH DRIVE, BEDFORD MK41 8PX (by Mowsbury Park)

Doors open at 7pm, talk commences at 7.30pm.
Bookstall and library also available

SOME COUNTY LINKS FROM OUR PATRON

Dr Colin R Chapman

It was my Bedfordshire ancestors who first attracted me to family history. I was a mere seven years old when I embarked on another of my explorations of my paternal grandparents' attic, known within our CHAPMAN family as the 'top room' of their Northampton home. I had often been there previously and enjoyed lifting dust sheets, opening drawers and cupboards finding items from a bygone era: several travelling trunks, an old doll's pram, postcards sent from WW1 trenches by an uncle who never returned from Flanders' mud, a straw-filled pillow on its stand holding parchment patterns including pins for hand-making pillow lace, with a box of bobbins wound with the original threads for tossing skilfully around the pins, which Granny's mother and grandmother had used to produce lace-trimmed table cloths, blouses and handkerchiefs. On this occasion, however, I discovered a large old family bible; the names Zaccheus and Catherine, Joseph and Mary, Charles and Elizabeth CLAYSON, and many others written on its first few pages, meant nothing to me. Being an inquisitive child I wanted to know who these people were. Clutching the heavy tome I descended the narrow stairs to the 'front room' two flights below. It is only now on compiling this article that I realise that the rooms at Granny and Grandpa's were never referred to by their function such as living room or lounge or dining room – the latter was always the 'back room'. Was this a particularly Northampton trait, or perhaps the nationwide norm during that era?

Anyway, warmed by the coal fire in the front room, Granny explained that these Claysons were her ancestors and a smattering of uncles and aunts, all from Harrold near the Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire borders. She recalled village life towards the end of the 19th century, including tales of the horse-drawn omnibus collecting passengers from Sharnbook railway station to convey them to Harrold; on the way they, she claimed, had to get out and walk behind the bus while the horse struggled up certain hills. Whether this was true I cannot say, but my childhood mind was fired up. Later taken to Harrold, I observed grave stones in the yards of the parish church and non-conformist chapels naming Claysons, and a Clayson had built the school. I did not appreciate it at the time, but as a pre-teenager I had become hooked on family history. Fortuitously, at school we had been learning by rote dates for English monarchs (William I 1066, William II 1087, Henry I 1100 etc - successions which I can still recite from memory). We had been shown royal pedigrees and so, encouraged by my parents who adored history, I copied out the family bible entries and drew up a Clayson pedigree. Equally fortuitously my father and I incurably accumulated 'stuff' - decluttering was never in our genes unlike father's sister who was also dismissive of the past; thus nearly 30 years later I was able to retrieve my notes, after hearing that this aunt, when clearing the family home following my grandparents' departure, had filed the family bible (with other unique heirlooms from the 'top room') in a skip.

It was in the 1970s, having coped with 'O' levels, 'A' levels, universities and

other necessary tasks that facilitated secure employment with a regular income, thereby enabling me to pursue various hobbies, when I returned to my interest in family history. Armed with my rudimentary Clayson family tree I ventured into archives, studying civil registration certificates, census returns, parish registers, wills, and untold other documents. I found a settlement certificate showing Zaccheus Clayson had come to Harrold from Brafield-on-the-Green in Northamptonshire, an Elizabeth Clayson had married George BRIMLEY whose origins were in Cardington and Cople and, further back, in Totternhoe. At least one Brimley was in Bedford Goal for deserting his family, and Clayson ancestors had intermarried in Harrold with members of the ROSE family who came from Sherington, Buckinghamshire, also involved in pillow-lacemaking.

I became so immersed in family history that I was instrumental in founding the Bedfordshire Family History Society in 1977, acting as Assistant Editor of our first quarterly *Journals*. Reading successive *Journals* over the past 43 years has provided examples of unusual sources of genealogical data thereby discovering much more about my ancestors. I trust you have been similarly helped. Attending Society events (which hopefully will resume once COVID-19 is tamed) has likewise enabled me to find cousins hitherto unknown. Only yesterday, modern technology through DNA testing brought me in touch with a 'new' 3rd cousin who has solved the identity of Thomas GANDERTON, baptised in Odell in 1777, probably the father of one of my illegitimate ancestors - but that is another story to share in a future article. I would welcome you sharing some of your research adventures with fellow readers. Why not write a few lines for a future issue of our *Journal*? □

THE HISTORY OF THE ST JOHN'S PHARMACY IN BEDFORD

Barry Moulang

This article was written as explanatory material in support of the donation of pharmaceutical items from a chemist shop in Bedford to the Jeyes Pharmacy Museum at Earls Barton in Northamptonshire. It was first issued for the benefit of the Museum as a record of the origins of the items, mainly glassware and equipment, and as a short history of a provincial chemist shop. The donation was made during 2019 and an earlier version was passed to the Museum curator: Mrs Georgina Jeyes. However, it has since been realised that the article has a wider value in relation to the local and family history of Bedford town and this revised version has been generated for a wider readership.

The author acknowledges the kindness of the late Miss Patricia Bell in encouraging the original preparation of this article.

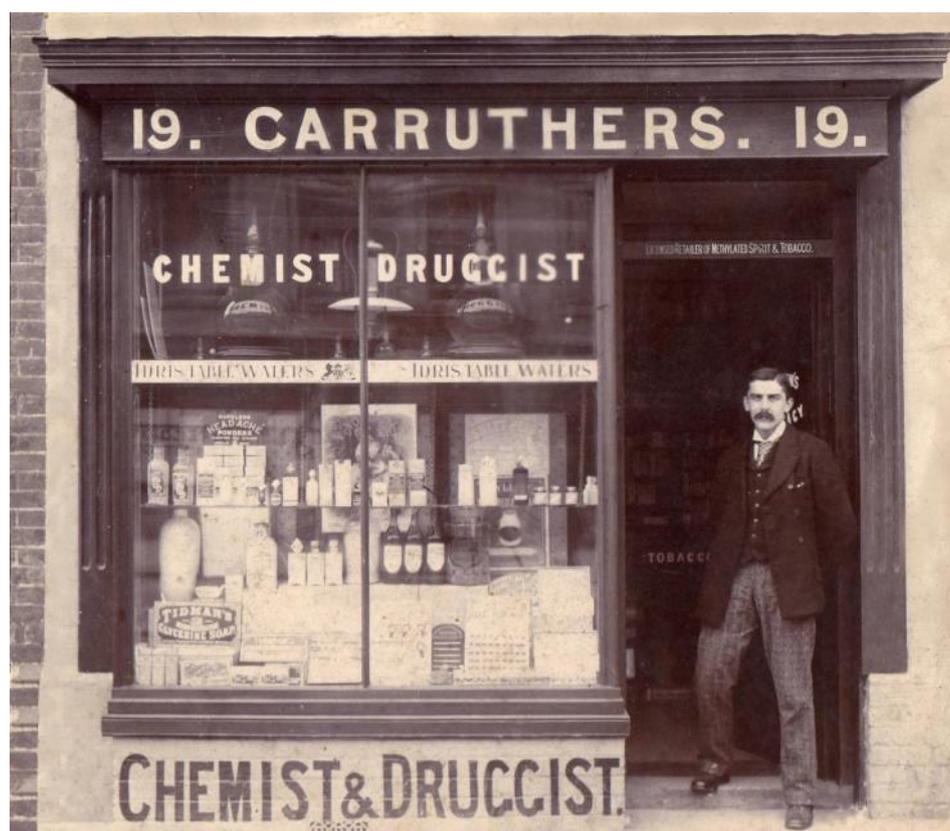
The article is reproduced by permission of the author with copyright remaining with the author.

To fully appreciate the history of the pharmaceutical businesses of St John's Street in Bedford it is appropriate to consider the background and personal circumstances of the individuals concerned: Ernest CARRUTHERS and Denis MOULANG.

The Street gained its first pharmacy in the late nineteenth century, the proprietor being Ernest Murray Carruthers. Ernest was the son of George Carruthers a Scotsman from Ecclefechan in Dumfriesshire. George was a travelling draper, sometimes known as a 'Tally Man', who had come to work in the Dunstable area where he had met and, in 1851, married a local girl named Sarah COLLINGS. The couple moved to Bedford, taking up residence on the south side of the river at number 21 St John's Street. From here he ran a successful clothing and drapery business and raised his family - eventually numbering four children¹.

Ernest Murray, their youngest child, was born on 6 November 1865² and grew up in a family which had become important in both the town political scene and the local religious community. The latter was centred on the Bunyan Meeting congregation in which his father George held significant office³. Ernest was educated in Bedford and later trained in pharmacy. Although the reasoning behind his choice of career is not known, by the spring of 1891 he was to be found working as an assistant chemist at an established business in Twerton, now a suburb within the outskirts of Bath⁴.

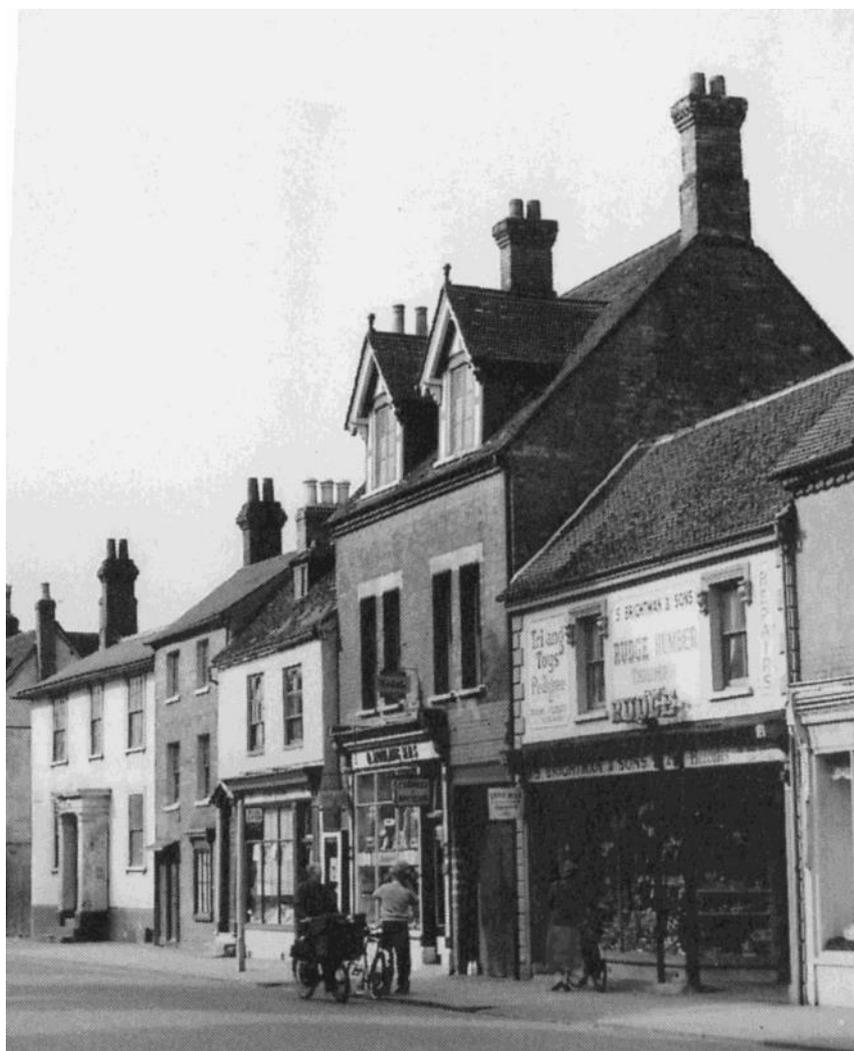
At some stage in the next few years the property at 19 St John's Street, as it happens next door to his parents' home, had become available: the Bedford directory dated 1894 recording Ernest as a chemist there⁵.



In the summer of 1900 he married Annie Elizabeth COLTMAN, a Yorkshire woman, possibly having met her during his training period, one in which he was likely to have travelled between pharmacies to gain experience in his profession. At the time of his marriage he was 34 years old, his appearance on the photograph suggesting that the photograph was probably taken during about this time. The marriage might be seen as evidence that his business was at least promising financially, affording the possibility of an established and comfortable family life.

The shop premises at Number 19, familiar to the writer when a boy in the 1940s as a local news agency, would have been significantly cramped in relation to the needs of a growing business, particularly with respect to the accommodation required for the stock of a pharmacy of any size. The shop area itself was quite tiny and the rear of the premises would have met little more than the domestic requirements of the shopkeeper and his family. For Ernest, particularly if his business was thriving, the pressure on space would have been intense.

However, a fresh possibility presented itself: in the same street and only a few yards further south, Number 31 St John's had become vacant - seemingly as a result of a bankruptcy: seen here as the tallest building in the picture.



Built new, probably about 1885, it had been occupied by a butcher named BROWN and had been purposely erected as a shop and dwelling of notable proportions having three floors: the upper two of which were for domestic accommodation. The rooms were all large, having high ceilings and there were quarters at the rear for domestic servants. On the ground floor an extensive shop front with space at the rear suitable for a dispensary together with additional rooms for storage. At the rear of these there was a large scullery-cum-wash house equipped with its own well.

From the top dormer windows there was a pleasing view over most of the eastern part of the town.

This was an ambitious Edwardian style building, built for Mr Brown's butchery business although probably contributing largely to his eventual financial problems.

The Carruthers family thrived here: the birth registration of a daughter, Eileen, in 1903⁶ tells us that Ernest and Annie had moved in and were well established at Number 31, no doubt enjoying their spacious and relatively new accommodation. A second daughter, Violet was born in 1908⁷. Neither she, nor Eileen, were to marry: Violet became a librarian and during WW2 was employed in code breaking activity at Bletchley Park.

As it is today, St John's Street was part of the main north–south route through the town: a busy thoroughfare for vehicles together with a considerable amount of pedestrian and cycle traffic⁸. During the period under consideration much of this flow was associated with people entering and leaving the town *en route* to their employment and included passengers arriving at St John's railway station. The pharmacy was therefore extremely well placed to serve more than just the local population and this potential increased during and after the two world wars. The Carruthers prescription books still exist and offer an interesting historical insight into his methods and his customers, giving the names and addresses of a few of them, many from out of the town itself. Carruthers, who at one stage also ran a pharmacy in Castle Road, Bedford, retired from the profession during the middle 1930s having taken up residency at Weavers Lane in the Bedfordshire village of Pavenham and where he died early in 1941⁹.

In 1934, the writer's father, Denis Moulang, joined Ernest Carruthers in Bedford, taking the post of Chemist in charge at Number 31 and leaving Carruthers himself to run the Castle Road business, presumably as he prepared for his impending retirement. Denis had been born in Derby in April 1909, the son of an LMS Railway District Superintendent. He had been educated at Nottingham High School and later at Nunthorpe School in York. He had trained from 1931 – 1933 at the Leicester College of Art and Technology, later known as the Leicester College of Pharmacy, subsequently gaining experience at a number of pharmacies in the midlands and north of England as an assistant chemist.

With financial help from his father, Denis purchased the business from

Carruthers in November 1936. The sale included all fixtures and fittings for which they paid the significant sum of £350; the amount did not include the building itself which was under lease from the St John's Trust: an important property owner in that part of the town. In consequence, although the premises were modified very slightly through subsequent years, the character of the shop retained Carruthers original late nineteenth century style with colourful wooden drawer sets, glass fronted cabinets and many of the earlier artefacts which the previous owner had displayed including many items that would have been seen at Number 19. Of these the two massive carboys, which may be seen in the picture of the Number 19 shop front, one filled with red liquid, the other blue, were particular examples; these continued to reside in the top half of the shop window and remained there until the final closure of the St John's business.

Denis Moulang married a local girl, the writer's Mother, Maisie CHADWICK in June 1935 and they occupied the rather large amount of space the building offered after the departure of the Carruthers family. Denis also obtained further qualifications which enabled him to provide optical and truss fitting practices on the same premises.



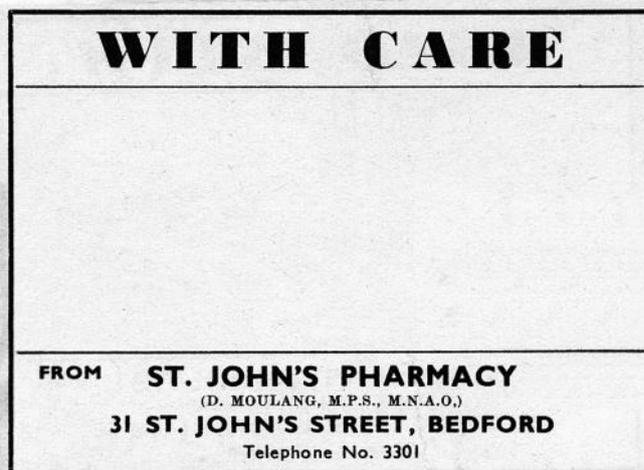
The upper floor at the rear of the building offered two spare rooms which Denis later sub-let to a dentist, Ernest W CROWSLEY who ran his dental practice there for many years, using one of these rooms as a waiting room, the other as the surgery. Crowsley's brother Sydney, a dental mechanic, also set up a workshop in the downstairs scullery at the rear of the building where he manufactured false teeth both for his brother and for other dental establishments until the Pharmacy closed and when both brothers retired from dentistry.

An amusing indication of the entrepreneurial skills of Denis may be found in a Bedfordshire Times advertisement from wartime 1941:

Toilet Rolls are scarce, but Messrs. Moulang, St John's Street, Bedford, have good supplies Izal, 7d.; "Locarno" Medicated, sold by chemists only, 6d.; Olive Oil, 7½d., 1/-, 1/9; Saccharins, 50 for 6d., 1/- per 100.

During the late 1940s a bus stop serving commuters from the south side of the town was established just outside the pharmacy, further increasing contact with the passing public. The steady improvement in the amount of business carried out was maintained until the early 1960s when a continuing programme of urban development began in Bedford. The railway traffic to St John's Station ceased with the closure of the Oxford to Cambridge rail link while the former pedestrians and cyclists began increasingly to travel by car. At the same time Bedford Borough initiated a redevelopment and demolition programme which eliminated much of the surrounding local and hitherto loyal customer base.

Eventually the route along St John's became part of a three lane one way system with no stopping place - even the friendly bus stop disappeared - and the business slowly fell to a level best described as modest. In the autumn of 1967, and in response to this challenge, the 'St John's Pharmacy' removed to the Bedfordshire village of Wootton where much new housing was being built along the route to the M1 motorway and a strong need for a local chemist had emerged. Number 31 St John's meantime finally fell victim to the town Development Authorities and was demolished in the spring of 1968, one of the last buildings to have survived on that side of the street and only a few months after the departure of the pharmacy to Wootton. The name St John's Pharmacy



was retained for several years and then changed to 'Pear Tree Pharmacy'; Denis said, with a grin, that this happened when he ran out of the old medicine bottle labels. After the move the business quickly gathered momentum: the former shop and dispensing staff were reinstated, and the level of business soon reached earlier standards. The premises were expanded significantly and the business continued to develop

until the retirement of the writer's parents in the Spring of 1975.

Denis Moulang died in February 1992 at the Dial House Nursing Home in Bedford. Even today there are surviving customers who remember him for his easy and considerate counter manner, a personal attribute which followed him throughout his entire working life.

¹ The history of this branch of the Carruthers family in Bedford is interesting in its own right and worthy of a separate study.

² Carruthers, Ernest Murray; Register of birth, Bedford. Vol. 3b, p 326.

³ The Bedfordshire Mercury dated 18 March 1904, carries an obituary for George Carruthers.

⁴ UK Census, 1891.

⁵ There is some circumstantial evidence that George Carruthers owned or leased both properties.

⁶ Bedfordshire Times and Independent, 4 September, 1903; a Daughter born 31 St John's St.

⁷ Carruthers, Violet Murray, Register of Births, 1908; Bedford, Vol. 3b, p 307.

⁸ Later part of the A6 trunk road, until the town centre was bypassed at the east and west sides.

⁹ Carruthers, Ernest Murray, Register of death, Bedford. Vol. 3b, p 871. □

BOURNE END FARM IN BLETSOE

Marian Crew

I found John Partridge's information from the June issue "*The gleanings from Local Newspapers of 31 May 1845*" most interesting. This was because of the mention of Bourne End Farm in Bletsoe.

My earliest known Grandfather, Robert MUSGRAVE (born about 1560, died 1620 in Harrold), actually bought Bourne End Farm from John SMYTH of Bletsoe in 1584. (Online information from "*Freeholders in Bletsoe in 1624*"). From that date, the oldest son of the subsequent family would inherit and live on the farm, which was a very substantial area.

Bourne End Farm remained in our Musgrave family for the next 136 years. The farm had been passed down through the generations and in the 1730's came into the possession of one of my distant Grandfathers, John Musgrave. John was living in Bedford by that time and was a Maltster. He went on to sell Bourne End Farm to a London distiller, called Thomas STEELE. (On line information of Bourne End Farm).

John could therefore have had quite a profitable Maltser business. However, he died suddenly in 1735 leaving a young family. John Musgrave's eldest son, also called John, my Grandfather, does not appear to have inherited anything, and went on to do an apprenticeship as a dyer in Bedford. When he had finished his apprenticeship he left Bedford and went then to live in London in Spitalfields, where he worked as a dyer. We know all about the Musgrave family from this time on.

We do not know, however, where Robert Musgrave, who bought Bourne End farm in 1584 originated from, and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has come across the family living in the Bletsoe area or beyond. □

GRAVENHURST HOME GUARD 1944

Colin West



This photograph of Gravenhurst Home Guard was taken outside the Parish Reading Room, High Street, as it was known in 1944, now the Village Hall.

Some of the detail of each of the men was compiled by Dr Winston (Wink) WHITE, who lived his later years in Campton Road, Gravenhurst after he retired as a GP, practising in the Luton area. His father and older brother appear in the photograph above and in the narrative that follows.

I have further researched all the guard in the picture and contacted many of the families of the men. I set out below what I have found in the form of a vignette, combined with the facts supplied by Dr White. None of them are alive today - my father would probably have been one of the youngest on the photograph, aged twenty-one, and if alive, would be ninety-eight now. Hugh White was in fact the youngest guard as he would have been eighteen and Arthur KEMPSON would have been twenty.

During my research, I established that some of the men fought in the First World War - Reg BRADLEY, Dick ODELL, George REDMAN and Bert KEFFORD - and therefore automatically became Sergeants in the Home Guard. It is difficult to see in the photograph if all those men actually had Sergeant's stripes, perhaps obvious for Dick Odell and Bert Kefford.

The question has been asked 'where did the men do their training'? Unfortunately, I have been unable to establish the answer. Salisbury and Woolwich are places mentioned where training took place, also the local depot where the Battery was based afforded training of the local unit. It is understood the Battery was part of the Biggleswade Battalion, so it is possible training took place in that town.

My father - in the photograph above - referred to bayonet training, but I don't know where that took place. Every man in the guard was issued with a pike, apparently like a Sten gun, which were produced quickly and freely to enable rapid distribution.

One daughter of the guard remembers her father going away for a weekend for 'gas' training, but she doesn't know where! One of the sons of the guard said they did rifle/shooting practice using live bullets, in the gravel pit off Campton Road - somewhere we used to play as children and where wild violets and primroses grew in abundance.

There has also been the suggestion that practices took place in the fields off Clophill Road, on the way to Gravenhurst Lodge and Wrest Park because of the undulations and evidence of trenches in the terrain, but this has been discounted. Finally, it was suggested that training could have taken place in Ampthill Park as this is where training took place during the First World War, but I have not been able to find anything to substantiate this.

One family member remembers talk of an exercise in a 'railway tunnel' and when one guard - perhaps not on his own - was on duty at a railway tunnel. It is assumed this railway tunnel is near Southill on the former Bedford/Shefford/Hitchin line. A notice was displayed directing the Home Guard to go to the tunnel, which was thought to be a German ploy to get all the guards in one place!

During my research, I asked all those people I contacted regarding training of the guard and nobody really knew the answer, just a few remembered stories about the Gravenhurst Home Guard!

Seated Front Row - left to right:

Reginald (Reg) Hugh Bradley was born in 1908 in Podington, North Bedfordshire. He was the youngest of a family of twelve children and after his mother died when he was seven years old, his father who was a gardener, sought employment firstly at Hinwick House near Podington, then at Pirton Hall, Hertfordshire, just over the border from Shillington to where the family moved.

When he left school, he worked for a couple of different farmers including the SIMPKINS family of Shillington and then when he married, he moved to Ion Farm, in Lower Gravenhurst working for G W BOOTH and his son Ernest. Ernest Booth is mentioned later in this narrative. He continued to work at Ion Farm when Alan CHANDLER bought the farm in the early fifties and for Alan's son, Stephen, in later years.

Reg married Christine DYMOND from Pegsdon who used to go to school at Hexton with my father. They moved to Little Ion in Lower Gravenhurst then to a new house in Lower Gravenhurst next to The Kilns, provided by the Chandlers. They had two children, Raymond and Gloria – Gloria still plays the organ at the Methodist Chapel in Gravenhurst.

During his youth, Reg played football for Shillington and became a lifelong supporter of the Club and attended home games until he was no longer able to cycle to Shillington. He was a choirboy at All Saints Church, Shillington, and joined the Band of Hope at the Methodist Chapel in High Road, Shillington, and although he was tee-total, he never signed the pledge!. He was also keen on angling using facilities at the clay pit in Lower Gravenhurst, where he maintained the surrounding area and cleared the pathways.

In the Home Guard, Reg achieved the rank of Corporal.

Reg became depressed towards the end of his life and committed suicide by drowning in the bath at his daughter's home in Fielden whilst his daughter and son-in-law were at work. This was in January 1998 in Reg's ninetieth year.

Ernest (Dick) Odell was born 1898 and served in the First World War at the age of sixteen. He saw action in Gallipoli, a peninsula between the Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea where Allied troops landed in 1915 in an attack on Turkey – Dick was one of those troops. Because of this he was made a Sergeant in the Home Guard and his three stripes can be clearly seen in the photograph.

Initially, he was employed as a head jointer's mate for an electrical company in Luton where he used to work laying electrical services in the road. During the war he was employed as a tree feller for Henry BROWN in Luton and after the war he stoked the boilers at Wrest Park. Later he worked for Foster's in Hitchin.

He married Emily Louisa Redman (known as Lou) and lived in Shillington Road - called in the early days The Lane or Shillington Lane. They had two children Celia and John.

Dick died in 1979 aged eighty-one.

Ernest Booth lived at Ion Farm, Lower Gravenhurst with his wife and son and mother and father. Both Ernest and his father, G W Booth were Directors of J Lyons & Co and were based at Cadby Hall, in Hammersmith, London. J Lyons & Co became one of the largest food factories in the United Kingdom. The Lyons catering business expanded and so did the premises as new areas of production were launched, including tea, baked goods, meat and ice cream. Many people will remember Lyons Tea, Lyons Tea Shops, Lyons Corner Houses (in London) and Lyons Ice Cream.

The Booths used to commute to London whilst the farm was managed by Charles MISSELBROOK, Bailiff, who lived at The Kilns in Lower Gravenhurst.

Ernest Booth's son, Stephen Dion Booth, was killed in World War 2 and his death is commemorated on the War Memorial in Gravenhurst, outside St Giles' Church.

During the war, although Mr Booth held no rank, he was an advisor to the

Gravenhurst Home Guard.

The Booths lived at Ion Farm prior to Alan Chandler taking over the property in the nineteen fifties.

Christopher White originating from the Luton/Dunstable area, was born in the mid-1880s. He married Adeline PARRISH, the third child and eldest daughter of Adeline and Reuben Parrish.

Adeline's parents initially lived at Chestnut Tree House and then moved to the Post Office farther along the High Street. When they subsequently moved from the Post Office to CARTE's Farm to begin a farming enterprise, Adeline and Chris White moved to the Post Office where their son Hugh was born, but eventually moved back to Chestnut Tree House. They had another son Winston (Wink).

Chris was a pharmacist and in business in Luton; DUBERLEY and White, Chemists, in New Bedford Road between Mill Street and Bridge Street. There were also branches at Market Hill and Dunstable Road, Luton.

During his time in the Home Guard, he was Adjutant for the Battalion from 1944.

In his later years, Chris and Adeline moved to Luton where he died in 1965 – he was in his seventies.

Michael Henry FOSTER was born in 1914 in Little Wymondley, near Hitchin. He was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham and later went to Oxford University to study Forestry. He didn't complete the course as he realised there would be limited forestry opportunities overseas in the future.

Michael's father purchased FOWLER's Farm, formerly known as Town Farm, in the centre of Meppershall in 1936 for approximately £1,200. The sale included a 17th century farmhouse, which subsequently became Grade II listed in 1985, and included ninety acres of land. Initially they farmed it in partnership.

In 1941, some neighbouring land belonging to the GUDGIN brothers (descendants at Shefford Mill) came up for sale and was purchased by Michael, now farming on his own. This was Polehanger Farm on the outskirts of Meppershall with a total acreage of just under three-hundred acres.

In 1940 Michael applied to join the Royal Engineers but was rejected because farming was a reserved occupation, deemed of high importance to the war effort at home and he was already over the age of twenty-five. As a result, he joined the Home Guard and became a Lieutenant of the Gravenhurst Platoon in 1943. He met Queen Elizabeth (ie the Queen Mother) when she inspected the Biggleswade Battalion. Michael married Kathleen in 1948 and they moved to live at Polehanger in 1950.

They moved back to Fowler's Farm in 1982 in preparation for retirement.

Michael died in 2009, aged ninety-five.

George Redman was born in 1895 and brought up in The Lane, now known as Shillington Road. He married Lilian ANDERSON and it is assumed moved to Chapel Street (now High Street) - this is where they were both living at their demise. They were lifelong Methodists.

At this property in Chapel Street, there was a dairy where milk was delivered from Town Farm in Campton Road and sold and where butter was made for the retail trade. This was before milk was delivered to the village on a milk round. It is in this 'dairy' it is thought all equipment was stored – training equipment, guns and bayonets - for the Guard.

During the First World War, George was a dispatch rider and eventually a gunner in a 'Whippet' tank. He kept a war diary of his action in the First World War, but unfortunately, nothing regarding his time in the Home Guard.

I will include a very brief synopsis of his diary as it makes interesting reading. George joined the 5th Bedfordshire Regiment in April 1911 aged sixteen. He was discharged in April 1916 but re-joined in July 1916 – the reasons unknown. He went for 'drill' in Wrest Park, target practice at Millbrook and camps in Ampthill (presumably Ampthill Park), Bedford and Thetford in Norfolk.

I have already mentioned he was a dispatch rider, assumed to be on a bicycle, and took messages from the front to HQ – he records it being very dangerous with bullets flying everywhere! His time at the Battle of Cambrai, France – November to December 1917 (seventeen days) is recorded as being a gunner in the Whippet tank, the first time tanks were used in warfare and this was in the Allied offensive when his tank was tipped over in a trench and had to be righted by another tank!

He was demobbed in February 1918 and returned home via Boulogne and Southampton. Because of this conflict he was elevated to the rank of Sergeant during his time in the Home Guard.

Later George was employed by Bedfordshire County Council and became a Foreman in the Highways Department. He died in 1951 of a heart attack at the age of fifty-six.

Bertram (Bert) William Kefford was born in the cottages Albert Place in Shillington Road, Gravenhurst, in 1907. He was the second child of Ada and William Kefford. Bert attended the village school and upon leaving he worked at Rectory Farm in Lower Gravenhurst and then for many years for Bedfordshire County Council, at times driving a steam roller in the local villages. In 1952 Bert went to work for the National Institute for Agricultural Engineering at Wrest Park, Silsoe, in the Agricultural Machinery Workshop where he stayed until ill health forced him to take early retirement in 1966.

Bert married Doris CLARK of Potton in 1932 and they lived in Gravenhurst all

their lives, initially in Barton Road and then The Pyghtle. He was a lifelong member of the Methodist Chapel and was at times Choirmaster, Trustee and Steward. He was a member of the Parish Council for forty years and was Chairman for many. He was also a member of the Recreation Ground Committee of which he held the post of Secretary for some years.

In his youth Bert enjoyed playing football and learned to play the tenor horn. During his time serving in the Home Guard, he was also a member of the Comforts Fund Committee organising dances, beetle drives and whist drives to provide funds for village men who were in the forces during the war. In the Home Guard, Bert achieved the rank of Corporal.

Bert died at the Lister Hospital, Hitchin of a coronary condition in 1968.

Standing Middle Row - left to right:

Charlie Kempson was a mate of my father's and worked for Parrish Bros at Higham Gobion. He was born in 1919. He played cricket for Gravenhurst and was the opening batsman. Charlie was a well-built man and had the strength of an ox - it is remembered that he lifted a two-hundredweight sack in each arm from the ground to above his head as a bet and he could throw bales of straw to a stack nine/ten bales high! He also had a rich baritone singing voice.

Charlie tragically died at the age of forty, when he fell over the back of the tractor he was driving (presumably a premature heart attack) at Higham Gobion having taken over from Richard Parrish the son of Ken Parrish, also mentioned in this narrative. He was dragged by the tine harrows and bled to death!

My father was called by his worried father and he went to investigate and found him dead! Very sad - he left an old father living in The Pyghtle. Charlie died in March 1959 just three months after his brother Arthur.

Alfred (Alf) FISHER was born in Gravenhurst in 1905 and brought up in the village. He married Louie Odell, sister to all the male Odells mentioned in this article. They lived in the High Street and had one daughter Beryl.

Alf was a tree feller during the war along with his cousin, Henry Fisher and Henry's father Harry of Campton Road – Henry was also in the Home Guard at the same time as Alf. They all worked in Ashridge Park, Buckinghamshire, which was part of the Wrest Park Estate.

After the war, he was employed by Bedfordshire County Council in the Highways Department and ultimately, until his retirement, in the Parks Department of the County Borough of Luton.

Alf died of a heart attack in 1976 aged seventy-one.

Hugh White was the son of Christopher White, the pharmacist, who appears early in this narrative. He was born in 1926 at the Post Office in Gravenhurst, which would put him at about eighteen in the photograph.

Hugh married Dorothy SMITH from Marquis Hill, Shillington and they had

two children, Graham and Caroline.

At the time of the Home Guard, Hugh was a farm labourer – probably correct in the 1940s, but he was then employed at Manor Farm, Higham Gobion by his uncles, Ken and Jack Parrish. He then had his own farm, initially in Wood End, Marston Moreteyne, trading as Parrish & White, then at Strawberry Hill Farm at Knotting Green in north Bedfordshire.

He died in 2016 aged ninety years. He would have been the last survivor of those men in the Gravenhurst Home Guard. His son and daughter have taken over the farm as their mother, Dorothy, has recently died.

Frank Redman was born in Gravenhurst in about 1911/12 and lived in Hillside Farm with his parents, Reuben and Emily (nee STAGNALL). Reuben rented the farm from the Stagnalls where there were ten acres of land which they, Reuben and Frank, cultivated in business together. They used to source potatoes locally and from the Fens and sold to local shops, particularly fish and chip shops. They had one lorry for deliveries. Although he was considered to be a farmer, it was really market gardening where his main business evolved. He was also employed by Bedfordshire County Council, where with a horse and cart, he repaired roads taking infill to sites to fill in the ruts.

He married Phyllis DOWNING from Flitton and together they had a property built on adjoining land in Campton Road, to be known as Hillside. It was here that their sons Francis (Rex) and Jeffrey (Jeff) were born.

Later they built College Farm in Lower Gravenhurst where the adjacent land was used for market gardening, producing such crops as peas, beans, carrots and other root vegetables. The occasional field was used to grow wheat and barley. He became very successful with his sons Rex and Jeff who carried on the business (Frank Redman and Sons) after his death. His grandsons and great grandsons are now continuing the business.

It is thought he attained the rank of private in the Home Guard.

Frank died in 1987, aged seventy-five.

Arthur Kempson was born in 1921 and lived in The Pyghtle with his father and brother Charlie - they had two sisters. He might also have been called Ron. I don't think Arthur ever worked as he always appeared very sickly and came from a typical 'TB' (tuberculosis) family of the age. He died in January 1959 just before his brother Charlie. His father outlived both him and Charlie!

Kenneth (Ken) Parrish was born in Gravenhurst in 1907, a member of the Parrish dynasty. He was one of thirteen children (although twelve survived to maturity) of Adeline and Reuben Parrish who lived at Carte's Farm Gravenhurst. Adeline and Reuben had previously lived at Chestnut Tree House and the Post Office in High Street and it was at the Post Office where some of the children, including Ken, were born.

He initially farmed with his brother Jack at New Farm, Streatley, then at

Aubers Farm, Lower Sundon before moving to Manor Farm, Higham Gobion.

Ken and Jack married two sisters – Beryl and Marion HEADY, respectively. Both families lived in the farmhouse at Higham Gobion – Jack and Marion with their three children and Ken and Beryl with their three children – Richard, Corin and Genevieve (known as Jenny).

Whilst at Aubers Farm, Ken joined the Sundon Home Guard and then transferred to the Gravenhurst Home Guard, having connections with Gravenhurst – there was no such guard at Higham Gobion. Ken refused to salute his commanding officer as he knew the man, but in defiance, saluted an effigy in the yard – perhaps just a stick dressed up!

Ken continued to farm at Higham Gobion and died there in 1979, aged seventy one.

Reginald (Reg) WEST, my father, was born in 1922 and originated from Pegsdon, near Shillington. He went to Hexton School and could have gone to Hitchin Grammar School, but his parents couldn't afford to send him.

After leaving school, he went to work at Foster's in Hitchin and then became a farm labourer for Mr DALE of Green End Farm in Pegsdon. At this time he also worked in the Hexton woods where he met my mother Gladys LEECH, who was a Lumber Jill in the Women's' Timber Corps. She was from Liverpool and they married there in 1943. For a very short time after, at the end of 1943, he went to work in Milton Ernest before obtaining employment with Arthur YOUNG at Carte's Farm in Campton Road, Gravenhurst.

I was born just after the war and my sister, Doreen, some years later. We lived in a tied cottage in Campton Road until my father bought a cottage farther along Campton Road where my mother lived until she died.

For about six months he worked for Bedfordshire County Council Highways but hated it!

When we moved from the tied cottage, he was then employed as a lorry driver by Parrish Brothers at Higham Gobion. In 1964 he started his own business running a mobile greengrocery round in Luton and Hitchin, sourcing some of his produce from his own garden. He retired in 1983 and died in 2006 aged eighty-three, having lived in Gravenhurst for two-thirds of his life.

In the Home Guard photograph, he would have been twenty-one and it is very strange that he is standing next to Ken Parrish who later became his employer!

Len Odell was a member of the large Odell family of Gravenhurst and married Lilian BOTTOMS (another Gravenhurst family). They lived in Clophill Road for all the time I knew them, and they had one daughter Peggy.

He was employed initially at Cainhoe Park Farm with Bob Anderson and then as a roadman for the Highways Department, Bedfordshire County Council.

Standing Back Row - left to right:

Arthur BUSHBY was born in 1903 to Fred and Emily Bushby in Clophill. When he left school, he became a farm labourer in Clophill but later became a roadman for Bedfordshire County Council.

He married Grace TWYDELL (d. 1966 aged 59 yrs.) in November 1929 and lived at 33 High Street where his daughter Doreen was born in January 1932.

At some time during this period, he bought a large plot of land in Clophill Road, Gravenhurst and had a house built. It was in 1935 that the family moved to Clophill Road and later a bungalow was built next door for his and Grace's retirement but was never occupied by Grace. Arthur did live in the bungalow for a couple of years after Grace's death.

During the Second World War Arthur joined the Home Guard and, his daughter Doreen, remembers it being said that her mother was very worried as he went on exercises to receive training in gas warfare – possibly to Bedford.

Later, he became a Foreman in the Highways Department of Bedfordshire County Council operating in the Biggleswade Area.

After becoming widowed he moved to Cedar Close in Ampthill and at some stage remarried. He died reaching his 90th year.

Arthur James (Jimmy) RUTLAND was my wife's grandmother's brother and his family lived next door to the house my parents bought in Campton Road. He was born in 1887 and fought in the First World War at Ypres and we have his medals in our possession. He told of the horrendous conditions of the battles.

He married Florence GOODHALL from Campton in 1913 and had one daughter Doris. She was for many years the village postwoman delivering letters and parcels on her bicycle in all weathers. At the time of his marriage, his 'rank or profession' was given as market gardener, as was his father!

Ultimately, Jimmy laboured for a number of different employers – Arthur Young and Frank Redman, previously mentioned – but was nick-named 'Dodger' as I think he used to 'dodge' work!!

He lived in Campton Road until his death in 1971, aged eighty-four.

Arthur HYTE lived at Gravenhurst Lodge on the bridleway between Gravenhurst and Silsoe. He was employed at Wrest Park as a gamekeeper. I remember Mrs HYTE - she used to ride a bicycle into the village and featured in village activities, but I don't remember her husband.

Bob Anderson was born at Cainhoe Park Farm, off the Clophill Road in 1914 to Mary Eva and Fred Anderson. Bob had a younger brother Frank who was tragically killed when attending a hay cart, the horse bolted, and Frank did not survive.

His grandfather George Anderson took the leases of both Cainhoe Park Farm and Town Farm in Campton Road in 1911 and traded as George Anderson and Sons. Bob's father Fred, lived at Cainhoe Park and his brother Charles at Town Farm, eventually George purchased their respective properties in 1918.

Bob married during the war an evacuee from Walthamstow, called Joan Jesse TURNER who had been billeted in Clophill Road. Unfortunately, Joan became ill with tuberculosis whilst carrying their son David who was born in 1949. The prognosis was not good for Joan, which eventually led to her leaving the farm in about 1950 and divorcing Bob soon after.

At this time David was cared for his grandparents Eva and Fred, who by now were living in Chapel Street (High Street) in the village of Gravenhurst. Bob continued to farm Cainhoe Park Farm with the help of local full and part-time labour.

Bob later married Peg DAVIES, a former landlady of the Green Dragon, in about 1962 and they moved back into the village in 1978/79 to the semi-detached house in which his grandparents had built and lived in earlier. He continued to work the land for a short time, eventually, leasing to local contractors.

He died at Gravenhurst in 1992.

Clifford (Cliff) DAVIES was a Gravenhurst lad, born in 1920, who married a girl who was a distant relative of my wife. She was Joan ETHERIDGE and at one time, lived in Gravenhurst, then Silsoe. When Cliff and Joan married in 1945, they lived initially in the cottages between the shop and St Giles Church, then they moved to Parkside, a new development off Clophill Road. They had one son Brian, born in 1949.

Cliff loved cricket and used to play for Gravenhurst as a bowler. Joan and Cliff used to dance and at one time, danced in the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool.

Ultimately, they moved to Queens Park, Bedford where they lived until Cliff's untimely death of a heart attack in 1980 at the age of fifty-nine.

From school, Cliff was apprenticed in Luton as a tool maker and at the time of the photograph was employed by Electrolux in Luton. Later he worked at Wrest Park, Silsoe and for Skefco and Vauxhall in Luton. It was while he was working for Vauxhall that he transferred to the Bedford Plant in Ampthill Road, Bedford.

Frederick (Joe) Odell was always known as and called Joe - he was born in 1910.

Although Joe was around for a lot of my life, I don't know much about him! He was very knowledgeable about village matters and wrote a book about the village and its people in long-hand and illustrated it in his own hand.

It has been said that the 'live' bullets used in target practice became 'surplus to

requirements' and Joe would use them to kill rabbits for use as food as meat was scarce and rationed during the war – he was apparently a crack-shot!

He never married and lived in The Pyghtle, where he had lived initially with his father, next door to his brother Alf (not featured in the photograph). He worked as a forester for the Forestry Commission at Maulden Wood and grew Christmas trees in his very large garden and on his allotment. He also bred Jack Russell terriers.

Joe died in January 1990, aged seventy-nine.

Ken COOPER, unfortunately, I know very little about Ken. I remember he lived with his elderly mother in Barton Road, marrying later in life. When he married Beryl, he moved to Clophill Road, where their daughter Sarah was born. Ken and Beryl both died when Sarah was very young.

Ken worked for a number of different employers, finishing up at Vauxhalls in Luton.

He was a keen cricketer and played as batsman for Gravenhurst.

Henry Fisher was born in Campton Road, Gravenhurst in 1909, Henry lived in his early years in the family home two doors from my parents. As a young man he was very friendly with my wife's father – they were of the same age.

He started working after school at Wrest Park with his father Harry (also Henry), tree felling and then went to Ashridge Park in Buckinghamshire, which was part of the de Grey Estate, again tree felling for furniture manufacture. Later he worked for Brown's Timber Yard in Crawley Road, Luton, again with his father. At this time in the early 1920s, he owned a motor vehicle which was quite unique at the time and he was therefore able to drive wherever to his employment. Eventually he was employed by Frank Redman & Sons in market gardening, although Bedfordshire County Council commissioned vehicles from Frank Redman and Henry carried out highway maintenance etc, until his untimely death in about 1965/66.

He married Hilda GUY, and they originally lived with his parents in Campton Road. They then moved to High Street at which time he bought an ex-prefabricated bungalow, erected it on land next to where his parents lived and had it bricked and tiled to form a substantial bungalow. He lived there for the rest of his life.

I hope you will find the article of interest, particularly as we are celebrating an important milestone of the end of the War. Perhaps some of you are members of the family of the men who served in the Gravenhurst Home Guard? □

LIBRARY NEWS

John Partridge, Librarian

Beds FHS Facebook page

In September's *Journal* I reported that we had 879 'likes' as at 15 July 2020. We passed the 900 'likes' barrier on 29 September and continue to attract more people and now have 908 'likes' and 1024 followers as at 28 October 2020. If you have a quick query or anything of interest regarding your Bedfordshire ancestors then why not message us or drop us a Visitors Post and we will hope to respond with an answer.

Recent Acquisitions

Class 1

Bedfordshire Inns & Pubs in old picture postcards, Sandy Chrystal (Reflections of Bygone Age, 2001).

Class 1

Bedford by the River in old picture postcards, Sandy Chrystal (Reflections of Bygone Age, 2001).

Class 1

Bedfordshire at Play in old picture postcards, Sandy Chrystal (Reflections of Bygone Age, 2001).

Another three booklets in the Yesterday's Bedfordshire series of picture postcards featuring scenes of daily life from the past century taken from the Sandy Chrystal collection. With each having over 60 black and white photographs from all over the county with informative text, these are very interesting booklets.

Class 1

Lost Villages of Bedfordshire, Dick Dawson (Streets Publishing, 2007)

This book tells the story of seventeen 'lost villages' within the county with a chapter devoted to each community, with a brief history, drawing on local sources, explaining the reason for the settlement's decline and fall, and providing interesting snippets of information as well as a useful guide as to what is to see there. □

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

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INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you have any photographs of interest to Family Historians that you would be willing to share with our members and the general public?

We are always looking to enhance our web site (and *Journal*), so if you do have a relevant photograph(s) and you are willing to have it/them listed on the BFHS web page on our 'Local Interest/Photographs' page, please forward them to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** together with a short descriptive text about the photo.

Peter Sharp, Treasurer



BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

Family and Local History Research (including Probate Transcriptions)
undertaken by

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See also details of the **Surnames Index CD** to all parishes

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes are now available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society,

PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX

or **bookstall@bfhs.org.uk** – details of CD contents: **www.bfhs.org.uk**

Each CD contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 (images)

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

Baptisms at least 1813-1851 (some parishes all up to 1851);

all Marriages up to 1837; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire (images)

CDs marked † also contain *Monumental Inscriptions* (MIs) from a graveyard in the parish (church, chapel or cemetery).

Those marked * contain *records from the registers or graveyards of Non-Conformist chapels* in the parish;

photographs and other records are included as available.

‡ **Holwell**: MIs and Burials only, not Registers (now in Herts)

Parish	Price	Issue	(Recent updates marked in bold)	Price	Issue
Amptill † *	£15	2	Clifton	£20	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Clophill †	£15	3
Aspley Guise †	£15	3	Cockayne Hatley	£10	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Colmworth †	£10	2
Barton	£15	3	Cople †	£10	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Cranfield † *	£15	2
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Dean † *	£15	1
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Dunstable † *	£15	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Biddenham †	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Elstow †	£15	2
Billington †	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	1
Bletsoe	£10	2	Everton	£10	2
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Bolnhurst	£10	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bromham †	£10	3	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Flitton *	£15	3
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Flitwick	£10	2
Cardington † *	£15	2	Goldington	£10	2
Carlton † *	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
Chalgrave	£15	2	Harlington †	£10	2
Chellington	£15	2	Harrold *	£10	2
Clapham †	£10	3	Haynes †	£20	2

Parish	Price	Issue	(Recent updates marked in bold)	Price	Issue
Henlow †	£10	2	Riseley	£10	2
Higham Gobion	£10	2	Roxton † *	£10	2
Hockliffe † *	£10	2	Salford †	£10	2
Holwell † ‡	£5	1	Sandy † *	£15	1
Houghton Conquest † *	£15	1	Sharnbrook	£10	2
Houghton Regis *	£15	2	Shelton †	£10	1
Hulcote †	£10	2	Shillington †	£15	2
Husborne Crawley †	£20	2	Souldrop †	£10	2
Kempston	£15	3	Southill † *	£20	2
Kensworth †	£15	2	Stagsden †	£15	1
Keysoe † *	£15	2	Stanbridge *	£10	2
Knotting	£10	2	Steppingley †	£10	2
Langford	£15	2	Stevington † *	£10	2
Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	4	Stotfold † *	£10	2
Lidlington †	£10	2	Streatley †	£10	2
Little Barford †	£10	1	Studham	£15	1
Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Lower Gravenhurst	£10	2	Sutton	£15	2
Luton † *	£30	2	Swineshead †	£10	2
Marston Moretaine †	£15	2	Tempsford †	£10	2
Maulden † *	£15	1	Thurleigh	£10	1
Melchbourne †	£10	1	Tilbrook	£10	2
Meppershall †	£10	1	Tilsworth † *	£10	1
Millbrook	£15	2	Tingrith †	£10	2
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Toddington † *	£15	2
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Totternhoe *	£15	2
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Oakley †	£10	2	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	1
Odell †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	1
Old Warden †	£15	2	Westoning †	£10	2
Pavenham	£10	2	Whipsnade †	£10	1
Pertenhall	£15	1	Wilden †	£15	1
Podington	£15	1	Willington †	£10	1
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Potton † *	£20	2	Woburn † *	£20	1
Pulloxhill	£10	2	Wootton	£15	2
Ravensden †	£10	2	Wrestlingworth †	£15	2
Renhold	£10	2	Wymington	£10	1
Ridgmont † *	£15	2	Yelden †	£10	1

Prices include UK or overseas post and packing. The cost of a full set of Parish CDs is £1,250.

Some baptism indexes only cover the period 1813-1851, but as more stocks are needed, they will be updated to include the full period from the start of registers. This also applies to the issue of new MI listings. Any revised CDs will be indicated by the **issue number**. Complete details of the content of each CD may be found on the Society website: www.bfhs.org.uk □



Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

Specialists in genealogy, family and house history research in
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Our lead researcher is Vicki Manners a qualified genealogist who is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of **AGRA**.

Her qualifications include:

- M.A. in Local History
- P.G. Cert. in Family and Local History
- P.G. Dip. in Archive Management

Vicki has worked for Bedfordshire Archives, The Panacea Museum, and several other heritage organisations in Bedfordshire thus giving her a unique and specialist knowledge of genealogy, family and house history records relating to Bedfordshire.

Vicki also specialises in genetic genealogy. She can therefore advise you on which tests are most suitable for your research aims, as well as help you interpret to your DNA results and matches.

We offer a free, no obligation initial consultation. To find out more telephone: 07976 718624

www.bedfordshireresearch.co.uk

MEETINGS AND TALKS VIA ZOOM

Peter Sharp

Have you joined one of talks via Zoom yet? If yes, we thank you for your participation. If no, then why not give the next one a try, it is easier than you think. Some guidance is shown below.

You can log into a zoom meeting to see and hear the presentation even if your device (Computer, Tablet or Smart phone) does not have a camera or microphone camera.

Provided that we have a current email address for you, you will receive an invitation by email from me (treasurer@bfhs.org.uk) giving you the log-in details.

As an example, the invitation for the October meeting looked like this:

=====
Monthly talk Friday 9th October 2020

Peter Sharp is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BFHS October talk by Celia Heritage
Time: Oct 9, 2020 07:00 PM London time
'Tracing a 16th and 17th century family tree'

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81533966365?pwd=YXlGY0lVYnVadXdmM0RDbnF5ZjQ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 815 3396 6365 (ignore Spaces)

Passcode: CH@BFHS (case sensitive)

=====

Just check that the long link finishes in Zz09 as some times the software, that I use to send the invitation, puts the 09 in a separate line.

If you have not used Zoom before, you will need to load the application on your device.

When you try to join the meeting, zoom will offer you the chance to download the app, or you could go to your normal app store in advance of the meeting. We suggest installing the app at least one day before the meeting. Some links are shown below:

1. Please install Zoom. This is really easy to do and saves time when you join your first meeting:

https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

2. You can then test your computer, tablet or phone setup, webcam and audio before the meeting

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362283-Testing-computer-or-device-audio>

3. You may want to sign up for a free zoom account:

<https://zoom.us/signup>

The free zoom account allows you to have unlimited time on a 1 to 1 basis or 40 minutes with up to 100 participants.

4. You may want to join a test meeting to check out your internet connection, camera and microphone: <https://zoom.us/test>

Once you have the zoom application on your device, then click on the long link and it should take you straight into the meeting. The long link ending in Zz09 includes the password.

Alternatively you could open your web browser and either, copy and paste the long link into the URL bar across the top of your screen, or type in the first part of the link. In the October meeting example this would have been <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81533966365>.

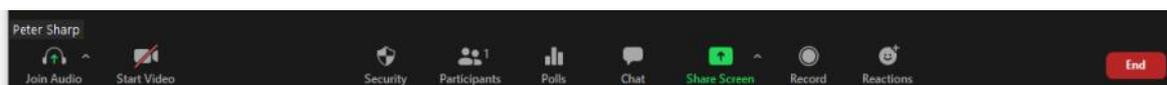
It will then ask you for a password which, in this example, was **CH@BFHS**.

If you cannot hear anything then please check that your device speaker is on/turned up.

When you join a zoom meeting we would appreciate it if you display your name as it makes it more personal and friendly.

Once the meeting starts we will normally mute all the participants to save on background noise when the Speaker is talking but you can unmute yourself if necessary by clicking on the 'Join Audio' button normally found at the bottom-left of your screen.

On a PC just move your mouse to see the Zoom controls. On a tablet, you may need to tap on your image to see the various controls.



Please note that, it helps with the quality of the connection, by reducing the band width, if you stop the video feed of your camera. Again you can start the video if you wish. The host (BFHS) can also turn off your video for you.

In any Question and Answer session at the end of the talk, you can either unmute yourself to ask a verbal question or use the 'Chat' function to type a question.

The invitation to the next Zoom talk is also shown in the Member's Portal of our website www.bfhs.org.uk. Any recordings of previous meetings may also be found in the portal.

I hope that the above may have given you some encouragement to join one of our zoom talks if you have not already done so.

MEMBERS' PROFILES

Every effort is made to transcribe correctly the interests supplied by members but where hand-written details are provided errors may occur, for which we apologise. It would help greatly if all interests were either typed or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. When writing to a member please include a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupons, and it is only polite to reply even if no connection appears to exist.

CORRECTION

The membership number for James Isard should be 4335 and not 4225 as given in the September *Journal*. □

SUGGESTION BOX

Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members and following the useful responses from the recent Members' Questionnaire, we thought how could we keep the ideas coming.

So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at bfhs@bfhs.org.uk.

Your committee appreciates any help, ideas or suggestions that you may have regarding any aspect of the BFHS organisation. □

BFHS Committee



WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

Send to journal@bfhs.org.uk

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page in the single-column format takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page.

No need to worry if you are not used to writing, we are here to help. Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort.

Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward. If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to journal@bfhs.org.uk. □

MEMBERS DON'T MISS OUT!

The Friday night meetings of the BFHS offer members instructive, interesting and often amusing talks on subjects that fascinate all interested in history and genealogy in general, and are usually particularly relevant to those with a Bedfordshire heritage.

We do not know when we will be able to hold our meetings at Mark Rutherford School again, but when we can, we look forward to seeing you in person again.



BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are now being sold to raise funds.

These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to Lynn Manning at:



secretary@bfhs.org.uk,

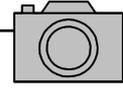
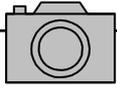
or by post to Lynn at:
38 Risborough, Road, Bedford, MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.

For UK orders please add postage and packing as follows:

- Up to 2 tea towels add £1.50
- 3 to 6 tea towels add £3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering.

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.



PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED !

Are you a BFHS member with a digital camera or smart-phone? If so could you take some photographs of nearby villages to add to the parish CD? Although we have now published a CD with data for all 128 ancient parishes, some have no photographs, or very few.

We need pictures of the parish church, interesting buildings and local sights. The following have no photographs at present. So if you live nearby or are visiting, why not take your camera along?

Battlesden, Clifton, Edworth, Flitton, Higham Gobion, Holwell, Husborne Crawley, Kensworth, Leighton Buzzard including Eggington and Heath & Reach, Potsgrove, Stanbridge, Streatley, Studham, Sundon, Tilsworth, Upper Stondon, Whipsnade

If you think that you can help, please contact Mark Tresidder by email at:
parishcd@bfhs.org.uk



A CD TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANCESTORS



BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers then they will appear on our SURNAMES CD.

Over one million entries showing surname, forename, year, parish and event. Only £10 including UK P&P, available from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX Enquiries to bookstall@bfhs.org.uk.

STOP PRESS NEWS: A revised issue of the SURNAMES CD will be available to download for FREE from the BFHS website sometime in January 2021.

WHERE TO FIND US

Correspondence for the Executive Committee should be addressed to the appropriate person and sent to:

Bedfordshire Family History Society

**PO Box 214
BEDFORD
MK42 9RX**

Internet: www.bfhs.org.uk
Email: bfhs@bfhs.org.uk
Web Sales: www.genfair.co.uk
www.parishchest.com

The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk	Society Chairman & Information Manager
secretary@bfhs.org.uk	Society Secretary
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Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society,
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(1 January - 31 December)

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Overseas supplement worldwide printed journal – Surface mail = £6; Total:£14.00

Overseas supplement USA/Canada printed journal – Airmail = £10; Total: £18.00

Overseas supplement Australia/New Zealand printed journal Airmail = £12; Total: £20.00

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2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

If you have any questions or concerns over the data held, please contact the Information Manager.

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