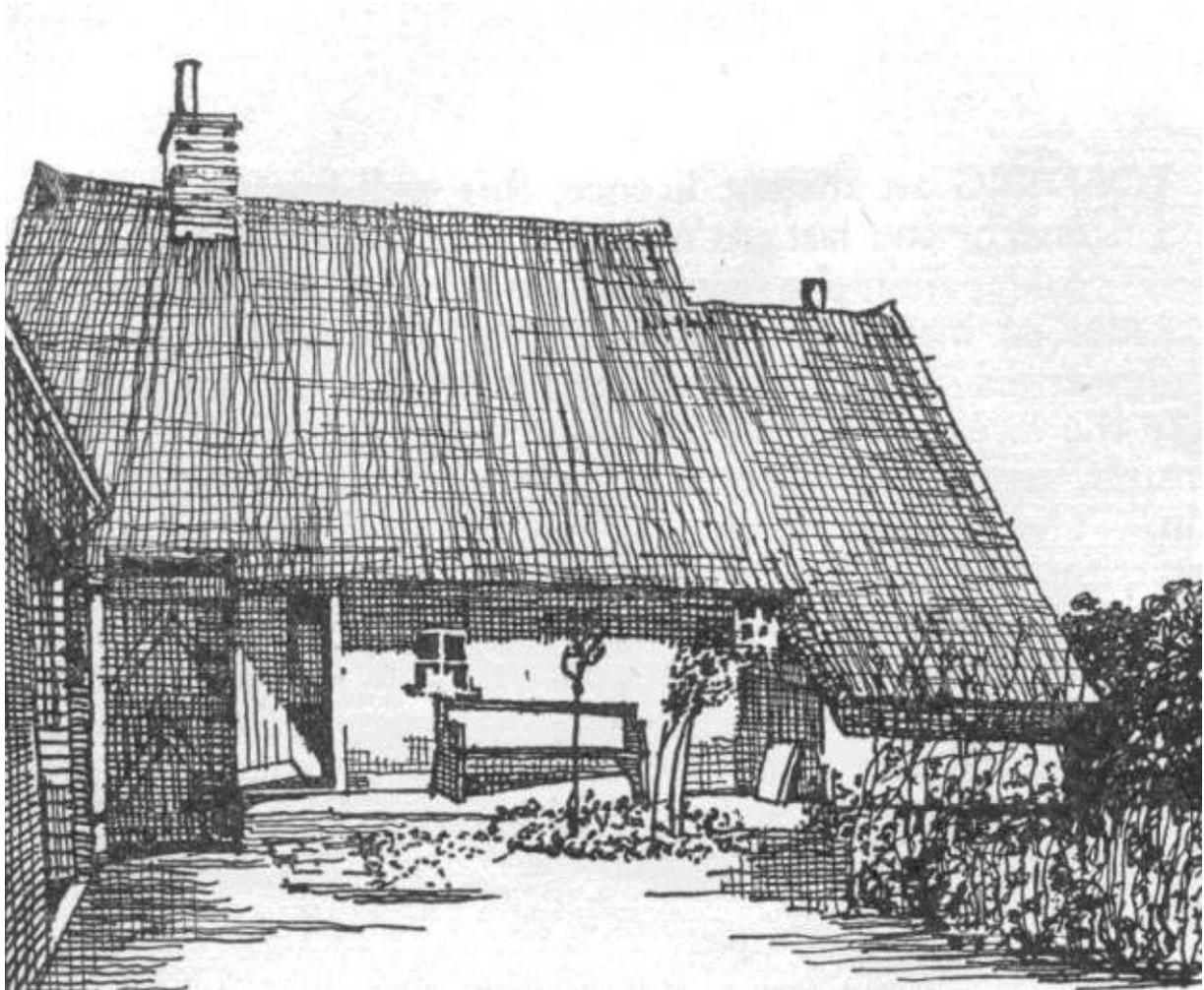


**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 23 No 2 Jun 2021



Sunny Corner at Little Staughton

**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

A member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Founded 1977

Registered Charity No. 281677

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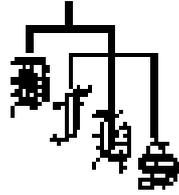
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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

The Crown Inn at Little Staughton, seen from the garden, makes a pleasing picture with its typical Bedfordshire thatch and its nook which catches the sunshine. Part of the roof (seen on the right of the sketch) comes very low, and this serves a useful purpose, for it shades the cellar and keeps the beer cool and gives the house a good name.

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

Taking the short 20 minute drive north from our home in Bedford saw us in Little Staughton at the site of ‘Sunny Corner’ or The Crown Inn. Having googled this before making the trip we were not disappointed to find the old



thatched pub gone and replaced in 1974 by a typical seventies style brick building. The old building having been destroyed by fire. As you can see from the photo, it is well set back off the road with large parking and garden space.

Interestingly at the entrance to the car park is a memorial to ‘Little Staughton 1 Airfield’ alongside of which is a notice board with a map of a walk around the village. If you are unable to visit the Inn, close up photos of the memorial and map can be seen on the Inn website <http://thecrownstaughton.com>. Take the walk and pass the lovely church of All Saints (pictured), moat and earthworks and beautiful views of open country side. Just what we all need at present, so get out and enjoy. □



BRIMLEYS IN BEDFORD GAOLS 1813-1855

Dr Colin R Chapman

In a previous article I had mentioned my ancestral links with the BRIMLEY family in Harrold. In a throw-away line I had written that at least one Brimley was in Bedford Gaol. On closer examination of the Bedfordshire Archives and Record Service on-line catalogue, I discovered six Brimley males being brought (one of them twice) before magistrates and ending up in a Bedford gaol between 1813 and 1855. The catalogue alone, not my even having to visit the Archives' search room (in any case, impossible for me under COVID-19 restrictions), offered physical descriptions of each individual such as height, hair colour and complexion, and also their age, residence, offence, sentence passed, dates of trial, comital (and by whom), and release, and behaviour while in the identified gaol. Additional research in my own books on Bedfordshire, added to the picture and is included here.

In 1813, for example, John Brimley (b 1798) aged 15 from Moggerhanger, a hamlet in Cardington parish, was a mere 4ft 10in tall, with light brown hair and a fair complexion when committed on 15 November 1813 by James WEBSTER, Clerk (of Meppershall), for stealing faggots. His case was not heard until 12 January 1814, when he was found not guilty and immediately acquitted. In that era Christmas was probably scarcely celebrated by a rural family, but I wonder what affect a term of eight winter weeks in Bedford County Gaol had on this teenager separated, seemingly unjustly, from his family. To his credit, his behaviour was recorded as orderly. [BLARS QGV10/1; record ID 1236]. For those readers who enjoy inconsequencia, there is a 4ft x 3ft portrait of Rev James Webster in St John's College Cambridge, of which he was a Fellow and benefactor.

In contrast, Thomas Brimley (b 1803) aged 24 also from Moggerhanger was 5ft 9½in tall, with brown hair, grey eyes, a fair complexion and a long face, was committed on 26 September 1827 by Rev Frederick Henry NEVE (of Old Warden) for misbehaviour in service. No wonder Thomas had a long face; he had to spend one calendar month undergoing hard labour in Bedford's New House of Correction, some of that time on the treadmill. That seems to me only productive if the mill was connected to a mechanism which utilised his efforts effectively, but perhaps renewable energy was not entertained in Bedford in that era. He was discharged on 25 October 1827 having displayed good behaviour whilst incarcerated. [BLARS QGV11/1; record ID 14647]

George Brimley of Cople (b 1789) was aged 38 when committed on 16 October 1827 to Bedford's Old House of Correction by Rev Dr Robert MOORE (of Thurleigh) to one month hard labour for leaving his family. He was 5ft 3in tall, had brown hair and a fresh complexion. He behaved well during his detention until 15 November 1817. Being of below average height, even for a rural worker at this time period, perhaps gave him little opportunity for aggressive behaviour in prison; or maybe he had turned over a new leaf and went back to his family a reformed character. [BLARS QGV10/1; record ID 3886]

George Brimley (b 1772) also of Cople though possibly from the previous generation to the above George, was 57 when committed on 12 September 1829 to Bedford's Old House of Correction by Rev Dr Philip HUNT (of Willington), but for only three weeks hard labour for similarly leaving his family. He was 5ft 5in tall, and had brown hair and a sallow complexion. His behaviour was stated to be good while in prison and he was discharged on 2 October 1829. [BLARS QGV10/1; record ID 4314] However, three years later, this George obviously not a reformed character, was back before the magistrate; on this occasion he was committed as a rogue and vagabond by Thomas Charles HIGGINS Esq (of Turvey and later Chairman of the County Quarter Sessions), once more to Bedford's Old House of Correction, for one calendar month and discharged on 7 October 1832. He had been orderly during his imprisonment. [BLARS QGV10/1; record ID 4898]

John Brimley (b 1817) of Harrowden was still a minor aged 18 when committed on 28 February 1835 by George P LIVIUS Esq (a former Bedford mayor in 1828 and President of the Bedford Whig Benefit Club) to Bedford Gaol for one calendar month with hard labour for an offence or offences under the contemporary Game Laws. Although the 1831 Game Act had come into force a few years previously, possibly John was not aware of its provisions or considered they did not apply to him: maybe he had acquired or sold game out of season or did not have a valid Game Licence. He was 5ft 5in tall with brown hair, hazel eyes, a fresh complexion and had a small mole under his left eye. He was discharged on 27 March 1835 having displayed orderly behaviour while in the gaol. [BLARS QGV10/1; record ID 5468]

James Brimley (b 1813) from Cardington, but living in Bedford as a labourer, was aged 42, married with two children when summarily committed on 28 September 1855 by Charles Higgins Esq and Henry LEECH Esq (both former Mayors of Bedford, Leech in 1847 and Higgins, founder of Bedford's Higgins Brewery, in 1848) to Bedford's New House of Correction for 21 days for assault. James was 5ft 10in tall with brown hair, hazel eyes, a dark complexion and an oval visage. [BLARS QGV10/3; record ID 12543] A separate record of the same hearing states this James Brimley was in Bedford County Gaol, had no previous convictions and was offered an alternative sentence of paying a fine. He was discharged on 18 October 1855. [BLARS QGV12/1; record ID 21316]

Now all I have to do is determine if any or all of these men are related to me, or maybe prove that none of them is a direct relation. I do know that my 4x great grandfather, John Brimley (1753-1843) and his wife Mary Elizabeth (née SMITH), in Cople, had at least 48 grandchildren scattered around Bedfordshire and beyond, so there's a high probability that there's a connection or two, somewhere. It is obviously back to the catalogue, the Archives or perhaps elsewhere on the internet. □

THE LANCASTER/JOHNSON FAMILIES OF BEDFORDSHIRE

Wendy Varvell

A brief insight into my very special Bedfordshire heritage.

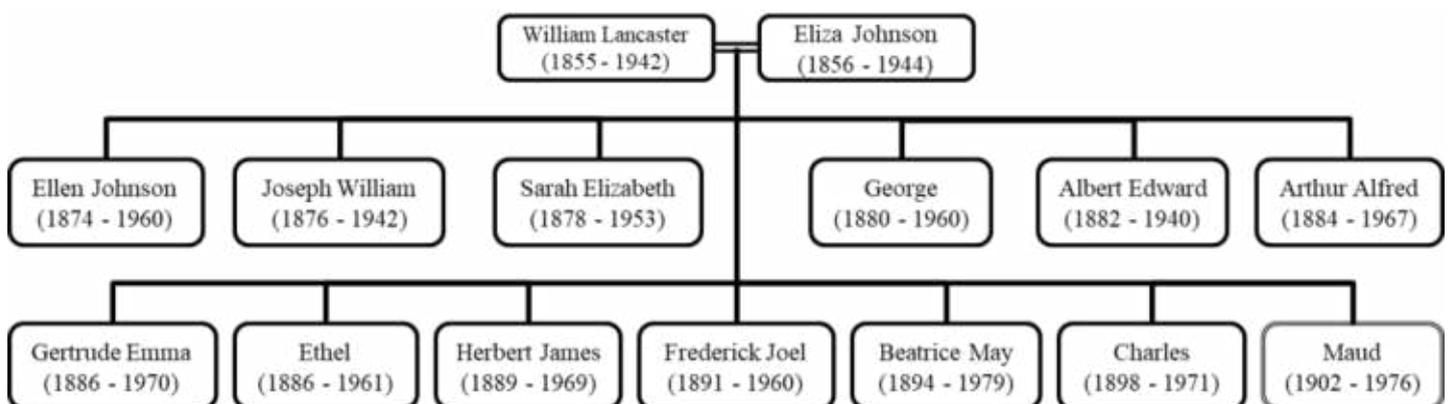
My grandfather, William LANCASTER, was born 166 years ago, in 1855, in Moor End, Kempston. My grandmother, Eliza JOHNSON was born 165 years ago, in 1856, in Church End, Biddenham. I guess not many people can say that they can go so far back in only two generations. However can that be? My interest in Bedfordshire family history has been motivated over many years by this amazing fact - both my grandparents were born when Queen Victoria had only been on the throne for 20 years and in the midst of the Crimean War. [Editor's Note: Can any other readers go so far back in family history in two generations? Two generations only take my DARTS family tree back to 1883.]

William was the 7th child of Joseph and Elizabeth Lancaster nee ORPIN. Eliza too came from a large family: she was the 6th child of William, born 1829, and Sarah Johnson nee BROMWELL of Biddenham, born 1831.

William and Eliza married in 1874 and had 13 children between 1874 and 1902.



William and Eliza Lancaster, 1942
Bedford, just before William's death.





Lancaster family outside cottage in Bromham circa 1900

Back row: Herbert James (9), Arthur Alfred (6), Ellen Johnson (1), George (4), Sarah Elizabeth (3), Albert Edward (5), Frederick Joel (10)

Mid Row: Joseph William (2), William, Eliza, Ethel (8), Gertrude (7)

Front Row: Beatrice May (11), Charles (12).

Numbers are order of birth.



My mother, Maud Lancaster, was the youngest, born in 1902 in the same cottage (pictured) by Bromham Bridge that had been the Lancaster's home since the early 1800s. Soon after my mother's birth, the family moved to Cromwell Road, Queens Park, Bedford as their cottage had to be pulled down on the widening of Bromham Bridge. They lived there until their deaths in 1942 and 1944 respectively. They had been married for 69 years.

My mother Maud, known to all as Lanky, stayed in Bedford with her parents until their deaths. She then met my father



Maud Lancaster circa 1912

Albert HUGHES at a dance in Bedford when he was home on leave from the Army serving in Egypt and they moved away from her home town to live in Ealing, West London, where I was born in 1948, when my mum was 46. Needless to say, I am an only child!

Both my parents died in 1976, 3 weeks apart, and my greatest regret is, like so many others, not to have asked any questions about the Lancaster or Johnson families. It was only after I too became a mother myself that my own interest in family history grew and with it, the desire to complete as much research as possible to pass on to future generations. This has now grown into approximately 1,300 members of both families going back to the late 1600s. All 13 of the Lancaster children have of course now died, but I am in touch with many of their descendants, a few still in Bedford that I know of and many more scattered across the world.

My mother never lost her love of Bedford and we visited the family frequently when I was young. Now, more than ever, in these troubled times, I am determined to further my family research as much as possible and hopefully, through the BFHS, complete what has become my life's work! □

TONY WESTON

Just prior to going to the printers we were informed of the death of Tony Weston, one of the earliest members of The Bedfordshire Family History Society. An obituary will be in the September Journal .

A CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE

Mary Wooldridge

By the time you read this article the programme ‘*Our DNA Journey*’ will have been shown on ITV. One episode features Father and Son Martin and Roman KEMP. I was one of the researchers selected to work on the maternal side of the family. Unfortunately, I doubt that my contribution will be included.

I now realise how difficult it is to work on programmes researching ancestry because not all family histories are relevant or interesting to non-related people, even so you should not invent interesting family histories where they do not exist. Many, including celebrities, have their fair share of agricultural or general labourers, and similar occupations where details were not noted and deemed unimportant in those times.

Then, arising from my research seven generations or so back, I came across a ‘Clandestine Marriage’. This looked promising and I thought might have interest to the programme producers and be in line with details that they were looking for.

Joseph PUDDEPHATT was married on the 6 October 1734, aged 31, to Mary ROE, aged about 17, at the White Horse Inn in the ‘Liberty of the Fleet’ in the City of London - an area where irregular marriages were legally allowed.

Joseph was described as being a bachelor and carpenter of Caddington in Hertfordshire, whilst Mary was a spinster of the same parish. Caddington parish is about 34 miles north-west of London. At that time and until 1897, it straddled the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, with the parish church in Bedfordshire but two thirds of the parish were in Hertfordshire. The Hertfordshire section included part of the village of Markyate on the Watling Street, at that time an important stage coach route from London to the north-west, so getting from Caddington to London for them would have been relatively straightforward.

What was not straightforward was finding Mary’s origins. I searched all over Beds, Bucks and Herts, but could not find any records for her. The TV company would have been interested if this had been a real true-love affair, with Mary being from a wealthy family and Joseph marrying above his status, and the couple had eloped. Unfortunately for the storyline, I think it was a quick marriage because Mary was with child, their first child Mary being baptised on the 22 June 1735 at All Saints, Caddington . I tried really hard but could not uncover a conclusion that met the producer’s requirements.

In my search for Mary, I found a few likely candidates but my research eventually eliminated them all. Scrutiny of family trees that other researchers had constructed trying to find her revealed that they all had the same problem. Mary currently could not be found.

After my research had been submitted, me being me, I could not let the quest go unresolved. I continued my search focusing on the Vicar Mr Edward ASHWELL who had officiated at their marriage ceremony.

The following is a letter¹ dated 1 June 1725 from W HODGSDON to Mr Edward Ashwell:

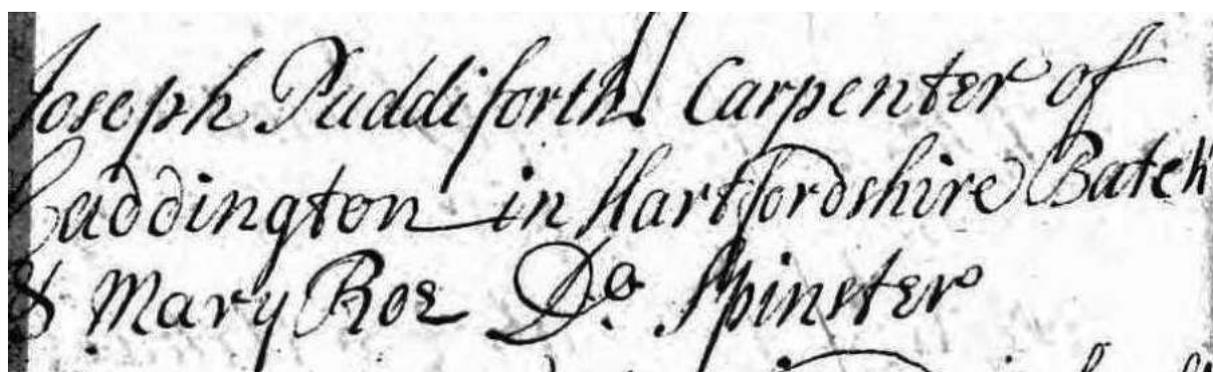
"REVEREND SIR,--There was lately, at Southam, in Warwickshire, one Edward Ashwell, who, in my absence, got possession of our School, and preach'd in Several Churches in this Neighbourhood. I take the Liberty to inform you, Since I hear he is at Kettering, that he is A Most Notorious Rogue and Impostor. I have now certificates on my hand, of his having two wives alive at this present time, and he was very Near Marrying the third, in this Town, but the fear of a prosecution upon the Discovery of the flaming and Scandalous Immoralities of his life, forc'd him away from us. In a short time Afterwards, in a Village not far from us, he attempted to Ravish a Woman, but was prevented by a Soldier then in the house. I Can assure you he is in no Orders, tho' the Audacious Villain preaches when he Can get a pulpit. I have a whole packet of Letters by Me, all tending to the Same Character, which I think Exceeds, for variety of all Manner of Inormous practices, what Can be Charg'd upon the very Scum of Mankind. The Accounts are from persons of integrity and known Reputation.

I prevented him preaching one Day at Brawnstin, Mr Somes's parish. It would be A very kind and Christian Office to give some information among the Clergy, that they may not be impos'd upon by him, particularly to Mr Heyrick, for I Married Mr Allicock's sister of Loddington. I know you will pardon this trouble if the fellow be amongst you.

I am, your affectionate Brother,

W. HODGSON."

Looking again at the Register entry where the Vicar had written Joseph Puddephatt's name as Joseph PUDDIFORTH, I thought if he can get his surname wrong and considering the couple may have spoken with a strong country dialect it is possible that he entered Mary's surname incorrectly.



Joseph Puddiforth Carpenter of
Caddington in Hartfordshire Batch^r
& Mary Bos D^o Spinster

My assumption proved correct, Mary was really Mary HOW daughter of Richard and Martha How, and baptised in All Saints, Caddington, on the 30 June 1717.

¹ <https://londonwiki.co.uk/Fleet/FleetMarriagesJohnGaynam.shtml>

Joseph and Mary returned to live in Caddington after their marriage. Between 1735 and 1754 baptismal records show that there are seven children baptised to the couple at All Saints, Caddington. Their daughter Ann died at the age of fifteen in 1755. Their sons Jeremiah and John both continued to live in Caddington and raised their respective families there. The other children, Mary, Elizabeth, and Susan, do not appear in the Caddington registers again any time after their baptism entries.

‘Clandestine Marriages’ were those that had an element of secrecy to them. Perhaps they took place away from a home parish, and without either banns or a marriage licence.

In the 1740s, it is thought that over half of all London weddings were taking place in the environs of the Fleet Prison. The earliest recorded date of a Fleet Marriage is 1613, although there were probably earlier ones, while the earliest recorded in The Fleet Prison Register took place in 1674. The prison warders took a share of the profit, even though a statute of 1711 imposed fines upon them for doing so. The introduction of this law only resulted in the clandestine marriage trade being conducted outside the prison.



Victorian depiction of a Fleet Marriage

Disgraced clergymen, and many who pretended to be clergymen, lived at The Fleet and carried on their trade using the Marriage Houses or Taverns. During the 1740s, up to 6,000 marriages a year were taking place in the Fleet area, compared with 47,000 in England as a whole. One estimate suggests that there were between 70 and 100 clergymen working in the Fleet area between 1700

and 1753. It was not merely a marriage centre for criminals and the poor, however. Both rich and poor availed themselves of the opportunity to marry quickly or in secret.

The scandal caused by these clandestine marriages became so great that they became the subject of special legislation. In 1753, Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act was passed, which required, under pain of annulment of the marriage, that banns should be published or a licence obtained prior to the ceremony. In either case, the marriage should be solemnized in church by a recognised clergyman, and that in the case of minors, marriage by licence must only be with the consent of a parent or guardian. In addition, at least two witnesses had to be present. Clergymen prosecuted for conducting clandestine marriages were liable to transportation.

So if you have come across a brick wall in the shape of a missing marriage, it may be worth having a quick look at Ancestry or Find My Past under the 'Clandestine Marriages' sections. Both have copies of the original registers. If you still cannot find your ancestor do not forget to try several variations of the surname, and even first names, as the spelling or transcription of records are not always accurate. □

MY BRICK WALL RESEARCHING SEAGRAVE FAMILY HISTORY

Pat Newsham (Mary Patricia)

My early SEAGRAVE family came from Toddington, Bedfordshire. Frederick Seagrave, born 1860 married Sarah Jane HENSON of Dronfield, Derbyshire. Frederick and his parents James Seagrave and Sarah CLARK, married Toddington 1859, had moved to Dronfield for work in the steel industry.

I have the marriage certificate for James Seagrave and Sarah Clark at the Toddington Parish Church on 2 October 1859, and also a birth certificate of Frederick Seagrave on 25 August 1860 at Toddington showing James and Sarah as parents.

I have a birth certificate of James Seagrave, showing father William Seagrave and mother Ann, formerly FLECKNEY, on 29 October 1838.

With a visit to Bedford Archive and Record Service, I have found parish records showing baptisms at Toddington Parish Church of William Seagrave, son of Thomas and Ann Seagrave, on 12 June 1814 and of Ann Fleckney, daughter of William and Sarah Fleckney on 9 October 1814, who were married on 28 February 1833. Sarah's maiden name is unknown.

As far as I know this information is correct.

I also have a record of a burial in Parish of Toddington on 16 July 1842/3 of a Thomas Seagrave aged 59 years. I cannot find any record of Thomas until that of his burial.

I have the CDs from BFHS for Surnames and Parish but can find no record of a Thomas Seagrave marrying an Ann. I did find a Thomas marrying a Sarah NEEDLE but was discounting this as on William's baptism record in 1814 it gives his mother as Ann.

I have found Wm aged 25 and Ann Seagrave aged 25, formerly Fleckney, in the 1841 census living in The Cloisters, Toddington with a daughter Fanny aged 8 and son James aged 2. Living at The Cloisters in the 1841 Census are also a Thomas Seagrave aged 50 and wife Sarah aged 45, with children Edward aged 13 and Caroline aged 11. Is this just a coincidence? I see from the surnames CD that Seagrave was a fairly common name in Toddington.

For two reasons, I am unsure that this is the same Thomas as his wife is quoted as Ann on the baptism of William and also if the burial is correct Thomas has gained 7 or 8 years by 1842/3.

If anyone can offer any help with my brick wall please contact me by email at seagrave.mp42@mail.com.

AN INVITATION

In searching for our family histories, we have a rich source of information on names, dates, locations, relationships, occupations and even events. The availability of photographic information is scarcer and is often images carefully saved by a previous generation in a tin box hidden under the bed. We often rely on someone remembering that the only lady in the back row of the wedding photograph was Aunt Maud from Wales who owned a pig farm during the late-1800s.

Preserving these images for later research and even future generations involves taking the time to store them in an easily retrievable form, for example by creating a digital image, and linking the who, what, where, and when to the image. Some genealogy software packages provide this capability at a price and can provide links across families. With your help, BFHS is planning to create a Photo Catalogue relevant to Bedfordshire family histories that would provide both a repository of images and a searchable catalogue for members.

The need for and feasibility of this undertaking is to be tested by initially inviting members to submit **digital** images to the Catalogue Focal Point along with a Catalogue Form that captures the who, what, where and when. Images will be catalogued using the information provided and included in the overall BFHS Photo Catalogue.

Images and a completed Catalogue Form should be sent to the Catalogue Focal

Point, photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk. A Catalogue Form can be completed online at the home page of the BFHS website. The BFHS data protection policy applies to all information provided.

Submitted images should relate to some aspect of a Bedfordshire family history. As well as Bedfordshire people, images can include places, events and activities and even people from outside Bedfordshire relevant to a Bedfordshire family. Any image digital format is acceptable and the condition of the original is unimportant. (For the technically minded, ideally images should be scanned into an uncompressed TIFF file at 300 dots per inch or more). BFHS hope to provide a search service of the Catalogue for members free of charge and, when members' meetings return to Mark Rutherford School, a scanning service.

The *Journal* Co-ordinator, Jan Darts, is currently undertaking the role of the Catalogue Focal Point for the feasibility study, which will finish towards the end of October 21 with a decision made in November on whether to continue. For the project to continue, another volunteer from the membership is required to act as the Catalogue Focal Point. If you believe you have the time to offer your service to the Society and to explore further what is involved, please contact the Catalogue Focal Point at the email address above. You should be comfortable working with IT but no special skills are required. You do not need to attend members' meetings but should be resident in the UK.

In summary:

Donate your family history images to the BFHS Photo Catalogue by email to photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk, along with a completed Catalogue Form.

Contact the current Catalogue Focal Point (at the same email address) to discuss how you could become involved in ensuring this project continues.

□

THE MAN WHO ARRESTED MAHATMA GANDHI

*Reproduced by permission of Trevor N Stewart
from his Pamphlet of 2013*

Archibald Douglas GORDON, almost always known locally as 'Douglas' Gordon, was a Bedfordian in the widest sense of the word. Although not born on the banks of the Ouse, he came here as a seven year old to attend Bedford School. He was married in the town and after retiring from a long and distinguished career overseas he returned and devoted the rest of his life to local causes including his beloved Bedford School, the Harpur Trust, the Conservative Association and nationally to the improvement of Anglo Indian relations.

The Gordon family were of Norman origin, they settled in the lowlands of Scotland after the Conquest of 1066, subsequently moving northwards to eventually claim Aberdeenshire as their stronghold which it remains to this

Douglas Gordon's great grandfather Charles arrived in London from Scotland in the late 1700s, no doubt intent on making a career for himself and in an effort to see if the streets really were 'paved with gold'. He married Elizabeth (surname unknown) in London in 1813 and on 24 December 1814 the couple had a son, also to be named Charles, at their home in St Luke's Parish, Islington. Little else can be ascertained about the family except that they moved around London on a fairly regular basis.

The son, Charles Gordon married Anne Catherine (again unfortunately surname not known) in London in 1846. It is recorded though that his wife had been born in Barrackpore, India in 1822, just before the first Mutiny, and so she was almost certainly the daughter of either an army or a government officer.

The first child of Charles and Anne, a daughter Cattie Ellen, was born in 1847 in London followed by 3 further daughters and 3 sons including Alfred Ernest the second son and father of Douglas.

After what appears to have been a varied career, Charles became a distiller working in the brewing industry.

Alfred Ernest Gordon (Douglas Gordon's father) was born in 1854 in Dorset Square, London, a fine row of classical four storey terraced houses in the District of Marylebone, not far from Regents Park.

The family had obviously acquired some wealth for according to the 1871 Census they were then living in what must have been a huge house in Borehamwood, Herts (at that time still very much a tiny hamlet surrounded by farms). The family consisted of Charles and Anne, 4 daughters and 3 sons together with a governess and no fewer than 6 domestic servants, plus a coachman, butler and footman.

By 1881 they had moved to 3, Addison Gardens, West Kensington, London.

Alfred was sent to Merchant Taylors School, then still located in the City of London, and after school he joined the Army Service Corps attaining the rank of Captain. He also served in a voluntary capacity in the 56th Kings Rifles for 21 years and even at the age of 60 re-joined the army to assist in the First World War effort from 1914 to 1916 when he finally retired from all uniformed service.

On resignation from his full time commission in the Service Corps, Alfred Gordon himself entered the brewing industry as a beer merchant and no doubt through this employment and connections made, he became acquainted with the FELLOWS family of Rickmansworth. This branch of an old and distinguished Kentish lineage had moved to Hertfordshire in order to pursue their own land owning and agricultural interests as well as careers in the legal profession.

The local Rickmansworth brewery (founded in 1696) was in the 18th and 19th

centuries owned by the SALTER family but it seems that various 'Mr. Fellows' had acted as their legal advisors over several generations. When the last Salter died in June 1829 the brewery passed into the control of a group of Trustees, amongst whom was a Thomas Fellows a well respected local lawyer. When he himself died in 1858, Herbert William Fellows his son took over the whole business referring to himself as a brewer. He lived in the large house next door to the brewery, where in 1861 and still only 32 years of age, he had a household consisting of himself, his wife Marianne, two daughters Mary and Adelaide, a cook, a housemaid, a nurse and a butler. Herbert remained in control of the business until his own death in 1883.

Alfred Gordon eventually married the youngest Fellows daughter Adelaide, subsequently known as Amy, at Rickmansworth Church in September 1884. The couple set up home first at Hampstead where eldest son Ernest Herbert was born and subsequently at 69, Wharton Road, Hammersmith where on 14th. April 1888, a second son Archibald Douglas, and in 1890 daughter Marion, were both delivered. Charles who by then was widowed was also living with his son.

In 1896 the family, including Charles, arrived in Bedford in order to place the boys, previously educated at home, in Bedford School. Alfred purchased a large 13 roomed house, 'St. Dunstons', 12 Woburn Road, where he referred to himself as the 'Managing Director of a Brewery' - undoubtedly that previously controlled by his Father in Law. At Woburn Road, Alfred employed a governess, to educate his daughter, and two domestic servants. Charles died at Woburn Road in the summer of 1899 aged 84.

Ernest and Douglas attended Bedford School from 1897 until 1907, during which time Douglas became Head of School, Captain of Shooting, Head of the Cadet Corps, and Chairman of the Debating Society.

When their father Alfred Ernest Gordon (Captain Gordon) died in May 1929, the local newspapers recall that in the early years of his life in Bedford he had been a Lt Colonel in the Church Lads Brigade and Captain of the All Saints, Queens Park, Company. As Lt Colonel he had been in charge of the entire Eastern District of the organisation. A curious paradox considering that one of the tenets of the movement was a total abstinence from alcohol!

Gordon had also been a very active member of the National Citizens Union, a right wing organisation that had been formed in March 1919 in order to safeguard property after the Reform Act of 1918 had extended the right to vote to an increased number of working class people. His involvement with this organisation in a number of capacities both locally and nationally had made him popular among like minded people in Bedford and at the headquarters of the organisation in London. He had also taken a prominent role in the establishment of the Town Guild House for the bringing together under one roof of the various social institutions in Bedford. Captain Gordon's wife Amy had predeceased him some three years earlier.

On leaving Bedford School, Ernest became a banker in China with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. In 1907 when Douglas also left the School he joined the Indian Police Service where he had a distinguished 39 year career, rising from officer to Assistant Superintendent and finally Inspector General for Bengal, in charge of 30,000 men.

It was after his arrival in India that Douglas Gordon met Aileen Marie OLIVER the daughter of an English merchant. They were married at Holy Trinity Church, Bromham Road, Bedford on 19 November 1912 during Gordon's first period of home leave since joining the service. To satisfy residential requirements Aileen was living with relatives in the Parish of Saint Bartholomew, Sydenham Common, Kent.

In his capacity as Inspector General, and in the latter part of his career Gordon was called upon to arrest and detain Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest figures in modern history. During the early 1940s the Indian liberation movement headed by Gandhi, had become very strong and had reached something of a watershed. Instructions had been issued that all public meetings involving the Group were to be forbidden. Gandhi knew well that he would be arrested but undeterred continued with his campaign totally ignoring any ban. In August 1942 it was Gordon's duty to arrest Gandhi and years later he recalled "that the whole thing had been done with the greatest courtesy from both sides". Gandhi himself had been well aware of the inevitable consequences of his actions, however when Gordon had joined the Indian Police Service all those years before, he could not possibly have imagined that one day he would take such an important role in history, in the development of India and Pakistan and the eventual transfer of power to those countries.

In 1943 he was made Knight Commander of the Indian Empire and until his retirement in 1946 he was Civil Security Adviser to Eastern India and Security Adviser to the XIV Army during which time he worked closely with famous military leaders such as Auchinleck, Wavell and Slim.

On his retirement in 1946 he returned to Bedford with his wife to what they said they hoped would be a 'quieter time', but in 1948 the Foreign Office asked him to go to Colombia in South America to act as the Chief of the British Police Mission. His brief was to reform a corrupt and grossly inefficient police service, following a violent revolution in which armed mobs had looted and destroyed many buildings and thousands had been killed.

The family finally returned permanently to Bedford in 1952, and in his obituary for Sir Douglas, William BROWN the then Headmaster of Bedford School said that it was "extremely doubtful if Sir Douglas would ever have contemplated settling anywhere else".

Sir Douglas and Lady Gordon moved into their new home 'Buttercups' in Biddenham, and it was not long before he had committed himself to numerous local causes with the same vigour that he had shown throughout his life. He became Secretary and subsequently President of the Old Bedfordians Club,

Governor of the Harpur Trust and Chairman of the Trust from 1958 until his death. He was also Vice President of the Bedford Association of Boys Clubs, Chairman of the Hospital Services Association and in 1957 was appointed Deputy Lieutenant followed in 1959 by preferment to High Sheriff of the County. Far from a quiet retirement!

Douglas Gordon died at his home on Wednesday 21 September 1966 aged 78. The funeral service was held in the Chapel of Bedford School on Monday 26 September followed by cremation later that day attended only by the family. A public Memorial Service was held at St Pauls Church, Bedford on Thursday 29 September.

Those who knew Sir Douglas Gordon said that “he was a humble man who



used his various gifts and talents to the full, a dignified figure both in his private and his professional life which made his contacts aware that they were being met by a genuine open friendship. He was a conservative in the truest sense of the word maintaining the simple principles that had governed his life - concern for others, loyalty and a scrupulous honesty”. They speak of a physically strong person, with a keen sense of fun and an uncomplicated faith. He had been extremely happy in his marriage which produced three sons

Donald, Alan and Ian and two daughters, Helen and Gillian.

On her husband's death Lady Aileene moved to Brighton to live with a son, finally passing away herself in December 1973 aged 93. Marion Gordon, Sir Douglas's sister lived in Bedford throughout her life. She never married and died at her home in Kempston in 1968. Their brother Ernest did not return to the town.

A remarkable life spent in the service of his country and his adopted community but one which perhaps until now has not been fully appreciated in the town that he served so well.

The author makes the following acknowledgements in the original pamphlet:

Richard Wildman - Archivist, Bedford Modern School.

Gina Worboys - Old Bedfordians Club, Bedford School.

Bedfordshire Times - 23 September 1966.

Bedford Record - 27 September 1966.

The Ousel (Bedford School Magazine) - November 1966.

Memoirs of a Police Officer In India from 1907 to 1946 - Sir Douglas Gordon. □

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Your help would be appreciated.

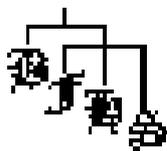


Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the September 2021 *Journal* is **31 July 2021**



PROGRAMME

A Grandmother's Legacy: My Family History (The British Raj)

Jenny Mallin

Friday 2 July 2021, Via Zoom



A detailed look into the records and certificates that will appeal to genealogists or those with an interest in family trees. Jenny starts from her earliest ancestor dating back to 1732 in Yorkshire and details the ancestors right through to the end of the British Raj days.

A Berkshire-based award winner for 2017 by the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Society for her book '*A Grandmother's Legacy*'. Jenny delivers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Seen through the eyes of their granddaughter, Jenny captures a period of British history through her PowerPoint presentations with an extensive collection of family sepia photographs, and manages to bring her stories to life: her grandmothers' lives as memsahibs and the 'legacy' that Jenny has been given, a 170 year old cookbook penned by Jenny's great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newly-wed bride, married to an English schoolmaster. Jenny also describes her grandfathers, uncles and relatives who served in the British Army as early as 1798.

"We don't want any...Master's not in" What really happened on Census night!

Claire Moores

Friday 10 September 2021, Via Zoom



I have been researching family history and local history for over 20 years, which started with becoming fascinated with the story of my home parish, Great Warford, in Cheshire, for which I developed a local history website. Alongside a full time role in the Fire Service, I have researched and delivered a series of genealogical and local history talks, which are well received by Family History Societies and Parish groups. During lockdown, I have been able to deliver them online, which has allowed me to meet groups further afield. I have also just completed a short course, Archaeology in Practice, at Oxford University, to develop my knowledge further on aspects of landscape analysis.

It has never been an easy feat in compiling the census data that family

PROGRAMME (cont'd)

historians rely so heavily on. There are many reports of residents refusing to fill the returns in, for example women who felt it was improper that they should reveal their true age! I will delve into reports of fantastical excuses given, misinformation, and what lengths some went to avoid being counted at all. Maybe this could account for your 'missing' ancestor?

The Dangers of DNA: Who's the Father?

Dr Nick Barratt

Friday 1st October 2021, Via Zoom

In this talk, Nick explores the challenges of researching an illegitimate grandmother who refused to share any information about her background. Everything they thought they knew turned out to be false, including her place



of birth. Following some tentative clues from family papers and photographs, the quest for her parentage moved from her childhood home in Norfolk across the Channel to Belgium, and then around the world several times as DNA results ripped up the paper trail and revealed an even more remarkable story. Nick uncovers his great grandfather's real identity, and explores the sources that he used to determine the truth.

Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *'Who Do You Think You Are'*. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Learner and Discovery Services at the Open University, a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His latest publication, *'The Restless Kings'*, explores the reigns of Henry II, Richard I and John. He concludes his term of office as President of the Family History Federation in June 2021, but remains President of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, sits on the Executive Committee of the Community Archives and Heritage Group, works on the Historians Collaborate network and is part of the Midlands 4 Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Advisory Group.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

A few days before we are scheduled to hold a monthly talk via zoom, I send an invitation, via email, to society members with log-in details for the meeting. If you do not receive these invitations then I do not have your valid email address.

If you would like to start receiving the invitations, please let me know your email by contacting treasurer@bfhs.org.uk.

Many thanks, Peter Sharp, Treasurer

LIBRARY NEWS

John Partridge, Librarian

Beds FHS Facebook page

In the March 2021 journal I reported that we had 950 'likes' as at 28 January 2021. We continue to attract more people and now have 988 'likes' and 1128 followers as at 27 April 2021. Not long now until we hit the 1000 'likes' milestone. 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 attempt to respond to you with an answer.

Recent Acquisitions

Class 2

The First Pharmacy in Luton

David White (Oyster Press, 2011)

This book starts off describing the beginnings of the Market Hill Pharmacy said to be the oldest pharmacy in Luton, established in 1825, followed by its progress over the census years until 1876 when it was taken over by George DUBERLY. In 1902 the business was bought by Walter WHITE who had been employed by Duberly, and continued to trade as Duberly & White opening more shops in the town. The book has a number of photographs of early Luton including their premises. The book was donated by the author who is a descendant of the White family and a review of the book will appear in a future BFHS journal.

GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

We would like to remind members that if you have sent us a Gift Aid declaration in the past, we continue to claim Gift Aid on your membership donation each year. We claim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate, however, if you now pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all your donations in the tax year you need to advise us accordingly.

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BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

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The cd contains Volumes 1 – 19 of the journal and a link to the online Surname Index available on our website. Each journal volume covers a period of two years and contains an individual index to surnames and subjects.

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BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH RECORDS ON CD

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

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes are 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
Amphill † *	£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
Blunham † *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bromham †	£10	3	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Flitton *	£15	3
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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)		
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
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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.

We will continue to update the CDs as more indexes and any new MI listings become available. Any recently revised CDs will be indicated by the **issue number in bold**. Complete details of the content of each CD may be found on the Society website www.bfhs.org.uk. □



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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.

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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.

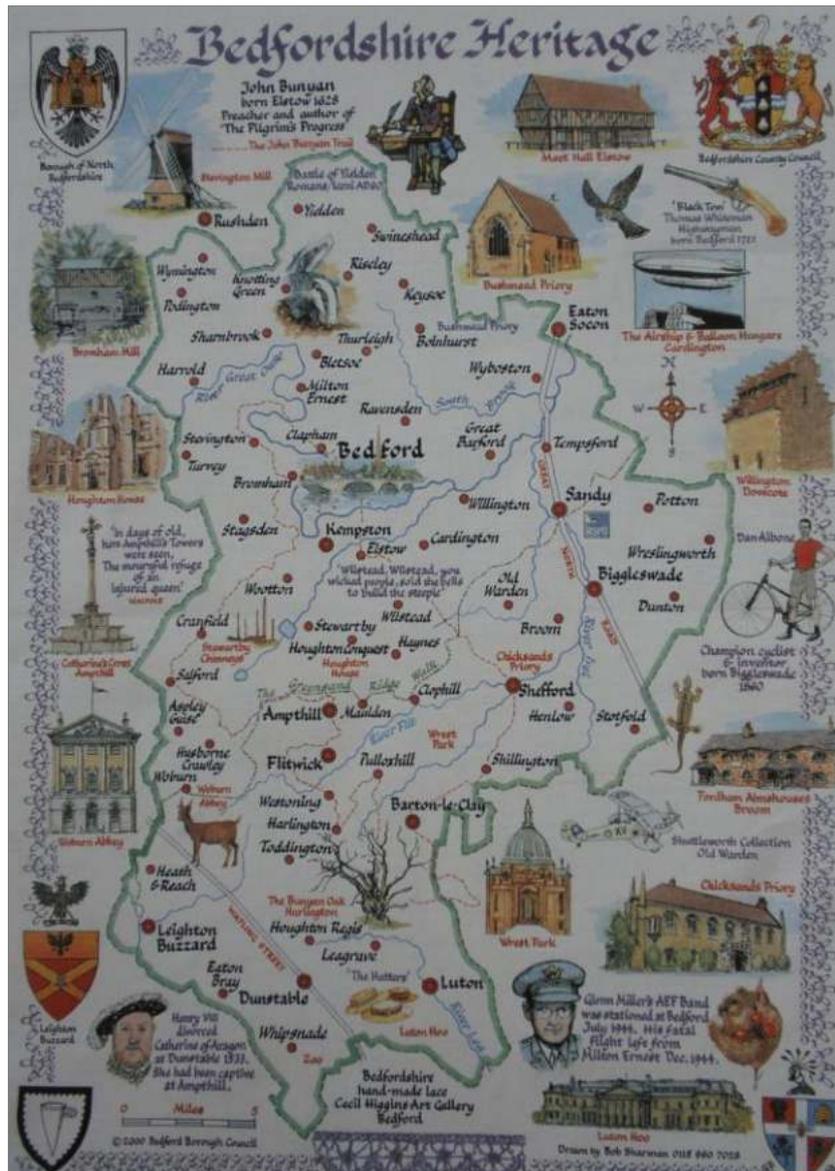


BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

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 £2.00
- 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.

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



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 SURNAMEN INDEX. The index has been available in CD format for a number of years but we are now pleased to offer this revised issue of the Index FREE of charge in pdf format. Visit our website www.bfhs.org.uk.

Alternatively, the CD is available for 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.

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
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The following email addresses are also available:

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(1 January - 31 December)

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2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
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