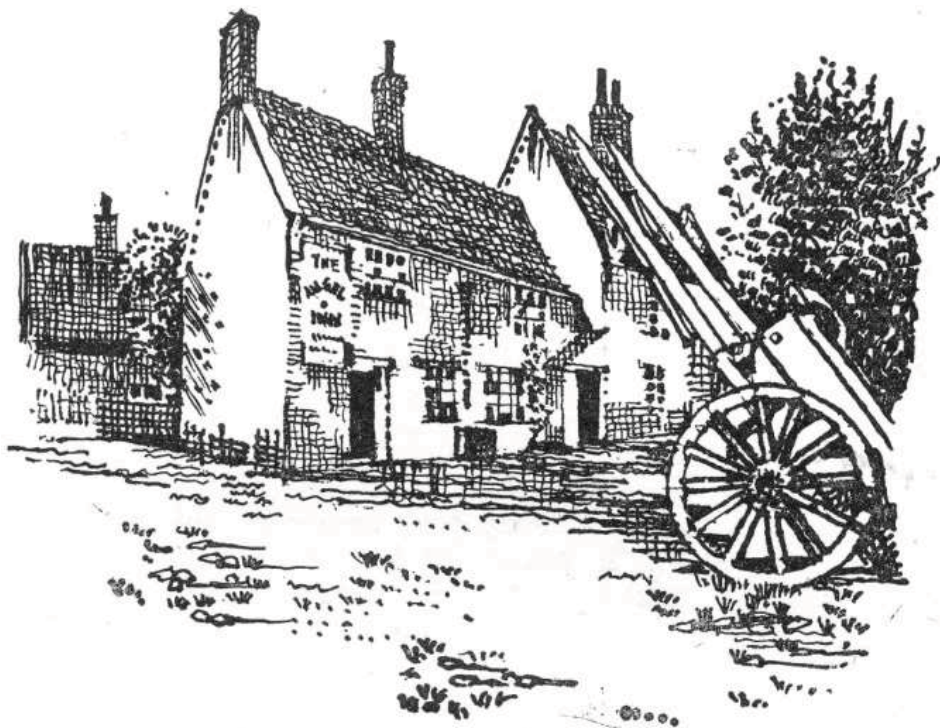




**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 21 No 2 June 2017



"ANGEL" INN, CARLTON

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

*A member of the Federation of Family History Societies
Founded 1977*

Registered Charity No. 281677

Patron: Colin Chapman, PhD, CEng, CSci, CChem, FSG

President: Pamela Birch—County Archivist

Vice Norman Holding; Tony Weston;

Presidents: Colin West; Gerry Allen; George Ruscoe

Honorary Chris Pickford; John Page; Peter Smith

Members:

Executive Committee

Chairman:	Geoff Sewell	
Vice Chairman:	Noel Evans	
Honorary Secretary:	Lynn Manning	
Honorary Treasurer:	Peter Sharp	
Val Thomas	Joy Townend	Mary Wooldridge
David Townend	Paul Woodcraft	

Appointments

BLARS (Record Office) Liaison Officer	Maureen Hall
Bookstall Managers	vacant
Federation Representative	vacant
Independent Examiner	Richard Chaloner
Internet Co-ordinator	Brian Payne
Journal Co-ordinator	Geoff Young
Journal Distribution Manager	Paul Woodcraft
Librarian	John Partridge
Members' Interests	Olga Page
Membership Secretary	David Townend
Minute Secretary	Lynn Manning
Monumental Inscription Co-ordinators	vacant
Monumental Inscription Publications.....	vacant
Parish CDs Co-ordinator.....	Noel Evans
Parish Registers Projects Co-ordinators	John and Olga Page
Programme Secretary	Geoff Sewell
Projects Co-ordinator	vacant
Publications Sales – CDs, 1851 Census and Microfiche	Noel Evans
Publicity Officer	Lynn Manning
Research	Mary Wooldridge
Social Events Organiser	Val Thomas

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



VOL 21 NO 2 JUNE 2017 CONTENTS

The Front Cover Illustration	2
Editorial	2
BFHS Meetings	3
Not Malice, but Trouble?	4
Cuttings from Canadian Newspapers	10
From Panacea Society to Panacea Charitable Trust.....	11
John Mantle/Mantel – Hairdresser and Bird Stuffer	14
Library News	20
Members’ Profiles	24
Botsford—An American Family from Bedfordshire, part two	26
Obituary to Joy Clayson 1942 – 2017	36
Bedfordshire Heritage Tea Towels	37
Have I Found the Mad Preacher in the Family?.....	38
Forthcoming Family History Fairs, 2017	36
Gleanings from Local Newspapers	47
WDYT YA? Live to close its doors	48
BFHS Email Addresses	inside back cover

© BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY 2017

This Journal is the official publication of the BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY and is produced quarterly: March, June, September and December. Articles appearing in the *Journal* must not be reproduced either in whole or part without written permission. The Society does not accept any responsibility for the views expressed in any of the articles published in the *Journal*. The Society cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to material submitted for publication. No recommendation is implied by the inclusion of an advertisement in this Journal. ISSN 0141 - 240X

THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

There is a certain elegance in the lines of the “ Angel “ Inn, Carlton, which suggest that it was “ not built yesterday “, as the say is. It was, in fact, built in 1700, and soldiers home from Marlborough’s campaigns may have been among its earlier customers. Its present landlord is a wheelwright, as were his fathers before him for four generations; and, besides their skill, he inherits a wholesome respect for that old

apprenticeship in craftsmanship, which is fast dying out. In the little smithy at the back of the inn this landlord forges his own ironwork. At one time it was difficult to make a living, but now he is full of work.

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

EDITORIAL



This is our 40th Anniversary year and to coincide with this we’re hoping to make this a theme for the December *Journal*. I’ll be digging through old copies of the *Journal* looking for items and photographs of interest. If you have any recollections or anecdotes about the Society and Journal, or perhaps some relevant

photographs, then please do get in touch. It would great to round the year off by looking back at the past.

You may have noticed the arrival of Bedfordshire Electoral Register entries (1832–1986) on Ancestry, courtesy of Bedfordshire Archives. This database, comprising nearly 18 million records, contains yearly registers listing names and residences of people in Bedfordshire, who were eligible to vote in elections. These year-by-year registers can help place your ancestors in a particular place. Note that no registers were produced during the war years 1916, 1917 and 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Thanks, as always, to everyone who contributed to this edition of the *Journal*.

journal@bfhs.org.uk □

Geoff Young
Journal Co-ordinator

Bedfordshire has its own mailing list for genealogy in and around the area. To subscribe send an email to:

BEDFORD-L-request@rootsweb.com

with ‘subscribe’ in the BODY of the email



PROGRAMME

9 JUN	AGM + QUIZ	
7 JUL	READING OLD HANDWRITING	IAN WALLER
8 SEP	AMPTHILL'S GREAT HOUSES	JOHN HELE
6 OCT	A MARCH THROUGH TIME – 800 YEARS OF PROTEST AND DEMOCRACY	DR NICK BARRATT
3 NOV	BEDFORD'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE LOST AND SAVED	DAVID FOWLER
1 DEC	THE EVIL SHERIFF OF BEDFORD	AMANDA GOODY

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2018

12 JAN, 2 FEB, 2 MAR

MEETING VENUE

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

Doors open at 19:00, talk commences at 19:30
Bookstall and library also available

The **CLOSING DATE** for articles to be published in the
September 2017 Journal is **15 July 2017**
If possible, please supply by email (to journal@bfhs.org.uk)



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

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

NOT MALICE, BUT TROUBLE ?

On the evening of 13 June 1895, Effie Jane Burgin, aged 20, was visiting her aunt and uncle, Harriet and George Covington, at 33 Wellington Street in Bedford. It was her evening off from her job as a live-in cook with Dr John Henry Lloyds, a GP, in Harpur Place¹. Harriet was an older sister of Effie's mother, Jane; they were the daughters of Joseph Page, a baker, and his wife Ann, from Eynesbury near St Neots. Both sisters (born in 1833 and 1845) had married Eynesbury men, but George Covington had lived in Bedford for many years and worked as head groom at the George Hotel in the High Street². Jane and her husband Richard Burgin, a coppersmith, still (in 1891) lived in Eynesbury³.

Effie had often spent her free evenings this way, and often her cousin, George and Harriet's bachelor son Arthur Joseph Covington, aged 27, who lived with

his parents, had seen her home to Dr Lloyds' house where she had worked for the last 18 months. Arthur and his parents were fond of Effie and seem to have believed that the cousins' friendship might soon become something more.

On this evening Effie had been for a walk with a girl friend and Arthur Covington. Arthur took her back to Wellington Street where she stayed chatting in a back room until just before 10pm, when she had to be back at Harpur Place. After checking the time with her uncle she went out into the next room, followed by Arthur.

Almost immediately George and Harriet heard three explosions ring out. Thinking it might be an exploding oil lamp, George ran into the next room. He found Effie lying on the floor with Arthur kneeling over her, a revolver in his hand. Effie was dead.



Effie and Arthur as seen by the Bedfordshire Times's artist (reproduced by kind permission)

Neighbours, several policemen and a Dr C G Johnson⁴ soon appeared on the scene. The doctor asked “Who did this?” and Arthur Covington replied “I did”. Cautioned by Police Sergeant Setchell, and told that he was being arrested for “wilfully and maliciously” murdering Effie, Arthur said “I did not do it for any malice, but trouble”.

These bald facts, and Arthur’s bizarre reply, became the news sensation of the year in Bedford, occupying numerous closely printed columns in the *Bedfordshire Times* and the *Bedfordshire Mercury*. Why had an apparently inoffensive young man, who had never been in any kind of trouble, shot his cousin in cold blood?

At Effie’s inquest the following Monday, 16 June, having heard the medical evidence that Effie had died from bullet wounds, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Arthur. He was produced before the magistrates on the same day, and “an immense throng of the general public” surrounded the Shire Hall and flooded into the court room. When Arthur was brought up from the cells, “his limbs shook violently, his laboured breathing was audible at some distance”, and he appeared highly distressed. Evidence was heard from his father, the policemen and neighbours who had attended the crime scene. George Covington said that Arthur had been out of work for some years, and had been “very low spirited” for the past year or so; he had complained of headaches, a

swollen throat and problems with his sight.

There was no doubt that Arthur would have to be remanded for trial at the Assizes (the equivalent of the Crown Court today, though they were only held twice a year), but the next Assize Court was due the following Thursday. Arthur’s counsel and the prosecutor agreed that it would be impossible for a proper defence to be prepared in such a short time, and obtained an adjournment to the following Assizes in November, although that meant Arthur would remain in custody until then.

Arthur himself had spoken only a few words. First he said that he wished the trial could go ahead there and then, and that he did not want any money spent on his defence, despite the views of all the lawyers and the Bench; and when formally committed, and asked if he had anything to say, replied, again: “I did not do it through malice”⁵.

Meanwhile, the *Bedfordshire Times*’s great rival, the *Mercury*, had explored the case from a different perspective⁶. They sent a reporter to Effie’s family home at Eynesbury and in modern jargon “doorstepped” her father, Richard Burgin, on the Tuesday after the killing. He discovered that Burgin, “a well-known dahlia and chrysanthemum grower”, was separated from his wife, Jane, who was living in Tooting in South London, and that Effie was one of seven children of the couple. Burgin had received a telegram from

Bedford on the Friday (14 June) saying that his daughter had died, and only discovered the gruesome circumstances from village gossips later that day.

At the Magistrates' hearing, George Covington had said that "an attachment" had sprung up between the two cousins. But in his interview Richard Burgin said that Effie "had told [Arthur] over and over again that it was no good his coming out with her" and that if he could not support himself, "what's the good of thinking that you can keep a wife"? He thought she was "not at all attached" to Arthur.

The reporter stayed at Eynesbury for Effie's funeral, where the two branches of the family were linked by Arthur's brother William, aged 40, a printer of King's Place, Bedford⁷. He had received Effie's body after the inquest and headed the cortege from Bedford: George and Harriet Covington did not apparently attend, but sent a wreath "with full love and sympathy".

So Arthur began the long wait in Bedford Prison until his trial at the Assizes in Bedford Shire Hall on 13 November, exactly five months after the shooting. The judge was Mr Justice Day⁸, and the *Mercury's* reporter noted that Arthur looked much better than at his earlier appearances; he took his seat in the dock without showing any emotion, but when asked for his plea, again said only "Not guilty of malice".

George Sills, counsel for the prosecution, said the case was about

"a man who, having a real or fancied grievance against a woman, procures a revolver, shoots her, and takes her life". There was no doubt what had happened or who had fired the shots. Arthur had immediately admitted responsibility and allowed the revolver to be taken from him: it had been fully loaded before the three shots. He had given no explanation except the repeated word "trouble".

George Covington again gave evidence. He again said that Effie had been "keeping company" with Arthur. After the shots were fired he found Arthur kneeling over Effie and saying "My wife, my wife" or words to that effect. He had kissed Effie, and then his father. George had no idea that he possessed a revolver. The shots were fired "instantly" the couple entered the front room and no argument or dialogue had preceded them.

George repeated his evidence about Arthur's failure to hold down a job, which he attributed to constant headaches; he became very depressed and "eccentric in his ways", sometimes staying indoors for weeks at a time, refusing to get out of bed or eat his meals. He would often roam the house at night. In 1883/4 he had been an outpatient at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, referred there, coincidentally, by Effie's employer Dr Lloyds, but this was for a swollen throat, spinal problems and poor eyesight. "He came back cured", said his father, but had never seen a doctor about his headaches. "He seemed to know the

difference between right and wrong”, said George-words which may have helped to condemn his son.

George also spoke of his grandmother, who had died in an asylum many years ago, an aunt who was “strange in her mind” in her last years, and a cousin who was a current hospital patient “for weakness and loss of memory”.

Hugo Young, Arthur’s counsel, was clearly in great difficulties. The bare facts were undisputed, and his client could offer no explanation beyond the mysterious “trouble”. No detailed evidence was given about the relationship between Arthur and Effie (Richard Burgin was not called), but even if there had been a row between the pair, it was clearly no defence to murder. The possession of the loaded revolver suggested premeditation. The law (as Mr Justice Day later told the jury) presumed that someone who committed a homicide intended to kill, and knew what he was doing, unless the defence could prove that he was at the time suffering from a disease of the mind such that he did not know that he was doing wrong: the so-called McNaghten Rules¹⁰. Young’s only recourse was to argue insanity.

George’s vague references to his relatives’ mental troubles were not helpful in that respect. Neither was a religious tract found in Arthur’s pockets which discussed the doctrine of hell and damnation. “What has this to do with it?” asked an impatient Judge. Young replied “I am

trying to do what I can, My Lord-perhaps very little”. “Very little”, echoed the Judge. The Crown called Dr Johnson, the first doctor on the scene, who said he thought Arthur was not insane when he saw him on 13 June. Dr Swain, the superintendent of the Three Counties Asylum at Arlesey, said he had examined Arthur on 5 October and “he appeared perfectly to know right from wrong”, though he accepted that some of his symptoms might “precede insanity”. Finally, Dr R H Kinsey, the medical officer at Bedford Prison, said he had “never seen any trace of delusion” over the five months Arthur had spent on remand; he had eaten and slept well and gained a stone in that time.

Plainly, this evidence did not go far enough to help Arthur. George Sills closed the prosecution case by saying as much, adding that “there was not the slightest wish to press the case against the prisoner, but still we have a duty to perform....”. He argued that Effie would hardly have spent so much time in Arthur’s company had she thought him insane, and that “if every one of us who was more idle than we ought to be, or suffering from pains in the head, were supposed to be a lunatic, we should have to double and treble our lunatic asylums in order to hold us all”.

Hugo Young could only reply by asking the Jury to consider Arthur’s state of mind on 13 June, rather than his apparently calmer demeanour in court: was it not obvious that he had been devoted to Effie, calling her his

wife and kissing her dead body? “Is it not manifest that he killed her in love, as a man acting without his reason?” He frankly told the Jury “I don’t ask that this young man may go free....I ask you to give a verdict which will necessitate him being confined for the rest of his life”.

The Jury therefore had a stark choice; with the death penalty mandatory for murder, they were being asked to send Arthur to the gallows or Broadmoor. Summing up, Mr Justice Day rammed home the same issue; was he so affected in his mind that he did not know right from wrong? While saying it was a matter for the Jury, he made his own views completely clear: “Here is a man who since the 13th of June has shown himself in every way perfectly sane, and yet you are told that there must be some mental delusion of which no suggestion whatever is made, and of the motive for which we don’t know”. He repeated George’s words that Arthur “always seemed to know right from wrong”, and ended ominously : “There is no evidence that could possibly justify reasonable men in saying that when the man committed the act he was insane in the sense that his mind was diseased, or that he was ignorant of the nature and quality of the act.”

The trial had started at 10 am. The Judge sent the Jury out at five minutes past one and they returned 32 minutes later. In little more than a morning, Arthur Covington was tried and found guilty of murder; but the Jury added a strong recommendation

for mercy.

“There was then an awful silence”, wrote the *Mercury’s* reporter, as Mr Justice Day said that he would pass on the Jury’s recommendation, while urging Arthur “Do not bolster yourself up with hopes of mercy in this world”. He then sentenced him to death, followed by “sobs from several parts of the Court”. As the words were pronounced, Arthur said “Thank you, my Lord, and may God have mercy on my soul”.

Some people thought Arthur’s lawyers had been wrong to delay matters until November, and that his wild and distracted manner in June would have given an insanity plea a better chance¹¹. But there was large public support for mercy. George organised a petition for a reprieve and collected about 760 signatures. Sir Matthew White Ridley, the Home Secretary, was urged to consider the absence of motive, the “undoubted love the prisoner had for his victim”, the evidence about his health in June and the presence of “insanity, or at all events weakness of mind” in the family¹².

These efforts were in vain. In capital cases the Judge’s report to the Home Office, and medical reports, were often crucial to the chances of a reprieve. But the partial files at the National Archives¹³ reveal that Mr Justice Day wrote only: “I have no special observations to make as to the recommendation to mercy, which was in no way explained by the Jury who simply gave it with their verdict”¹⁴. The files also contain a

report from Dr Swain which was more detailed than his evidence at the trial: he wrote that Arthur “comprehends the nature of the crime...and regrets it”; that he had only agreed to the insanity plea “for the sake of his friends”; that he would prefer the death penalty to “incarceration for life in a lunatic asylum”; and that he had said (not to Dr Swain but presumably to his warders) that “the murdered girl of whom he was very fond, refused to marry him because he was not able to obtain a livelihood....thereupon he bought the revolver with the intention of killing her or-and this he told me-himself”¹⁵.

On Friday 29 November the Home Secretary wrote that he “declined to interfere”, and the execution was set for the following Tuesday. The *Mercury* reported that Arthur’s manner was calm. He spent much time reading his Bible and talking with the prison chaplain and Rev Dr John Brown, minister of Bunyan Meeting church¹⁶. He received the refusal of a reprieve “without emotion and with no surprise”. On his last morning he took Communion, spoke briefly with Dr Brown, and then “bore up bravely to the last.. his last words near the scaffold” referring “with a thankful heart to the kindness” of the minister. He spoke no other “last words” about the crime or his motives. A crowd of about 300 people waited outside the prison until all was over¹⁷.

His parents had left Bedford the previous Friday, to stay at Bury St

Edmunds, probably with another son, George Edward, who worked in a gentlemen’s outfitters there¹⁸. Their misery is almost unimaginable: by 1911 they told the census enumerator that only two of their seven children were still living, and they died within a few weeks of each other in 1913²⁰.

As the law stood and on the evidence, Arthur had no chance; today, given the accounts of his very strange behaviour over the years, he might have some chance of a plea of diminished responsibility manslaughter²¹. But even at the time, it’s notable how Arthur and Effie’s story, assuming it to be one of unrequited love and misunderstood feelings, struck people simply as a tragedy for all involved. In their editorials before the reprieve was refused, the *Times* thought that “to exact [the death penalty] would be to inflict a lifelong and tenfold greater punishment upon innocent and respectable relatives of both Covington and the victim”; and the *Mercury* thought that “every minister of the religion of mercy, every teacher, every parent, would be anxious to prevent the carrying out of the dread sentence”²².

George and Harriet placed a notice in the local papers thanking those who had expressed sympathy, “and more especially for the loving attention of the Rev Dr Brown to the poor boy whose action brought such sorrow in its wake”²³. 120 years on, the humanity of ordinary Bedfordians does them credit. □

David Williams

Not malice, but trouble ? End notes:

1. *UK Medical Register* for 1891, available on Ancestry.
2. 1891 Census, RG12/1249.
3. 1891 Census, RG12/1242.
4. Practising in Harpur Street, according to the 1895 Medical Register.
5. Reports of the inquest and Magistrates' Court hearings from the *Bedfordshire Times* for 22 and 29 June 1895.
6. *Bedfordshire Mercury*, 22 June 1895 (includes the interview and funeral report)
7. 1901 Census, RG13/1492.
8. Sir John Charles Sigismund Day (1826-1908), who "would sometimes listen to cases with his eyes closed, listening intently, and opening an eye suddenly if something significant were said. Colleagues jocularly referred to this as "the peep of Day" (Wikipedia).
9. *Bedfordshire Mercury*, 16 November 1895.
10. After Daniel McNaghten, who in 1843 had shot dead Edward Drummond, secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel. A paranoid delusionist who believed Peel was responsible for his misfortunes, he mistook Drummond for the PM. He was found not guilty of murder on the grounds of insanity and was confined to mental institutions until his death in Broadmoor in 1865.
11. Thus the *Bedfordshire Times* in its editorial of 23 November 1895.
12. *Bedfordshire Mercury*, 30 November 1895.
13. National Archives, HO 144/265/A57407. This once comprised 20 sub-files, but 13 have been destroyed, including, apparently, the detailed submissions on which the Home Secretary based his decision.
14. Mr Justice Day to the Home Office, 19 November 1895.
15. This report was dated 7 October 1895.
16. Rev John Brown, DD (1830-1922) was minister of Bunyan Meeting from 1864 to 1903 and a leading biographer of John Bunyan. The Mercury said that he was asked to visit by some of Arthur's friends in his congregation.
17. *Bedfordshire Mercury*, 7 December 1895.
18. 1891 Census, RG12/1450.
19. 1911 Census, RG14/8845. The two survivors were William of King's Place and George junior of Bury St Edmunds.
20. *Bedfordshire Times*, 18 July 1913 (George); BMD deaths, July quarter 1913 (Harriet)
21. This was not possible until the 1957 Homicide Act.
22. *Times and Mercury*, editorials of 23 November 1895.
23. *Times and Mercury* for 7 December 1895.

CUTTINGS FROM CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

The final Canadian Newspaper cutting sent in by the "The Cornishman".

NOAH (BARNEY) OLDFIELD 1909–1988 After a lengthy illness on April 5 1988 at Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Noah was called home to be with the Lord. Born in Hyde England on October 17 1909 Noah came to Canada with his parents in 1912. He was predeceased by his mother Mary Ellen; his father John;

his sisters Hanah, Gladys and Helena. He leaves to mourn his beloved wife Ethel Mary; sons John and his wife Gwen of Winnipeg, Don and his wife Lynn of Winnipeg ; Brother Henry and his wife Marion of Thunder Bay Ont.; also five Grandchildren, Kimberly, Robert, Andrew, Tracey and Don Junior and one great Grandson Justin. □

From Panacea Society to Panacea Charitable Trust

The rise and decline of The Panacea Society, and its legacy today

The origins of the Panacea Society were forged in 1913, through a series of letters written between four women who shared a common interest in the writings of Joanna Southcott, a 19th Century female prophet. They were particularly interested in Joanna's message regarding the arrival of a new Messiah to England, and each felt the world's troubles would be overcome if only the Bishops of the Church of England would open Joanna Southcott's sealed box of prophecies.

Mabel Bartrop emerged as the leader of the group. She was identified as Shiloh, the messianic child whose appearance was foretold by Joanna Southcott over 100 years before. She was also referred to as Octavia, the eighth prophet of the Visitation (a line of Southcottian prophets), and the Divine Daughter of God.

In subsequent years the group grew in numbers, attracting other like-minded and educated middle-class women. By 1920, the group had more formally established themselves, initially referring to the group as The Community of the Holy Ghost. In 1923, the group adopted the name The Panacea Society, reflecting its developing healing ministry, which would later become a central focus of their operation.

By the mid-1920s, believers had demonstrated their commitment to the Society by moving to Bedford and purchasing houses on Albany



Mabel Bartrop, founder of the Panacea Society, taken after she formally became known as Octavia, the Divine Daughter of God. Prior to becoming Octavia, Mabel was a widowed Vicars wife. She moved to Bedford in 1902 for the 'good schools' and to be near her sister-in-law.

Road and Newnham Road. Where feasible, gardens were amalgamated into a community garden, and houses became large community houses. Pivotal to this was the belief that the newly formed garden was the site of the original Garden of Eden, and in the future this would be the place where Jesus would live upon his second coming.

In 1926, members sought charitable status for the Society, completing an application that was later approved by the Charity Commission.

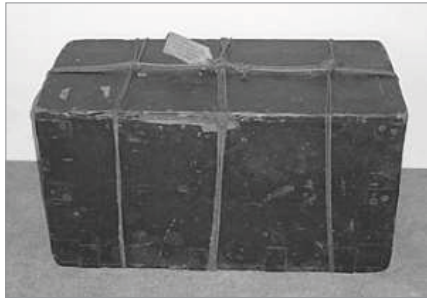
During the late 1920s to early 1930s, the work of the Society continued through a nationwide publicity campaign directed toward the Bishops of the Church of England,

demanding Joanna Southcott's Box of Sealed Writings was opened. During this period, the Society also organised various petitions that gained over 100,000 signatures toward the same goal.

There were around 50 members living in and around the Albany Road area in Bedford in the 1930's, and an additional 2000 members around the world. The majority of resident members who joined the Society were single or widowed middle class women from wealthy backgrounds. Men also joined the Society, particularly in its later period. Individuals with little wealth or means were encouraged to join as servants.

Members devoted their lives to the work of the Society. Alongside promoting the opening of Joanna Southcott's box of prophecies, members promoted its 'healing ministry', a curative remedy thought by its members to be a 'panacea' - a healing cure for all illness. The cure consisted of drinking ordinary water infused with a linen square that had received Octavia's divine breath. The squares were sent free of charge to anyone who requested healing, and applications were received from 130,000 people across 90 different countries around the world.

Subsequent to Octavia's death in 1934, Emily Goodwin became the new leader of the Society. She had become a key figure in the Society from 1922 onward, and believed herself to be 'The Divine Mother of God'.



The original Joanna Southcott's Box, now in the custody of the Panacea Charitable Trust.

It is usually expected that after the death of one or more key members, member numbers begin to decline. However, during the Goodwin years, the number of resident members increased from 54 to 66 and the number of sealed members grew from 1285 to 1978. It was not until her death in 1943 that applications from new members wishing to join the Society slowly went into decline. By the mid-1960s, the number of overall members had reduced from over 2000 to just under 500.

Despite declining membership numbers, the Society continued to campaign tirelessly for the opening of Joanna Southcott's box, as well as expand its healing ministry. The Society was able to continue to fund these endeavours on such a large scale through the generous bequeathal of property and other financial assets from its earlier members.

By 1990 membership had sharply declined to only two resident members, the last of whom, Ruth Klein, died in 2012. With the



Crime and Banditry Poster displayed in Piccadilly Circus June/July 1932.



Resident members enjoying the sunshine in the gardens of the Panacea Society. Members believed this was the original Garden of Eden.



prospect of no further interest or membership to the Society as a religious organisation, The Panacea Society ceased to exist in 2012, and the charity subsequently changed its name to The Panacea Charitable Trust.

Today the charity has two main aims:

1. To foster a better understanding of religious groups whose adherents believe (or believed) that they were living in the "last days" and were expecting the imminent return of Christ. As a non-religious organisation, the charity does not advocate any specific religious interpretation, but aims to become a centre for millennialist and apocalyptic studies. The establishment of The Panacea Museum, open to the general public 3 days a week; and

access to the charity's extensive archive for research and academic purposes, is a step towards the Trust achieving these aims.

2. In furtherance of Christian principles, provide grants for the relief of poverty and sickness and to advance education generally, primarily in Bedford and the surrounding area.

Further information about the Panacea Society, the Panacea Charitable Trust and The Panacea Museum can be found at www.panaceatrust.org. Archives relating to the rise and fall of The Panacea Society are accessible by appointment, please contact vickimanners@panaceatrust.org for more information □

Vicki Manners, Archivist for The Panacea Charitable Trust

JOHN MANTLE / MANTEL HAIRDRESSER AND BIRD STUFFER

These two advertisements from the local newspapers caught my eye. Bedford Mercury 2 December 1837 (right) and 19 October 1839 (below):


JOHN MANTLE,
HAIR CUTTER AND PERFUMER,
MILL-STREET, BEDFORD,

BEGETS to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general, that he has taken the premises adjoining his late Residence, where he has fitted up private rooms for their accommodation.

J. M. takes this opportunity of returning his sincere thanks for the very flattering support he has received during the four years he has been in business, and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part to merit a continuance of their support. An excellent assortment of British and Foreign Perfumery, Combs, Brushes, &c. Also an interesting collection of Birds and Quadrupeds.

* * An Apprentice wanted.

TO THE LOVERS OF THE CHASE AND ORNITHOLOGY.

 **W. M. TEBBS**, having resigned the profession of Bird and Animal Stuffer, begs to return thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general, for the very flattering support he has hitherto received, and solicits an extension of their patronage to his successor, John Mantle.

JOHN MANTLE,
BIRD AND ANIMAL STUFFER,
MILL STREET, BEDFORD,

At the commencement of the Hunting Season, begs to inform Gentry who are anxious to preserve Mammals of their Sports, and Naturalists desirous of collecting specimens, that in addition to his own Business of Taxidermist, he has succeeded to that formerly conducted by Mr. Wm. Tebbe; and having made the various branches of Natural History his study for many years, he flatters himself that he is fully competent to give satisfaction to the most critical employers.

Specimens of British and Foreign Birds and Animals may be seen at his Museum, Mill Street.

John Mantle (or Mantel/Mantell) was a Hairdresser (artist in hair) and Perfumer and a bird and animal stuffer residing in Bedford until around 1867 when he moved to Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire where he carried on similar trades. He is found listed in various commercial directories of Bedford over the years:

1839 Robson's - John Mantle, Mill Street, Hairdresser.

1840 Pigot's - John Mantle, Mill Street, Hairdresser and Perfumer (and bird-stuffer).

1847 Kelly's - John Mantle, Silver Street, Hairdresser and Bird-stuffer

1850 Slater's - John Mantle, Silver Street, Hairdresser, Perfumer (and bird-stuffer).

1853 Craven's - John Mantel, Silver Street, Hairdresser and Perfumer.

1854 Kelly's - John Mantle, Silver

Street, Hair Worker.

1862 Cassey's - John Mantel, 4 Mill Street, Artist in Hair.

1864 Kelly's - John Mantle, Mill Street, Hairdresser and bird and animal stuffer.

1867 Melville's - John Mantel, 4 Mill Street, Hairdresser.

Subsequently in Buckinghamshire

1876 Harrods - John Mantel, Shrubbery Cottage, Newport Pagnell, Artist in Hair.

1877 P.O. Directory - John Mantel. 1 North Square, Newport Pagnell, Hairdresser.

On the 1841 census, living in Mill Street, Bedford St. Pauls' is John Mantle aged 25, taxidermist; with wife Sarah age 25 and an un-named infant son, with no age, probably Walter born Mar 1841. John had married Sarah WATFORD at Cople on 9 Feb 1838. His father was Richard Mantle and her father was

John Watford, valet to Lord Ludlow.

On 1851 census he was a hairdresser living in Silver Street, Bedford with wife Sarah and 5 children, Walter, Sarah, John, Catherine and Elizabeth. He also had two apprentices. The Beds Archives online database have some records of Apprentice Indentures for those assigned to John Mantel, Hairdresser and Perfumer of St. Pauls' Bedford:

- 1840-41 Frederick HODGKINS
- 2 Dec 1846 Thomas COX aged 14
- 5 Oct 1849 John TOMPKINS aged 14
- 6 May 1853 Thomas POTTER aged 14
- 4 Mar 1854 Alfred James ODELL age 14

It seems that John Mantel senior was a bankrupt in the late 1850's with various notices posted in the London Gazette as well as the local newspapers.

The London Gazette 11 May 1858

Whereas a Petition of John Mantell, late of Silver Street, in the parish of St. Paul, Bedford, but now of the High Street in the said town, Hairdresser, Perfumer, Artist in Hair, Dealer in Jewellery, and Combs, Brushes and Cigars, and Bird and Animal Skins Stuffer and Photographic Artist; an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the county court at Bedford, and an interim order for protection from process having been given, the said John Mantell is hereby required to appear before the court on the 28th day of May for his first examination

touching his debts, estate and effects.

At the 1861 census he was living at 4 Mill Street, Bedford with his wife Sarah born Cople and had 4 more children, George, Laura, Gertrude and Agnes, where his occupation is 'Artist in Hair and Bird Preserver'.

By 1871 he has moved to High Street, Newport Pagnell, where he is 'Artist in Hair', with wife and 3 daughters, Laura, Gertrude and Agnes.

In 1881 in North Square, Newport Pagnell, 'Artist in Hair', widower, age 66 with daughter Agnes. Wife Sarah had died December quarter 1880 at Newport Pagnell age 63.

Over the years there are quite a few articles in local newspapers about bird, animal and fish being shot and then sent to John Mantel for preservation, in both Bedford and Newport Pagnell. We would find this quite unacceptable these days. Here are some examples:

Bedford Mercury 21 December 1844

A rare pheasant – Shot on Thursday last, near the preserves of Quintus VIVIAN, Esq, Knuston Hall, a beautiful young cock pheasant, supposed to have been bred from the silver and common pheasant; the head and neck are a glossy black, the body of a rich salmon colour neatly varied with black and exceeds the usual size for pheasants. The bird is at present in the collection of Mr Mantel of Bedford, who is stuffing it.

Bedford Mercury 6 May 1848

A dead shot – On the 12th of last

month, as FROST, gamekeeper to Thomas EDWARDS esq. Of Wooton House, was passing through Wooton Wood, a hawk struck a carrion crow, the keeper fired, and killed both of them. They are beautifully preserved (by Mr Mantel of this town) and may be seen at the George Hotel.

Bedford Mercury 22 November 1858

Amphill – A spotted partridge was recently shot in Amphill Park. This unusual colour is supposed to be the result of old age. It has been sent to be preserved by Mr Mantel, High Street, Bedford.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 14 January 1862

The Oakley Hunt - On Tuesday last, the hounds met at Astwood and drew onto Chicheley, where two of the hounds strayed and killed the largest fox that has been seen in this county for several years. Weight 18lbs, height 19ins, length 39ins. It has been sent to Mr Mantel, 4 Mill Street, Bedford, to be preserved.

Croydon's Weekly Standard 16 May 1868

(A local newspaper published at Newport Pagnell, 1859–1871)

Ornithology – A cream coloured rook has been shot by J ROBINSON esq. of Clifton House, near Olney. This colour is exceedingly rare, and the bird has been sent to Mr Mantel of Newport Pagnell, to be preserved.

Advert, Croydon's Weekly Standard 2 January 1869

Mr Mantel, High Street, Newport Pagnell: Preserver of Birds, Animals,

Fish, and feathers for Ladies' Hats: Has for sale a splendid collection of rare British birds in perfect preservation, in two large cases, set up upon the principle of the birds at the British Museum. Their cost was £100. Each case for sale at £25 per case.

Buckinghamshire Herald 15 May 1869

Milton Keynes – A specimen of that extraordinarily rare and beautiful bird, the red shank, in its summer plumage, has been shot lately in Milton Keynes. The red shank is native to Timor, Sunda and New Guinea; it has been sent to Mr Mantell of Newport Pagnell, to be preserved.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 18 September 1869

Ornithology – A few days ago there was shot on the preserves of Mathew KNAPP esq. Of Linford House, a cream coloured partridge. The bird is nearly full grown and partly through the moult, and is very rare. It has been sent to Mr Mantel, High Street, Newport Pagnell, for preserving.

Croydon's Weekly Standard 11 November 1871

Ravenstone – A Good Catch: A fine pike, weighing over 15lbs, was caught in the river at Ravenstone, a few days since, and the head has been sent to Mr Mantel at Newport Pagnell, for preserving.

Also some adverts from him plying his trade as an 'Artist in Hair':

Advert, Bedford Mercury 20

December 1858

By Special Appointment to Ladies; Mr Mantel, Artist in Hair, High Street, Bedford; Begs respectfully to invite the attention of ladies desirous of inspection to a choice and elegant stock of Chenille Head-dresses and Nets of every variety for the present session. They will be found unparalleled for cheapness and beautiful in design.

Advert, Croydon's Weekly Standard 13 March 1869

Mr Mantel, High Street, Newport Pagnell: Has received a large and fashionable stock of Chignons, Coiffeur Headdresses, Drop Chignon Plaits, Joan of Arc Frizzettes, etc. Ladies preserving the combings of their own hair can have it made into any of the above fashions at 12 hours notice.

Advert, Croydon's Weekly Standard 15 January 1870

Wanted – A respectable youth as an out-door apprentice; he will be taught the profession of Artist in Hair, etc, perfectly. Premium no consideration. Apply to Mr Mantel, High Street, Newport Pagnell.

Advert, Bedford Mercury 17 May 1873

The following advert appeared regularly between August 1871 and August 1873:

The Wonder of the World – Ladies, save your combings, and send them to Mr. Mantel, Artist in Hair, Newport Pagnell, who will make them into Tails, Coils, Ringlets, Chignons, at 5s 6d to 7s 6d per oz.

Artificial hair altered, re-made new to present fashion, 2s 6d per oz.

Also the Bedfordshire Times published snippets of what was happening 70 years previously:

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 25 November 1921

Seventy years ago the leading taxidermist in Bedford was Mr John Mantel who was also a hairdresser and lived in Silver Street. We read that in this week of 1851 a fine specimen of the Peregrine Falcon, trapped by a keeper at Biddenham was sent to him for preservation, also a pair of French partridges shot at Ravensden.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 4 December 1925

Echos of the Past – 1855: A brace of perfectly white pheasants was shot at Sheer Hatch Wood by Mr John PURSER, and sent to Mr Mantel of Bedford, for preservation.

Now back to Mr Mantel of Newport Pagnell as per after the 1881 census.

Buckinghamshire Herald 15 April 1882

Marriages Walker-Mantel – At the parish church, Newport Pagnell, on the 8th inst. by licence, by the Rev C.M. OTTLEY, John WALKER of Stantonbury to Agnes, youngest daughter of John Mantel of Newport Pagnell

He is last seen on the 1885 Electoral Roll of Newport Pagnell; John Mantell, 1 North Square, Shrubbery Cottage. He's not found in the 1887 Roll. However his son is found in 1885 and onwards living at 19

Market Place, Olney. John Mantel the son, born 1845 married Charlotte LANE of Lewisham at Deptford in July 1866. In 1871 he was a school master at Bolnhurst but from 1881 onwards to 1911 they were living in Olney, Bucks. Like his father he was a Hairdresser and Bird-Stuffer as well as being School Attendance Officer. He died in 1924 aged 79.

So having not found evidence of him in later years, no record on 1891 census or even a death index, I was about to give up on him until I found the following snippet:

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 20 September 1946

From Bedfordian's Diary – More memories of Mantel. This tale was told. "After his wife, a gentle, lady-like person, died (in 1880), things did not go well for him He married again (1885), and eventually emigrated at an advanced age to Australia, where he died. His son carried on a hairdressing business in Olney for many years".

This second marriage was in Newport Pagnell on 2 July 1885: John Mantell, of full age, widow, Artist in Hair, of Newport Pagnell, father Richard Mantell (deceased) Builder, married Elizabeth FROGGATT, of full age, spinster, of Newport Pagnell, father Benjamin Froggatt (deceased) Gentleman, at the Independent Congregational Church, Newport Pagnell by licence, witnesses Mary Balshaw (she was wife of James Balshaw the congregational minister who officiated) and Jane Hackett, both

lived in Newport Pagnell.

Brisbane Courier of 3 Apr 1890

....medical superintendent's report of Benevolent Asylum, Dunwich for week ending 29 March – the death during the week was that of John Mantell aged 81, a native of Bedford, England.

From Australian deaths there is an entry in 1890 of a John Mantell with his correct parents, Richard and Sarah. Thanks to Queensland Archives: Dunwich Benevolent Asylum has the record for John Mantell from Bedford, profession taxidermist, admitted 14 Nov 1887 at age 78, living in George Street, Brisbane. It names his parents and his children and says he married in Bedford age 22, but it doesn't say he married again in 1885 or name that second wife, Elizabeth. It says he came to Brisbane by ship 'Bulimba' from London on 5 Nov 1885 and started business in George Street where he has been ever since. It's strange that I've not found him on that ship's voyage passenger list.

However he seems to have carried out the same line of work in Australia:

Brisbane Telegraph 16 Dec 1885

Just arrived, Professor Mantell, sole discoverer of ladies' combings: manufactures them into tails, tresses, scalpettes, chains, rings etc.. and stuffer of birds, animals, fish etc.. Addresses Wellington Street, Petrie Terrace

Brisbane Telegraph 16 Aug 1887

To his worship the mayor's

Schnapper trip party of July 9, we respectfully inform them that their albatross and handsome glass case, with inscription of presentation in gold, as ordered by the said gentleman, is now ready, awaiting inspection. Your obedient servant, Professor Mantell and daughter, George Street, Brisbane.

Why my interest? Richard Mantel married Sarah WOODROFFE in December 1800 at Bedford St. Cuthberts'. They had 8 children, including the above John in 1816.

They also had son Thomas 1804 who married Martha HASELDINE in November 1826 at Bedford St. Pauls'. Martha born 1804 was daughter of John Haseldine who married Mary PARTRIDGE in September 1801 at Bedford St. Peters'. Mary born 1781 Bletsoe, Beds is daughter of my Gt-Gt-Gt-Grandfather Thomas Partridge and his first wife Martha SWANNELL. So I can now say I have a bird-stuffer in my family tree. □

John Partridge

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.

If you aren't currently attending them you are missing out – not just on the talks and lectures, but on accessing a wide range of resources and a pool of knowledge.

Why not come along?



REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the
September 2017 *Journal* is
15 July 2017

LIBRARY NEWS

Members Portal

The following is a full list of exchange journals provided as a PDF from other family history societies in the exchange scheme available on the Member's Portal of the BFHS website. Others will be added soon I am sure.

- Alberta FHS – Chinook
- Australian Institute of Genealogists
- Barnsley FHS – Domus Historiae
- Buckinghamshire FHS – Origins
- Cambridgeshire FHS
- Dorset FHS
- Gen. Society of Northern Territory – Progenitor
- Hillingdon FHS
- Institute of Heraldic and Gen. Studies
- Lincolnshire FHS
- Northants FHS – Footprints
- Queensland FHS – Family Historian
- Richmond-Tweed FHS – Cedar Log

Beds FHS Facebook page

In December's journal I reported that we had 449 'likes' as at 24 October. After some gradual progress we reached 471 'likes' as at 24 January and had 486 'likes' as at 3 March. We passed the 500 mark on 20 March and now have 515 'likes' as at 18 April. Good going! There has been several messages and visitor posts on our FB page over the last few months, so we are being noticed. If any of you members use the internet and like to use Facebook, and have not yet 'liked' the BFHS page, then please do so.

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/

Outstanding Books

In June last year I reported that some books had been borrowed and are outstanding for quite some time. Although a couple have been returned the following have still not showed up. Can the member concerned find it and bring it back in, please. □

John Partridge, Librarian

Outstanding Books

Accn.	Title	Mem.	Borrowed
966	Bedfordshire within Living Memory	? new	Jan 2014
898	Tracing Merchant Seamen	4095	Nov 2014
902	Woburn Congregational Church Book	3884	Jan 2015
622	Wilden – History of	3884	Jan 2015
1588	Bedford Union Workhouse Births/Deaths	3884	Jan 2015



Writing Your Family History E-Courses

Gill Blanchard, BA, MA, PGCE (PCE)

Author of Writing Your Family History: A Guide for Genealogists

Writing Your Family History is a practical writing course that guides participants through the process of bringing their ancestors to life in an enjoyable and entertaining manner.

- Two ten week modules
- Lessons are delivered electronically
- Students receive in-depth feedback
- Access to an online learning hub
- Regular live discussions with the tutor and each other

For more information contact Gill Blanchard at:

Office 14, Meadow View House, 191 Queens Road, Norwich. NR1 3PP

Email: Gill@writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk

Web: www.writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

COLIN DAVISON

66 Sudeley Walk, BEDFORD

Bedfordshire MK41 8JH

England

Tel: (01234) 364956

Email: colinndavison@gmail.com

*Member of the
Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives*

Professional Service Offered. All Enquiries Welcome

BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH RECORDS ON CD

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

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes are now available from:
Noel Evans, 14 Beaulieu Way, BEDFORD, MK41 8NP

or parishsales@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			
Amphill † *	£15	2	Clapham †	£10	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Clifton	£20	1
Aspley Guise †	£15	3	Clophill †	£15	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Cockayne Hatley	£10	1
Barton	£15	3	Colmworth †	£10	1
Battlesden	£10	2	Cople †	£10	1
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Cranfield † *	£15	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Dean † *	£15	1
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Dunstable † *	£15	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Eaton Bray	£20	1
Biddenham †	£10	2	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Edworth †	£10	1
Billington †	£10	2	Elstow †	£15	1
Bletsoe	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	1
Blunham † *	£15	1	Everton	£10	1
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Eyeworth	£10	1
Bromham †	£10	1	Farndish †	£10	1
Caddington †	£15	1	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	1	Flitton *	£15	2
Cardington † *	£15	2	Flitwick	£10	1
Carlton † *	£10	2	Goldington	£10	1
Chalgrave	£15	1	Great Barford †	£15	1
Chellington	£15	2	Harlington †	£10	2

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

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.

Surname	Place / Parish	County	Period
---------	----------------	--------	--------

Mrs Avril Forkings (4253) avrilforkings@btinternet.com

17 Headington Road, Upton, Wirral CH49 4GG

BONE	Flitton	BDF	M18C
BONE	Edlesborough	BKM	<M17C
BONE (William)	Maulden	BDF	M18C
GOSS (Helen)	Maulden	BDF	M18C
SEABROOK	Flitton	BDF	M18C
SEABROOK	Southill	BDF	L16-E18C
SEABROOK	Edlesborough	BKM	<M17C

Judith White (4257) judithwhite22@optusnet.com.au

7 Miowera Avenue, Carss Park, New South Wales, Australia 2221

BANDY	Elstow	BDF	18-19C
CLARK(E)	Cardington	BDF	18-19C
CLARK(E)	Haynes	BDF	18-19C
CLARK(E)	Henlow	BDF	18-19C
DENTON	Wootton	BDF	18-19C
DEVONSHIRE	Campton	BDF	18-19C
MARSTON	Old Warden	BDF	18-19C

Kenneth Pestell (4258) kspstell@yahoo.co.uk

Summerfields, Pillar Box Lane, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0EZ

PESTELL	Colmworth	BDF	16C +
PESTELL	Meppershall	BDF	16C +
PESTELL	Shillington	BDF	16C +
PESTELL	Hexton	HRT	16C +
PESTELL	Cole Orton	LEI	16C +
PESTELL	Leicester	LEI	16C +
PESTELL	Ravenstone	LEI	16C +

Patricia Boyd (4261) pats.b50@gmail.com

Cawhillan, Weydale, Thurso, Highland KW14 8YN

BARRETT	Luton	BDF	17-19C
BROWN	Houghton Conquest	BDF	18-20C
CLEWS	Dunstable	BDF	19-20C
COX	Luton	BDF	18-20C
DEAMER	Harpenden	HRT	18-19C
EASTAFF	Edlesborough	BDF	18-20C

GROOM	Therfield	HRT	18-20C
HARBOROUGH	Dunstable	BDF	18-19C
HAZARD	Edlesborough	BDF	19-20C
KEENS	Eversholt	BDF	19-20C
PRESTON	Therfield	HRT	18-19C
STOTEN	Therfield	HRT	18-19C
TRAVELER	Houghton Conquest	BDF	19-20C
WOODING	Houghton Conquest	BDF	18-20C

Barbara Musgrave (4266) bmusgrave@rogers.com

2480 Winthrop Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5K 2A7

COOK	Ridgemont	BDF	17-19C
DANIEL	Ampthill	BDF	17-19C
DANIEL	Little Brickhill	BDF	19C
DANIEL	Ridgemont	BDF	17-19C
DANIEL	Woburn	BDF	17-19C
LANCASTER	Biggleswade	BDF	17-19C
WILDER	Etwall	DBY	17-19C

Jack Costin (4269) jack.costin@outlook.com

Daisy Cottage, 33 Longfield Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 4DG

COSTIN	Eaton Bray	BDF	17C
COSTIN	Tingrith	BDF	15C
COSTIN	Totternhoe	BDF	19C
COSTIN	Brickhill	BKM	16-18C
COSTIN	Edlesborough	BKM	17-20C
COSTIN	Northall	BKM	17-20C
CRAWLEY	Tingrith	BDF	16-17C
SIMMONS	Edlesborough	BKM	17-19C
SIMMONS	Northall	BKM	17-19C
VARNEY	Edlesborough	BKM	17C
VARNEY	Northall	BKM	17C

Vicki Manners

BA (Hons), BSc (Hons)

***For the repair and preservation of
family history documents***

Tel: 07976 718624

E TO THOSE WHO ARE
TO MARRY.

in contemplate taking a very

You are about to bind

together "till death us do

you will need in your

and think earnestly about

to help you. In a word—

on your marriage.

and read over the service

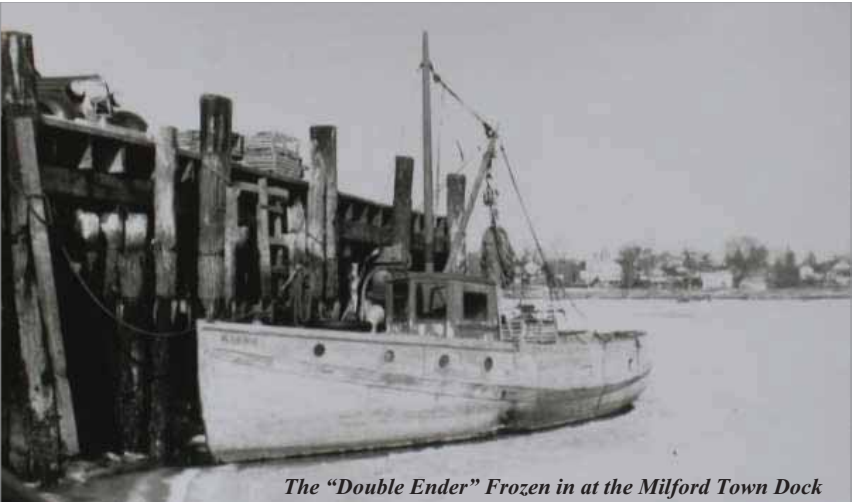
BOTSFORD – AN AMERICAN FAMILY FROM BEDFORDSHIRE

Part Two

Part one of this story related the early origins of the Botsford Family leaving off with Henry Botsford who emigrated from England to the Connecticut Colonies in America in 1637. Botsfords thrived in their new environment and eventually spread across the expanding United States. Subsequently, Botsford offspring reflect a cross section of American families with individuals as doctors, lawyers, university professors, song writers, artists, teachers, labourers, farmers and fishermen. We also have actors, an olympic athlete, as well as a cartoon super hero – Becky Botsford – who, disguised as *Word Girl* on public television, catches and chastises those evil doers that would misuse the English Language.

My immediate family has been connected to the sea and maritime

pursuits since my great-grandfather, Lorrin Botsford, was captain of vessels sailing from New England to the Caribbean in the late nineteenth century. My grandfather, Manton L. Botsford, after whom I am named, established my family's connection to lobster fishing in Long Island Sound, although I do not know the specifics about how or when it came to be. His boat known simply as "the double ender" (both bow and stern pointed) would not be considered sea worthy today, leaked badly and required periodic pumping out to stay afloat. Mat or Mattie, as my grandfather was known, worked diligently to establish his fishing business and sold Lobsters and fish from a small building known as the "Lobster Shed" placed a short distance from the Milford,



The "Double Ender" Frozen in at the Milford Town Dock



Above:

Mattie Botsford with a couple of fine lobsters

Right:

"Babe" Botsford holding the catch of the day



Connecticut Town Dock. He was known in Milford as the only man in town that made his living entirely from the sea and his fishing.

On January 8, 1898, my grandfather married Myrtle Collins in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Myrtle was born in Milford, so I can only guess that they travelled south because my grandfather went to Florida during the winter months for employment. Four children resulted from this marriage – all boys. Sterling (b.1899), Milton (b. 1901), Lorrin (b. 1903), and my father Hanford (called Babe because of being the youngest) born 1907. When the boys were old enough, my father told me that they travelled to Florida in the winter to work as itinerant fishermen. They stayed in a boarding house in Ft. Pierce and fished for "King Fish" which I suspect was short for King Mackerel. My father never told me if

his mother accompanied them on what must have been quite the journey from Connecticut to Florida in the 1920s.

When my father was twelve, he joined my grandfather in the lobster business. He told me of lighting the kerosene running lights and of breaking the ice so they could exit the harbour in winter months. As well as local retail of lobsters and fish, my father and grandfather tried to expand their market by wholesaling their catch to the Fulton Fish Market in New York City. This venture proved unprofitable due to the expense of packing the fish, lobsters, clams, and oysters and then driving the fifty miles to New York.

In another venture, Mattie Botsford entered into an economic partnership with Mr. Perry who operated a popular restaurant – Perry's Oyster

House – situated near the mouth of Milford Harbour. Mattie supplied the lobsters, fish, clams, and oysters for the restaurant. Mr. Perry was credited with creating the first lobster roll served in New England. This popular treat uses a coney roll (hot dog) split from the top and toasted lightly. Lobster meat dredged in butter filled the roll. These sandwiches are popular enough that I even had one in Denver, although it used cold lobster salad instead of warmed in butter – besides costing far more than Mr. Perry would ever have imagined! For some reason my grandfather ended his partnership with Mr. Perry which I believe was a big mistake. Today the land on which the Oyster House stood is prime waterfront real-estate with multiple million dollar condos present.

Lobsters were the primary focus of fishing but flounder was a good selling catch as well. The flounder and other bottom fish were caught by otter trawl and supplied bait for the lobster traps. Also, starting in August, huge schools of menhaden arrived in Long Island Sound, accompanied by their nemesis – bluefish. Bluefish, also called choppers, slashed through the menhaden, gorging themselves, then regurgitating, and resuming to feed. The regurgitated menhaden caused an oil slick to form on the water surface that smelled surprisingly like watermelon. When smelled, a change in operations took place from tending lobster traps, to breaking out hand lines to catch bluefish. The Bluefish

is a strong tasting fish but still provided good sales potential in the retail market.

Fishing gear consisted of tarred cotton hand lines with large spoons or a lead-headed lure with a bunch of chicken feathers attached. The spoons imitated menhaden and the lure, any sort of bait fish. If the bluefish were deep a two-pound chrome plated brass jig was used to imitate a startled squid. Hooks were large, the size of a person's index finger bent into a J shape, to handle fish in the 20-pound range.

My grandfather also took out fishing parties while the schools of bluefish were in the Sound. On one of these trips, my grandfather was at the helm forward of the fishermen located near the stern of the boat. While everyone was watching their lines, Mattie reached over the side of the boat, grabbed a bluefish and flipped it onto the deck! The startled fishermen were amazed and thought the fish were jumping into the boat of their own accord. My father told me this is absolutely true, as hard as it is to believe.

My father, Babe married my mother Julia Marcella in 1934. One year later an event transpired that changed the Botsford fishing business. On December 17, while three miles offshore pulling the otter trawl for fish, the engine failed and attempts to repair it did not work. My father tied a white rubber coat to the mast as a distress signal, but passing boats did not respond. The night was spent burning anything available to keep

warm. They were rescued the next morning after my mother telephoned the coastguard when my father failed to return the previous night. This experience convinced my father and grandfather that fishing during the winter was far too risky, and it was discontinued.

All Botsford boats served pleasure or other uses prior to becoming fishing boats. After the “double ender” they all bore the name Julia B named for my mother. Julia B II is of note because it belonged to Hyman Lender, son of Harry Lender, who had started a bagel bakery in New Haven, Connecticut. Lender bagels can now be found in every grocery store across our nation. Julia B III served a full life with the U.S. Navy as a Liberty Launch for the U. S. Battleship Missouri (BB 63) before performing marina duties for the Milford Boat Works, and subsequently being outfitted for

lobster boat duties. The engine, mast, and power take-off with a capstan, moved to each new boat. My father performed any engineering that was required to make all work properly.

At the breakout of World War II my father reported, as ordered, for induction to military service, but because of a prior injury to his left eye, through which he could not see clearly, he was rejected. However, while most individuals were rationed a small allowance of gasoline, my father was granted adequate fuel to run his boat because he provided food for the townspeople.

During the war years my father continued to fish but was required to fly a semaphore flag set, changed periodically as ordered by the U.S. coastguard. My mother sewed the individual flags and I remember them hanging in the lobster shed when I was a boy. All vessels were closely watched in Long Island Sound, and



Julia B in an empty harbour

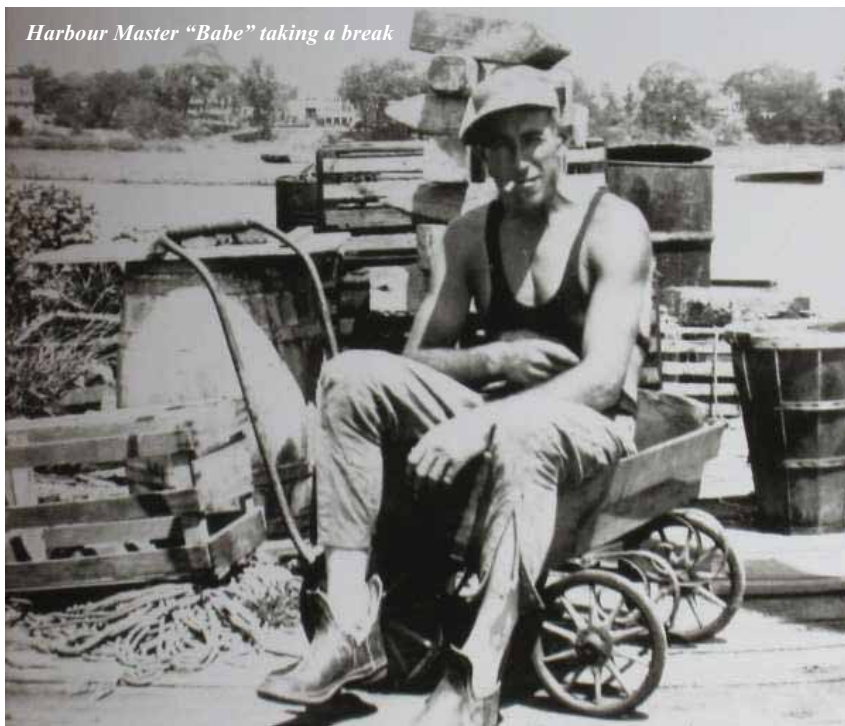
rightfully so. My father said he saw what he believed to be a German Submarine one morning passing Stratford Shoal where he set his lobster traps, some seven miles offshore. We have learned, just recently from a public television program about the war, that the Germans did in fact use submarines to deliver spies who were offloaded on Long Island. The German infiltrators were quickly apprehended, however, before they could do any harm.

In 1946 the Governor of the State of Connecticut appointed my father Babe, Harbour Master of Milford Harbour. This seemed most appropriate as “Babe” Botsford was

at or around the harbour throughout the day. Duties consisted of maintaining order for passage in and out of the harbour, enforcing low speed of boats while in transit, and assisting boaters with information on allowable length of stay at the public dock and general information on the harbour and town. No pay came for this service but the position was considered desirable and prestigious.

My father continued to fish through thick and thin. During the 1970s Long Island Sound reached a turning point with pollution so high that lobsters and fish numbers dropped to near zero. I accompanied him on one trip to catch bait for the lobster traps when he dragged the otter trawl for

Harbour Master “Babe” taking a break



well over an hour only to net plastic bags, beer cans, and starfish – no fish at all. Fortunately, Babe worked as a ships carpenter at the local marina so he did not have to depend on fishing to support my family. He bought tinned sardines for Lobster trap bait during this time, hanging one can in each trap after punching several holes in it.

A massive effort ensued to clean up the water beginning with stopping brass foundries and other industrial complexes from dumping their waste water into rivers that empty into Long Island Sound. Recovery did not take place overnight, but slowly as pollution dropped the fish and lobsters returned.

Botsford lobster traps were self designed and refined through years of experience. The Oak frames and lath were cut to order by Mr. Marquard of Clinton, Connecticut. My father would order what he needed at the end of each fishing season and Mr. Marquard had the order ready in late winter. I can remember with delight our trip to get the material and the mountains of

oak shavings and sawdust smelling sweet and earthy in the barn that housed the saws and milling machines.

Each night through the winter my father would retreat to the basement and assemble lobster traps. I would help by hammering the frames together. Both my mother and father knitted the net funnels that served as entrance and trapping mechanism in each lobster trap. Eight common building bricks were secured along the sides on the bottom of each trap. Line for each trap was set in length according to water depth so that there was just enough length to allow the buoy to come to the surface at slack water between tides. When the tide changed, the current caused the buoy to submerge. Lack of visibility added a bit of protection against thieves wanting to steal Lobsters or the whole lobster trap. The buoys were painted black for low visibility, and with binoculars I had a hard time seeing them. My father, however, even with but one good eye could find them looking into the surface glare and even knew where he was in

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

Back copies of Journal Volumes 1 – 19 including indexes,
in .pdf format.

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.

Only £10 including postage and is available from:

Noel Evans, 14 Beaulieu Way, BEDFORD, MK41 8NP
or parishsales@bfhs.org.uk

the entire spread of traps with just a quick look.

Loss of lobsters and traps was a continuing problem. Some boaters thought it ok to pull traps and take the lobsters. Others simply took the trap, line, and buoy. One unsavoury character my father called “Blackie” lobstered out of nearby Bridgeport and was the first person accused when gear went missing. My dad never caught anyone in the act of theft of gear or located any traps when he searched nearby waters. On one trip that I accompanied him on, my father even took his rifle with him. I was nervous the entire time, not knowing what he would do if he encountered someone interfering with his traps. Fortunately, we were by ourselves this day, and nothing violent transpired. Storms with heavy seas also resulted in loss of traps and on occasion a lighter or tugboat-propelled barge would veer off course and take out a number of them. traps were also lost if attention was not paid to the time of the season that the marine boring worm, the teredo, spawned and set. All wood was at danger from teredos, hence the painting of boat hulls with red lead paint. Once set on wood the teredo larvae bored through the wood leaving tunnels and by maturity, could render lobster traps a crumbling mass of mushy wood. Defence against this menace required all traps to be brought in and thoroughly dried to kill the worms. A chemical dip was eventually developed that prevented worm

attachment, saving a great deal of work.

On occasion I would accompany my dad to help, yet getting up at four in the morning was not easy for me. Leaving this early put us at Stratford Shoal at daybreak to commence trap pulling. If seas were calm, I usually did all right, but with some rolling and pitching it was another matter. Movement of the boat with the added ambiance of rotting fish, kept salted in a barrel on deck for bait, plus engine exhaust, and I became seasick and useless.

Pulling lobster traps was a refined choreography of actions developed over years of practice. Traps were placed in rows of five to ten laid out in a rectangular grid covering perhaps a quarter mile in extent. The first trap at one end of the set was approached, snagged with a boat hook and the ships wheel turned hard to starboard to avoid having the line caught by the propeller. As the boat began to circle, the buoy end of the line was grabbed and put over a pulley at the end of the davit extending out near the helm. The line was then put down to the capstan and the engine now provided the power to lift the trap while my father coiled the line in his hands. Once at the surface, the trap was grabbed and pulled aboard to rest on a small collapsible shelf. The trap’s door was quickly opened, lobsters removed and placed on deck, with any other by-catch (crabs, whelks) thrown overboard. A quick stab into the fish barrel with a pointed tool yielded one



Julia B IV ready to be launched

or two fish. A cut in the point of the tool allowed a wire ring inside the trap to fit on the end of the tool. The fish were pushed onto the wire ring, the trap's door affixed and the trap was ready to fish once more. By the time this had taken place the boat had circled to a point of being headed to the next trap in the set. A distance was travelled for reset and the trap was shoved over the side. I played out the line and threw the buoy overboard, clear of the boat's stern to avoid the propeller. As we approached the next trap, my Dad or I, "plugged" the joint of the large claw of each lobster, both for the safety of us and other lobsters. The lobsters were then placed in a tub on deck with running seawater. Lobsters of questionable size were measured,

and if too small by state law, were thrown over the side. By this time we were at the next trap and the sequence began again.

By noon we were back in the harbour. Lobsters were delivered to my mother at the lobster shed to be sold, and my Dad went to work at the Milford Marina. I usually went home for a nap.

As Julia B III neared the end of service my Dad became interested in a new fiberglass hull. Fiberglass had quickly replaced wood as a material for boat hulls, and a company in Maine produced a hull of classic Down East lobster boat style. In 1973, a thirty-two-foot hull was ordered, and upon arrival work began to create Julia B IV. By spring of

1974 the bare hull was transformed into a classic lobster boat ready to serve in Long Island Sound. Julia B IV exceeded my father's expectations. She was smooth running, stable, and virtually maintenance free. These qualities were a big plus for a sixty-five-year-old fisherman. My dad fished through 1974 and then declared one day that he had had enough. After fifty plus years the Botsford lobster business came to an end.

My wife and I lived in Colorado at this time and my father said he wanted to "dry out" and liked the idea of a home in Colorado. He put his house up for sale and conducted a massive yard sale of fishing paraphernalia. Milford's townspeople were like a swarm of locusts and

bought anything and everything. Old fishing gear that my father wanted to take to the dump sold rapidly, which amused him immensely.

A most bizarre set of circumstances concluded the Botsford Family connections to the sea. Julia B IV was sold to a young co-worker at the Milford Marina. Johnathan lived a short distance from Milford along the coast. He moored Julia B IV just off the beach near his home. Somehow, Julia B IV broke her mooring lines and before Jonathan knew about it, the boat drifted east, right out of Long Island Sound and into the Atlantic. It is most peculiar that nobody realised the boat was adrift. Nobody checked to see if all was ok. The next report of Julia B IV came through the U. S. coastguard who



related the chain of events. Julia B IV had drifted out into the Atlantic, up along the coast of Massachusetts and Maine, and out to the Grand Banks southeast of Newfoundland Canada. The boat was approached by a Russian trawler that confirmed that Julia B IV was adrift with no crew aboard. The Russians took Julia B IV in tow and intended to take her to port. The seas must have been running high because, as the towing proceeded, Julia B IV came down the face of a large wave, sped up, turned slightly, and went bow first under water. Nothing could be done to save her at this point. The tow line was cut and Julia B IV settled to the bottom on the Grand Banks where she remains to this day.

When my father sold, gave away, and threw out fishing gear accumulated over more than fifty years, I salvaged as much as I could. My grandfather's spy glass, my fathers compass, two steel

engravings of marine scenes dated 1898 that hung in the lobster shed, a 19th century bottle dredged up in the otter trawl, photographs, tools and the Brass Kerosene running lights my father lit each morning were all saved. I even saved the propeller from Julia B III as well as the last lobster trap in existence that my father built.

No Botsfords reside in the city of Milford now. My family's intimate association with the sea and fishing is over, never to return, and exists only in these stories and collection of artefacts. But, on our infrequent trips back to Milford, former friends of Babe and Julia, happily remind us of the days when my parents were so much a part of the milieu of the Milford harbour community. □

Manton L. Botsford

All photos are credited to the Botsford Family.



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

OBITUARY TO JOY CLAYSON 1942 – 2017

Joy was born on the 15 March 1942, the only child of Wilfred and Alice Clayson. She was baptized at St Mary's Rushden on 19 April that year and later confirmed.

She attended Newton Road School before going to Dame Alice Harpur School for Girls in Bedford. From there she trained as a teacher at Eastbourne Teacher Training College, before going on to become a teacher at the John Bunyan Senior School in Bedford, ending her Career as a Deputy Head Teacher.

Joy was one of the founding members of the Bedfordshire Family History Society in 1977. She became the Society's Librarian in the spring of 1977, Chairman between spring 1978 and the summer of 1980 and became a life Vice President from 1987 to March 2017.

She was also a member of the International Federation of Family History Societies becoming the Education Officer between 1983 and 1990, where she did an excellent job.

In addition Joy was co-organiser of the first 5 day British Family History Conference in March 1980. Organiser of the International Family History Conference hosted by Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Family History Societies in September 2006. Co-organiser of the Clayson family international reunions in 1982 and 1987.

Joy was also heavily involved with the Northamptonshire Family History



Society. She held positions of Chairman, Publicity Officer, Programme Secretary and Bookstall Manager.

Joy was a familiar figure at national and local genealogical events in Britain and overseas, lecturing and writing articles and offering advice to newcomers and always entering in the spirit of things. At least twice a year she attended a weekend genealogical conference somewhere in the UK. She was a cruise ship enthusiast travelling to many overseas areas including Alaska and Russia.

Joy was the 4th cousin of our Society Patron Colin Chapman.

She provided me with support and advice over the years.

Personal messages of sympathy have been received from around the world. Joy will be greatly missed by the Bedfordshire FHS and her family and friends. □

Colin Chapman – Patron
Geoff Sewell – Chairman

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 don't 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 at secretary@bfhs.org.uk or by post (please add £1 for UK postage and packing—for outside the UK please enquire before ordering) from:

Lynn Manning
38 Risborough Road
Bedford MK41 9QW
Tel. 01234 306482

Cheques to be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society



HAVE I FOUND THE MAD PREACHER IN THE FAMILY?

This is an account of the talk I gave to BFHS on 3rd February. The story is about our family in the bottom-right-hand-corner of Wales. There is almost no connection with Bedfordshire at all.

“You’ve been doing family history. Did you know that we had a mad preacher in the family?” my cousin, Colin, asked me. I don’t see him very often: he’s been living in the Glasgow area for years now. We were visiting him either for a wedding or a funeral and it was some time after Marjorie and I started studying our family histories that he told me this. The details, as far as he could remember them, were that this preacher was an Anglican priest, he preached in Welsh and his name was Evans (though Colin was less certain about the last point).

Well, I’d not heard of this ‘mad preacher’ but the question reminded me of a story that my father told me years ago. (My father died in 1969 and I think that he told me the story some years before that.) As I remember the story it was that one of his uncles had told him of the time that he’d been invited to preach in Bristol. He had travelled to the ferry at Black Rock (I think that this was by pony and trap), crossed the Severn and gone on to Bristol. When he got to Bristol he found that he had left his notes behind but, despite that, he preached the best sermon of his life! (I know, this has been said about countless preachers, mad or



Photo 1: Evans family at Caerwent

otherwise, but it was part of the story my father told me.)

Are these two stories or different parts of the same story? There is a common source. My father and Colin’s mother were brother and sister living with their parents in Caerwent, Monmouthshire. *See photo 1.*

Before the family history, the history of the ‘Black Rock Ferry’. It’s correct name was the ‘New Passage Ferry’. I was very familiar with Black Rock. It’s a spot on the Severn estuary about 1 mile from where I grew up and my parents had been taking me there for walks for as long as I can remember. From the shore there you can still see, at low tide, the foundations of the pier which stretched out into the estuary. Turning inland you can see the track of the railway that brought trains right out onto the pier. Nearby you can also see the ferryman’s cottage (much refurbished) and the stables where travellers could leave their horses; (it’s now converted for human habitation). I can remember the hotel (by then a private house)

but that's gone now. You can still see the track of the railway and follow it for a mile to where it joined the mainline at Portskewett Station (now also, sadly, gone). But why has it gone? In 1886 the Severn Tunnel opened. The ferry closed the same day. You can read much more about the ferry and the railway in the book 'Portskewett Railways' by Richard Smith. As far as the family history story is concerned, the whole point of this history of the ferry is that the preacher in my father's story went to Bristol before 1886.

So, what do I know about my father's uncles? I've shown that none of the people in the tables below, who lived early enough to use the ferry, were priests, with the possible exception of Hezekiah Davies. So far I've found no more about him.

<u>Siblings of his father, George Evans</u>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Born</i>	
John	1866	Coal merchant
Llewellyn	1877	Aged 9 when ferry closed
Clara		Never married

So, what about great uncles? My father's Paternal grandfather, Edward Evans, had 8 siblings and I must admit that I haven't researched them very much.

- Paternal grandmother, Hannah nee Williams, had one brother, Adam, a farmer.
- Maternal grandmother, Matilda nee Davis, had one sister, Rachel,

married a farmer.

- Maternal grandfather, Noel Gwynne Price had seven siblings, and this is the line that eventually proved interesting.

So far most marriages had been easy to find: they were in the person's parish or the next. Finding the marriage of Noel Gwynn Price and Matilda Davis was more difficult. Eventually I sent for the GRO marriage certificate and found that they were not married in a rural parish but in Newport, in St Woolos Church, the biggest in town (now St Woolos Cathedral). And the occupations of the groom, groom's father and bride's father were all recorded as farmers. As we will see one of these was miss-heard or the wrong information was given.

We'd been researching family history

<u>Siblings of his mother Emma née Price</u>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Born</i>	
Matilda	1858	married a tram conductor
John	1859	farmer
Noel W	1861	farmer
Ada	1863	married Hezekiah Davies
Tom	1865	farmer
Francis	1868	farm bailiff
Harry	1869	aged 17 when ferry closed
Godfrey	1871	younger
Clara	1873	younger

for several years when we made a breakthrough. We were staying at the Caravan Club's Tredegar Park site, Newport. Among the leaflets we were given on arrival was one that said that there was a family history centre in the park. We went to see. The staff said, "We didn't know we were a family history centre! We're a branch of Newport Library but our computers have access to Find My Past; would you like to try that?" Previously we hadn't used family history web sites but, of course this was a good time to start. What should we look for? I realised that there was a gap in my history of Noel Gwynne

Price. I'd found him in the 1881 census and from his children's place of birth found him in 1871 and 1861: from his place of birth I'd found his baptism but I hadn't found him in the early censuses. I'd found that his father was John Price, but search for John Price in Wales and you'll be rather overwhelmed by the result. 'Noel Gwynn Price' is much more specific to search. I started with the 1851 census: *Table 1* shows the household that I found.

You can guess Marjorie's reaction, "Where on earth is that?" Fortunately I'd found out a few years before. We'd booked a caravan pitch at the

Rectory House					
John Price	Head	mar	47	Rector of Lanvihangle Tor-y---dd	(born) Brecon, Crickhowel
Rachel <i>do.</i>	Wife	mar	47	Wife	Mon. Llantrisant
John Gwynne <i>do.</i>	son	u	18	Son	Mon. Kemeys Inferior
Bertha <i>do.</i>	dau	u	16	Scholar	<i>do.</i>
Noel G <i>do</i>	son	u	14	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>
Emma <i>do</i>	dau	u	11	<i>do.</i>	Mon. Lansoy
Mary Jane <i>do</i>	dau	u	7	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>
Thomas G <i>do</i>	son	u	4	<i>do.</i>	<i>do.</i>
Eliza Ann <i>do</i>	dau	u	2		<i>do.</i>
John Price (Sen ^t)	Father	wid	74	Gentleman	Carmarthan, Talley
William Price	Brother	u	54	<i>do.</i>	Brecon, Crickhowel
Isaac Thomas	Serv.	u	20	Gen ^l serv ^t	Lan ^l tory ^{dd}
Ann Rosser	Serv.	u	21	Gen ^l serv ^t	Lansoy

Table 1: From 1851 Census, Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd, Monmouthshire.

Note re. spellings. Within the table I have copied the spellings as they were written. Elsewhere I have used the spellings on modern signs. Also 'Kemeys Inferior' is incorrect. The three children were baptised at Kemeys Commander, where Rev John Price was then curate. These two villages are not close to one another.

Star Inn, Llansoy. I knew this road quite well: after turning at the sign for Llansoy you go down a long hill and at the bottom, before you come to Llansoy village, The Star is on your right. While we were staying there, on one occasion we returned to The Star from the other direction, i.e. from Llansoy village, and I was surprised that before we reached The Star we passed a sign that we were entering Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd. (So, The Star is not in Llansoy after all.) I'd also noticed a brown 'Historic Church' sign nearby. The next day being Sunday, we could not go to Gwent Archives to find more so we headed back to The Star and followed the brown sign. It led us down a narrow lane and eventually we found the sign to the

church – a public footpath sign pointing down an even narrower lane. This turned out to be the entry to the church car park and there was the main entrance to the church yard. *See photo 2.* We started walking through the churchyard: I was some way behind Marjorie as I paused to take photographs when I heard her calling, "You must come and look at this." She was standing by a group of stone crosses. *See photo 3* The inscription on the one she was pointing to was, "[unreadable] THE MEMORY OF THE REVD JOHN PRICE, LATE RECTOR OF THIS PARISH, BORN FEB 13TH 1804, DIED NOV 11TH 1883." There were four stone crosses and two headstones in the group. Between them eighteen members of the family were named. *Table 2* shows seven of



Photo 2: Llanfihangel TyM church

them, in date order. These seven are the ones that include the name of Rev. John Price. Note the range of dates. The latest one is fifty years after his death.

Two more facts from the census returns. In 1861 Rev John recorded his occupation as, “Rector of Llanfihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd and Incumbent of Kilgwrrwg” and in 1881 as “Rector of Llanfihangel and Kilgwrrwg”. This time someone later wrote across that, “clergyman”.

Subsequently we browsed through the registers of Llanfihangel, Llansoy and Kilgwrrwg. Marjorie noticed that in all his time as rector of Llanfihangel he conducted every funeral except two: those of his father and of his wife. I noticed the baptisms of two of Noel Gwynne’s children although his family were living in Wolvesnewton at the time.

When I went to enter these on my record sheets I found that I had already recorded their baptisms; in Wolvesnewton. I checked again. *See photos 4 and 5.* In each case I’ve placed extracts of the two registers alongside each other. Wolvesnewton at the top, Llanfihangel at the bottom. You can see that the entries are identical except that in Llanfihangel John Price signs as ‘Rector’ and in Wolvesnewton he signs as ‘Officiating Minister’. You can’t see the year each time but they are the same too (Matlda 1858, John Gwynne 1859). Which church were these baptisms conducted at? We’ll probably never know. When Robert Parker spoke to us about ‘Parish Registers’ a few months ago I showed him these pages. He said, “I’ve never seen this before”. On the same page of the Wolvesnewton

RACHEL, WIFE OF THE REVD JOHN PRICE,
DIED MAY 25TH 1875 AGED 68 YEARS.

THE REVD JOHN PRICE, LATE RECTOR OF THIS PARISH,
BORN FEB 13TH 1804, DIED NOV 11TH 1883

BERTHA ELIZABETH, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE THE REVD JOHN PRICE,
DIED AT COLWALL MARCH 5TH 1919 AGED 84 YEARS

THOMAS GWYNNE, YOUNGEST SON OF THE LATE THE REV JOHN PRICE,
DIED AT COLWALL SEPTEMBER 12TH 1925

TOM GWYNNE, GRANDSON OF THE LATE REVD JOHN PRICE,
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF EMILY MARGARET PRICE,
(OF LANPILL FARM IN THIS PARISH),
DIED JULY 11TH 1929 AGED 64 YEARS

ELIZA ANNE, YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE LATE REVD JOHN PRICE,
DIED JAN 5TH 1934 AGED 84 YEARS

MARY JANE HODGES, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE REVD JOHN PRICE,
DIED JULY 2ND 1936 AGED 93 YEARS

Table 2: MIs mentioning Rev John Price



Photo 3: Llanfihangel TyM graves

No. 175	Nov 25	John Noel	Joyce Price	Woloshen	Farmer	John Price
		Barry	Maile			Rector
No. 176	Nov 25	John Noel	Joyce Price	Woloshen	Farmer	John Price
		Barry	Maile			Rector
No. 177	Nov 25	John Noel	Joyce Price	Woloshen	Farmer	John Price
		Barry	Maile			Rector

Photo 4: baptism J G Price

No. 178	May 25	Matilda Noel	Elyabeth Joyce Price	Woloshen	Farmer	John Price
		Daughter	Maile			off Minister
No. 223	May 25	Matilda Noel	Elyabeth Joyce Price	Woloshen	Farmer	John Price
		Daughter	Maile			Rector

Photo 5: baptism Matilda Price

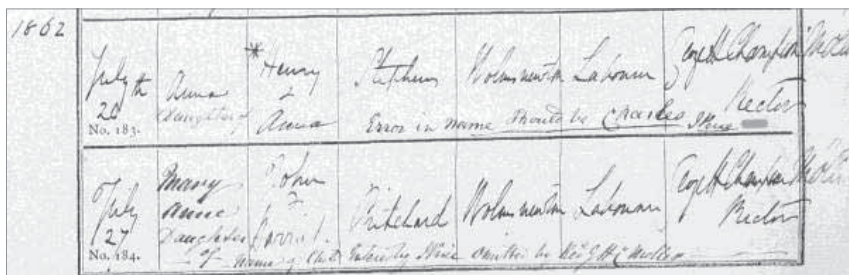


Photo 6: Wolvesnewton corrections

register I found that John Price had written corrections to the rector's entries. *See Photo 6*. You might think that these villages, one with a very Welsh sounding name and the other with a very Anglo-Saxon sounding name are miles apart. In fact they share a boundary along a winding brook in a broad rural valley.

So, how does Rev John Price compare to my cousin's description of the 'mad preacher'? He was an Anglican priest, there is no evidence that he spoke Welsh though his father did come from a Welsh speaking area. Was he mad? Not in the clinical sense but I think that the register entries show that he was a little eccentric and the MIs show that he was remembered for a long time after his death.

Could he have been the man who travelled to Bristol to preach? John Price died in 1883: The ferry closed in 1886. Llanfihangel is about 10 miles north of Black Rock; allow 15 miles to drive there avoiding the steepest hills. Yes, he could have made that journey in less than a day with a horse and trap.

But he was definitely not my father's uncle (or great uncle etc.) and he could not have met my father, who was born in 1906. The burial register entries for the last two burials in the MIs may shed some light. *See photos 7 and 8*. These two ladies were each living at Rose Cottage, Caerwent, at the time of their deaths. The newspaper report on the death of Mary Jane Hodges (July 2 1936) gives the address as Ross Cottage. I knew that address. When my mother put the family photo into her album (Photo 1 earlier) she wrote where and when on the page – 'Ross Cottage, August 1936'. That house now has 'Rose Cottage' on the door. So, the two ladies were living with the Evans family. Surely my father and Colin's mother would have gone to their funerals. Imagine the group of mourners gathered those graves. They would have been looking at the inscriptions, the older family members pointing them out and telling what they knew of the people mentioned. I suspect that it an uncle told the story of the journey to Bristol, not about himself but about Rev John Price.

No. 401.	Tor-y-mynydd	1700	Reclon
Eliza Ann Price	Rose Mapp Carewnt	10th January 1934	85 J. Jones Reclon
No. 402.			

Photo 7: burial Eliza Price

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Mary Jane Hodges	Rose Mapp Carewnt	6th July 1936	92	Canon Matthews Carewnt J. Jones, Reclon
No. 409.				

Photo 8: burial Mary J Hodges

Have I found the ‘Mad Preacher’? I can’t be sure but I think I have a very strong candidate. □

Noel Evans

Images of the parish registers are printed by permission of Gwent Archive.

Post scripts

1. If you wish to look up where these places are: Black Rock, NP26 5TW then follow the road to the shore: Llanfihangel Tor-y-mynydd church, NP15 1DU, then go 400m N: Kilgwrrwg church, NP16 6PD then go 200m W, Wolvesnewton church lat/long 51.694027, -2.791157.
2. Being curious as to who the landlords of my tenant farmer ancestors were, I looked at the

1841 tithe allocations. A major land owner in the area was ‘His Grace, the Duke of Beaufort’. In His Grace’s family tree is one Margaret Beaufort. That is the only connection between this story and Bedfordshire.

3. Some time after our stay at the Star Inn I received one of those phone calls out of the blue. It was a lady doing a survey on holidays. Q. “Have you been on holiday this year?”. A. “Yes”. Q. “Where did you go?”. A. “To Wales.” Q. “Where did you stay in Wales?”.. A. “Llanfihangel Tor-y-Mynydd” Questioner “All right, I’ll just write down Wales.”

FORTHCOMING FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS 2017

Buckinghamshire FHS The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH	Saturday 29 th July 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
The Family History Show - London Event Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, KT10 9AJ	Sunday 24 th September 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Hertfordshire FHS Woolmer Green Village Hall Off Bridge Road, Woolmer Green SG3 6XA	Saturday 30 th September 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Suffolk FHS University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ	Saturday 30 th September 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Oxfordshire FHS The Marlborough School Shipton Road Woodstock, OX20 1LP	Saturday 7 th October 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Hampshire Genealogical Society Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9FP	Sunday 8 th October 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
West Surrey FHS Woking Leisure Centre Kingfield Road Woking GU22 9BA	Saturday 4 th November 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Boston FH Centre Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Woodthorpe Avenue Boston, Lincs PE21 0LY	Saturday 4 th November 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Doncaster FHS Doncaster College for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6AY	Saturday 14 th October 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

GENEVA: An online calendar of GENEalogical Events and Activities

The GENEVA calendar is being run jointly on behalf of GENUKI and the Federation of Family History Societies. <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

GLEANINGS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Here's some more interesting extracts from articles in local newspapers.

Northampton Mercury 10 November 1810

Bedfordshire Agricultural Society –
At the General Meeting held at The Swan Inn, Bedford on 26 October, the following prizes were adjudged to the successful candidates.

To James POTTS of Eversholt, the first prize of the silver cup of 8 guineas, for having ploughed half and acre of land within the space of 3 hours and 3 minutes, with a Scotch Plough, with a pair of horses, without a driver.

To His Grace the Duke of Bedford, the second prize of 5 guineas, for having ploughed half and acre of land within the space of 2 hours and 23 minutes, with a Norfolk Plough, with a pair of horses, without a driver.

To John FOSTER Esq. of Bedford, the third prize of 2 guineas, for having ploughed half and acre of land within the space of 2 hours and 40 minutes, with a Leicestershire Plough, with a pair of horses, without a driver.

~

To James POTTS, the holder of the first winning plough, 2 guineas.

To Joseph COLE, the holder of the second winning plough, 1 guinea and a half.

To Henry SMITH, the holder of the third winning plough, 1 guinea.

~

To Thomas PACK, of Souldrop, labourer in husbandry, the first prize of 4 guineas; he having had and brought up six children without parochial relief.

To William CURTIS, of Odell, labourer in husbandry, the second prize of 3 guineas; he having had and brought up five children without parochial relief.

To Richard PELL, of Kempston, labourer in husbandry, the third prize of 2 guineas; he having had and brought up four children without parochial relief.

~

To John EDWIN, of Dean, labourer in husbandry, the first prize of 4 guineas; he having worked as a labourer, 40 years on the same farm, without interruption.

To John DANIEL, of Southill, labourer in husbandry, the second prize of 3 guineas; he having worked as a labourer, 38½ years on the same farm, without interruption.

To Richard PELL, of Kempston, labourer in husbandry, the third prize of 2 guineas; he having worked as a labourer, 38 years on the same farm, without interruption.

~

To Joseph HARRIS, of Potsgrove, the first prize of 4 guineas; he having lived as a hired servant, 33 years on the same farm.

To Thomas ASHTON, of Odell, the second prize of 3 guineas; he having

lived as a hired servant, 22 years on the same farm.

To William SABEY, of Bolnhurst, the third prize of 2 guineas; he having lived as a hired servant, 22 years on the same farm.

~

To Mary WARD, of Pulloxhill, the first prize of 3 guineas; she having lived as a hired servant in husbandry, 13 years on the same farm.

To Catherine FRANKLYN, of Wimmington, the second prize of 2 guineas; she having lived as a hired

servant, 10 years on the same farm.

To Mary MINERS, of Pavingham, the third prize of 1 guinea; she having lived as a hired servant, 9 years on the same farm.

To Mr John PEPPERCORN, of Southill, the Premium of a cup, of the value of 8 guineas; he having made the greatest Improvement of Underdrainage, agreeable to the rules of the Society, between the months of October 1808 and October 1809.

□

John Partridge

WDYTIA? LIVE TO CLOSE ITS DOORS

In case you haven't heard, Immediate Media, the organisers of WDYTYA? Live, recently announced that they had reached the difficult decision to close the doors on the annual event after a ten-year run, citing "financial reasons."

The UK's largest family history show celebrated its tenth anniversary in April this year, when over 13,000 family historians and more than 100 specialist exhibitors attended the three-day event at the Birmingham NEC.

□



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 P&P.

available from:

Noel Evans, 14 Beaulieu Way, BEDFORD, MK41 8NP
or parishsales@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.parishchest.com
www.genfair.com

The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk
secretary@bfhs.org.uk
treasurer@bfhs.org.uk
bookstall@bfhs.org.uk
journal@bfhs.org.uk
librarian@bfhs.org.uk
membership@bfhs.org.uk
parishsales@bfhs.org.uk
publicity@bfhs.org.uk
projects@bfhs.org.uk
research@bfhs.org.uk
searches@bfhs.org.uk
social@bfhs.org.uk
webmaster@bfhs.org.uk
distribution@bfhs.org.uk

Society Chairman
Society Secretary
Society Treasurer
Bookstall Managers
Journal Co-ordinator
Society Librarian
Membership Secretary
CD and Microfiche Sales Enquiries
Publicity Officer
Projects Co-ordinator
Research Co-ordinator
Search Co-ordinator
Social Events Organiser
Society Webmaster
Journal Distribution

ADVERTISEMENT RATES (per issue)

	Vertical	Horizontal	Rate
Full page	160 mm x 250 mm	250 mm x 160 mm	£20.00
Half page	80 mm x 250 mm	125 mm x 160 mm	£10.00
¼ page	80 mm x 125 mm	60 mm x 160 mm	£5.00

Copy should be on A4 paper, and the above sizes are quoted for an A4 sheet;
copy should be sent to:

The Journal Co-ordinator, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society,
and enclosed with the advertisement.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(1 January - 31 December)

Each Individual Membership receives one copy per issue of the Journal

Joining Fee £2.00

Any UK/Worldwide member taking the Journal by pdf: £ 8.00

UK Individual Membership, with one copy per issue of the printed Journal: .. £10.00

Family Membership per each additional member at the same address : £1.00

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

Data Protection Act: Please note that the Society uses computer and manual systems to record membership information. Under the Data Protection Act it is necessary that you should know this.

The information you give on your application for membership will only be used for conducting Society business and will not be supplied to anyone else in any form. If you have any questions or concerns over the data held, please contact the Secretary.

