

Buckets & Spades



Weston-super-Mare
The Lido



Issue 92
June 2017
wsmfhs.org.uk



The Society, which was founded in 1983 by a few dedicated Family History class students, has grown into an active membership in excess of two hundred. The area covered by the Society is basically Weston-super-Mare and the surrounding parishes, which make up North Somerset and further into Somerset.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except August and December, at The Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR commencing at 7.30pm. New

members and visitors are always welcome.

The Society tries to encourage and stimulate interest in family history generally and has a very positive link with Weston-super-Mare Library, which has excellent resources and facilities. On Saturdays volunteers from the membership are in the Library from 2.00pm until 3.30pm to help anyone who wants to start searching for their ancestors or has a problem with their research.

Enquiries should initially be addressed to the Society:

125 Totterdown Road, Weston super Mare, Somerset BS23 4LW, accompanied by an SAE please.

Enquiries may also be made via our website and use the 'Contact Us' feature towards the top right-hand corner of the page.

Honorary Life Members

The late Harry Galloway, 1996; The late Mrs Millie Knox, 1998;

The late Mrs Sheila Anderson, 2001; Brian Austin, 2001; George Knox, 2003;

Mrs Pat Hase, 2005; Stan Baker, 2008; Paul Tracey, 2014.

Annual Subscription 1st January to 31st December:

Worldwide member taking the Journal in electronic format	£9.00
UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£12.00
Non-UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£20.00

Cover picture:

The old lido (later the Tropicana) with the Grand pier and Birnbeck pier in the distance, Weston-super-Mare.

Buckets & Spades

is the Journal of the

Weston-super-Mare & District

Family History Society

Affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies

ISSN No. 1758-5503

Issue 92 – JUNE 2017

Table of Contents

Editorial.....	5
Thoughts from the Chair.....	6
This Guy was one of the Few.....	7
Then & Now Images.....	9
Genetic Genealogy – Part Three.....	10
Granny Plaster: Keeping things Together.....	13
1939 Register.....	17
The Blue Plaques of Weston-super-Mare.....	18
Annual General Meeting of the Society.....	21
Members Surname Interests.....	22
Society Speakers for 2017.....	23
Diary Dates for 2017.....	24
Then & Now Images.....	25
Further requests.....	26
More old Somerset dialect words.....	27
Mrs Evelyn Mary Miller-Barstow O.B.E. M.B.E. M.A. J.P. 1890 - 1996.....	28
Weston’s Blue Plaques.....	35
Old Fashioned Remedies.....	36
Some Useful Local Addresses.....	38
Officers & Committee.....	39
Map of the Parishes covered by the Weston-super-Mare & District FHS.....	40

Please note that the next issue is due for publication at our November meeting. The deadline for articles is 31st October, 2017.

Editorial



Back in 2003 the Society had just produced its 50th issue of the Journal and our former editor David Milner had decided to relinquish the position. As I was newly retired and had a computer background, the chair at the time (and she is still there!), wondered if I was interested in the position.

So some 14 years later and 42 issues, I have to report that this is my penultimate issue as editor. Some eighteen months ago I advised the committee of my decision to stand down. Unfortunately this has not been as quick as I had expected, but after the November 2017 issue I will no longer be editor. As yet there is no replacement so it is entirely possible that the November issue will be the last.

I have to thank all contributors once again for helping in the production of this issue especially those members who have continued over the years to supply articles, no matter how long or small they have been.

Our website continues to expand with ever more information that is available to our members. You will have heard about the decline of ‘Who Do You Think You Are Live?’ probably because of the ever increasing amount of information that is now available from internet sources. Despite this, remember that any information obtained should be verified from at least one other source.

Magazine Contributions

Articles, long or short, and any items of interest are very welcome. The Editor appreciates typewritten reports or, if hand written, please use block capitals for names and places. Contributions can also be sent on PC format media or by email. A minimum Font size of 16pt would be appreciated. Please DO NOT create an article on a computer and then print it out to be sent to the Editor. Send the digital file by email.

Thoughts from the Chair

Pat Hase



Getting side-tracked when researching is a constant problem – or is it? I think it enhances the quality of our research. For everything you find raises another question. Be curious, ask yourself Why? How? Where? etc. Who were the witnesses who were at your grandparents' wedding? Not just their names but were they related?

Can you find where they were living? Who was the informant when your great grandmother died? Research the lives of the siblings of your direct ancestors – what was their occupation – was it different from your ancestor and if so why?

Studying the lives of Kings and Queens in History at school did not help me when I started researching my family. I needed to know more about the social history of the times in which my family lived. How far back have you got? This is a senseless question – it doesn't matter how far back you have researched if all you have is a name and possibly a place. You need more. And you need to be sure about your findings.

It is becoming easier to search through transcriptions and images of Church of England records but if you do not find information about your family have you considered whether they might have been non-conformist? The May Newsletter of the Federation of Family History Societies considers this point and can be seen at <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/> where you can sign up for a free newsletter.

Helping others also sharpens your own research skills. We find this at the library when trying to unravel another person's family history. Why not try it?

This GUY was one of the Few

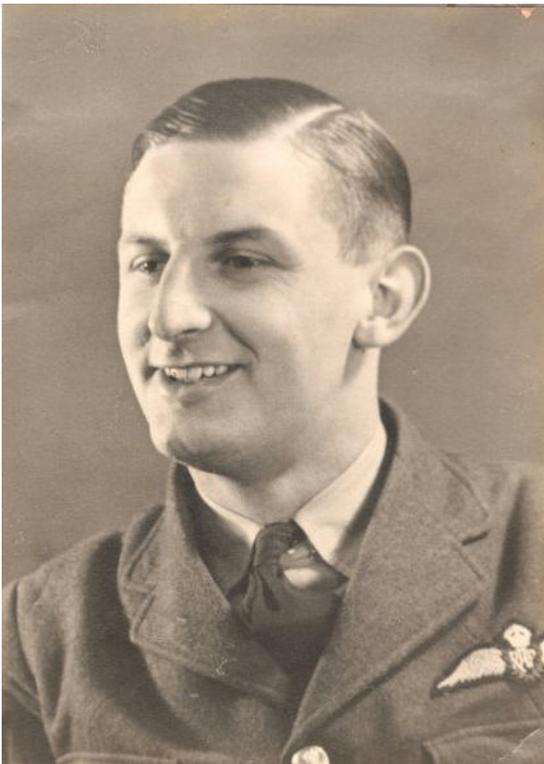
By Bill CAPLE

Leonard Northwood GUY was born 16th August 1915 at his parents' house in Victoria Quadrant, Weston-s-Mare. His father Leonard GUY became a County Councillor, Hotel owner and Managing Director of the Grand Pier after the 1930 fire which destroyed the Pavilion, His mother was Ethel GUY, nee NORTHWOOD.

Young Leonard's early school days were at Kingsholme, Arundel Road, Weston-s-Mare but at the age of 15 he was sent to Wycliffe College in Gloucestershire where he excelled in many sports.

After leaving school in 1933 he worked for Lloyd's Bank in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, 2 years later he was transferred to the Clevedon, Somerset branch where he worked until he joined the ROYAL AIR FORCE in 1939.

Leonard drove a red Austin Ten reg. CHY909 which he bought just before the outbreak of W.W.2 his other interest was flying and spent some time at Weston Airfield, (Weston Airfield was one of the busiest in the country in 1936.)



Leonard enlisted in the Royal Air Force on the 2nd of May 1939 his service number was 758223 and his service records describe his appearance as,

Height, 6 feet 3 inches. Chest, 39 1/2 inches. Eyes, brown. Complexion, fresh.

In 1940 his dream came true he was posted to R.A.F. Tangmere flying Hurricane's in 601 Squadron, he flew covering the evacuation of Dunkirk, later fighting in the Battle of Britain with great courage and skill destroying and damaging many enemy aircraft.

The life of a Fighter Pilot was measured in day's or week's, towards the end of August 1940 Leonard failed to return from an engagement over the English Channel his aircraft was last seen chasing the enemy over the sea, his body was never recovered.

In a letter of condolence dated 21st August 1940 the Commanding Officer's adjutant wrote:

Leonard GUY

was in combat last Sunday afternoon and never returned with the rest of the Squadron it is feared that he was shot down over the sea as his ardour and keenness was such that he probably chased after an enemy aircraft, we all miss him very much.

A plaque was place on the Grand Pier commemorating Leonard Northwood GUY but it was lost in the fire of 2008, will the present owners replace it?

Many thanks to Steve Jauncey for allowing me to use some of his research, a full account can be seen in the Studies Room, Weston Library.

Are you in a traffic jam?

From Mr. J Latimer's Annals of Bristol, volume 2.

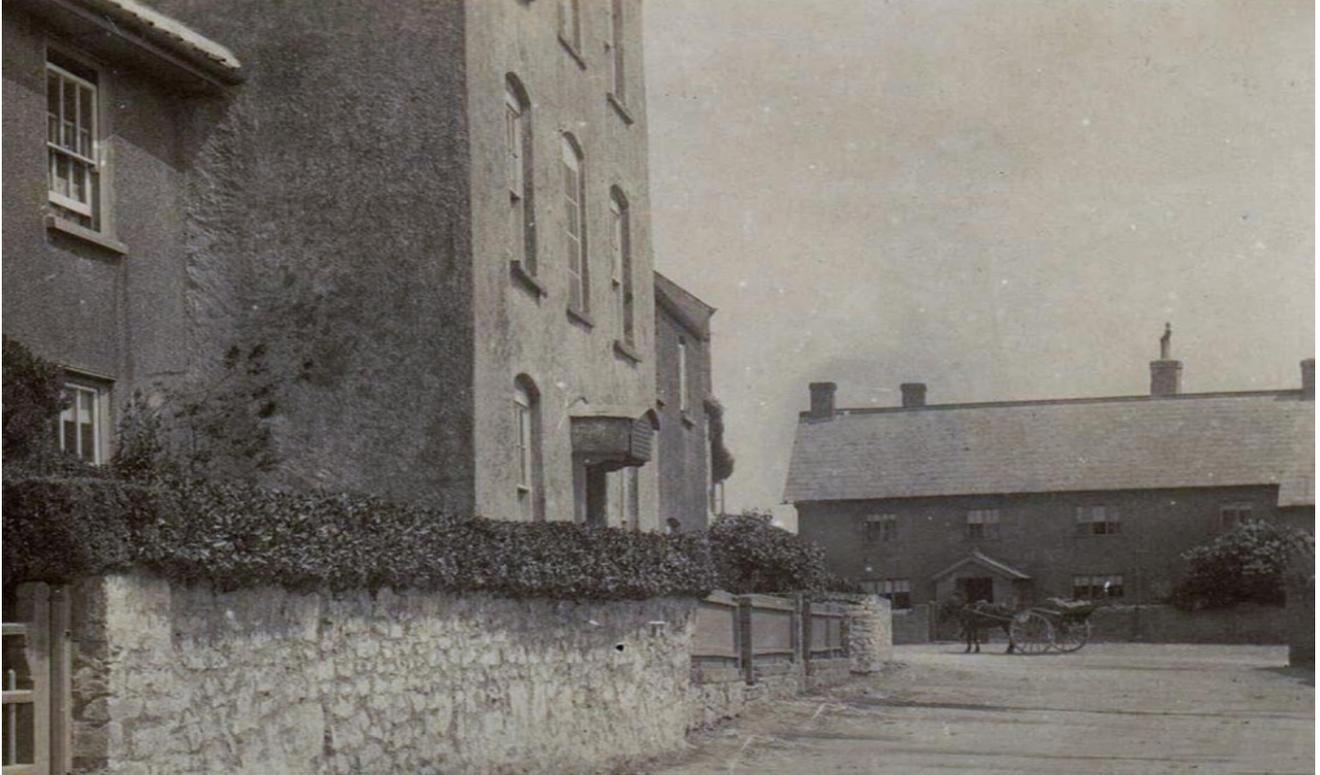
Contrast then and now.:-

“In 1757 wheeled vehicle traffic between Bristol and neighbouring villages was almost unknown. Mr Tyson had a conversation in 1826 with a resident at Clevedon, aged 78 years,” (so born c.1756),” who said that in his youth not more than four carts went from Clevedon to Bristol in a year. All else went by packhorse”.

I have always wondered how wedding parties travelled, and if they needed to spend the night away, even if they were good walkers. It is about 15miles to Bristol from Clevedon.

Then & Now Images

Worle, Church Road c1914 to 2014



Genetic Genealogy – Part Three

By Jenny Towey

Last time I told you about the Y-DNA test (which is only good for proving descent through the male line) and the mtDNA test (which is only good for proving descent through the female line); but now I'm going to describe a test which can be taken by both males and females as well as just "looking" at the most recent 300 years of our ancestry.

Autosomal DNA test atDNA

This test provides information from the great majority of your DNA. Up to 1,000,000 genetic markers (SNPs) spread across the genome are examined. These markers give information about all your ancestors, whether male or female, in recent generations back to about ten generations (roughly 300 years), although dating the shared ancestor beyond four generations is imprecise. (However, last week I matched up with someone where my gt gt gt grandfather [bapt 1794] was her ancestor's brother.)

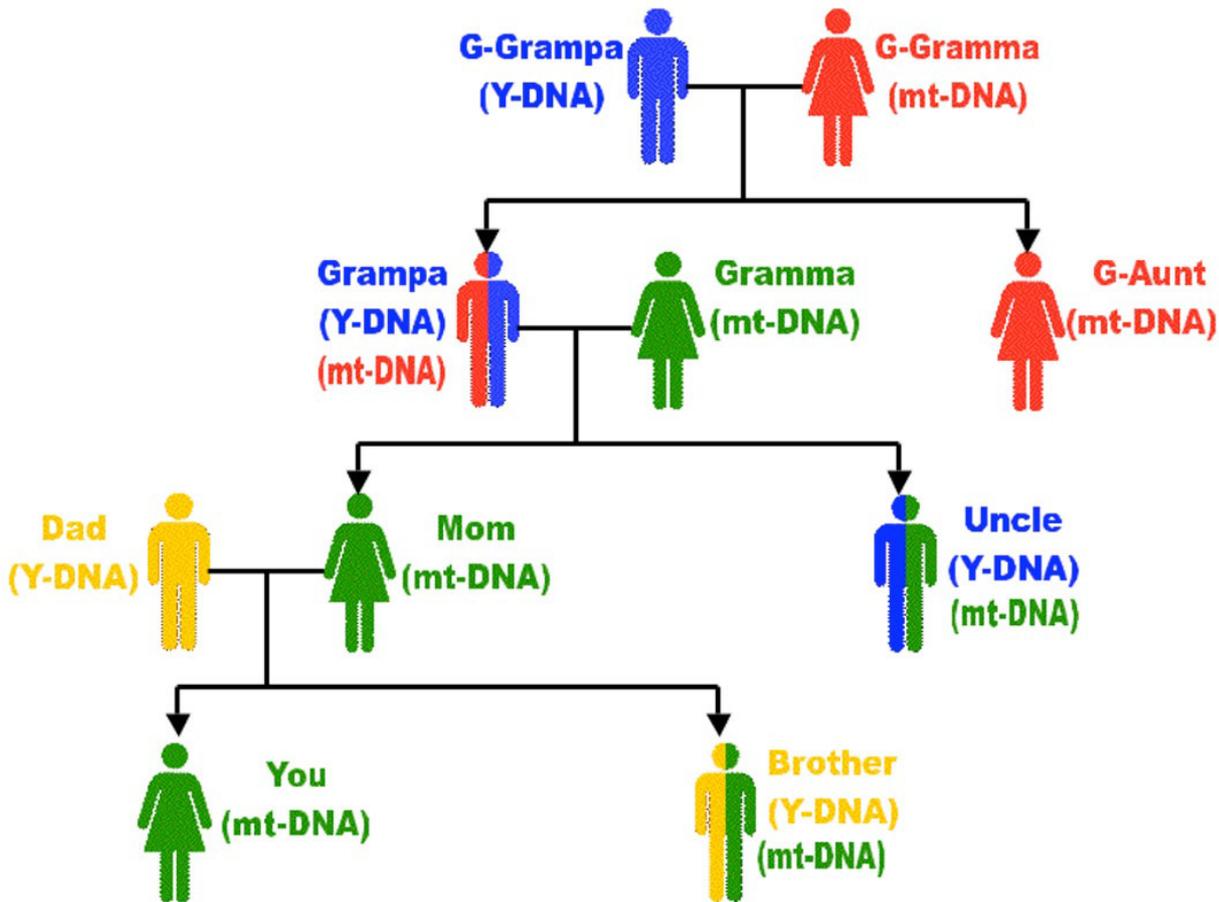
Autosomes are the chromosomes other than the X, Y and mitochondria and contain most of your DNA sequences ¹. These chromosomes are the numbered ones, 1-22, and are numbered in relation to their size: thus chromosome 1 has about 2,800 genes down to chromosome 22 with about 750 genes.

For endogamous² populations genealogical relationships are frequently difficult to estimate beyond the second cousin level.

As it is inherited equally from both parents you won't necessarily know immediately which line your DNA match is from – which is why it is a good idea to get several of your relatives tested as well as yourself. For example, my parents divorced after having me (no comment!) and later remarried: thus I have half-brothers, no full siblings at all. I have had one of my paternal half-brothers tested so, when I receive a new atDNA match, I check on Gedmatch (more on

this later) to see if they match with him. If not they are probably on my mother's line.

Inheritance of Y-DNA & mtDNA



When you receive a match from your chosen DNA testing company you will be notified of the shared amount of centimorgans³ between you (although Ancestry.dna does not give you the longest segment). Obviously, the greater the amount of cMs the more recent/closer your match: however, due to that dreaded word “average”, you cannot immediately tell what the relationship is. Do not worry though, because ISOGG have produced a chart with all your relationships on – giving the relationship (i.e. great grandparent), the average for that relationship (850cM) and the cM range for that relationship (547 – 1110cM). For example, my third cousin and I share 136cMs (average 79cM, range 0-

198cM) with the longest segment being 44cM; my half-brother and I share 1,509cMs (average 1753cM, range 1320-2134cM), longest segment 189cM.

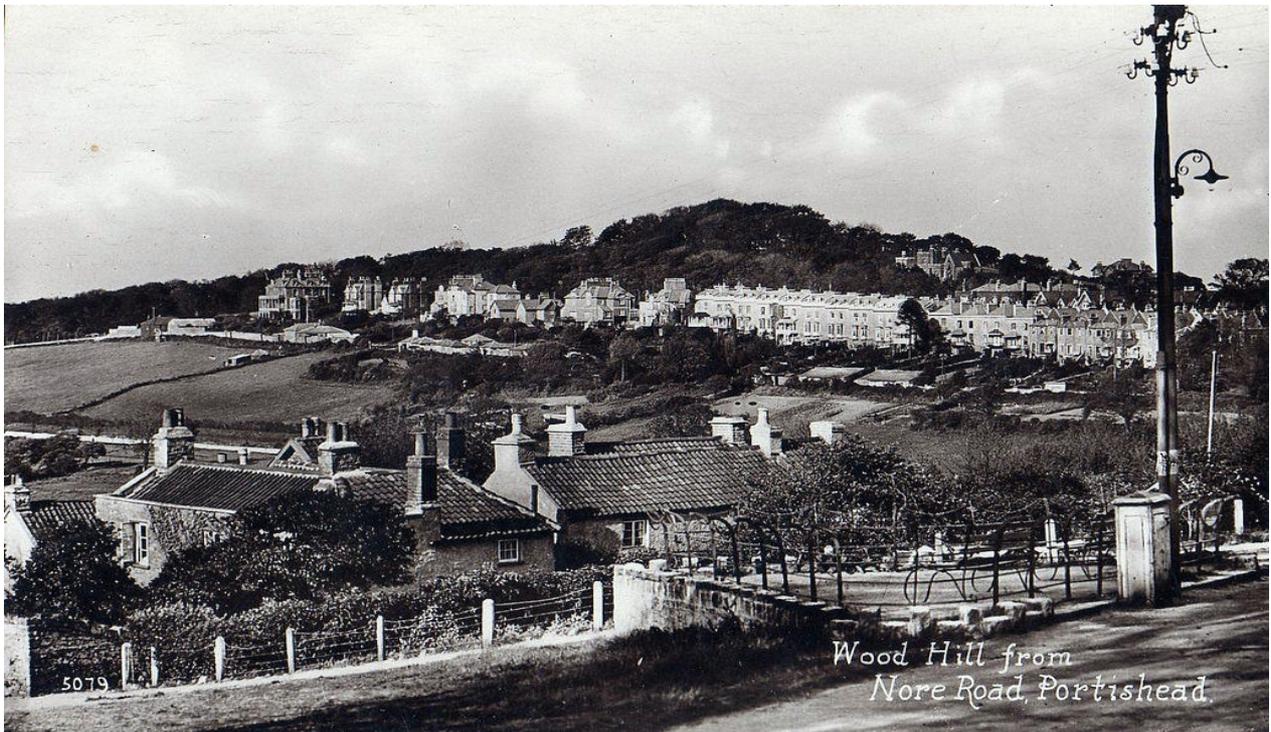
After you have received your results, via email, from your testing company what is extremely helpful, in pinning down relationships, is uploading your raw DNA data to a free website named Gedmatch. You can do this from 23andMe, AncestryDNA or FamilyTreeDNA's Family Finder testing companies. After you have registered and (patiently!) waited for your data to download onto Gedmatch you can utilise their analytical tools – such as “one-to-many” and “find people who match you on a specified segment”, which are so helpful in finding shared ancestry.

Next time I will look at pitfalls and answer any queries. Jenny Towey

¹ DNA sequencing is the process of determining the precise order of nucleotides within a DNA molecule. It includes any method or technology that is used to determine the order of the four bases – A, G, C and T – in a strand of DNA. The advent of rapid DNA sequencing methods in 2000 has greatly accelerated biological and medical research and produced these genetic tests for us to use.

² Endogamy is the practice of marrying within the same ethnic, cultural, social, religious (e.g. Ashkenazi Jews) or tribal group. Hence everyone will descend from the same small gene pool and their DNA results can show large numbers of matches. This is also known as pedigree collapse – my own example of this is where my gt gt grandfather married his mother's niece – his first cousin.

³ In genetics a centimorgan (cM) is a unit for measuring genetic linkage.



Granny Plaster: Keeping things Together

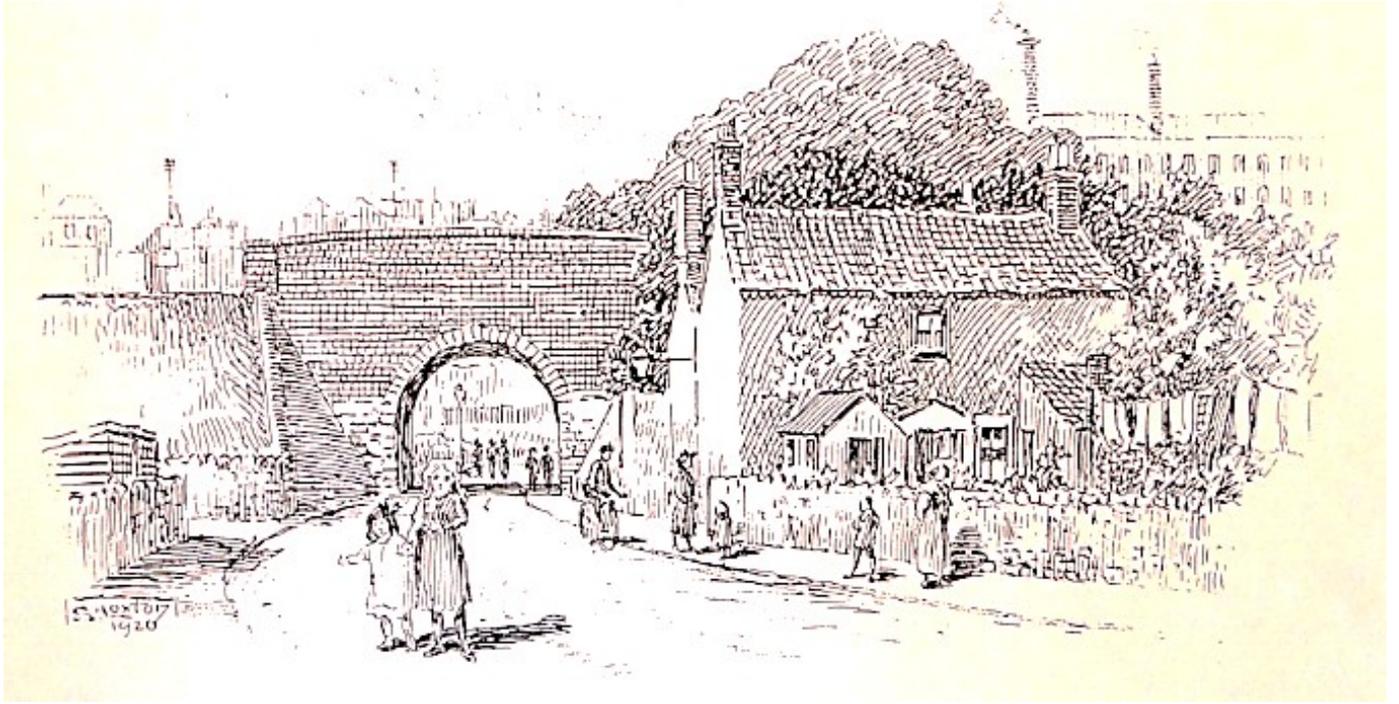
by Anne Lockyer

Granny Plaster was one of those ancestors that seem to fascinate more than others. My mother knew her as Granny Plaster, not personally, but through stories told her by her grandfather who said she cleaned houses in Clifton for a living, rode a bike and died in 1909 a very old lady (reportedly 89 years old). ‘You wouldn’t get away with that with Granny Plaster’ said her grandfather when Mum misbehaved, but who was this lady? Why would her Grandfather Edwin Tovey have a grandmother called Plaster? She sounded very racy to be riding a bicycle because it was still a topic of contention in the 1890’s as to whether it was seemly for women to ride bikes. They needed to wear short skirts or, more shocking still, ‘bloomers’ to enable them to ride safely.

She was baptised Sarah White in 1822 in Devon, and married a widower 10 years older than herself in December 1845 (a soldier, who no doubt looked very dashing in his scarlet coat). They moved to Bedminster, and in early 1849 they had a son. But happiness was short lived, because 6 months later her husband was dead of the cholera raging in the area. It says a lot for her that she and her baby managed to survive, but life was hard for a widow with a young baby and marriage was the obvious answer.

So in 1851 she married a widower 10 years older than her called William Tovey, who worked as a haulier in the Bedminster coal mines. William had a daughter aged 17 and two sons, one aged 11 and a baby aged 18 months. Coupled with her own toddler aged just 2 years, and taking on these step children, life must have been challenging. Years later I was to discover just how challenging it all became. They went on to have three children together: Edwin in 1851, Daniel in 1853 and Julia in 1855, living in a cottage next door to William’s older brother Samuel who ran a successful chair-making business.

The two cottages on Albert Road (previously Sheen Lane), Bedminster, where brothers Samuel and William TOVEY lived with their families. (by Samuel Loxton, 1901, from the Central Library, Bristol)



But in February 1858 she buried husband number two, and was left with several youngsters to look after, including the youngest from William's first marriage. No death certificate was registered in the GRO, so I had no idea what William Tovey had died from, and I kept meaning to write to Bristol Registry office to see if they had a record, but didn't get round to it. So, at the age of 39, with 5 children in tow, she found husband number three: a widower who was 17 years older than her, and with a son of his own to add to the mix. She married Robert Plaster, on Christmas day 1858. Aha! said Mum, mystery surname solved at last.

In the 1861 census Robert and Sarah are found with his son Edward, aged 11, Sarah's son John aged 12 from her first marriage, Isaac aged 11 from William's first marriage, Edwin aged 9, Daniel aged 7 and Julia aged 5 from Sarah and William's marriage. All still in the tiny cottage next door to Samuel Tovey and family. It was this mix which fascinated me: how did they all get along?! No wonder Granny Plaster needed to be firm. So many boys of a similar age but

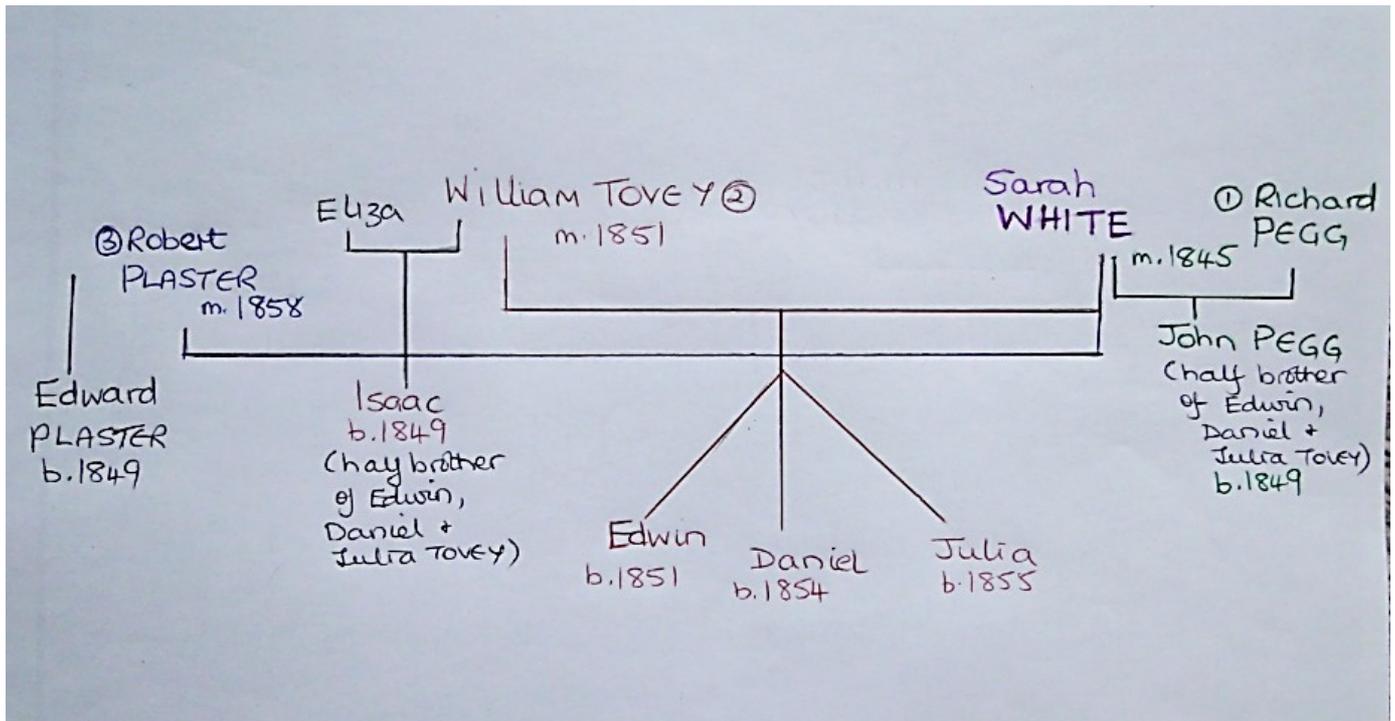
tenuous relations, and what did little Julia make of it all? This was partially answered when I found the marriage of Sarah's son John, and found that the two witnesses were Daniel and Julia. Obviously they at least had a strong bond.

Fast forward many years, and I finally got round to contacting Bristol Registry office to ask about a death certificate for William, sending details that could identify him. The answer came back that, yes there might be a relevant certificate but it was not registered by his next of kin or in the district I expected (he had been buried in Bedminster, where he lived), could I let them know his occupation? I replied with the information, and the response was yes, this must be the right man. Intrigued, I sent off for the certificate wondering what I might find. Back came the certificate stating cause of death: Lunacy; place of death: St Peter's hospital, Bristol; informant: coroner. Gosh, that was unexpected!

I knew that St Peter's Hospital (the Bristol Poorhouse) had been bombed in WW2 and all documents for the Poor Law Union had been destroyed. I went to Bristol Record Office to see if anything survived regarding general information on conditions in the place, but without hope of finding anything particular to William. I was amazed and excited to be told the case notes could well have survived, due to all records having been moved to the new asylum built in 1860. So we looked, and found all the case notes had survived.

It told a sad tale of a man previously hard working and reliable, turned into someone suffering delusions and very challenging behaviour. When he began to use violence against his new wife Sarah, just after the birth of their third child Julia, She had had to take him to the Magistrates court, with the help of her brother in law Samuel, to ask for William to be committed. For the next two and a half years William fluctuated between insanity and lucid moments, but all gradually leading to a decline in physical and mental well-being. Meanwhile, Sarah had to carry on alone looking after her young family, aided by her brother in law Samuel who took the eldest son of Sarah and William into his chair-making business.

Sarah WHITE b.1822. - Married 3 times: PEGG, TOVEY & PLASTER



Sarah and her children seem to have finally achieved a measure of peace and security with her third husband. Robert and Sarah lived together into old age, and when Robert finally died Sarah moved in with her son John and his wife, working up to the end of her life.

Yatton Church

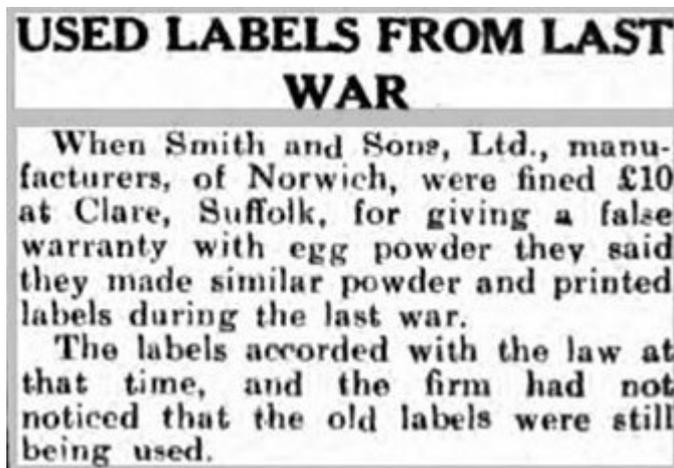


1939 Register

I have learnt a lot from looking at the 1939 Register on findmypast when searching for relatives. Surprisingly, I found myself (as a closed record) where I did not expect to be!

I do not usually scroll down the transcription page to see what else is there, but did recently and found that included on the page is a map of the area, photos of the time and also a news item. These 3 snippets of information caught my eye.

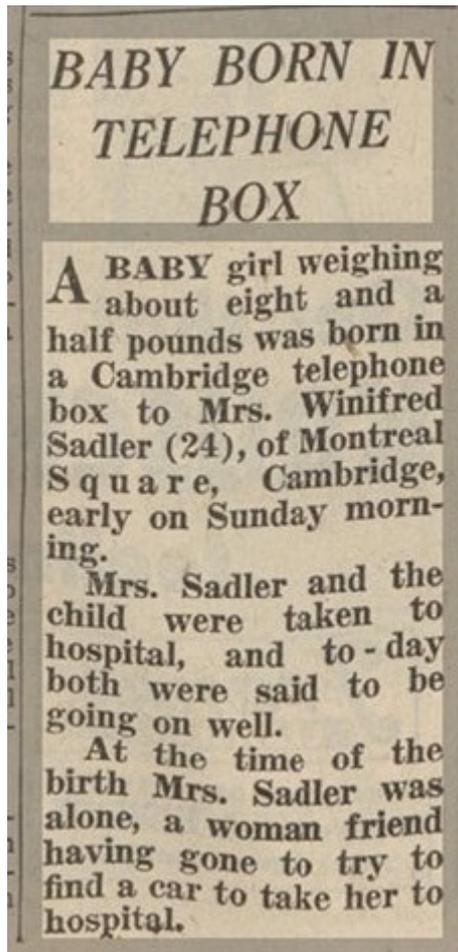
1. Gloucester Citizen 22 October 1941 - Labels



2. Gloucester Citizen 8 August 1942 - Evacuees leave home



3. Gloucestershire Echo 5 June 1944 - baby born in telephone box



Arlene Pilgrim Member 0659

The Blue Plaques of Weston-super-Mare

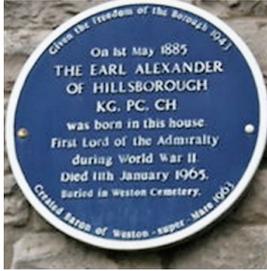
By Pat Hase

There has been a lot of discussion lately about who should be honoured by the erection of Blue Plaques on buildings connected with people who have influenced the history of Weston. Or perhaps their stay in Weston influenced them? Last month saw the unveiling of a new plaque to commemorate Olympian, Paulo RADMILOVIC who was featured in our last Journal

There were already some plaques in Weston and more are proposed – perhaps you could suggest others.

Albert Victor ALEXANDER,

Earl Alexander of Hillsborough K.C. PC. CH Baron Weston-super-Mare



Halfway down George Street on what is now 33, George Street is a Blue Plaque sited on the birthplace of. It was No 59 when he was born but like many roads in Weston the numbers were changed in about 1908. He was born there on the 1st of May 1885, the son of Albert & Eliza Jane ALEXANDER.

His father, Albert, who had been a blacksmith, died the following August, aged only 32, and was buried in Weston Cemetery in Grave Tc 3441.

His young widowed mother took her 4 young children (Albert had three elder sisters) back to Bristol to live with her parents where they can be seen on the 1891 census living in Richmond Street, St Phillips. Her father, Francis THATCHER was a Gas Works Labourer, born in Cheddar in 1835 and her mother was Ellen TINKLING born in Congresbury in about 1832 (Can anyone find her baptism?) and who were married in Bristol in 1855. His mother made a living working from home making surgical belts and corsets.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (which has recently been withdrawn from the sites supported by the North Somerset Library and can no longer be accessed at home) he was educated at Barton Hill School where one of my great aunts was a teacher at that time. He left school at 13 in 1898 to supplement his family's income and by 1903 was back in Weston again employed as a Clerk to the Somerset Education Board.

He married Esther Ellen CHAPPLE, a school teacher, in 1908 and in 1911 they were living at 16 Stafford Road, Weston-Super-Mare with a daughter, a baby son and a servant. The little boy sadly died in 1912 and was buried with his grandfather in Weston Cemetery. By 1917 they had moved to 18 Clarence Grove Road and although Albert Victor ALEXANDER had volunteered for WW1 and joined the Artists Rifles he did not see active service due to ill health.



He had become a Baptist and a Lay preacher in Weston, had joined the Weston Co-operative Society and was active in the National Association of Local Government Officers. Supporting the Liberal Party, he accepted a post as parliamentary secretary to the Co-operative Congress and moved to London in 1920.

© *National Portrait Gallery, London*

In the general election of November 1922, Albert Victor Alexander was returned as the Labour and Co-operative member for Sheffield Hillsborough. This was the start of an amazing political career which saw him take over from Churchill as a very

effective First Lord of the Admiralty during WW2 in the Coalition War Time Government and having accepted a Peerage in 1950 became the leader of the Labour group in the Lords in 1955.

When he died in 1964 a casket containing his ashes was interred in the family grave in Weston Cemetery along with his parents, baby son and a sister. His wife's ashes were also placed there when she died aged 92 in 1969 to be followed by the ashes of their son-in-law in 1996 and their daughter in 2001. Truly a family grave for someone who earned and deserved his honours as Earl of Hillsborough and Baron Weston-Super-Mare.



Annual General Meeting of the Society

28th November 2017 at 7.30pm

The Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR

Members are notified that the next AGM as above will consist of the under-noted agenda.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Committee (Note 1)
7. Any other business

Note 1: Any nominations for Election of committee must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary at least 7 days before the date of the AGM. Each nomination must be signed by a PROPOSER and SECONDER and also by the NOMINEE.

Members Surname Interests

Members now have the ability to enter and update their own Interests on our website as and when they wish to. If you are unsure how to do this then please ask any of the committee members.

Should you find a member with an Interest that you wish to communicate with, then merely use the contact form available on the website page for that member. Please note that non members who visit the site are also able to use the contact form. (Your email address is never divulged by the Society, especially when using the contact form).

The following are Surname Interests that the new members have entered to the website. Please note that this was the situation as at the time that the Journal was prepared. This should not be taken as the current situation as those who have subscribed will be advised by email when new Surname Interests are added.

Name	Place	County	Dates
HEDGES	Walton in Gordano	SOM	All years
SPERRING	Worle	SOM	All years
SPERRING	Lympsham	SOM	All years

Silver Street, Nailsea, c1920



Society Speakers for 2017

25 July	<p>DNA & Family History Research</p> <p>Dr Geoff Swinfield, Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, and renowned authority on the use of DNA in family history research, will explain its value and advantages in discovering more about your family.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dr Geoff Swinfield</p>
August	<p>No Society Meeting</p>
26 September	<p>How Do You Record Your Research?</p> <p>How members research – Demonstrations of using Commercial Genealogical Programs and other ways of recording your findings including paper based methods. Please bring examples of how you manage your research.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Members of Society</p>
24 October	<p><i>Speaker and topic to be finalised.</i></p>
28 November	<p>AGM followed by Members Evening – Memorabilia</p> <p>Ready for Christmas – More family treasures, large or small. Bring along examples and tell us what they tell you about your family.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Members of the Society</p>
December	<p>No Society Meeting</p>

Society Meetings at Vintage Church Hall, W-s-M

Will all members please note that the entrance fee for Society meetings is £1.50p. to include tea or coffee & biscuits. The charge for visitors is £2.00 which also includes tea or coffee & biscuits.

Members and visitors must sign the attendance books at the entrance for security reasons and fire precautions.

Diary Dates for 2017

9 September	Bristol & Avon FHS Family History Fair BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7RG Open 10.00am to 4.00pm http://www.bafhs.org.uk/events/society-meetings/eventdetail/241/-/bafhs-family-history-fair
16 September	Dyfed FHS Family History Fair Carmarthen Open 10.00am to 4.00pm http://www.dyfedfhs.org.uk
7 October	Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair The Marlborough School Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxon OX20 1LP Open 10.00am to 4.00pm http://www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html
7 October	Glamorgan FHS Family History Fair Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1UT http://www.glamfhs.org.uk

Cleeve Abbey entrance



Then & Now Images

Worle, Lawrence Road c1914 to 2014



Further requests.

Following on from Pat Hase's Newsletter on 1st December I would endorse Pat's plea that we take time to talk to relatives about their memories before these memories go with them.

In my own family searches I was grateful to a small note I had made after a talk with my father in law, when he recalled that he had had an elderly aunt whose first name had been Sabre. This small note eventually helped unlocked a trail of ancestors that I could at last link to my husband's family tree.

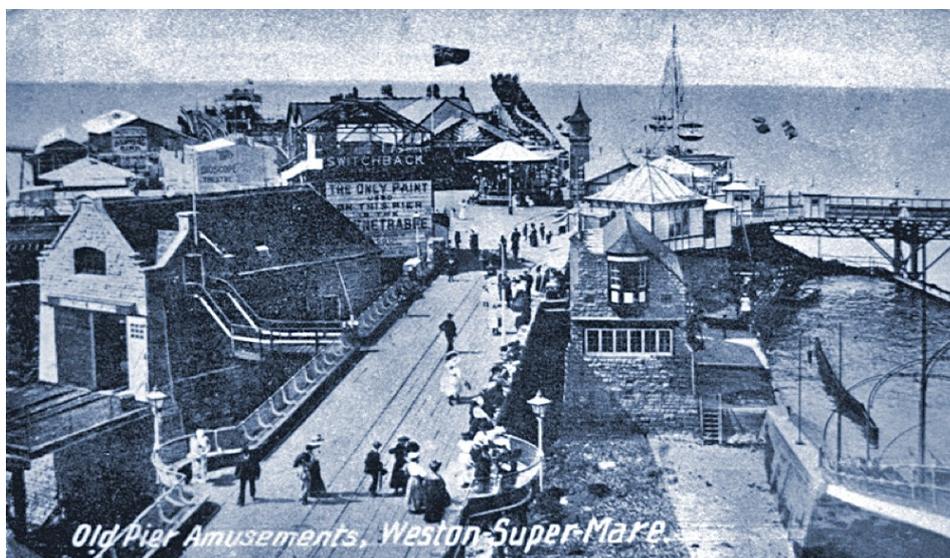
I would like to add to this a suggestion that family historians take time to get relatives to identify their old photographs in the family albums, who are these people, where were they when it was taken and what was the date?

This is something we should all consider. Will anyone know who is in the photographs in your family album.

My mother was able to describe to me her six bridesmaids dresses, two in peach, two in pink and two in pale green and explain that she and my grandmother had embroidered all the "handkerchief" hems.

This old sepia photograph now glows with colour for me.

Margaret Jordan



More old Somerset dialect words.

From the Somerset Folk Series no.3.

Blatchy	Black : dirty
Caddle	Confusion
Chaity-like	Daintily
Crip: also Curpy	To talk in an affected manner
Drawlatcheting	Slow, lazy, degenerate
Dunch	Deaf, stupid
Evet	Newt
Fess	Proud : active : quick
Heft	Weight
Litty	Light, cheerful
Longdog	Greyhound
Quanked	Exhausted
Skeer-devil	A swift
Want-heave	Molehill

Sylvia Lockett,no.189

Mrs Evelyn Mary Miller-Barstow O.B.E. M.B.E. M.A. J.P. 1890 - 1996

Dame of St John of Jerusalem

By Pat Hase



The names, MILLER-BARSTOW and JACKSON-BARSTOW, became prominent in the 20th century history of Weston and continue to be today because as the result of various bequests the address of Weston Hospicecare is now Jackson-Barstow House, Uphill.

Recently I was given a small book entitled: *Evelyn Miller-Barstow. An essay in social biography*. It was written in 1957 by a teacher at the Weston-super-Mare Boys' Grammar School, Donald MATHER, M.A. when Mrs MILLER-BARSTOW, who died in Weston in 1996, aged 106 years old, was a mere 67, and therefore only covers the first part of her life which was a remarkable one and reflects how society changed during her life time.

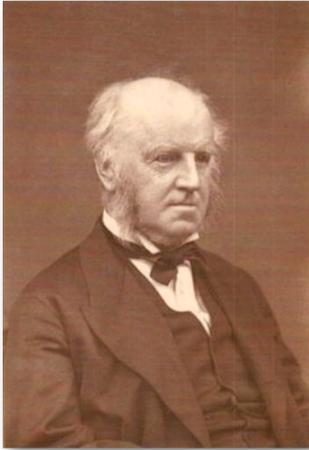


She was born in 1890 at the Lodge, Weston-super-Mare the eldest daughter of John Jeremiah JACKSON-BARSTOW. The grounds of their family home, (only the east and west lodges remain on Bristol Road), were used for a modern housing development in the 1960s.

<http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom> The Project "Know your Place" has just announced that maps of North Somerset are now available on this site and it is possible to see the position of their house, known as "The Lodge" off

the Upper Bristol Road approximately opposite the top of Ashcombe Park Road. It was built in about 1860 for Frederick John William LAMBART, the 8th Earl of Cavan.

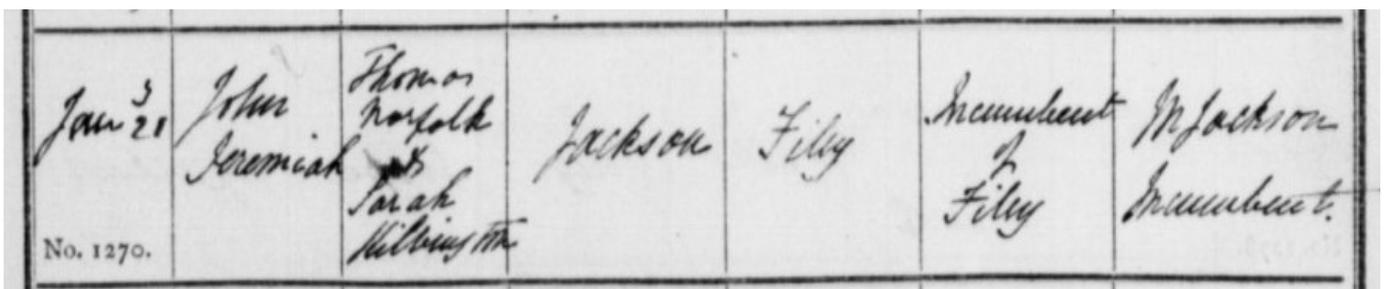
The 1871 census shows his household with 5 servants living in.



The 8th Earl of Cavan was a member of a branch of the the Plymouth Brethren and built an Iron Mission Church nearby. What ever research I get involved in I get so easily side-tracked and this was no exception! Has anyone researched the Plymouth Brethren in Weston? The Earl was friendly with Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm BAEDEKER, a cousin of Karl BAEDEKER, editor of the travel guides (who also lived in Weston) and who became a Bible Missionary after attending one of the Earl of Cavan's meetings. When the Earl died in 1887 he was buried in

Weston Cemetery and the service was taken by Thomas NEWBERRY, who had published "The Englishman's Bible" in 1886. Both BAEDEKER and NEWBERRY were later buried in the Cemetery.

Getting back to the JACKSON-BARSTOW family. John Jeremiah JACKSON was born in 1845 in Filey, Yorkshire, and christened by

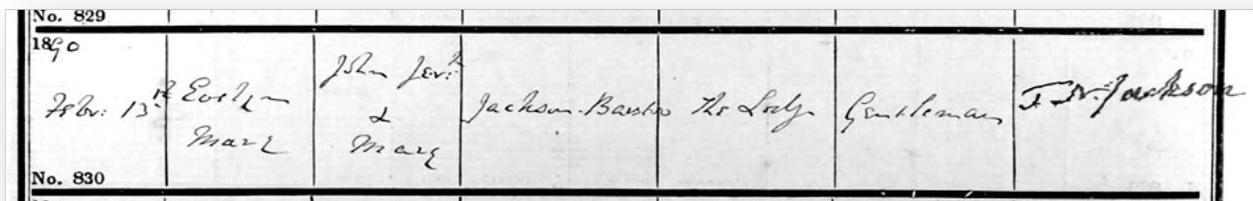


his father, the Rev Thomas Norfolk JACKSON M.A, Rector of Filey. His mother was Sarah Kilvington BARSTOW, the daughter of Jeremiah BARSTOW of Acomb Hall, Yorkshire.

As a young child he was privately educated and later studied engineering before inheriting the estates of his uncle Capt John Michael BARSTOW from whom he took the name and arms of BARSTOW.

As a wealthy man, (with a steam yacht), he settled in Torquay and it wasn't until 1888 that he married the daughter of a wealthy Derby family Mary WOODIWISS, the eldest daughter of Sir Abraham and Lady WOODIWISS. Earlier that year John Jeremiah had purchased the Lodge in Weston for £8,100 and the couple settled there immediately after their marriage.

Their first child, Evelyn Mary, was born there on the 21st January and christened at Christ Church on the 13th February 1890 with her grandfather as minister.



They went on to have a total of six daughters and a much-loved son who were all born in Weston and christened at Christ Church.



John Jeremiah JACKSON-BARSTOW lived the life of a wealthy philanthropic Victorian gentleman who saw it his duty to use his wealth to help others.

He served on the County Council, and the committees of several charities, became the Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset and Chairman of the Weston Magistrates. In a time before National Assistance and Unemployment Relief, charities such as those supported by John JACKSON-BARSTOW and his family were needed to attempt to offset poverty and social deprivation.

His wife also assisted him in supporting the community and she was instrumental in the development in Ashcombe Park Road of what is now known as the Bethany Gospel Hall, which had been originally supported by the Earl of Cavan.

Evelyn was initially educated in a private school, Farleigh School, on Bristol Road, almost next door to the Lodge, taught by a Mrs Gregory but at the age of twelve she left to be taught with her sisters by a governess, a daughter of a clergyman, at home. In 1905, when 15 years old she started as a weekly boarder in the 6th Form at Westcliff School. At Westcliff, she exhibited leadership qualities (She was Head Girl during her final year), won academic prizes and excelled in sporting, theatrical and musical activities. Life at Westcliff is described in "Westcliff, Weston-super-Mare, the Story of the School" published by the Westcliff Old Girls' Association in 1990. The book includes contributions from two of her sisters and a photograph of Evelyn and her sister, Mabel, in 1912 at an early Old Girls' Reunion when she was its secretary. It also chronicles the contributions that she later made to life in Weston and Somerset

When she left Westcliff, her education was completed by a year in a finishing school in Paris, allowing her to become more self-confident and worldly wise. Evelyn was already aware of the position in society held by her father and as his eldest daughter had on occasions attended events with him. One notable event was when she launched the S.S. Tuscan Prince for a Newcastle Steamship Company with which her father had engineering connections. Her father encouraged her to take an interest in his charitable activities and when she returned from Paris he suggested that she became a member of the "Charity Organisation Society" of which he was Chairman. During the First World War Evelyn became involved in the work of the Weston-super-Mare branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Family Association of which her mother was President.

It was expected that his only son, John Eric JACKSON-BARSTOW, who was their fifth child would follow in his father's footsteps in community service. He had been born in 1895 and at the outbreak of WW1 was due to enter Pembroke College, Cambridge University but he decided to enlist. He saw action on France in 1914 at Ypres where he was wounded and in 1917 obtained his pilot's licence while still serving with the North Somerset Yeomanry.

5494	
BARSTOW, John Eric Jackson-	
The Lodge, Weston-super-Mare.	
<i>Born</i>	10th Aug. 1895 at Weston-super-Mare
<i>Nationality</i>	British
<i>Rank, Regiment, Profession</i>	Lieut. North Somerset Yeomanry
<i>Certificate taken on</i>	L. & P. Biplane
<i>At</i>	London & Provincial School, Edgware
<i>Date</i>	19th December 1917.



Sadly, on the 31st January 1919, whilst flying in a snow storm at Caterham in Surrey he crashed into a bank in Marden Park near Kenley Aerodrome. The loss of their son so soon after the end of the war was naturally a tremendous shock to his family. Because of this, Evelyn was made heiress to the BARSTOW estates and she and her five sisters all became active in differing spheres of public service.

It was at that time that the position of women in public service was changing. Although there is not any evidence that the JACKSON-BARTOW women were active in the suffragette movement they benefited from the changes in attitude towards women in local government.

In 1921 because of her activities in organisations covering subjects such as Education, Nursing, War Pensions, Old Age Pensions etc. Miss Evelyn Mary JACKSON-BARSTOW was the first Weston woman to be elected as a Somerset County Councillor. The death of their mother in 1923, who was deeply involved in charitable works – had also affected the JACKSON-BARSTOW sisters who took over their mother's interests.

In 1928 with the opening of the new hospital Evelyn Jackson-Barstow became the Chair of the Womens' Hospital Fete Committee which raised £6,500 to

support the hospital, a considerable sum at that time. She subsequently served on many of the County Council Committees culminating in the Chairmanship of the Somerset Education Committee and becoming a Justice of the Peace in 1929.

The full list of her involvement with Committees and charities includes nearly fifty appointments, nationally, at County level and in Weston-super-Mare.



Her father died at the age of 96 in 1940 (Probate valued at just under £150,000) and until then she had felt unable to consider marriage to Schoolmaster Donald Hughes MILLER, the couple assuming the name MILLER-BARSTOW, in 1943. Research has shown that Donald Hughes MILLER had arrived in Weston in 1938 when he bought Kingsholme School at the top of

Arundell Road. Educated at Blundell and Cambridge he was a forceful and efficient Principal but he sold it and bought Etonhurst, another private boys' school in Weston, which he moved to new premises at Ashcott where in 1943 Mrs Evelyn MILLER-BARSTOW started married life as Headmaster's wife.

Registration District <i>Weston-super-Mare</i>								
1943 Marriage solemnized at the <i>Parish Church</i>							in the Parish	
of <i>Christ Church, Weston-s-Mare</i> in the <i>County of Somerset</i>								
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
174	April 10 th 1943	Donald Hughes Miller	Full age	Bachelor	School-Master	Stonbury Ashcott Somerset	Donald George Miller	Deceased
	1943	Evelyn Mary Jackson-Barstow	Full age	Spinster	—	The Lodge Bristol Road Weston-s-Mare	John Jeremiah Jackson-Barstow	Deceased
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Established Church</i> by <i>License</i> or after _____ by me.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Donald Hughes Miller</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Mabel J. Jackson-Barstow</i>		
		<i>Evelyn Mary Jackson-Barstow</i>				<i>W. G. Yendon Smith</i>		
						<i>T. E. Roberts</i> Vicar		

They were married at Christ Church in Weston in April 1943 and in June 1943 Evelyn was honoured with the M.B.E. as Chairman of the Weston-super-Mare Juvenile Advisory Committee.

From the National Archives catalogue, I have discovered that Donald Hughes MILLER had been married before but that marriage was annulled.

By 1945, the MILLER-BARTOWs sold Etonhurst and moved back to Weston to live at Penlee, 21 Uphill Road where she lived for the rest of her life. In 1946 Donald Hughes MILLER-BARSTOW was elected as an Independent to the Weston Town Council.



In Coronation year, 1953, when Alderman Donald Hughes MILLER-BARSTOW became Mayor of Weston, The Weston Mercury stated:

“The main disadvantage is that he is not a dyed-in-the-wool Westonian, but local patriotism is more than satisfied by the knowledge that the Mayoress-elect comes from a family whose name has long been synonymous with public service in the district”.

They had no family and devoted their time to the community. Donald died in 1986 and Evelyn lived to be 106; her sisters, Mabel lived to be 96, Hilda was 90, Constance was 92 and Enid was 95. These maiden ladies (only Hilda married) left considerable sums to various good works including

When Enid Sybil Jackson-Barstow, the youngest, died in 1999, leaving £3.6million for each of the Friends of Weston Hospital, Weston Hospicecare and Barnardo's.

The Telegraph, in Evelyn's obituary quoted her father who believed

"those who were fortunate enough to be reasonably provided for and leisured should devote to public service the time and energies normally devoted to earning a living".

Weston's Blue Plaques

In existence May 2017

Are you connected with any of these families or addresses?

Earl ALEXANDER of Hillsborough - George Street

Sir Arthur EDDINGTON - Walliscote Road

Captain George Fiott DAY VC - Claremont Crescent

Gugleilmo MARCONI - Old Post Office Lane

Paulo RADMILOVIC – Imperial Hotel

Kathleen THOMAS - Anchor Head

Mary WEBB - Landemann Circus

Eastern House - Landemann Circus

Next Blue Plaque to be erected:

Robert Henry Coate BUTT 1861-1944

Others in line for consideration of Commemoration:

Roald DAHL 1916-1990

Dwight David EISENHOWER 1890-1969

Dr Edward Long FOX 1761-1835

Leslie Townes (Bob) HOPE 1903-2003

Ivy Millicent JAMES 1879-1965

Deborah Jane KERR-TRIMMER 1921-2007

Alfred Ambrose Chew LEETE 1882-1933

Emmeline PETHICK-LAWRENCE 1867-1954

Hans Fowler PRICE 1835-1912

Haile SELASSIE 1892 - 1975

John Hugh SMYTH-PIGOTT 1792-1853

Old Fashioned Remedies

By Sheila Mills nee Sillick- member 083 formerly of Weston-super-Mare.

I can remember as a child growing up our house was very cold in the winter months, and a black range in our living room was the only source of heat for the whole house!

If someone was ill exception was made to light a fire in a small grate that was in my parent's bedroom.

Consequently because of cold weather I always managed to get ear ache in the winter, My mother would warm a very small onion and place it gently into the first part of the ear, she would also apply almond oil. There was no penicillin then to fight infections. I would go around with a scarf tied around my head and told to stay indoors in the warm!

Going to bed mother would apply camphorated oil to the soles of my feet, sometimes surgical spirits. The good old fashioned stone hot water bottle was an immense comfort as boiling water was normally put in – it would be wrapped around with an old cloth! Low and behold the stone bottle would

invariably fall out of the bed in the middle of the night causing one almighty bang!

For a bad cough there was Obbridges Lung Tonic (forgive me if the spelling is wrong). For constipation there was good old Syrup of Figs or encouraged to have a liquorice stick. For an attack of hiccups one was encouraged to hold one's breath! Nose bleeds to lie on the floor flat as could be.

If I fell and hurt or grazed my knees mother would bathe it with warm water, then apply Hydrogen peroxide- this hurt but my mother believed that the peroxide would clean the wound. I recall cutting my hand across the thumb trying to cut bread, the knife slipped and it bleed a lot. Mother bound it up tight to stem the bleeding before applying a dressing and bandaging it up. I had a scar after it healed, most likely I should have gone to hospital for stitches, but not a lot of fuss was made if one was hurt in those days 1940s!

I was more than likely scolded for using the bread knife!

Andrews Liver Salts were notoriously used to clear one's system it would be frowned on today because of the salt content.

Iodine was used to apply to cuts and wounds also- made from seaweed this natural solution was probably a good one.

There were not the tablets taken years ago chemists would dispense medicines, working for Boots the Chemists in the 1950s I recall seeing the mortar and pestle being used to grind things into powder form before liquid was added. Somehow I think medicine was more palatable then tablets and better for the digestion!

Well, I am sure this will bring back memories for some older readers.

Some Useful Local Addresses

The editor is always pleased to receive additions or corrections to this list, based on Members' experience.

Bath Library	Tel: 01225 787400
Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol.	Tel: 0117 9037200. email: bristol-library-service@bristol.gov.uk
Bristol Family History Centre (LDS), 721 Wells Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9HU.	Tel: 01275 838326
Bristol Record Office, "B" Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN.	Tel: 0117 9224224. email: bro@bristol-city.gov.uk
Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon BS21 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426020. email: clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Clevedon Story Heritage Centre, 4 The Beach, Clevedon, BS21 7QH	
Nailsea Library, Somerset Square, Nailsea, BS48 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426030. email: nailsea.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston-super-Mare Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1PR	Tel: 01934 621028. Fax 01934 612526 email: museum@wsm-tc.gov.uk
Portishead Library, High Street, Portishead BS20 6EW.	Tel: 01934 426040 email: portishead.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages, Town Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ.	Tel: 01934 427552 email: register.office@n-somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6SF	Tel: 01823 278805. email: archives@somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Studies Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ	Tel: 01823 340300. Fax: 01823 340301 email: somstud@somerset.gov.uk
Weston Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	For general enquiries: Tel: 01934 426010. email: weston.library@n-somerset.gov.uk For local history enquiries: Tel: 01934 888855. email: answers@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston Civic Society, The Old Town Quarry, South Road, Weston super Mare.	Tel: 01934 412144
Worle Library, The Maltings, High Street, Worle, BS22 6JB	Tel: 01934 462090. email: worle.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Yatton Library, 48 High street, Yatton, BS49 4HJ.	Tel: 01934 426100. email: yatton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk

Officers & Committee

Position Held		Current Occupier of the Position
Chair	E	Pat Hase
Secretary	E	Brian Airey,
Membership & Transcripts	E	Graham Payne
Treasurer	E	Roy Smith
Librarian	C	Brian Airey
General	C	Sue Dury
Research Consultant	C	Pat Hase
Web Contact	C	Graham Payne
Journal Editor	C	Paul Tracey
Exchange Magazines	C	Margaret & Jim Nigh
Publication & Sales	C	Brian Airey
Webmaster	C	Paul Tracey
Cashier	C	Maureen Harvey
General	C	Lorna Gibson
General	C	Tony Horry
Vice Chair	C	Peter de Dulin

E=Elected Position according to Constitution; C=Co-opted Position by the Committee.

Please direct enquiries or information to the appropriate Post Holder and remember to enclose a SAE if you require a reply.

All committee members may be contacted using the Society's website. From any page on the site go to the top right corner and click on 'Contact Us'. This will bring up a Contact Form for you to complete. Please choose the correct category so that the form is addressed to the correct recipient.

Neither the editor or committee necessarily agree with the views or opinions expressed by contributors to the Journal. Articles remain the property of the individual author and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Map of the Parishes covered by the Weston-super-Mare & District FHS.

On the rear cover is a map of the general area that we cover as a Society, showing the parishes that are known to have existed in 1832. This basically equates to the same area that forms North Somerset District Council's boundaries plus that covered by the Axbridge Registration District which was set up in 1837:

1. Easton-in-Gordano	2 Portbury	3 Abbots Leigh
4. Portishead	5. Clapton in Gordano	6. Wraxall
7. Long Ashton	8. Weston in Gordano	9. Tickenham
10. Nailsea	11. Backwell	12. Flax Bourton
13. Barrow Gurney	14. Dundry	15. Walton in Gordano
16. Clevedon	17. Kenn	18. Yatton
19. Brockley	19a. Chelvey	20. Wrington
21. Butcombe	22. Nempnet Thrubwell	23. Winford
24. Kingston Seymour	25. Wick St Lawrence	26. Puxton & Hewish
27. Congresbury	28. Churchill	29. Burrington
30. Blagdon	31. Kewstoke	32. Worle
33. Banwell	34. Weston-super-Mare	35. Hutton
36. Locking	37. Christon	38. Winscombe
39. Uphill	40. Brean	41. Bleadon
42. Loxton	43. Biddisham	44. Compton Bishop
45. Axbridge	46. Shipham	47. Rowberrow
48. Cheddar	49. Charterhouse	50. Ubley
51. Compton Martin	52. Chew Stoke	53. Chew Magna
54. West Harptree	55. East Harptree	56. Berrow
57. Brent Knoll	58. Lympsham	59. East Brent
60. Badgworth	61. Weare	62. Nyland
63. Rodney Stoke	64. Westbury	65. Priddy
66. Burnham on Sea	67. Huntspill	68. Mark
69 Chapel Allerton	70. Wedmore	

The following parishes were split as follows:

Clevedon into All Saints; Christ Church & St Andrew.

Nailsea into Christ Church & Holy Trinity.

Weston-super-Mare into All Saints; Christ Church; Emmanuel; Good Shepherd; Holy Trinity; St John; St Paul & St Saviour.

Map of Parishes covered by Weston-super-Mare & District FHS

