

DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

For People in Dorset or People with Dorset Ancestors

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DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 801504

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******* Due to the current
situation see inside for
current details for Treetops
Opening and Society
Services *******

Treetops Research Centre is
open for personal research
using the Society's library
and many records at £3.00
per day.

*

Opening hours

Mon, Wed & Sat 10 am –
3 pm

Those who want to go to
Treetops outside these
hours, (particularly visitors
who are only going to be in
the area for a short time)
please get in touch and we
will do our best to
accommodate you.

*

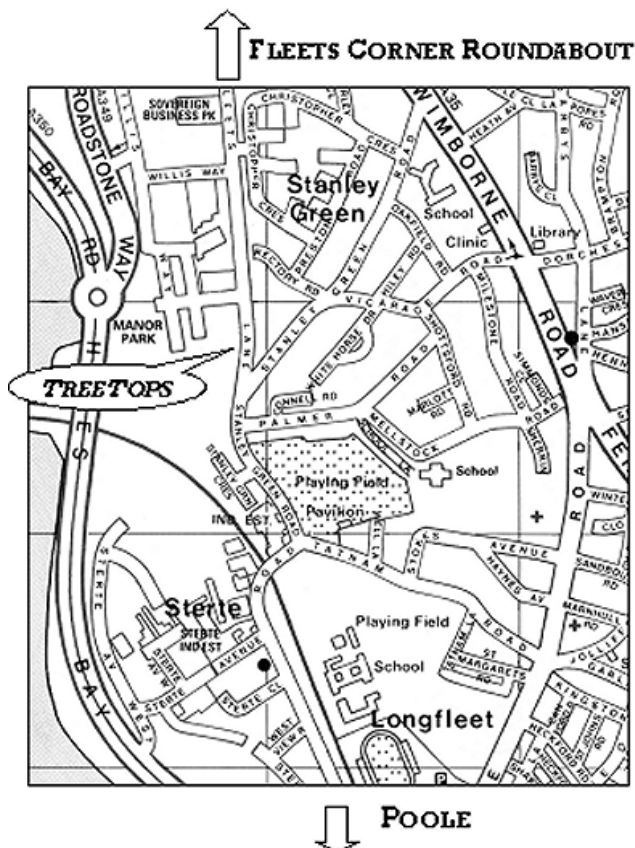
Bookings and research
requests are taken by e-mail
or by telephoning the Centre
during opening hours.

*

Parking is available in
residential roads in the local
area.

For disabled parking please
contact Treetops before
travelling.

Wheelchair access is at
ground floor level at the rear
of Stanley House. Toilets are
not wheelchair accessible.



*

For details of Officers and Committee
please see back inner cover

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Quarterly Journal

Volume 33, Number 4 September 2020

Cover picture: Wimborne Minster – refer to article on Edna Pearce Stevens

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From the Editor's Chair

Now full time work is in the past (hooray), I have begun to write up the story of my maternal grandparents. It may not be a tale of royalty, riches, or even infamy, but it has been wonderful to encourage my mother to recall her own memories and images of her parents to include in the story. I am now the main custodian of the family photo archive, which is a great responsibility. Next I need to scan them all, label and ensure they are stored safely for future enjoyment.



More than this, I currently have the family christening gown in my possession. Made in 1905 for my great grandparents first child, it has been worn by each baby born in the ever expanding family. The latest was my own grandbaby who was the first to wear it for her non-religious naming ceremony. The gown is very fragile, and I have made delicate repairs as required but it is doubtful that it will be able to be used for many more babies. Perhaps I should make a replica. Who would know that giving up paid employment would result in being so busy with a long list of projects that will keep me occupied for years!

Thanks as always to those who have sent in articles on their own families and research. These are well-received, so please keep them coming. Perhaps you have a story about your own heirloom baptism gown or fascinating family photo to share. Or a blank wall our readers may be able to help with, please email <editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>.

Angie, Journal Editor

Deadline for December 2020 edition – 15 October 2020

The Editor will be pleased to receive articles for inclusion in this Journal. They can be short or long, with or without illustrations. Ideally they should be sent by e-mail to <editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>, but typed hard copy or clear, legible handwriting sent to Treetops is also welcome. The Editor may need to edit, abridge or reject any material submitted for publication and cannot guarantee that an article will be included in any particular edition.

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Letter from our Chairman

First, let me offer my sympathies and condolences to any of our members who have suffered with the infection or have lost loved ones to the pandemic. The virus is not something to be taken lightly and the damage it has done affects us all in different ways and the effects will be long-lasting.

So we have to get used to a “New Normal”!? As Family Historians we are used to being told that we should put ourselves in our ancestors’ shoes and try to understand why things happened in their lives as and when they did because of the external forces upon them.

So it was with people through the ages, war, famine, diseases, (and there were many; cholera, diphtheria, typhus, tuberculosis, smallpox, the plagues, the flu epidemics and pandemics... the list goes on and on) all caused upheaval in the lives of those affected. Then there were the events brought about by government legislation, many changing the practice and expectations enjoyed for many previous generations. For example: the taxes to fund the wars, the enclosures of common land, the loss of rights (e.g. to pasturage, piscary, estover and pannage) and then came mechanisation.

Individually or cumulatively these things led to poverty, high infant mortality, depopulation of hamlets and small villages and so, in turn, to migration, both within the home nation or continent and overseas.

At the moment I feel as if my generation and yours are, to some extent, walking in the shoes of our great (or maybe 2x great) grandparents. We are coping with events over which we have little or no control that will change lives for ever.

One change is that we can no longer meet in large groups face-to-face. We have therefore decided that, at least until Christmas, we shall offer our monthly speaker meetings and our computer group meetings via the Zoom platform. Now I am not the smartest bunny in the warren when it comes to ‘techy’ things! However, I have learned quickly and easily to use and enjoy the facilities offered by Zoom. One big bonus has been meeting our members from way outside our normal catchment

area for physical meetings. Can I therefore urge you, if you have not already done so, to contact our liaison officer, Richard*, and sign up for the meetings. The system is so easy to use and it means that we can continue to share expertise, from our speakers and among ourselves, and so further our various family history researches. See the programme of meetings in this Journal and on our website.

We shall also use Zoom for our Annual General Meeting on November 17th 2020. That may seem a long way away but please put it in your diary now and do please join us for the meeting. We want you to be involved, and if you join us we shall feel supported in what, as your committee, we have tried to do on your behalf throughout the year. Another factor is that unless we have 30 members “present” we shall have to abandon the meeting and reconvene it at a later date. Again, please contact our liaison officer, Richard*, and let him know that you want to join the meeting, unless that is, you are already on his contact list because you have joined us at other meetings by Zoom. Nomination forms appear elsewhere in this journal with instructions on their submission. There is a bonus! After the AGM comes a Quiz with an attractive prize that can be delivered by email.

Speaking of sharing our expertise – the Computer Group meeting on September 1st will be a collective effort to knock down YOUR brick wall. Send me* a brief outline with context describing your wall (one side of A4 in 14-point font maximum). The e-news will carry this notice and ask for submissions by August 14th but if this is the first you have heard of it you may send it to me as soon as possible and if there is space and time, I will slot it in. You need to join the meeting to answer ancillary questions from the members on the night. Please join the meeting and contribute to the answers if you can.

I am stepping down at the AGM, having been Chairman for 9 of the last 11 years. I hope our Editor will allow me a little space in the December Journal to say my farewell “thank you’s”. But just in case, let me say now, you have great team working for you in DFHS, cherish and support them, join them if you can. It has been a privilege to work with them and for you. Thank you. Stay safe!

*[Contact details in the Journal].

David

Programme and Speakers

Sue and Pete Redfearn



Right now, due to the ongoing Covid challenges, we will continue to meet via Zoom Chat. Details of the next few meetings are below:

ON-LINE Speaker (using “Zoom”) September 15 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm “MAYFLOWER 400: Legend and Legacy” – JO LOOSEMORE

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of Mayflower from Plymouth to Plymouth Massachusetts. This is a unique opportunity to commemorate the legacy of the passengers and crew who undertook the journey.

The Mayflower set sail on 16th Sept. 1620 to what was then the “New World”. It’s passengers were in search of a new life, and they would go on to be known as the Pilgrims and influence the future of the USA in ways they never imagined. More than 30 million people can trace their ancestry to the 102 passengers and app. 30 crew. The Pilgrims were not the first to land in America, but their story is renowned for its themes of freedom and humanity, including relationship between the Native American Wampanoags, and creating the first Thanksgiving.

Jo Loosemore is the Curator of the Mayflower 400 exhibition and The Box in Plymouth, a major new Museum and Arts complex in the heart of the city. The opening of The Box has been delayed but will open as the flagship for the Mayflower 400 commemorations. Jo is also involved in Radio production and presentation (especially the Listening Project for Radio 4 and the British Library), research and outreach and Museum and Theatre education and participation, having been an actor as well! Other work includes Oral history collection and curation and writing books and articles.

(Zoom sign in from 7.15p.m. – If you haven’t attended one of these meetings before, contact via “liaison” email or see the E newsletter or

Journal for an invitation and joining instructions.) Admission £3 per person by donation if you wish via the Website. Thank you

ON – LINE Speaker (using “Zoom”) October 20 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
NAVAL RECORDS – LES MITCHINSON

Les joins us again to take us on another informative discovery journey, explaining how naval records have evolved from the 18th century through to the modern day. Les will describe the records, explain where they are held, and which ones are available to view on line. He will also explain the different approach to researching a naval officer from that of a naval rating.

Les, after a naval career himself, became a professionally qualified genealogist, a course Tutor with the IHGS and has been appointed their Director of Education. He has his own business in Family History helping clients from around the world research their families.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ON LINE Using “Zoom”
November 17 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Due to the current situation the A G M will now take place as an on-line meeting. This will take a lot of organising so please watch the website, Journal and newsletters for full details.

The meeting will be followed by a virtual QUIZ, hopefully fun and not too taxing, please stay on for that. – THERE WILL BE A PRIZE!!

ON-LINE Speaker using “Zoom” December 15 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
“The New Forest National Park” – STEVE ROBERTS

A more relaxed talk for December looking at a well-known local history subject. Here’s to a good Christmas

Steve Roberts takes us on an entertaining tour of the New Forest, looking in detail at its history from the Saxons to the present day, and its flora and fauna, plus some of the quirky, lesser-known tales that have helped to make it the place it is. Steve also looks at the story of today’s

National Park Authority and what it's responsibilities are within the forest'.

We welcome Steve back once more for another entertaining talk. Steve is a resident of Christchurch originally graduating as a teacher, he later changed career to become an IT Project Manager. In 2012 he moved to Christchurch, becoming a freelance writer, private tutor and public speaker.

Meetings in Retrospect

Angie Parker-Harris

Tuesday 16 June 2020 – Sons of the Soil by Janet Few

Janet delivered an entertaining overview via Zoom to around 45 people on how to research our agricultural labouring ancestors, i.e. those who worked on the land, in a wide range of jobs. She explained the range of jobs, from farm servant who would live in, to milk and dairy maids who look after the cow and make the butter respectively. We also learned about the difference between agricultural labourers and those in other country jobs, such as waggoners, shepherds, cowmen, market gardeners, bailiffs etc. There were also support trades needed to keep agricultural workers active, such as the thatcher, the wheelwright and blacksmith.

We learned about Tithe maps which are generally stored in local and county archives plus county museums. Also Land Tax returns which would be useful for those researching their agricultural labouring ancestors.

Janet explained the farming year, telling us the type of jobs each month or the year.

Overall, Janet shared a great deal to help us stop thinking of our agricultural labouring ancestors as boring or not worthy of our investigations.

Tuesday 21 July 2020 – Finding Evidence of Migration in Dorset Records (home and overseas) by Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard

Jane is a familiar face to our members, as she has previously provided training courses and talks for the Society. In this well-attended Zoom meeting, Jane used real family examples to explain why, how and where people emigrated and some sources with which to begin to trace those ancestors.

Reasons for emigrating in the early 19th century included rural depopulation, bad harvests, lack of available land etc. Poole and Bristol were large ports with close access to the sea. Also assisted passages were popular in the mid-19th century to populate Australia and New Zealand.

Evidence of emigration can be found in newspapers, parish records, census, wills, maps, family papers etc. For example, the Turner family from Wootton Fitzpaine were known to have gone to New York in 1832. They were back in England by 1839, as confirmed by the entries in the local parish baptism records. They went back to America from Bristol.

Clearly having experience of working the land in England was a huge benefit to those migrating to America and Canada where land was much more plentiful than back in Dorset.

This is very useful additional area of research as we explore the lives of our ancestors.

Zoom Meetings

Richard Yates

The Society has been organising online meetings via Zoom since the beginning of June. At the time of writing we have held two Computer Group Meetings and the first of our programme of online Monthly Meetings. The Committee has taken the decision to continue with online events until December, with a plan to restart “real” Monthly Meetings in January, subject to outside circumstances. Elsewhere in this Journal, you will find the programme for Monthly Meetings, which hopefully contains

something for all interests. The decision to restart “real” Computer Group Meetings will be taken later. All details will be updated in the monthly e-news, and on the website, so you will need to keep looking out for them. There will be an update in the next Journal for members with no computer access.

Alan tells me that there are a substantial number of members who don’t subscribe to e-news. There are also some e-mails on the list which no longer work, and he can see many which are not opened. Drop him an e-mail at the address on the back cover to correct your address, subscribe to, or restart receiving e-news.

We are not charging for meetings, but we do request a donation. Details are always included in the invitation e-mail.

Computer Group

We have run our previous programme of meetings with one exception, though not necessarily on the original dates. Both meetings have been attended by more members than are able to access live meetings at Treetops, and we are currently considering what to do in future in light of this. I have included the September date below, in hopes this Journal arrives before the 1st. The topics for the later Autumn meetings are not yet set, but in the assumption that members who wish to attend Computer Group Meetings will have access to e-news or the website, those will be notified in good time.

September 1st – Brick Walls Forum

David will be chairing a virtual panel of experts to offer suggestions of ways to break down your brick walls. You will need to send in details at least a week in advance to the liaison e-mail address (details on back cover). This will give the experts time to research suggestions to help you move forward. We recognise that this will be a little different from previous meetings, but may be rather a cross over to a Monthly Meeting. If the format is a success, we may repeat it.

We are currently recording all Computer Group meetings, which are available to view in the members’ area of the website. Please forgive the occasional amateurish offer – we are still learning.

Requests for future subjects, or offers to lead an evening, are always welcome. We have decided that June and I will continue to run the meetings and produce the calendar notes.

Treasurers Reminder

Joy Dixon

Membership renewals are due soon, so this is a reminder for those who pay by standing order to please change your standing order payment with your bank.

New Membership prices as of October 2020. £15 for UK and £19 for our overseas members.

There are several options for payments which includes Standing Order, Online Payment direct to our bank, via Parish Chest, cheque or our website. If you use any of the first three options, we do not incur bank charges.

You will find all the details for any of these methods on the membership form. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

George Ridout 1853-1904

Wendy Ford

George RIDOUT was born in 1853 in the hamlet of Hill Butts, in the parish of Pamphill, Wimborne Minster, Dorset. He was the eldest son of Edmund and Elizabeth Ridout (nee JAMES). Edmund and Elizabeth had a relatively small family, with just three children. As well as George there was Stephen Robert born in 1856 and Maria Jane born in 1861. In the 1861 census the family were living in Hill Butts where Edmund was an agricultural labourer. Several of their neighbours in Hill Butts were employed by the BANKES family on the estate of Kingston Lacy and

Corfe Castle so it is probable that Edmund and when he was old enough, George, were employed on the estate.

By 1871 the family had moved to the new town of Bournemouth. The occupation of both Edmund and George (now 18) in the 1871 Census was 'gardener'. Their new address was Madeira Vale, Bournemouth, now called Madeira Road. Their neighbours were for the most part, labourers and their families. Also in Bournemouth were George's three maternal uncles Leonard James, Nicholas James, Isaac James, his aunt Maria STICKLAND (nee James) and her husband Nicholas, with their young families. Isaac and Maria's husband were in the building trade and Leonard was a gardener. They all came from the Pamphill area and had been agricultural labourers before moving to Bournemouth. George's little sister Maria died shortly after the move in 1871 of Tubercular meningitis, a condition linked to poor living conditions. George's mother Elizabeth, died 3 years later in 1874 aged 46.

In 1874 George married Sarah WREFORD PRATT TURNER at Holy Trinity Church in Bournemouth. George was just twenty-one, Sarah was twenty-eight. She had been born in Taunton in Somerset. Her parents were William Turner a working jeweller and Mary (nee REMEMBER). The Turner family had also moved to Bournemouth between 1861 and 1871.

In the 1871 census Sarah was at Tregew House in Bournemouth, employed as a cook for Vice Admiral Sir Bartholomew James SULIVAN. Sarah's employer had served on the *Beagle* in 1836 where he met and became lifelong friends with Charles DARWIN. In the 1840s Vice Admiral SULIVAN charted the Galapagos Islands, where the Island Bartolome was named after him. He also served in 1853-1856 in the Crimea, and was commissioned to do hydrographic research in the sea area of the Aland Islands.

George and Mary's first child Mary Elizabeth was born in 1877 followed by twin boys Robert William and George Edmund in 1879. Sadly, Robert William's death was registered in the December quarter of 1879 and George Edmund's in the December quarter of 1880. George and Sarah went on to have two more daughters Gertrude in 1882 and Ellen in 1887.

In the 1881 census George and Sarah were living in Clive Cottage, Grove Road, Bournemouth, in the grounds of Clive House, the residence of a wealthy clergyman Henry Nele LORING the son of Vice Admiral Sir John Wentworth Loring KCB. George's occupation was described as 'Gardener- Domestic'. Presumably he was allocated the cottage as part of his job. Grove Road is just one road inland from Bournemouth's picturesque cliffs and sandy beaches.

George's father Edmund's occupation was 'gardener' in the 1881 census, was at Annerley Road, at 2 Leith Cottage with his second wife Jane (nee HOGG). They had married in 1880.

In 1891 George and Sarah and their family were living in 4 Leith Cottage. As well as George and their three little girls, Sarah had a lodger, who was another gardener plus a boarder and a coachman to look after.

George's father Edmund and his new wife were at 20 Shelley Road in Boscombe on the outskirts of Bournemouth. Edmund was now a 'jobbing gardener' which meant he was working for several clients on a more casual basis rather than just one household. Edmund died in 1897.

On the 31st April, 1901, the night of the census, George and Sarah were at different addresses. George, 'married - domestic gardener' was at 2 Leith Cottage with his daughters Mary Elizabeth and Gertrude Annie (family surname miss- transcribed as Rulant). The employment of both girls was 'Dressmaker'. On this night, George's wife Sarah was with her youngest daughter Ellen Beatrice, 14 years old, at a property called 'Bregner' which was described by the enumerator as 'a coach-house with rooms over'. Sarah was married and a 'Housekeeper'. Ellen's occupation was 'Table maid - domestic'. There was also a housemaid at the address. The Head of the household was Charles CECIL, unmarried, age 28 of independent means who was born in Birkenhead Cheshire. It is possible that Sarah and Ellen may have been employed by Charles Cecil on a temporary basis to help at his bachelor home for a special occasion. It is also possible that George was experiencing health problems in 1901 and extra income was needed.

George Ridout died in October 1904 of heart disease at 2 Leith Cottage. On his death certificate his occupation is recorded as 'gardener', his daughter Mary being the informant. Also in 1904 Mary married Victor Augustus ABBOTT, an upholsterer and cabinet maker, and in 1907 had a little girl, Madge Ena Gladys Abbott. Sarah was shown as a widow on the 1911 census and was still at 2 Leith Cottage as a 'retired housekeeper', living on private means. Her daughters Gertrude a costumier, and Ellen a milliner 'on her own account' were with her. She also had two young gentlemen lodgers, a jeweller and a piano tuner, who apparently could not decide who was the head of their part of the house, and insisted on both putting 'Joint Head' and jointly signing the census.

The enumerators schedule was amended to include both of their names. In July 1914 Ellen Beatrice Ridout married Arthur Stanley HILLYARD a municipal accounts clerk. They had a daughter born in 1921. On the 1939 Register, Arthur's occupation was Bournemouth Borough Treasurer, a very prestigious position in the town. Ellen and Arthur's address was Huntley Road, Bournemouth. At 2 Leith Cottage, at this time called 11 Annerley Road, was Sarah Ridout, her unmarried daughter Gertrude, Sarah's granddaughter (Mary Elizabeth's daughter) Madge Ena Gladys Abbott, and Madge's son David ABBOTT. David was Sarah and George Ridout's Great Grandson. Sarah died aged 98 in 1943.

Although the address had changed over the years I managed to track down Leith Cottage. I found that although many of the other houses in the road had made their front gardens into parking areas, George and Sarah's house stood out as having a beautiful old fashioned cottage front garden. I plucked up courage and knocked on the door, explaining my interest to the rather surprised owner.

She very kindly asked me to come to tea. She had also made enquiries about the previous occupants of her house and was familiar with the names of George Ridout and his family. On the following Saturday we spent a few very happy hours sharing our findings, pouring over census returns, copies of old maps and house deeds going back to the early 1800's showing the growth of Bournemouth.

The FHF Really Useful Family History Show

Saturday 14th November 2020

The Family History Federation (FHF) is excited to launch the FHF Really Useful Family History Show which will take place on Saturday 14th November featuring member societies and much, much more.

The event's website will be regularly updated with details of exhibitors and speakers. It will also provide access to the online ticket booking system. Bookmark the show's own website at: <www.fhf-reallyuseful.com>.

Surname Interests (formerly Members' Interests)

Alan Mead

One of the benefits of Society membership is that surnames you are researching can be shared in the Journal and on the website. Names listed in the Journal will reach every Member and whoever happens to read the Journal.

Names listed on the website can be viewed and searched by anyone who visits the page <www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-interests>. Entering a surname in the search box there can show whether anyone else is interested in a surname you are researching, and Members can check what surnames they have registered by entering their Membership Number.

All Members, whether they joined when the Society started, in the last month, or at any time in-between, can register or update the surnames they are researching by completing a Members' Interests form. The latest version is available in the Members' Area at <www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-area>.

Please share your surname interests by adding them to the database and contact other Members if they seem to be researching the same surname. If you have had success in your research as a result of

contacting another Member through this service, why not write to the Editor and share that success with other Members in a future edition of this Journal?

The following new surnames have been added to the database since the last Journal:

Mem No.	Surname	Location	County	Date
4791	ABBOTT	Steeple	DOR	1761 - 1814
4791	ALNER	Tyneham	DOR	1763 - 1833
5171	BARFOOT	Corfe Mullen	DOR	1786-1857
4830	BISHOP	Stinsford	DOR	Pre 1880
4830	BISHOP	Burleston	DOR	Pre 1870
4830	BISHOP	Piddlehinton	DOR	1820-1894
5234	BOYT	Affpuddle	DOR	Pre 1900
5171	BRETT	Holwell	DOR	1797-1873
5171	BULLEN	Cattis Stock	DOR	1693
5171	BULLEN	Stock Gayland	DOR	1741 - 1778
5171	BULLEN	Pulham	DOR	1781-1806
5171	BULLEN	Stour Provest Buckland	DOR	1721-1746
5171	BULLEN	Newton	DOR	1763-1786
5232	BUTT	Sutton Poyntz	DOR	1750-1813
5232	BUTT	Weymouth	DOR	Pre 1813
5155	CASTLE	Wivenhoe	ESS	Any
5234	COWARD	Affpuddle Blandford	DOR	Pre 1900
5234	COWARD	Forum	DOR	Pre 1800
5234	COWARD	Stourpaine New South	DOR	Pre 1900
5234	COWARD	Wales	AUS	After 1849
5232	DAVIES	Weymouth	DOR	1788-1813
5232	DAVIES	Hordle	HAM	1788-1813
5232	DAVIES	Southampton	HAM	1788-1813
5232	DAVIES	Sherborne	DOR	1788-1813

5232	DAVIS	Southampton	HAM	1788-1813
5232	DAVIS	Weymouth	DOR	1788-1813
5232	DAVIS	Hordle	HAM	1788-1813
5232	DAVIS	Sherborne	DOR	1788-1813
4119	GALE	Upwey	DOR	Pre 1850
5229	GATRELL	Bournemouth	DOR	1900 on
5171	GRIFFITHS	Pulham	DOR	1806-?
		Burton		
4791	HANHAM	Bradstock	DOR	1806 - 1846
5155	HARWOOD	Ardleigh	ESS	Any
5234	HOOKEY	Affpuddle	DOR	Pre 1810
5232	LAWRENCE	Weymouth	DOR	Pre 1813
4119	LEGG	Upwey	DOR	Pre 1850
5155	LEWIS	Weymouth	DOR	Any
5155	NIXON	Wigton	CUL	Any
4119	PAUL	Upwey	DOR	Pre 1850
4791	POPE	Dorchester	DOR	1735 onwards
5155	ROUSE	Wivenhoe	ESS	Any
5155	ROUSE	Tendering	ESS	Any
4791	SWETLAND	Eggleston	DOR	1820 - 1850
5231	TUFFEN	Any	DOR	1500 - 1850
5231	TUFFIN	Any	DOR	1500 - 1850
5155	TUGGEY	Lymington	HAM	Any
5155	TUGGY	Weymouth	DOR	Any
5155	TUGGY	Lymington	HAM	Any
5171	VACHER	Milton Abbis	DOR	1753-1815
4119	WALLIS	Upwey	DOR	Pre 1850
5155	WENT	Elmstead	ESS	Any
5155	WENT	Colchester	ESS	Any
5155	WHENT	Elmstead	ESS	Any

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

My name is Larry LUTHER and I live in Vancouver, BC, Canada. I am a descendant of Captain John Luter or Luther who was likely born in Dorset (possibly Bridport) in about 1602 and married a woman called Elizabeth (last name possibly ADAAMS in 1625 in Bridport, Dorset). He was a seaman and emigrated with his wife & probably son Samuel to Massachusetts in about 1638. As captain of a small vessel on a fur trading expedition, he was killed by Indians in Cheseapeake Bay, Maryland in 1645. Some of his ancestors in America (including myself, are the members of The Luther Family Association, which has since 1936 being researching Captain John and our family lines descending from him. The writer has recently found evidence that he may have been born, married and lived in Bridport, Dorset.

Since our documentation trail has ended, some members, including me, have done Y DNA testing at Family Tree DNA, with a view to verifying prior genealogical research and finding further information about our origins. To further this, we wish to find Luters or Luthers in England who have done Y DNA testing & would be willing to share the results, to compare them to our own and determine any family links with English Luthers or Luters. We note that there are Luters or Luthers residing in your area. We wonder if you could post this enquiry on your web site. Any interested parties could contact me at <lcl@shaw.ca>

Regards,

Larry Luther

<lcl@shaw.ca>

ear Editor,

My mother has in her possession a collection of photos which she bought in a local antique shop near Pokesdown, Bournemouth many years ago.

There was also a handwritten copy of a birth certificate for Henry DAVIS (b 1843) who died in Pokesdown but was born and worked in Dorchester as a furniture-maker. I understand there were at least 3 generations of them, and their yard was behind "The Horse with the Red Umbrella" – a couple of photos show pieces of furniture.

I have been in contact with a gentleman in France who is descended from that family, but his branch went to France in mid-1800's, so only the oldest photos were of interest to him, but he was able to identify Henry Davis b 1825 and his son Henry, born 1843. Later photos are of the latter's family.

I am happy to share the photos with anyone who is interested, particularly if there is any family still in Dorchester, or if they are of historical interest.

Regards,

Junette Robinson

<junettejr@gmail.com>

News from Dorset History Centre

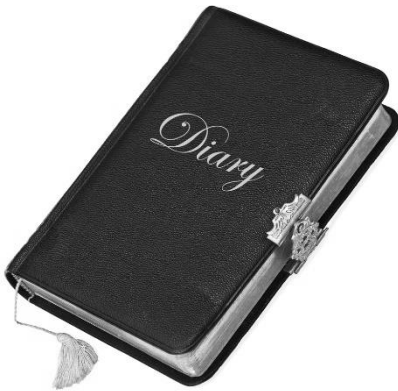
Sam Johnston - County Archivist

DHC and Covid-19

Dorset History Centre, like most other public services closed its doors on Friday 20 March and staff commenced 'homeworking'. However, I am pleased to say that staff were not short of things to do and with the assistance of video conferencing, the team was able to keep in touch and carry out many useful background tasks such as improving cataloguing data and indexes. Importantly, we were also able to respond to public enquiries via email and telephone despite our inability

to access the collections. We also undertook twice-weekly inspections of DHC and the repositories to ensure that correct preservation conditions were maintained. Whilst there was an undoubted interruption to our activities, within six weeks of Lockdown, a slow trickle of staff whose work is fundamentally linked to the collections were back at DHC. With a return to the DHC building, we have now recommenced full public enquiry service. DHC was, in addition one of the first archive services to re-open its doors which we did on 7 July. We are currently open two days per week by appointment only and will in due course hope to increase the number of days we can welcome visitors. All information relating to public access can be found on our website: <www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorsethistorycentre>

Corona diaries and public engagement



Shortly after lockdown commenced, DHC in collaboration with Lighthouse, Poole initiated a project to capture the thoughts and experiences of Dorset residents. The idea was to encourage participants to keep a 'Corona Diary' – hard copy or digital, with images and other visual ingredients as they saw fit. Following a press release, we had over 160 expressions of

interest. We supplied information on copyright, formats and metadata, but everything else was up to the diarist. At the time of writing (late July), we are not yet sure when the first diaries will be deposited, particularly as the course and dynamic of Covid-19 is not at all clear. The diarists may well have a lot longer to write their reflections! We hope that this collection of material will form a really useful resource for future historians wanting to understand the pandemic and how people managed at a time of unparalleled social restrictions and how they view the world as we (hopefully) emerge from it.

In addition, DHC staff have been producing large numbers of blogs on a range of topics – from collections to conservation and project work. There is even one about the arrival of the Black Death in Dorset and some of the uncomfortable parallels



between then and now. Through our blogs, newsletters and tweets we have attempted to give further insights into archival heritage, people's stories and how users can engage with them. Through the blogs, we encouraged anyone who was 'clearing out' their drawers, cupboards or attics to think about any archives they might encounter that could potentially be offered to DHC. We know from experience that much really interesting material can come to light but that people do not always know what to do with it. Please see the website for our blogs: <https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/>

DHC is also collecting more official records generated during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be important to understand the official reaction to the crisis and the evidence to be preserved such that the 'lessons learned' can be recorded and referred to in the event that another incident of this type occurs.

Frink Project

Work on our project to catalogue and conserve the archive of Dame Elisabeth FRINK has continued throughout Lockdown. The project archivist who will leave us in early August has completed the greater part of the work. We have plans to complete the project later this year and it is good to know that the collection is already attracting interest. Some archival content is on display at Messums Wiltshire where Elisabeth Frink's studio has been erected within the wonderful tithe barn at Tisbury.

Beales of Bournemouth

One good news story to report is that we were able to collect (on the last day of trading) the archive of prominent department store Beales.

The business went into liquidation earlier in 2020 and due to the impending Lockdown, collecting the archive became urgent. Although much material was lost in a bombing raid on the town in 1943, there remains a really interesting archive, particularly rich in images. Given the rate of closure of shops and businesses, it is important that we preserve the records of companies like Beales which were local landmarks and employed thousands of people. The collection awaits cataloguing.



The original shop in 1883

An image from the archive of the original Beales store in Bournemouth

Sam Johnston

Dorset Family History Society

Notice of Annual General Meeting

To Be Held as an Online Virtual Meeting on

Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7pm

Welcome & Notices [Including details of procedures and voting arrangements.]

1. *Apologies for absence*
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, as published with Journal Vol. 33 No 2 (March 2020 issue)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report (Published in the Members' area of the DFHS website in advance of this meeting.)
5. Secretary's Report (Published in the Members' area of the DFHS website in advance of this meeting.)
6. Treasurer's Report (Published in the Members' area of the DFHS website in advance of this meeting.)
7. Adoption of Annual Accounts
8. Election of Officers & Committee for 2020/21
9. Any Other Business

The Chairman will introduce questions submitted by members

Please note that Notices, nominations for Officers and Committee, and details of matters to be raised under Any Other Business, should be submitted to the Secretary by 31st October 2020

Dorset Family History Society

Nomination form for officer roles.

Please either copy, remove and use this form, or alternatively, the form will be downloadable from the AGM section in the Members' Area from the end of August

I nominatefor the post of

***Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee Member for the year 2020-2021**

Proposed by.....



Seconded by.....



I accept the above nomination and, if elected, agree to serve for one year.

Signed..... Date.....

***Delete as necessary**



Due to Covid 19 restrictions on meeting with others you may submit a nomination with the Nominee's agreement but without his/her signature and without the Secunder's signature. The Secunder and Nominee must each then email or write to the Secretary, DFHS stating the name of the nominee, the proposer and the seunder and confirming their willingness to second the nomination / accept the nomination. The following format is recommended:

Secunder:

I..... (*full name*)agree to second (*nominee's name*) who has been proposed by..... (*proposer's name*).....

Nominee:

I..... (*full name*) accept the nomination for the post of.....and, if elected, agree to serve for one year. My proposer is..... My Secunder is.....

How Five People in Search of Their Bennett Ancestors Ended Up Together in Dorset

Leighton Turner, Nancy Van Loo and Denise Smith

This is a story of five distant cousins who separately began looking for their BENNETT ancestors using traditional 20th Century documentary research and in the end were connected by 21st Century genetic genealogy using DNA analysis.

I shall start with myself, Leighton TURNER, because my connection would not have been possible without DNA. I am virtually certain that I have exhausted what documentary evidence exists and am still stuck in the early settlement of Virginia and North Carolina by the English. My mother was a Bennett and I started my hunt as a schoolboy in 1963 and I am now at a dead-end with John Bennett and his wife, Rose, who are in the records of Perquimans County, North Carolina as early as 30 Aug 1700.

In the late 1960s, Nancy VAN LOO was also gathering information from her Bennett mother about her family. That Bennett family had immigrated into Canada in the mid-1800s and Nancy's branch had immigrated to the US in 1913. She was able to trace her Bennett family back to Southampton, Hampshire, England.

In 1990, Denise SMITH, who was born in New Zealand, began to research her Bennett ancestors. Her 4th great grandparents, Sarah Bennett and John FLETCHER, were married in St Thomas, Portsmouth, Hampshire in 1799. The baptism of three of their children brought her to Southampton, although all of them had been born in the West Indies where Sarah's husband, John Fletcher, had died.

Although the three of us had developed extensive family trees for our Bennetts by 2017, none of us could connect our Bennett families but that was about to change.

I was convinced that I would never be able to trace my Bennetts past 1700 in North Carolina using traditional research. I decided to turn to

science, recruiting my first cousin once removed, James Bennett, to take a yDNA test in 2009 which would identify his and my paternal Bennett line. When the results were reported, we were amazed to see that he matched no other Bennett in the Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) database. In 2010, I recruited my first cousin, Dean Bennett, to test and his results showed that he only matched James. In 2011, a half third cousin once removed agreed to test and he matched only James and Dean. However, that proved that our documented paper-trail Bennett line was correct back to William Russell Bennett who was born about 1789.

It was a long lonely wait until 2017 when Gavin Bennett, who was born in New Zealand but had immigrated to the US in the 1990s, appeared as an yDNA match to all three of my Bennett cousins. That set me, Gavin and his wife to work tracing his Bennett ancestors using my tree on Ancestry.com. Fortunately, he had sufficient information to trace his tree back to Hampshire where it intersected with Nancy's tree on Ancestry.com.

Then Denise and Nancy discovered through autosomal DNA that they had a connection most likely through the Bennetts of Southampton. Shared matches then confirmed the connection, suggesting that Denise's 4th great grandmother Sarah Bennett and Nancy's 2nd great grandfather Joel Bennett, baptized 9 Nov 1788 in Southampton, were either full or half siblings. Nancy, Denise and I combined our efforts to push back their common Bennett line as far back as possible. Joel's father was John Bennett, cordwainer, who was born circa 1757 in Fontmell Magna, Dorset. So that is how Leighton, Gavin, Nancy and Denise ended up in Dorset looking for Bennett cousins who had never left England.

We have invested in advanced yDNA testing of all our small group of Bennett men and they match each other at the deepest level of testing.

In 2018, another match to our small group of Bennett men appeared with a man whose father was privately adopted in 1924 in Boston, Massachusetts but there was no record of who his parents were. His advanced yDNA results matched perfectly proving that his paternal line was Bennett. I was able to use his yDNA information in combination with his autosomal DNA results to establish that his Bennett line went from

Boston to Newfoundland and then Dorset where the Newfoundland immigrant was baptized in 1802 at Sturminster-Newton.

DNA testing has augmented and supported what our decades of traditional paper document researching revealed.

We are patiently waiting for another yDNA match that will expand our Bennett family group and hopefully he will reside in Dorset or nearby.

A Young Romantic

June Clist

George Dewey CLEALL, the youngest son of Henry and Mary (nee DEWEY) who was christened at the church of St James in Poole, described later as a boat builder, was brought before the Magistrates Court in the town following a complaint by Sarah BUSH of Poole, a single woman because he had 'been a nuisance to her'. He entered into a recognisance in the sum of £10, being a bond made before a court or magistrate by which a person binds himself to do a particular act such as to appear in court on a specified day, and his mother Mary also went surety for the same sum.

He appeared in Court before James SEAGAR, JP on the 27th April 1826, when he was 16 years of age, and was set free on condition that he kept the peace for twelve months especially towards the complainant. Not much is known of George's life thereafter except that would appear to have lived honestly and then like his brother Samuel he too joined the merchant navy and was at one time on the 'Industry' and afterwards was a Carpenter on the '*John King*', a 215-ton brig belonging to King & Co. of Southampton on which he sailed to the British Colony of Mauritius where he went ashore and discharged himself from his ship on the 26th January 1839. Maybe he fell in love with this beautiful, sunny island with its superb tropical beaches and volcanic craters surrounded by lava flows, and decided to live and end his days there, but unfortunately to date nothing can be found of what actually happened to him from then on.

Edna Pearce Stevens' Life Story

Patrick Lynch



This is the story of Edna PEARCE STEVENS who was my great grandmother. She was born on 4 June 1831 in Wimborne Minster, Dorset to William BAKER PEARCE (1796-1862) and Frances WITT PEARCE (1799-1832). Wimborne Minster is both a town in East Dorset and the name of the Church of England parish church in that town. The church is dedicated to St Cuthburga who founded an abbey

of Benedictine nuns there around 705. The church features a chained library - one of the last ones still in existence.

William and Frances Pearce were both born in Ringwood, Hampshire and both died in Wimborne, Dorset. Besides my great grandmother, they had four other children - two girls (Frances and Martha) and two boys (William and James).

According to English census records, William Baker Pearce was a brazier i.e. someone who works with brass. The family is listed as living on West Street in Wimborne for at least 20 years - 1841 through 1861. They evidently attended the Minster Church in Wimborne since I have found several baptismal records indicating that their children were baptized there. Edna was baptized on 3 July 1831 at the Minster Church.

Edna's mother - Frances Witt Pearce - died on 28 July 1832. She died very young at only 33 years old. Edna was just one-year-old when her mother died. Frances' death must have been a real shock for her husband since he was left to raise their five children all by himself while still earning a living. When their mother died, the oldest daughter - Frances - was 11 years old. William was 9, James was 7, and Martha was only 4 years old. Frances was buried at the Wimborne Minster cemetery according to the parish record.

William never remarried. He is listed in the English census records as living on West Street along with his children, but never having another wife. It must have been very difficult for him to keep his family together as they grew up. I'm sure that he relied a great deal on Frances - his eldest daughter - to help raise her siblings. There were no social safety nets to provide assistance in the mid 1800's!

William Baker Pearce died on 27 August 1862. He was buried at the Wimborne Minster cemetery on 1 September according to the parish record. He was 66 years old.

My great grandmother Edna married Charles Robert STEVENS (1829-1897) on 27 March 1853 at St Olave Church, Bermondsey, Southwark. Charles (my great grandfather) was born on 10 March 1829 in Devizes, Wiltshire. He was one of eight children born to Jonathan and Ann Ellis Stevens. In the 1851 census, he is listed as being a clerk and still living at home in Devizes.

Soon after Charles and Edna were married, their son and only child Charles Edward Stevens (my great grandfather) was born on 22 January 1854 in Whitechapel, London. He was baptized on 10 May 1854 at St Peters, Stepney, London.

The 1861 census record lists Charles Edward as living in Wimborne with his grandfather - William Baker Pearce - and his mother Edna. But there is no mention of his father Charles Robert Stevens as living with the family. I am not sure why Charles wasn't living with his family - maybe the census just missed counting him.

In 1863, the Stevens family - Charles R, Edna, and Charles E - departed England and immigrated to America. The date they chose to move to America was exactly in the middle of the American Civil War. Charles R who was 34 when they arrived enlisted in the Union Army in 1864. He served in the 3rd Regiment of the Maryland Infantry, Company C. He was mustered out of the service as a First Lieutenant in May 1865 after being severely wounded at the Battle of Antietam. I find it amazing that he chose to join in fighting the American Civil War even though he was just

newly arrived from England and 35 years old. I feel that his actions were a real tribute to his character and sense of duty.

After the war, the Stevens family lived in the New Jersey and New York City area for a number of years according to US census records. The 1870 census lists them as living in Jersey City, NJ. Charles R is employed as a title researcher. Charles E is employed as a florist. The 1880 census has them living in New York City on Clinton Place. Charles R is still a title researcher. But Edna is now listed as running a boarding house where they live. The census record lists 27 boarders as residing at their residence. She must have been very busy! Charles E is no longer living at home - not sure where he is or what he is doing in 1880.

A family history that my grandmother – Frances Edna STEVENS LYNCH – wrote says that Charles E married a woman named Frances BALLARD and they lived in the New York City area. However, Frances died soon after they were married. Unfortunately, I have never been able to find any records to substantiate their marriage or Frances' death. Now being a widower, Charles returned to England to find a new bride.

Charles was successful in his quest! He returned to America with his new bride-to-be Eliza HORDER. Eliza was born in April 1857 in Wimborne, Dorset. Evidently Charles and Eliza must have known each other before the Stevens family departed for America since they both lived in the same town and were fairly close to the same age.

Eliza's parents were Robert Horder (1826-1879) and Anne TOPP Horder (1826-1878). Robert was a lifelong resident of Wimborne. Anne was born in Witchampton, Dorset and died in Wimborne. Both of them were buried in Wimborne. Robert and Anne had six children – four girls and two boys. The family lived on a farm near Wimborne. Of the six children, five of them lived in Wimborne their entire lives and are buried there. Only Eliza left Wimborne to go to America with Charles.

According to multiple census records, Robert was a very successful farmer who farmed 250 acres and had eight hired hands working for him. His farm was named Leigh Farm which appeared to be located right outside of Wimborne. In addition to having hired hands to help with the

farm labour, the family also had several servants to help with household duties.

Now back to Charles and Eliza. Multiple census records state that Eliza arrived in America in 1888. She and Charles were married on 1 July 1888 in Greeley, Colorado. So the question is – why did they move to Colorado? I don't know the answer but sure wish I did! Maybe the lure of the American west was too strong to resist. Maybe the possibility of getting free land from the government was the attraction. Or maybe Charles' parents wanted to move out west.

Charles' parents also left the New York area and headed west. According to a census record, Charles R and Edna both lived in Colorado. However, Charles had been wounded in the Civil War and never fully recovered. In fact, Charles R Stevens died in Grover, Colorado on 18 January 1897. He was buried in the Linn Grove Cemetery in Greeley, Colorado. His grave is located in the Old Soldiers Section of the cemetery where many Civil War veterans are buried. His headstone lists him as having been a First Lieutenant in the Union Army.

Charles and Eliza lived for a while on a farm/ranch in the Grover area. Their first child – Frances Edna Stevens – was born in 15 December 1889 in Denver. Frances was my grandmother. There are several US Homestead Grant records indicating that Charles purchased 160 acre parcels of land from the US government for the sum of \$6. The government would sell quarter sections of land for a token amount in order to encourage people to settle there – homesteading as they called it. Later after he developed the land, Charles would sell it and then purchase another 160 acres. That's certainly one way to settle the west! Charles and Eliza lived in Grover for at least 8 years. During this time, they had three more children besides my grandmother – Arthur Edward born in 1892 in Denver, Charles Robert born in 1894 in Grover, and Jessie Gladys born in 1895 in Grover. I would assume that during this time Charles was pursuing a career in farming and ranching – besides making some money in land development.

However according to my grandmother's family history, Eliza did not like living the rural life in rural America! As time went on she made things

“difficult” for Charles. She was used to the more civilized lifestyle that she had lived in Dorset. So eventually, the family moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming where their fifth and last child was born – Dorothy Ada in 1901. It’s very hard to imagine Cheyenne being a traditional, patrician community since it was truly a wild west town. But compared to living in the hinterlands of rural Colorado it must have seemed like a paradise!

The Stevens family appeared to prosper after moving to Cheyenne. There are numerous newspaper articles in the society pages that listed various parties, church functions, and galas that they attended. They were members of St Mark’s Episcopal church where my grandmother and her brothers Arthur and Charles were confirmed by Bishop Graves in April 1905.



Stevens Family at Wyoming Ranch 1917

Charles also did quite well for himself. He was appointed the City Marshal of Cheyenne in 1905. He served in that position for two years. According to city council records, he was paid \$100 per month. That must have been a tidy sum of money in 1905. After he left the city marshal position, he went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad which had a major operation in Cheyenne on the transcontinental rail line. First he served as foreman of the machinists who worked on the UP trains and railroad equipment. Later, he worked as a railroad Inspector.

He retired from the Union Pacific in January 1926 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 72.

Charles died on 16 January 1932 in Casper, Wyoming. He was visiting his daughter Jessie who was married and living in Casper when he had a heart attack and passed away. He was buried back home in the Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne.

Charles' mother – Edna Pearce – also moved from Colorado to Wyoming. Her obituary stated that she lived in Denver for two years and then moved to Rawlins, Wyoming in 1890. However, the 1900 US census has Edna listed as living in Denver and working as a clerk in a Notions Store. So I am not sure exactly when she moved.

Eventually she wound up moving to Cheyenne where she lived for many years. The first reference to her living in Cheyenne was a newspaper article about the pension she was receiving. In 1897, she had applied for a military pension based on her husband's service in the Civil War. She began receiving \$10 per month soon after Charles' death. In 1904, a newspaper article reported that her pension was being increased to \$12 per month! She also worked as a housekeeper for several families in Cheyenne.

Edna died on 12 February 1920 in Omaha, Nebraska. She was staying with her granddaughter Frances to whom she was very close. Edna was buried in the Westlawn Cemetery in Omaha. Frances had married Daniel J Lynch in 1908. Daniel (my grandfather) worked for the Union



Pacific Railroad first as a brakeman and later as a conductor. He was stationed in Omaha and made the run to North Platte, Nebraska and

then back to Omaha the next day. He retired from the UP in 1955 after 46 years of service.

Eliza continued living in Cheyenne after Charles' death. Evidently Cheyenne wound up fulfilling her need to live a more genteel life like the one she enjoyed in Wimborne. She died on 3 May 1940 in Cheyenne. She was buried in the Lakeview Cemetery next to her husband Charles.

So I guess you think the story is over, but no it isn't! In February 2019, my wife and I took a cruise that wound up disembarking in London. I had always wanted to visit the places that my ancestors lived in England before they came to America. So we rented a car and drove south to Dorset. We stayed in Wimborne for several days visiting the place where my forebears lived and died so many years ago. It was an amazing experience!



We visited the Minster Church and saw where my ancestors had worshipped. We saw the very baptismal font where my great grandmother Edna was baptized. We visited the cemetery where the Pearce's and Horder's were buried. Unfortunately, the burial records were not available – seems they were moved to another location for safe keeping. And there

were very few headstones left in the cemetery. The church archivist told us that the church needed a new floor which they couldn't afford to purchase. So the Victorians (as he put it) used the cemetery markers as paving stones for a new floor in the church!

We actually walked the same streets that my ancestors did – even walking down West Street where the Pearce family lived so many years ago. I imagined that some of the buildings – and certainly the Minster

Church – were the same ones that my ancestors walked by as they went about their lives. Truly remarkable!

We tried to find Leigh Farm – the farm that my great grandfather Robert Horder had successfully operated for so many years. Unfortunately, we weren't able to locate the farm. There were no houses or buildings, and it didn't appear that there was much farming activity where we looked on Leigh Road – just fields of brown vegetation that might have once been cultivated.

Another real highlight for me was when we drove up to Devizes, Wiltshire where the Stevens family originated. Once again, we saw the church – St John the Baptist – where my ancestors worshipped, were baptized, married, and buried. And we walked on



Long Street where they lived for many years – even saw the flat at 28 Long Street that was their residence. But the most overwhelming event for me was visiting the Devizes Cemetery where we located the graves of my great grandparents – Jonathan Stevens (1790-1878) and Ann Ellis Stevens (1795-1885). It was very moving to stand at the final resting place of Jonathan and Ann and be able to pay our respects to my ancestors.

Visiting the towns and places where my ancestors lived and died was without a doubt one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I was able to feel a closer connection with who I came from and have a better appreciation of how my ancestors lived their lives. It was definitely a life expanding experience for me. I hope that everyone will be able to have a similar experience in their lives someday.

Frank's War

Merve Goddard



It was not until I started to research my family history that I discovered that my paternal grandmother Louie GODDARD, (nee WHEATCROFT) had an elder brother. Although I knew my Grannie GODDARD throughout my childhood, brother Frank was never mentioned. I now realise that this may well have been due to the fact that he had been one of that legion of young men lost in the Great War.

Frank was also the reason that I set out on a bigger exploration of my family at war as, due to an incredible stroke of luck, a relative of his widow Evelyn's second husband found a collection of memorabilia in a skip! This trove included medals, photos, cuttings and the Death Penny presented to his widow and following a chance connection on the Genes Reunited website, this was all offered to me as one of Frank's few surviving relatives. This is the story behind the find.

Frank Wheatcroft was born in West Fordington, near Dorchester on the 2nd March 1890, the first child of Frederick and Louisa Wheatcroft. At this time his father was a regular soldier in the Dorset Regiment so perhaps it was inevitable that Frank would follow.

Parts of Frank's service record remain and from this I know that at some point prior to 1911 Frank joined the 4th Dorsets - the Territorial Regiment - whilst continuing with his day job of Porter (town). It is likely that he was actually working for one of the local newspapers - The Dorset County Chronicle - as in a later report he is referred to in this paper as "a former employee".

On the 11th January 1911, just short of his 21st birthday, Frank signed up for the Regular Army and joined the 1st Dorsetshire Regiment. For part if

not all of the next three and a half years he was posted in Ireland and it was from Belfast that he embarked for France in the summer of 1914.

The 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment embarked on their transport vessel, the SS Anthony, on 14th August 1914 in Belfast and disembarked on 16th August 1914 in Le Havre. Soon after landing Frank was fighting in the Aisne sector. He was present in the fighting around Ypres and Armentiers and it was in this action that he was mentioned in despatches along with Ptes W.H CURTIS, W. DOLEMAN, F.W. INKER and Drummer W.T. PROWSE. The citation reads "for their gallant conduct" and this was most likely at the battle of La Bassee on 12th 13th October. His MID was recorded in the second supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday 16th February 1915 (dated Wednesday 17th Feb), the dispatch itself being dated 14th January that same year.

It is likely that Frank fought at the front through most of 1915 too late 1917 as the 1st Dorsets were present in most of the major actions - Mons, Ypres, the Somme. One thing I do know is that Frank had some home leave in June 1917 as on the 5th of that month he married Evelyn Agnes OSMOND from Cerne Abbas. The marriage however was to be a sad and short one.

Frank returned to the Front from home leave on 12th March 1918 and re-joined his regiment. In late March/early April 1918 the 1st Dorsets were around Ayette, south of Arras and on the 3rd April were part of the force that attacked Ayette. After the action they dug in, organising and adjusting the line, but continued to be plagued by considerable shell fire from German artillery. There were relatively few casualties from this offensive but unfortunately Frank was one of them.



An article in the Dorset County Chronicle announcing his death reported

that he was fatally injured by the explosion of a shell whilst standing outside a shelter. It is likely that he died in one of the 31st divisions of the Canadian corps field ambulance stations in the Arras sector. Frank was awarded the 1914 Star, British War and Victory medals and is buried in Bac-du-sud British cemetery at Bailleulval in France. He is also remembered on the war memorial in his home town of Dorchester.

Life went on however and, despite the fact that the little box of mementoes and the words on Frank's gravestone show just how heartbroken she was over her loss, Evelyn remarried in 1925. And so the story comes full circle. If Evelyn had not remarried and handed her memories on I doubt that I would have ever seen them. Without them would I have started my search? I don't know but I do know that I am grateful for all of these coincidences which have allowed me to find out a little more about the Great Uncle I never knew I had.

A further result of this find was that I went on to research and document not only my own family's history in the Great War, but also that of the village in Sussex in which I previously lived. The latter, thanks to a Lottery Grant. led to exhibitions, publications, a website and an invitation to a House of Lords reception!

My exploration continues and passion for understanding the impact of "The War to End All Wars" on the ordinary men and women of our country remains a passion which I am happy to share with any society member who feels they might like to explore these particular branches of their tree.

Poole Bank Robbery

June Clist

This intriguing burglary relating to my direct ancestor's nephew and his wife is a reported court case in the Quarter Sessions of the town and was no doubt most worrying at the time for my family.

My direct ancestor Henry CLEALL's nephew (son of his sister Mary) Samuel MARDER, a Bank Clerk, worked for Messrs FRYER and Co and lived with his wife Elizabeth and their two young children over their bank. His duties included taking charge of all the cash at night, which he put in an iron chest in his bedroom and kept the key safe in a drawer. His wife had her own dressing room and there were at least two 'chambers', the doors of which could be seen from the bedroom. There was a common entrance to their quarters and the Bank in New Street with another inside door leading into the Bank. The house had a back door, which was in a passage between it and the bakers next door and the kitchen was downstairs in the basement. A new building was being erected and would appear to have been nearly completed on the other side with a 9 inch dividing wall, to which the owner Banker John FRYER had given Samuel a key.

On the night of Saturday, 10th March 1827 the cash had been counted and the books balanced by Samuel and his colleague, clerk Samuel ROGERS, and the cash taken away in a small box by Samuel. At about 6pm he locked up as he usually did on a Saturday night. The couple had a broken night's sleep and he remembered hearing noises but was not suspicious. The next morning Samuel and Elizabeth 'discover' some house doors open so they searched the house and Samuel examined the Bank finding nothing broken although he was surprised to find books on the floor. He also found a partition wall damaged upstairs but nothing else untoward. He then went off to a meeting and while he was gone Elizabeth and neighbour Thomas BARTON, a watchmaker, searched the house again but found nothing.

That afternoon Samuel went to another meeting whilst Elizabeth remained at home preparing tea for them all after which the church bells rang and Samuel went to see his mother Mary Marder (nee Cleall). According to Elizabeth whilst her husband was away a stranger was found in the house. He seems to be the same man that she had seen twice before during the previous week enter the house when looking for the bank entrance. She gives his description as 'dressed in black with a light greatcoat with pockets outside. About the size of my husband, fresh coloured. He had light whiskers, wore boots and pantaloons'. He apparently came downstairs and dropped a bag of money. She sent for

her neighbour Thomas Barton again but he refused to go over the house without her husband being present and told her she should have raised the alarm in the morning. When Samuel arrives he and Barton search the house finding nobody else on the premises but Elizabeth swears she saw the shadow of someone in the cellars of the unfinished house who escaped 'thru' the window and tells of finding a carving knife in the bank stuck into a drawer.

Henry Knight FURNELL, a Gentleman, gives evidence that he saw Samuel outside the bank in an agitated state and holding a bundle. He sent for two constables and other bank clerks. The premises were searched again including the loft 'or eves' (where Elizabeth had previously found a bundle) by the constables and John ROBERTS a clerk of the Bank who also confirmed that Samuel was 'agitated and alarmed'. The bundle found consisted of Bank of England notes, Fryer & Company notes and other Country notes, silver and bill cases containing bills.

The iron chest in Samuel's chamber still contained 4 bags of gold and silver, a small paper parcel tied up containing securities and other papers but not a bundle of securities which had been taken from the safe. An inventory was made by Samuel. The bank offices were still in a mess with ledgers on the floor as well as a bundle of Dean & Co's notes, which had been left there according to Samuel to receive the 'dividend'. Mr Furnell then placed the bank property (excluding the securities) in a pillowcase and lodged it with Mr HARRISON of Harrison's Bank. Finally, he went to Wimborne by chaise and brought back John Fryer to Poole that evening. He too found Samuel 'agitated and alarmed' and helped search the premises being told by Samuel that approximately £130 was missing in mutilated Country Bank notes. Mr Fryer did not count the property at Harrison's but was shown by Samuel the balanced book made up to the Saturday night, which seemed to include the mutilated notes. He suspects the Marders of 'this robbery and burglary'.

Evidence was also given by Henry KNIGHT, a bricklayer, that he had erected the bank and was building the adjoining house for Mr Fryer and that the partition wall between the two was nine inches at the upper part and ran up to the roof; that the two upper stories of the adjoining

house had no joist or flooring but only beams and binding joists. He had examined a hole broken out of the top of the said partition wall and thought it was about 37 feet from the ground floor. There was no beam or joist or other footing for any person to stand to break the said hole in the partition wall in the new building and that in his opinion the hole was made from the bank side of the partition wall.

Benjamin Barba FOX, a constable, said that he and Francis FRAMPTON were called on Sunday 11th March at about 6.10 pm to Fryers Bank. They examined the premises but found nobody concealed or any trace of anyone having been there or any doors or windows broken, open or any bolts or bars or locks 'injured', nor could they discover any weapons or instruments or implements of housebreaking. The same evening, they went around to the local public houses but could not learn any tidings of any suspicious persons.

According to John Fryer a bundle of oil-defaced notes amounting to £56 found in the bank on the Wednesday morning following the robbery did not form any part of the property he received into the bank from William HARRISON on Monday morning, the 12th. He is certain of this as the notes were so defaced that he would have noticed them if they had been there. They were put into stock after the robbery on Tuesday or Wednesday and he concludes that Marder or Rogers substituted them for other stock. He is certain that Samuel has changed them.

Further evidence was given by Susan HUMPHREY who was employed for three weeks after the robbery by Fryer & Co. to look after the house occupied by Samuel and Elizabeth. Having heard that Elizabeth had expressed some concern about a mattress that she had left in the house when she moved out Mr Fryer had instructed her to examine it. She found 77 mutilated Fryer £1 notes

John Fryer decided to prosecute and the Marders were arrested but the charges against Samuel for some unknown reason were dropped and Elizabeth stands trial alone at the Poole Quarter Sessions held at the Guildhall on Saturday, 12th May 1827 charged with stealing a quantity of notes and stamps, the property of Messrs. Fryer, Bankers. The trial lasted a long eleven hours but the outcome was that the jury found her not guilty!

Membership News

Claire Evans

Over the past six months, our plans have been somewhat scuppered in boosting our Membership numbers! Unfortunate we lost quite a large number at the end of March – those who did not renew their membership in October 2019. However, I am pleased that since lockdown began here in the UK, new members have been joining, mainly via our website. New members have been contacted via email providing them with their Welcome Letter, containing their membership number and the password to the member's area of the website.

This password is also contained within E-News, so if you are a subscriber and have access to the internet, please visit <<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-area/>> and click on the Access the Members' Area button.

It is also the time of year to renew your membership with us, and the renewal form is enclosed with this journal, for those of you wanting to pay by cheque or cash at Treetops. If you are renewing with us online via the Website, or via Standing Order, you **do not need to complete the form, but please don't forget to change the standing order amount with your bank.**

Please note our new membership rates of £15 for UK and £19 for our overseas members. Thank you.

So we have a longer list than usual – new members since March 2020. I would like to send a warm welcome to the following people, and if you are interested in contacting any of them, you can (currently) contact us via the website at <<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/contact-us/>>. Once Treetops reopens, details can be obtained through there also.

Mem #	Title	Forename	Surname	Town	County	Country
5207	Ms	Deana	SMITH	Poole	Dorset	
5208	Ms	Sheila	WILLIS	Beaminster	Dorset	
5209	Mr	Cliff	POPE	London		
5210	Ms	Sally	PHILPOTT	Royal Wootton Bassett	Wiltshire	
5211	Mr	Mervyn	GODDARD	Poole	Dorset	
5212	Ms	Susan	KNIGHT	Greenhills Beach	New South Wales	AUSTRALIA
5213	Ms	Ann	REITANO	Bossley Park	New South Wales	AUSTRALIA
5214	Mr	Brian	GAULT	Weymouth	Dorset	
5215	Mr	Ian	VERNON	Poole	Dorset	
5216	Ms	Patricia	SKINNER	Medstead	Hants	
5217	Mr	John	JENKINS	Verwood	Dorset	
5218	Ms	Rosemary	GLDHILL	Wareham	Dorset	
5219	Ms	Collette	CLATWORTHY	Gillingham	Dorset	
5220	Mr	David	HENDERSON	Langwarrin	Victoria	AUSTRALIA
5221	Mr	Richard	SMITH	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	
5222	Ms	Susan	WHEATLEY	Havant	Hampshire	
5223	Mr	Phil	PEARCE	Clevedon	Somerset	
5224	Mr	David	POWELL	New Milton	Hampshire	
5225	Mr	Ian	GRITT	Wimborne	Dorset	
5226	Mr	John	CAREY	Kingston near Lewis	East Sussex	
5227	Ms	Ann	LAMONT	Arisaig	Invernesshire	
5228	Ms	Wendy	CLARK	Horsham	West Sussex	
5229	Mr	Colin	WILCOX	Newport	Isle of Wight	
5230	Ms	Dorinda	KRONDA	Marlborough	Wiltshire	
5231	Mr	Patrick	TUFFIN	Huntingdon	Cambridgeshire	
5232	Ms	Betty	DAVIS	Sunbury	Victoria	AUSTRALIA
5233	Mr	Eric	DAWES	Oldbury		
5234	Mr	Christopher J	COWARD	Haywards Heath	West Sussex	
5235	Ms	Sarah	GUPPY	Broadstone	Dorset	
5236	Mr	Warrick	SANSON	Prebbleton		NEW ZEALAND
5237	Ms	Sue	DIMECH	Berkshire Park	New South Wales	AUSTRALIA
5238	Mr	Roy	BOWMAN	Stoke-on-Trent	Staffs	
5239	Ms	Hayley	PERHAM	Colyton	Devon	

Libelling the Lord Chief Justice

John Jenkins

I was interested to read June CLIST'S comment on the Monmouth Rebellion and the Bloody Assizes in Dorchester presided over by Judge JEFFREYS. As a cub reporter back in 1955 I covered the opening of the newly built court for the assizes in Dorchester, for the Dorset County Chronicle.

To mark the occasion, the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord GODDARD, arrived with his entourage to preside over the first hearings. Goddard was a hanging judge whose idea of a lenient sentence was 14 years for an "accidental" manslaughter.

For more than a week the court heard cases involving everything from murder to rape, from manslaughter to carnal knowledge. Goddard gave his decisions with brutal efficiency.

Leaving court one day I saw the Judge Jeffreys restaurant was open and this sparked an idea for a diary paragraph in which I said, among other things, that Goddard was a worthy successor to Judge Jeffreys. There was no doubt that my effort was a libel on Goddard and fortunately the editor, Heber BRUCE, spiked it and gave me a short lecture on the dangers of defamation. Ending with a phrase I never forgot: "If you are going to libel anybody Jenkins, I'd rather you didn't choose the Lord Chief Justice." Heber Bruce had a gift for massive understatement. This could have been the end of a promising career!

Treetops

DFHS are looking at options and possibilities and hope to reopen Tree Tops once all safety concerns are met. We will only proceed when safe practice can be adopted. Please check the e-news and the website for further details or announcements.

Society Services

Details of the **Research Centre and Office** (Treetops), opening hours, accessibility, website, Facebook page and the costs of **Personal Research**, are shown on the front inside cover of this Journal. **Contact** details of Officers are on the back inside cover.

Our **Services & Sales Catalogue** includes the Terms and Conditions of Business that apply when making a purchase by post or telephone. E-mail Treetops for an electronic copy or, for a printed copy (UK only) send a self-addressed C5 sized envelope (i.e. sized for A5 contents) bearing a 2nd class stamp to Treetops. Product details and these terms may also be found on our website.

Payment for subscriptions, goods, and (postal) search services may be made by cash (at Treetops or meetings only), sterling cheque or, for many purchases, credit or debit card on the online shop on our website.

Transcriptions and Indexes

The Society has transcribed a large number of records relating to Dorset, which may be accessed at Treetops in the form of booklets, fiche, CD-ROMs or through our search service. Some are available on the Internet.

Facilities for visitors to Treetops

In addition to the Transcriptions and Indexes: -

- Access to The Genealogist, Fold3 from Ancestry (military records), Ancestry.com, Findmypast and the British Newspaper Archive
- Assistance with your research, if needed
- Reference and lending library
- Sales Area

Members Only

E-News: The Society circulates information by e-mail to Members who have given consent to receive Society emails. This includes reminders of forthcoming meetings, education courses or local family history events that the Society will be attending.

Forum: Available from the Menu bar of the Society's website, Society Members can apply for Forum membership and then post, and answer, family history questions (this is not intended to replace the Society's full research service).

Member's Area: There is a password protected area on the website containing additional information just for Members. The password is shown on E-News.

General Data Protection Regulation

The Society retains and processes personal data in accordance with its Data Privacy statement, which can be viewed at <<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/data-privacy/>>
A paper copy is available from Treetops.

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 1987

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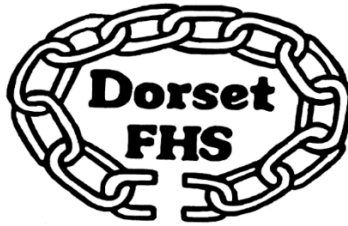
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Unless otherwise indicated, all postal correspondence to be sent c/o

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TREETOPS RESEARCH CENTRE NEEDING RESEARCH ADVICE?

Our experienced volunteers are here to help

Contact us by

- Visiting our Centre
- Via our website: www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

Recycle your Printer Cartridges

Recycle4Charity will make a donation to the Society for every 'virgin' (not recycled before) printer cartridge received.

They can be left at Treetops, but please note that not all cartridges are accepted - see the list on their website <<http://www.Recycle4Charity.co.uk>>.

Freepost envelopes can also be ordered for the return of print cartridges by following the link from our website and registering as a donor.

Envelopes will be stamped with your ID number and the name of the Society. To order more, log into the site as an existing donor. Why not hand the envelopes around to family and friends to raise more for the Society?