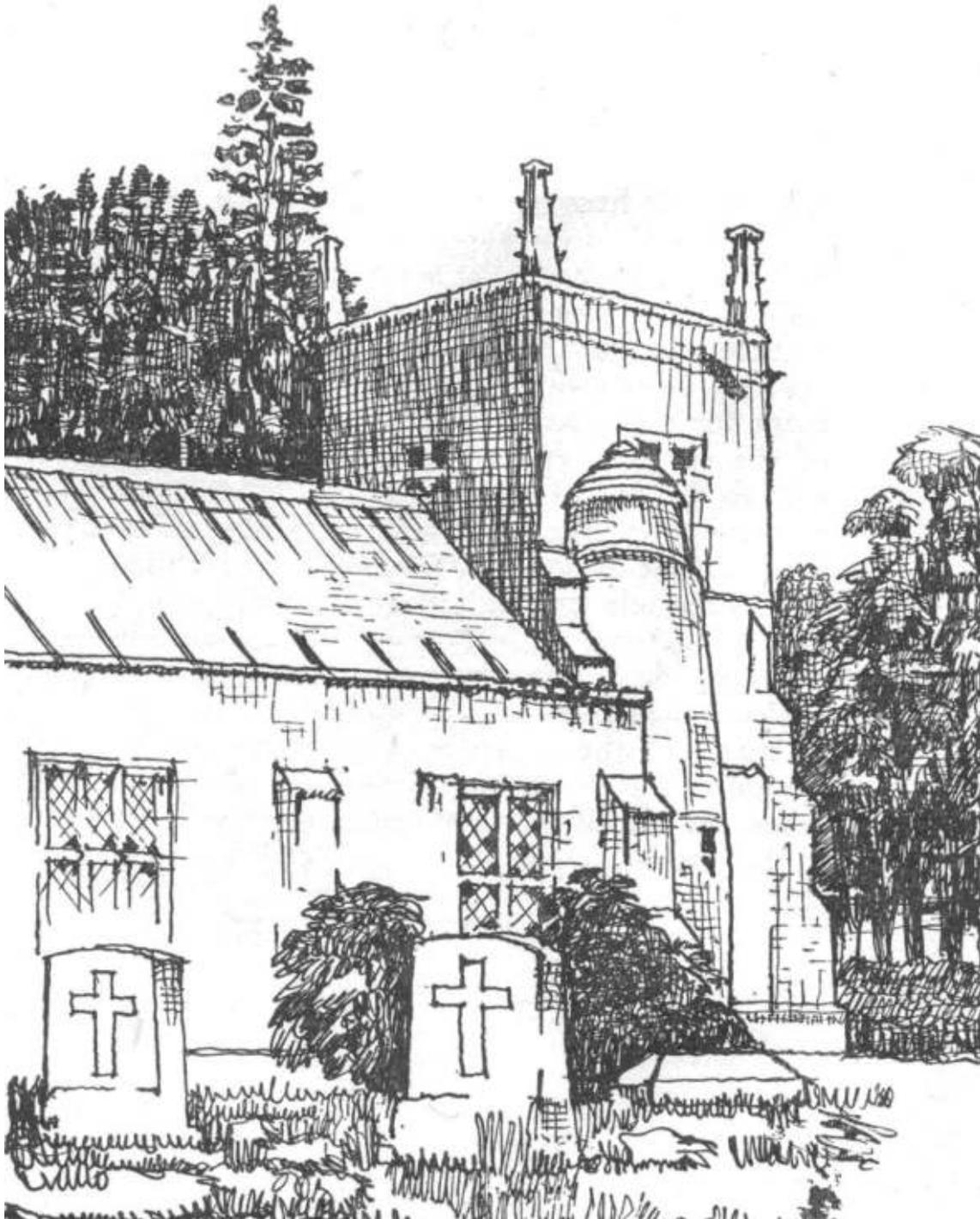


**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 23 No 1 Mar 2021



The Little Church at Hulcote

**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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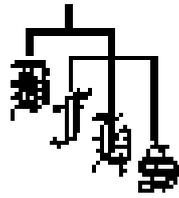
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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

“A fine avenue of limes shades a broad green walk leading to the little church at Hulcote. The church, charming in its sheer simplicity, is dedicated to St Nicholas – The Santa Claus of the children. On the north side of the tower is the semi-circular projection of a newel turret to the belfry, entered from inside the tower. The CHERNOKES were the great family here for centuries, and a striking feature of the church interior is the rich alabaster monument to Robert Chernocke, 1547, and Richard, his son, 1615. Richard “re-edified” the church towards the end of the sixteenth century and removed its ancient windows; but other characteristics suggest a Decorated or Perpendicular date (Gothic periods) for the original building.”

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

THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

Paul Woodcraft

As you can see from the photo very little has changed over the years. You can still see the two grave stones with the large crosses on them. The major difference is that all the trees leading up to and around the church have grown. The yew trees which line the path to the church are far too large and are in need of a trim. But a lovely little church well worth a visit. Parking is a problem so be careful. □



FLORENCE GIBBONS

John Partridge



I came across this photo a few years back on a *RootsChat* topic - it is of a shop front determined to be at 2 Midland Road, Bedford, in the early 1900s ran by Miss F GIBBONS and seems to be selling fruit despite the chocolate advertisements. Next door at 4 Midland Road was STONEBRIDGE's printers which I remember still being there in early 1960s. The same property was later used by WELCH's cobblers that adjoined the Harpur Trust Girls' School, later becoming Bedford Modern School. Both shops were demolished in 1963. Welch's also had businesses in St Cuthbert's Street and Ford End Road.

From Bedford Directories (available in the Heritage Library) at 2 Midland Road were:

1901	Vacant
1903 – 1904	William HARVEY, confectioners
1905 – 1907	Alfred CHEESEMAN, confectioners
1908	Vacant
1909	Miss Florence Gibbons, fruiterer
1910	Mrs Minnie BETTS, confectioners
1911 – 1913	Walter HEPWORTH, yeast merchant
1914 – 1939	William Welch, boot & shoe repairer

Then from Bedford Kelly's Directories:

1947 – 1962	Welch's, boot & shoe repairer
-------------	-------------------------------

As per local newspapers, the following snippets about the property revealed

that William Harvey went bankrupt and Alfred Cheeseman left owing rent.

From Bedfordshire Times & Independent 30 Jan 1903:

Advert: "To Bakers - Wanted a respectable youth about 17 or 18, able to mould & deliver, apply W Harvey 2 Midland Road."

From Bedfordshire Times & Independent 4 Mar 1904 and 1 Apr 1904:

Advert: "Alfred Cheeseman, Confectioner - 2 Midland Road, Bedford, Solicits waiting for all kinds of afternoon & evening parties, 17 years experience."

From Bedford Mercury 1 July 1904:

Bankruptcy Court: "Re William Harvey. The bankrupt was described as of 40 Adelaide Square, carrying out business at Thurlow Street and lately at 2 Midland Road as a baker & confectioner. The failure he attributed to losses on horses bought for his business, slackness of trade, competition and want of capital."

From Bedford Mercury 20 Sept 1907:

"Vaccination Exemption certificates¹ granted to Alfred Wm Cheeseman of 2 Midland Road and Walter George Munday of 43 St. John's Street."

From Bedfordshire Times & Independent 24 Jan 1908:

Application: "Mr G C Walker on behalf of the Vicar & churchwardens of St Pauls to give possession back to them of a house known as 2 Midland road. The occupier Mr Alfred Cheeseman had left hurriedly in the middle of last quarter and forgot to pay the rent. Altogether there were 6 months owing amounting to £16. The key had been returned but no-one had been on the premises since Mr Cheeseman left."

It seems the premises was owned by St Paul's church as the Bedfordshire Archives have some records in their online catalogue. Initially (P1/6/32) is a counterpart lease dated 23 Dec 1899 between the Vicar and churchwardens of St Pauls and George Henry Stonebridge for a messuage being 4 Midland Road with barn and appurts, term 10 years. Then (P1/6/33) dated 15 May 1902 for a counterpart lease for a messuage being 2 Midland Road with appurts for a term of 7 years and 40 days between the Vicar and churchwardens of St Paul's and William Harvey, baker & confectioner. This tenancy did not last long as next (P1/6/34) dated 6 Feb 1908 is for 'Distress Notice & Appointment of Receiver', regarding Alfred Wm James Cheeseman who was tenant of shop and dwelling house at 2 Midland Road and that he absconded in debt and that George Croxton WALKER be put in charge of premises as receiver. Following on the next record (P1/6/35) dated 19 Feb 1908 is for a counterpart lease for 2 Midland Road with appurts, for a term of 1 month and 1 month, rent £30, fixtures set out, between the Vicar and churchwardens of St Paul's and Florence Gibbons of 35 Preston Road, spinster.

As per Bedford Directories, 35 Preston Road was the home of her step father Albert R Gibbons from 1904 through to 1915 (when he died), after which daughter Elsie Elizabeth Gibbons is listed as per the electoral roll up to 1929. In March 1929 quarter she married Alfred William ELLIS, drayman, and the couple stayed at that address up to 1939.

The picture shows Florence Gibbons age 29 in 1909 and one of her younger sisters, possibly Gertrude. However, Florence was not really a Gibbons but a TOWNSEND; using census records and Warwickshire parish registers I have traced her back to her birth. On 23 Mar 1879 at Stockingford, Warwicks, Thomas Townsend age 33, gardener, married Emma SUMMERS age 22, father William Summers. They had daughter Florence baptised 8 Feb 1880 at Nuneaton. On 1881 census in Nuneaton, Warwicks, we have Emma Townsend age 24, married with daughter Florence age 1. I cannot find Thomas Townsend in the 1881 census or his death. Next, 6 years later in February 1887 at St Michael, Coventry, Albert Richard Gibbons age 24, Railway Pointsman, married Emma Townsend age 30, widow; father William Summers.

On to the 1891 census at 14 Muswell Road, Bedford, is Albert R Gibbons age 28, Railway Signalman, with wife Emma age 34 and children Elsie Elizabeth age 2, born Legrave. and Ellen Priscilla age 1, born Bedford. Ellen was baptised at St Leonards, Bedford, on 22 Apr 1890 and they had another daughter Christina Mary, baptised there on 5 Nov 1893, but she died in April 1894. Daughter Florence is not with them as the census shows she has stayed in Warwickshire at Whittleford, Nuneaton, and is recorded as aged 11, born Nuneaton, and is a grand-daughter, living with William & Lucy LADKIN. After her grandfather William Summers died in 1869, his widow Lucy, age 45, married Joseph Ladkin, age 70, in April 1876. Then Joseph died in Feb 1881 and widow Lucy Ladkin married her step son William Ladkin in Oct 1881.

From Bedfordshire Times 7th April 1894

Death: "Gibbons - 1st April at Muswell Road Bedford, Christina Mary, daughter of Albert Richard Gibbons, age 17/18 months. Buried at Bedford Cemetery 5 Apr 1894."

From 1901 census at 1 Lawrence Road, Bedford

"Albert Gibbons age 38 Midland Railway Employee, wife Emma Gibbons age 44 and children Florrie Gibbons age 21 (no employment - just at home), Elsie Gibbons 12, Nellie (=Ellen) Gibbons 11, Ernest Gibbons 6 and William 4."

As per Electoral rolls, Albert Richard Gibbons and family moved in 1904 from Lawrence Street to 35 Preston Road. In 1908 he is listed as Traffic Inspector, Midland Railway. His wife Emma Emma died 1910.

From Bedford Mercury 15 Apr 1910

Death: "GIBBONS - On 12th April 1910, Emma Gibbons, 35 Preston Road Bedford age 54."

From 1911 census at 35 Preston Road, Bedford

“Albert Richard Gibbons 48 widower, Midland Railway District Inspector, and children step daughter Florence Townsend 31 single, housekeeper, Elsie Elizabeth Gibbons 22, Ernest Arthur Gibbons 16, William Alfred Gibbons 14 and Gertie Emma Gibbons 9 .”

In 1911 daughter Ellen Gibbons age 21 was working as bar attendant/servant at the Railway Hotel in Euston Road, St.Pancras.

Albert Richard Gibbons was killed in a railway accident on 10 Oct 1915 age 53. His probate went to daughter Elsie Elizabeth Gibbons, spinster.

From Biggleswade Chronicle 15 Oct 1915

“M.R. Traffic Inspector killed near Bedford. We regret to record the death in tragic circumstances of Mr Albert Richard Gibbons, Local Traffic Inspector on the Midland Railway. Mr Gibbons of 35 Preston Road Bedford, was about his duty on the line in the neighbourhood of Kempston Hardwick when he was knocked down and killed by the 6.30pm express out of St Pancras which is due into Bedford at 7.28pm on Sunday evening. Mr Gibbons who was well known in Bedford, having lived there 26 years, leaves 5 children, one of whom is on active service in France.”

These 5 children are as follows (Florence is not included):

Ellen Priscilla Gibbons married Roelof Van der BEEK at St.Pancras in June 1912. On 1939 Register they were still living in St.Pancras

Ernest Alfred Richard Gibbons died 1 Oct 1918 in France/Flanders (WW1), Corporal, Service no 5021 - 1st Bn. Royal Irish Rifles, buried at Dadizeele Cemetery, Belgium. Brother of Miss E Gibbons, 35 Preston Road, Bedford

William Alfred Gibbons married Marion WOOTTON in Sept 1927 at Northampton. On 1939 Register they were living at 58 Winifred Road, Bedford with 2 children.

Elsie Elizabeth Gibbons married Alfred William Ellis in Mar 1929. On 1939 Register they were still at 35 Preston Road with daughter Elsie Mary born 1930

Gertrude Emma Gibbons married Sidney J WORRALL at Bedford in June 1922. On 1939 Register they were at 10 Hartington Street.

I have not found much further detail about Florence Townsend after 1911 other than her death at the end of 1931 where she may have been a nurse and was still using Gibbons as her name. From Bedfordshire Electoral Registers I found an entry in 1931 for Florence Townsend at 44 Ashburham Road with other names at that same address. Those same names plus Florence Gibbons are there in 1929 and 1930. It seems that 42-44 Ashburnham Road was for a private mental asylum known as ‘Bishopstone House’

From Bedfordshire Times 1st Jan 1932

Death: *TOWNSEND* On 26th December 1931 at 10 Hartington Street, Bedford – Florence Townsend (Nurse Gibbons) age 51.

Note that 10 Hartington Street was the home of her sister Gertrude Emma Gibbons who married Sydney J Worrall in 1922.

If anyone out there knows anything else about the above families or perhaps are related to them, then do let me know, john.partridge10@ntlworld.com.

¹ The 1853 Vaccination Act made infant vaccinations compulsory, and those who refused to have their children vaccinated, believing the practice to be unsafe, could be fined or in some cases imprisoned. Opposition remained and in 1898 a further Vaccination Act was passed that allowed for conscientious objection if certified by a magistrate. In practice, many magistrates refused to sign exemption certificates, and a further Act was passed in 1907 that replaced the certificates with a declaration stating objection to vaccination on health grounds. □

THE DECEMBER JOURNAL FRONT COVER REVISTED

Paul Woodcraft



You may recall that we asked for help to locate the sketch we used on the front cover of the *December Journal*.

A big thank you to the 6 Members who emailed me with their recollections and comments. From these we have located the spot of the sketch. It was 42-44 High Street, Bedford. Number 42 was FISHERS (butchers) and number 44 was SELL and WILSHAWS (fishmonger). One member can remember buying kippers from Wilshaws. Next door, number 46, was Waterloo House and that was E P ROSE & Sons. There is a lovely photograph of these buildings and

others in The Francis Frith Collection, www.francisfrith.com. You may also find photos in the Richard WILDMAN's book '*Bygone Bedford*' published in 1974. Due to copyright we are unable to print these photos. All three buildings were sadly demolished in 1964 to make way for the current Debenhams.

The photo shows the current High St from number 38. The first building on the far left is a Bank (38) the next is number 40, now the start of Debenhams. This is an original building which was on the left of the sketch on our *Journal* cover. The next section of Debenhams was built on the site of 42, 44 and 46. So that's the mystery solved. Many thanks one and all.



□

FURTHER NOTES ON THE DECEMBER JOURNAL FRONT COVER

George Ruscoe

The book '*Old Bedford*' by Rev C F FARRAR MA, to which the note by 'Touchstone' refers in the 1943 source of our Front Cover Illustration, was itself published in 1926. The publisher was F R HOCKLIFFE whose bookshop in the High Street even I as an 'incomer' remember from the late 1960s and 1970s. In both 1926 and 1943 the old Market Place building was evidently still in existence. However, the copy of *Old Bedford* that I have inherited from my father-in-law Ken TEBBUTT, was a fresh edition republished in 1970 with a new introduction and notes by F W KUHLCHE, well known to historians of the town and county.

Incidentally, in the introduction to his '*Bygone Bedford*' Richard Wildman tells us that Mr Christopher CARTER ... is 'Touchstone' of the Bedfordshire Times, which identifies the author of the notes on our Front Cover Illustrations.

In a later book of old pictures of Bedford, Richard Wildman shows a good photo of 42-44 High Street. "*This is my fifth book of photographs of old Bedford since 1974*" as he says in his introduction. The first section of the book is introduced by a photograph of this building taken in bright sunlight and showing the two shop fronts and clearly "*44 Sell and Wilshaw*". His caption is worth quoting: "*The Rev. Charles Farrar... claimed that 42-44 High Street (seen here c. 1960) had been the town's Market House, which Patricia BELL has proved stood in the middle of the High Street from about 1680 to 1791. The three first-floor oriel windows could have come from the Market House. The central window was saved for Bedford Museum by its director*

F W Kuhlicke when 42-44 High Street was demolished in 1964, but has not been displayed in recent years.”

This book was published in the series ‘*Britain in old photographs*’ by Alan Sutton Publishing. As we can no longer ask either Richard Wildman or Patricia Bell it would be interesting if anyone can give a reference to her work on this subject. Rev Farrar in his ‘*Old Bedford*’, in the chapter beginning page 206, theorizes that the Market Cross referred to the crossroads of the High Street with Mill Street (earlier Mill Lane) and Silver Street. In 1660 the Corporation charged a rent to “*Robert COOKE for the stallage of the Faires and the Pent House of the Saturday Market Cross in Bedford. Rent 10/0*”.

This does sound like the sort of building found, often in the middle of a High Street, with an open area for stalls beneath an upper room. It would mean that this area was the ‘*Market Place*’ at that time and the name became attached to the later building when the original ‘*Market Cross was demolished in 1769*’. There was certainly no general market in St Pauls Square, which was occupied by ‘*the Butchersrowe, the Fishrowe, the Pig market and the Poultry market*’. All these quotations are from Rev Farrar's ‘*Old Bedford*’. □

THE BEDFORD ST JOHN'S PHARMACY BOOK

Lynn Manning

Barry MOULANG, an ex-colleague of my husband, phoned and offered me the opportunity to look through the prescription book his father had uncovered when he closed his business on its removal to Wootton just outside Bedford. You will have read Barry's excellent article in the December *Journal* (Vol. 22 No. 8 Dec 2020) and he gave me permission to copy and photograph the book's pages in case there were any names which our members might be interested in. I should explain that some names registered are without initials and there are many entries without either - and in these cases just a question mark appears. I do wonder if Mr CARRUTHERS, apart from the prescribed medicines, recorded his ordinary every day sales with just a number whereas today it would be on a computer. I have prepared a simple chart which will appear on the website for anyone who is interested together with photos of the original pages which give details of the prescriptions. Only the customer's ailment is occasionally noted, but some items sold would seem strange to us today, for example ‘*Browning for gun barrels*’, pills for the dog, and a ‘*recipe*’ for a French polish reviver. In the case of the gun browning I checked the census and noted that this customer was a gun maker. I have not attempted to transcribe the ingredients of the medicines as I am not medically trained, but I hope these records, if only for their novelty value, will be of interest to our members. When circumstances permit, Barry will be placing the book with Bedford Archives.

Example prescription pages follow in the next two pages. □

Salmon Mrs Infant
 301 Brighten Mrs child,
 Via Specie m^{IV}
 Am Bromid gr^{IV}
 Syt. Iodid m^{IV}
 Aq ad 3j
 Mille 3^{IV} 3j quartis horis

Little Mrs 75 So John's Street
 302

R^g
 Acid Acet. 3j
 Sweet fanchard 3j
 Acid Acet. Aromat 3j
 Aq ad Op
 M^g for lotio Segret?

Equal parts of this lotion
 & warm water to be mixed
 & applied to the roots of the
 hair every morning R.H.

Mackenzie Mrs

303 R^g
 Ammon Hydroch 3j
 Acid Mus Sal 3j
 Aq ad Op
 1/6 bis die.

Little Master 75 So John's St

3040 R^g
 Syt. Flavi Iodid 3ij
 Glycerin 3ij
 M. Sig. Dabbe on teaspoonful
 3 (3j) in a wineglassful of
 water three daily after breakfast
 & tea

2 R^g Ung^o? Hydr. Nit. 3j
 6 Vaseline 3ij
 M^g for Ung.
 Sig. The Ointment to be applied
 by means of a camel's hair
 brush to the nostrils at bedtime

J.B.B.

Hartley Mrs

R^g
 3041 Soda Bicarb 3ij
 Dr Rhee 3j
 1/3 Dr Nucis Vom. 3j
 Inf Gentian ad 3ij
 3j t. d. H. Rogers

Lee Mrs

3042 Olive Oil 1/2 oz
 Castor Oil 1/2 oz
 Bay Rum 3 worthy
 Sweet fanchard 3 worthy
 Hair Ointment

Clark Mrs

3312

1- Rj. Zinc Chlorid grvj
Aq 3vj
Sig. Equal parts off hot water
use 2 or 3 times a day as directed

1/6 Rj. Dr. Bellad 3ij
- Hyoscy 3v
Aq. 3vij
3p three daily in water after
food
A.H.

George Mr. Doughton

3313 Rj. Soda Sulphatis 3ij
1- absh / magis mane jejuna
c. ex aq. calida

3p
Acid Valerian 3j
Amyli Pulv 3ij
in pyxid. pro extem
Oct 20 / 99
A.V.

Coltman Mrs

3314 Rj. Tinct Hyoscy 3iij
1/3 Sp. Alth. N. 3ij
Decoct Pareira ad 3vij

Davis Mrs

3315 Tinct Linnam 3ij
8 Synt Aurant 3ij
Inf. Calumb ad 3vj

3316 Pil Podoph 3o
6 Martindale
xij

North Mrs

3317 Rj. Lig. Arsenic 3ij m 40
2/- Lig. Sarsa 3ij
Potass 3v
Pot Iodid gr 80
Sacch. Nat. 3ij
Aq ad 3xvj
3p ter die

3318 Rj. Lig. Pae (ant. Mch. 3j
Aq ad 38
Dilution

3319 Capon Mrs (Shamaker)
1/6 Rj. Mag Sulph 3ij
Ext. Sarsa 3ij
Tinct Zingib 3ij
Aq ad 3xij
1/2 4 hrs hours

THE STANBRIDGE FAMILY IN BEDFORD IN MARCH 1905

Penny Stanbridge

John Thomas STANBRIDGE (or Thomas as he preferred to be known) was born on 30 May 1874, the son of John Stanbridge aka TINGEY and Esther ROBINSON. He married Harriet CHANDLER in Holy Trinity Church, Bedford on 23 December 1894 and the pair settled down to married life.

In early 1905 Thomas and Harriet were living in Russell Street, Bedford with five children – Violet Harriet (aged 8), Irene Ivy (7), Oliver Thomas William (4), Leonard Albert Edward (2) and Esther Elizabeth (1). Harriet was heavily pregnant with their sixth child. It seems Thomas and Harriet chose the initials of their children's names to spell out the word VIOLET, thus the new baby was destined to have a name starting with T).

Thomas had a steady job as a general labourer at an engineering works. With so large a family, money was of course tight, but the rent and other bills were paid on time and there was always food on the table, albeit of the plainest and cheapest kind. The family were like many thousands of others, living just above the bread-line but hard working and well-respected.

In the little spare time he had, Thomas was a drummer in the 3rd Volunteer Band Regiment, Bedfordshire. Thomas looked forward to getting away from his daily work and domestic responsibilities, relaxing and playing music with his fellow band members. There were rehearsals most weeks on Wednesday evenings at Kempston Barracks. Each week a notice was put in the Bedfordshire Times advising the men of the time and place and also if there was a need for a particular uniform to be worn. In addition to rehearsing and parading, there were also other social activities such as whist tournaments against other regiments. Thomas enjoyed the camaraderie with his fellow band members as well as the music itself.

March 1905 saw the building of a brand-new shopping arcade between the High Street and Harpur Street on land previously used to grow asparagus. According to the 31 March 1905 edition of the Bedford Mercury, the Arcade was "*not an ordinary thoroughfare: the floor is of stone and the roof, not the vault of heaven, but a splendidly arranged glazed light which will no doubt provide much welcome protection for travellers and customers in the heat of summer and the wet and cold of winter. On each side are splendid shops, some 20 in number*". The article continues at some length eulogising over the beauty of the Arcade and the fact that all the work had been carried out by local firms.

The Stanbridge family, particularly Harriet and her two eldest daughters awaited the opening with great anticipation and excitement at seeing the beautiful and expensive goods on sale. There would be no chance of actually purchasing anything but that would not have stopped their pleasure at window-shopping.

Sadly however, tragedy struck. At the beginning of March the whole family developed diphtheria. Thomas was unable to work and immediately the family

were in financial difficulties. The youngest children, being the smallest and weakest, were unable to fight the infection and within a few days one by one they succumbed - Oliver Thomas William died on 8 March, Leonard Albert Edward on 10 March and Esther Elizabeth on 11 March. With no money coming in there was no question of employing a funeral director. Irene Ivy recalled her father making three small coffins which he lay on a barrow borrowed from a friend and then pushed his sorrowful burden up the hill to Bedford Cemetery where the children were laid to rest in a single grave. The deaths were reported in the Death column of the Bedford Mercury of Friday 17 March.

On hearing of the Stanbridge's sorry plight, Thomas' band colleagues immediately rallied round to help him. On 24 March the Bedfordshire Mercury advertised "*a concert at the Town Hall, Bedford by the Volunteer Band and several well-known performers on behalf of Corporal Stanbridge, who lost three children about a fortnight ago and whose family are still ill. It was hoped there would be a bumping house*".

The benefit concert duly took place and there was a full report in the Bedfordshire Mercury on Friday 31 March. "... *on Tuesday evening the Town Hall was nicely filled on the occasion of a benefit concert for Band-Corpl. T.J. Stanbridge of the third V.B. Beds Regt. who recently lost three of his family by death. The artists all gave their services, and a better and more varied evening's entertainment one seldom has the pleasure of listening to. The only fault, if it could be called one, was that the programme was rather too long, but the interest was sustained from beginning to end. The Band of the 3rd V.B. Beds. Regt. Opened with 'The Orchid' and also prefaced the second part with 'Anona' ...*". The article goes on to list a further 16 performers with details of their acts. "*The laudable effort no doubt raised a considerable sum on behalf of the distressed Stanbridge family.*"

The report clearly indicates that the performers gave freely of their time and shows the great esteem with which Thomas and his family were held. A few weeks later Harriet gave birth to a son they called Thomas William. Hopefully the new baby gave his family some solace in their grief. □

MY WIFE'S FATHER AND THE WW2 SPY, VIOLETTE SZABO

Colin West

Cyril ANSELL was born in Shillington in 1910 and died at Clare Hall, South Mimms, in 1966 whilst living at Warden Hill in Luton. When his mother became ill and couldn't look after him and his two brothers, Cyril lodged at 34 High Street, Gravenhurst, the home of the Ansells - Kathleen, Emma, Fanny and Amy - for many years and attended Gravenhurst School for a short time. He had been living at Shillington until this period. Many older residents of Gravenhurst will recognise their ancestors in this photograph.



Cyril, middle row, fifth from the left at Gravenhurst School, taken about 1923

Cyril was my wife's father and died when she was just twenty years old, her mother being widowed at forty-eight.

My wife never asked her mother details about his service in the Second World War whilst she was alive, however, we did pick up some facts along the way and knew he was in the Royal Artillery. Initially, he was stationed in Oswestry, Shropshire and then sent to the Orkney Isles. He was a dispatch rider and during his short time in the Orkneys, he fell off his motorcycle and was brought back to Luton. My mother-in-law actually went to the Military Reception Station in Aberdeen to bring him back home.

In the last couple of years my wife decided she wanted to try and find out a bit more about her father's life during the war. We established we had to contact the Ministry of Defence and to obtain his records had to pay a fee. This we did and waited expectantly to see what information would arrive.

When it did arrive, we picked up useful information, but the documents contained lots of abbreviations which, we as novices, could not decipher. It was not until I visited the National Army Museum in London, through a trip

organised by the Bedfordshire Family History Society, that I was able to put some 'meat on the bones' of the documents received from the Ministry of Defence.

The Archivist at the Museum was extremely helpful and was able to fill in lots of gaps. On the documentation, besides personal details such as height, weight and colour of hair and eyes, it was established that Cyril enlisted in the Territorial Army on the 17 October 1940. His medical record indicated he was Grade II because of his vision although considered medically fit in all other respects. He therefore joined the 7th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Training Regiment as a Gunner, the equivalent of a Private in other areas.



Cyril in his army uniform taken in 1940 – Army Number 1631265

It transpired that Cyril trained at Oswestry and after completion was transferred to the Orkneys, via Caithness, and was more than likely involved at Scapa Flow. In October 1939, just before Cyril's time in the Orkneys, a gun of the 226th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, shot down a German bomber - Cyril's records show that he was later to become involved with this Battery.

Because of his slight visual impairment and his mature years - thirty years old -

he was in the Home Defence defending the British Isles, he was never to be deployed overseas. It is thought also that he was involved with training other recruits.

In his discharge papers, it was noted that his 'military conduct was good' and that the testimonial said he was 'honest, sober and reliable'.

Out of all this came the information that Cyril trained at Oswestry with Violette Szabo¹, the British spy, who was captured and executed by the Germans by a single shot in the neck with two of her colleagues in 1945.

Many of you might remember that Violette, was awarded the George Cross posthumously, for her courageous exploits against the Gestapo in France during the Second World War. In solitary confinement, Violette suffered atrocious tortures, but never gave away any of her secrets to the enemy. Twice Violette Szabo entered occupied France as an agent in the Special Operations Executive. Her second visit, leaving Tempsford Aerodrome in Bedfordshire, she entered occupied France, but from this visit, she did not return. During this second visit, gun in hand, she held up the advance guard of an SS Panzer Division, enabling a companion-in-arms to escape, and was only taken prisoner when her magazine was empty...!

As all personnel during the war were awarded a medal and it was noted that it was no different for Cyril. However, this was never spoken about and was never found within my wife's mother's personal effects when she died. So, my wife claimed the medal and is now in proud possession of it - something her father should have claimed in 1945 - his Army Medal!

Information regarding Violette Szabo has been taken from comments in the book 'Carve Her Name With Pride', a biography written by R J Minney.

I would be grateful if anybody could identify the pupils in the picture at Gravenhurst School. I can possibly see Bob ANDERSON and Frank REDMAN in the back row, I believe in the middle row are Tom Anderson and Joe ODELL. In the front row there are Henry FISHER, Emma Fisher (BOWRING), Nellie Fisher (Anderson), Kath Odell (SHARP) and I think, Len Odell. Stella Redman (ASHBY/GRAY) could be the last child but one in the front row. Please contact me on 01234 743752 or email colinjohnwest4@gmail.com.

¹ Editor's Note: Wikipedia reports "After her marriage, Violette became a switchboard operator for the General Post Office in central London, working throughout the Blitz. Bored by the job, she enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) on 11 September 1941. She was posted to Leicester for initial training before being sent to one of the first mixed anti-aircraft batteries of the 7th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Training Regiment, Royal Artillery in Oswestry, Shropshire for specialised instruction as a predictor and then to the 481st Heavy (Mixed) Anti-Aircraft Battery." Whilst Wikipedia is not a fully reliable source it does reference 'Ottaway, Susan (2003). *Violette Szabo: The Life That I Have*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books'. □

Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer

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

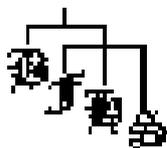


Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the June 2021 *Journal* is **30 April 2021**



PROGRAMME

Using DNA and Genetic Genealogy to Expand Your Research

Vicki Manners

Friday 9 April 2021, Via Zoom

Genetic genealogy is the use of genealogical DNA testing in combination with traditional family history records to trace your ancestors and living relatives.



When used with traditional genealogy, it can help you to:

1. Find relatives for adopted children
2. Find the parents of illegitimate children
3. Confirm the relationship between two people
4. Validate a theory of where your ancestry came from.

If you have yet to use DNA testing, this talk will help you select which test to use, and the best place to get it from. If you have already purchased a test, this talk will show you how to interpret and maximise your number of useful matches.

Vicki Manners is a qualified and professional genealogist who specialises in genetic genealogy and traditional genealogy in the Bedfordshire area.

Beneath the City Streets - London's Unseen History

Peter Lawrence D Hist (Ldn) Hons

Friday 7 May 2021, Via Zoom



This lecture takes a fresh look at London's development and history over the best part of two thousand years. Much of our capital's past is now underground but clues remain on the surface as to what is beneath our feet. From ancient archaeology to rivers that once meandered through open fields and remain today, following the same routes beneath central London. Ancient City graveyards, tunnels that were once secret but now abandoned and other examples of the amazing skills of Victorian engineers will be included. Some of the myths

and stories as to what is beneath Whitehall will be discussed. These and other topics will be shared by a lecturer who had a unique insight in to this subject during his career in Royalty & Diplomatic Protection at Scotland Yard.

PROGRAMME (cont'd)

**AGM plus
Bedfordshire Parish Register Series is it time to move on?
Pamela Birch - Bedfordshire Archivist
Friday 4 June 2021
Via Zoom**

On her mother's side Pamela comes from a line of Bedfordshire agricultural labourers and was born and raised in the Bedfordshire parish of Stotfold. In 2005 she gained a Masters degree in Archive Administration via University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and since 2014 she has been the county archivist in charge of managing Bedfordshire Archives & Records Service.



For decades those with Bedfordshire ancestors have been fortunate to have information from Church of England parish registers for the county widely available through the published Bedfordshire Parish Register Series of transcripts. These have been available as printed volumes and on the two series of BFHS CDs. Sales of these formats has been hugely important in supporting the work of Bedfordshire Archives service and the

BFHS but in recent years sales have begun to slow and the expectation of many family historians is that the registers should be available online. However the decision to license the parish registers to one of the major subscription publishers is not one to be taken lightly. Pamela's talk will consider the pros and cons of licensing and will look to members of the BFHS for their thoughts and advice.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

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

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

Many thanks, Peter Sharp, Treasurer

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2021

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

LIBRARY NEWS

John Partridge, Librarian

Members' Portal

Since we cannot have our monthly meetings due to the Covid, then the Exchange Journals that I have still been receiving over the months have been accumulating at my home. I look forward to the time when we can resume meetings so that they can be made available to members. In the meantime, a number of other FH societies have been producing their journals as a PDF rather than printed copy. Those FH societies in the Exchange Scheme have sent them to us and we have made them available on the Members' Portal of the BFHS website. At the moment there are around 34 of these FHS and other groups that send their journals to us as PDFs, please take a look.

Beds FHS Facebook page

In the December 2020 journal I reported that we had 908 'likes' as at 28 October 2020. We continue to attract more people and now have 950 'likes' and 1078 followers as at 28 January 2021. If you have a quick query or anything of interest regarding your Bedfordshire ancestors then why not message us or drop us a Visitors Post and we will hope to respond with an answer. At the moment I am having an intense dialogue with a contact in Canada about his Wadsworth ancestors who came from Pertenhall. If anyone has any Wadsworth names in their tree from that area then do get in touch.

Recent Acquisitions

Class 4

Family History Handbook 2021, Family Tree Magazine 2020

This must-have genealogy pocket book for family historians was a freebie with the Christmas edition of Family Tree Magazine. It is packed with loads of updated information on how and where to do your research.

Class 2

Bedford History Timeline, Alan Crawley & Bob Ricketts (BAALHS, 2019)

This unique volume is an illustrated timeline of Bedford's history from the sixth century to 1938, covering all the major events in the town's history. It is dedicated to the memory of Richard Wildman, renowned local historian. The text is matched on the left-hand pages with illustrations of key events, historic buildings, etc, sourced principally from The Higgins Museum, Bedfordshire Archives Service and Bedford Borough Libraries. There are introductory chapters on the origins of the town and its early churches. □

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

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

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

Only £10 including UK postage and is available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society,

PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX

Enquiries to **bookstall@bfhs.org.uk**

INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

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

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

Peter Sharp, Treasurer



BEDFORDSHIRE

Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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

COLIN DAVISON

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England

Tel: (01234) 364956

Email: **colinndavison@gmail.com**

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

Professional Service Offered. All Enquiries Welcome

BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH RECORDS ON CD

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

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes are available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society,

PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX

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

Each CD contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 (images)

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

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

all Marriages up to 1837; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire (images)

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

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

photographs and other records are included as available.

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

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

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

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

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



Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

Specialists in genealogy, family and house history research in
Bedfordshire.

Our lead researcher is Vicki Manners a qualified genealogist who is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of **AGRA**.

Her qualifications include:

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

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

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

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

www.bedfordshireresearch.co.uk

MEMBERS' PROFILES

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

Surname	Place/Parish	County	Period
<i>Joanna Lang (4421) joanna.lang86@hotmail.com</i>			
<i>36 Mead End, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8JN</i>			
Bowles	Northill	BDF	All
Christian	All	BDF	All
Christian	All	LIN	All
Flinders	All	USA	All
Goss	All	BDF	All
Haddow	Biggleswade	BDF	All
Haddow	Henlow	BDF	All
Haddow	Southill	BDF	All
Haddow	London	LCC	All
Redman	All	BDF	All
Roberts	Broom	BDF	All
Roberts	Langford	BDF	All
Roberts	Southill	BDF	All
Roberts	All	CAN	19C - 20C
Rowley	Langford	BDF	All
Tomlinson	Biggleswade	BDF	All
Tomlinson	Southill	BDF	All

WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

Send to journal@bfhs.org.uk

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

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

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

MEMBERS DON'T MISS OUT!

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

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

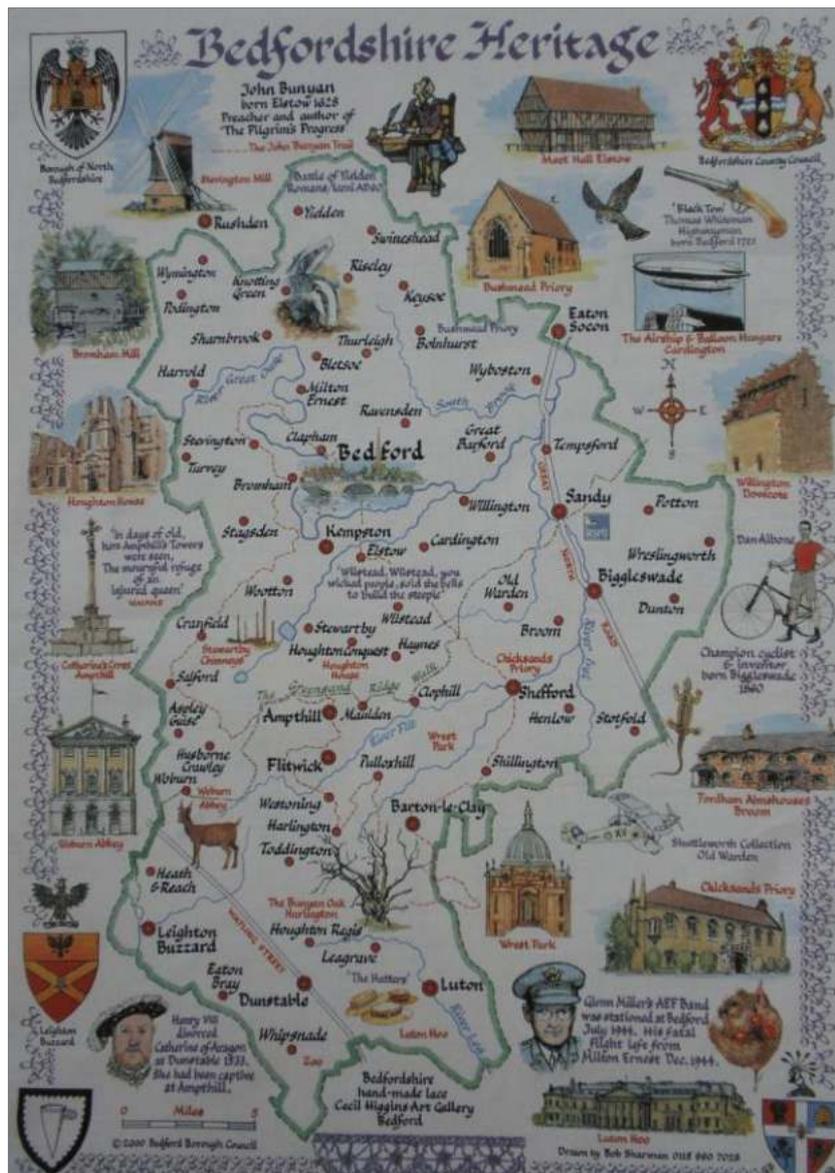


BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

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

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

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



secretary@bfhs.org.uk,

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

For UK orders please add postage and packing as follows:

- Up to 2 tea towels add £2.00
- 3 to 6 tea towels add £3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering.

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.

SUGGESTION BOX

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

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

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

BFHS Committee



FIND YOUR ANCESTORS

BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers then they will appear on our SURNAMEN INDEX. The index has been available in CD format for a number of years but we are now pleased to offer this revised issue of the Index FREE of charge in PDF format. Visit our website www.bfhs.org.uk.

Alternatively, the CD is available for only £10 including UK P&P, available from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX, enquiries to bookstall@bfhs.org.uk.

WHERE TO FIND US

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

Bedfordshire Family History Society

**PO Box 214
BEDFORD
MK42 9RX**

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

The following email addresses are also available:

chairman@bfhs.org.uk	Society Chairman & Information Manager
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copy should be sent to:

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(1 January - 31 December)

Each Individual Membership receives one copy per issue of the Journal

Joining Fee	£2.00
Any UK/Worldwide member taking the Journal by email in pdf format	£8.00 pa
UK Individual Membership, with one copy per issue of the printed Journal	£10.00 pa
Family Membership per each additional member at the same address	£1.00 pa
Overseas worldwide membership-printed journal by Surface mail	£14.00 pa
Overseas USA/Canada membership – printed journal by Airmail	£18.00 pa
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General Data Protection Regulation: Please note that the Society uses computer and manual systems to record membership information. The information you give on your application for membership will only be used for conducting Society business and will not be supplied to anyone else in any form except:-

1. Where it is needed by the independent examiner in his inspection of our financial records.
2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

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

