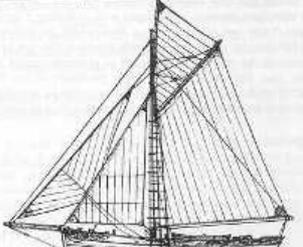
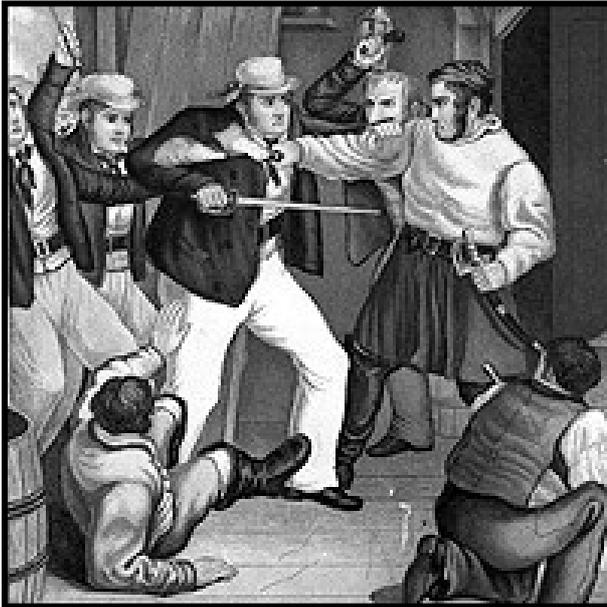




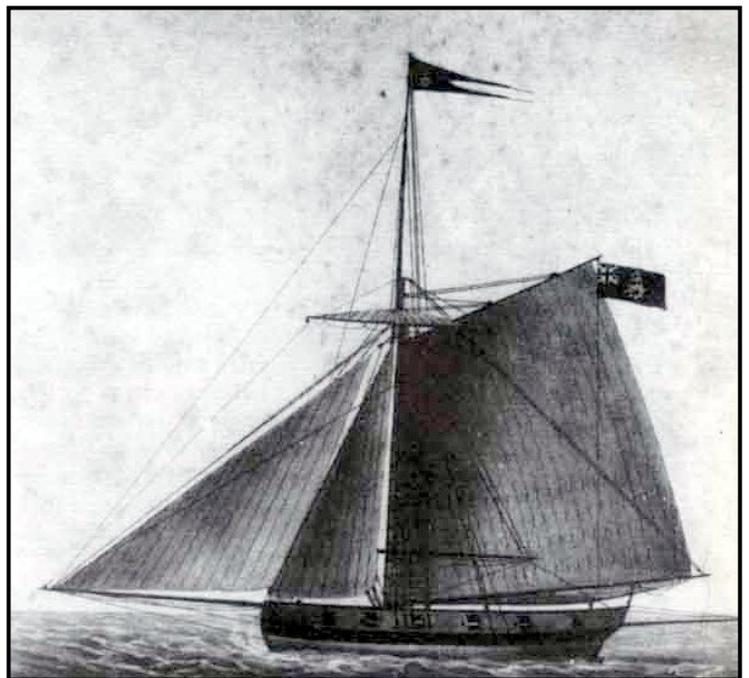
HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



A SHIP HAS BEEN SIGHTED
in this quarter
ENGAGING IN THE UNLAWFUL ACT OF
SMUGGLING
whosoever can lay information
leading to the capture of this ship
or its crew
will receive a reward of
£500
From His Majesty's Government
This 19th day of October 1782



*Smugglers and
Revenue Men
(See page 21)*



About Our Society

Our society welcomes all those with an interest in family history. At our monthly meetings we have a varied and balanced programme of talks by authoritative speakers. The meetings are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August and December). Even if you have no genealogical interests in Hillingdon, there is likely to be a subject of interest. Visitors are welcome at the monthly meetings (entrance £1.00) and may attend twice before being required to join. Doors open 7.30pm.

The research room is open at each monthly meeting and in addition every Friday morning (10.00am to 1.00pm) except the Friday before the first Saturday of the month when it is open on the Saturday (10.00am to 1.00pm). Here we have five computers available and you can consult a growing collection of source material including census records, parish records and trade directories on microfiche, CD-ROMs, on-line and in print. Help is freely available and visitors are always welcome at a charge of £2 (members £1). There is no additional charge on the monthly meeting dates.

The quarterly journal, which is circulated to many other societies, is a good place in which to advertise your surname interests. Joy Higgs, our Projects Co-ordinator, is always looking for volunteers to help with sorting, indexing and transcribing our many different projects to conserve and extend genealogical knowledge. Members can borrow freely from our library which has a substantial collection of books, pamphlets and a large number of journals from other family history societies in Britain and overseas. The bookstall carries a wide ranging stock of finding aids and background material to assist you in your research.

Our website www.hfhs.co.uk lists the research room and monthly meeting dates all of which take place at:

Hillingdon Baptist Church,
25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS

The annual membership is £12 (U.K. individual), £16 (U.K. joint if at same address), £12 (Europe, individual), £14 (Rest of the World individual). N.B. For overseas members if the journal is emailed in pdf format then the Europe and Rest of the World rates are reduced to £10.

**For further details contact: Mrs. Pat Reynolds (Membership Secretary), 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, Middx. UB7 8LR – Tel. 01895 444442.
London Borough of Hillingdon (Middlesex)**

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Visit our website at: www.hfhs.co.uk

Contact us by e-mail at: hillingdonfhs@onetel.com

Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).

**A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Do you know anyone who writes for a Sunday newspaper? If you do, then please disregard the next sentence. I would like to shoot the lot of them!

I come down on a Sunday morning, hear the bell of St Giles summoning those that are inclined to prayer, sit at the dining room table, coffee and toast to hand, feeling generally well disposed to all mankind. Then I open the Sunday paper. After a few headlines my blood pressure starts rising and the dog seeks sanctuary behind the curtain, well out of kicking range. Every article seems designed to get my proverbial goat.

By the time you read this I expect you will feel much the same because the moment will be close at hand when with pen trembling in your hand you prepare to complete your form. For on this particular Sunday in January the headline read “Who’s been sleeping in your bed? Census goes under the covers”

Apparently, “people who refuse to answer deeply personal questions in the 2011 census giving details of bedrooms and the sex and identity of overnight guests face the threat of doorstep interviews conducted under caution and potentially a criminal record and fines of up to £1,000”. It appears that there will be 56 questions in the Census which will be conducted on 27th March 2011 and teams of TV-licence fee enforcers are being trained to track down non-compliance. “For the first time everybody in the country will be obliged to state how well they speak English; whether they have a same sex civil partner and whether they have a second home.” At least that is what the article said.

OK, we probably shouldn’t shoot messengers in this modern enlightened age and by the time you read this we should probably know whether the article was accurate or not. But 56 questions!

As family historians we have all spent a lot of time with the Census over the years. It has identified and educated us on our Victorian and Edwardian ancestors and has provided that critical bridge back to parish registers and other vital documents.

(contd.)

As I write this I am not looking at a reference book or census extract but I would hazard a guess that for much of the nineteenth century there were fewer than 10 questions (address, name, condition (i.e. married), sex, age, relation to head of household, occupation, place of birth, whether disabled).

In 2001 the list of questions ballooned and I understand that in one London borough (Kensington & Chelsea) the response rate was as low as 64% (in London as a whole it was 85%). Is it surprising? The whole exercise has been hijacked by bureaucrats with the consequence that in a hundred years time a key source of data for family historians may be highly unreliable.

I suppose the counter argument is that if everyone filled it in (voluntarily or under caution) then our descendants will have a much better picture of their ancestors than past census have provided; maybe! But I feel this argument flies in the face of human nature and common sense.

For a Census to work it has to be practical. For example, the first detailed Census was conducted on 6th June 1841. Result – numerous Ag Labs were missing because they were away harvesting in another village or even county. So in 1851 they moved the date to 30th March when most people were expected to be at home. Practical common sense prevailed.

I believe I have heard a Government minister suggest that this might be the last Census as it is not an efficient way of collecting the data they need. For family historians that would be a pity. The more sensible solution would surely be to return to a simpler and shorter list of questions which everyone was prepared to quickly and easily answer. But then.....when our ancestors opened their Sunday Papers (which were probably wrapped around their fish and chips) and read (or were read to) that they were going to be asked 10 questions, were they outraged at this unprecedented snooping?

Perhaps, it was ever thus!

Have fun on 27th March.

Ian Harvey

EDITORS' JOTTINGS

Ancestry.co.uk has added to their web site the 1911 England and Wales census summary books. We understand that they will be following this up with the images of the census sheets.

Contrary to the National Archive car parking information in the December edition, we now understand that due to 'technical' problems the scheme to impose charges and a booking system has not been implemented. So for the time being (this being written in January) parking remains free and there is no need to book a parking place.

We recently discovered that FreeBMD have a new feature, look out for the envelope symbol, which they call 'POSTEM' a sort of post-it note in which you can record information that might help other users of the site. For example, if you have the certificate you might summarise the contents or you can mention any inaccuracies. Unfortunately less than one record in 1000 at FreeBMD currently has a postem, so it's quite possible that you'll never come across one in your research, but that shouldn't stop you creating postems for the benefit of others, particularly since it will often be your own cousins that you're helping.



JOURNAL DEADLINE DATES for articles etc.

<u>JOURNAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
JUNE 2011.....	2nd May
SEPTEMBER 2011.....	1st August
DECEMBER 2011.....	3rd October

Also please note there will be NO meeting on Thursday 21st April 2011 (Easter) and the research room will be CLOSED on Friday 22nd April 2011 (Easter) and Friday 29th April 2011 (Royal Wedding).

A SURPRISE FROM AUSTRALIA

We have received a letter from Pauline PRYER the Secretary of the Western Australian Genealogical Society. Although Pauline is not a member she was born in Hillingdon and she enclosed the photograph shown below.



Pauline was born at 77 Ryefield Avenue, Hillingdon in September 1940; partially visible at the extreme right hand edge of the picture. The snap is of a street party held at the end of WW2 and it is very difficult to identify individuals but Pauline is there somewhere.

Some details however can be made out for example in front of number 77 the 'wireless' which appears to be supported somehow in mid air. Pauline says it was probably put there by her father Harold RANSOM.

What seems a little strange however is the lack of bunting and flags etc., although a small union flag can just be seen above the radio.

Pauline goes on to say that a Mrs. HARRIS lived in the house adjoining number 77 and that the other house next door (not in the picture) was where Aunt Dolly (Mrs. BOARDMAN) lived. It was probably in 1947 that the RANSOMS moved away from Ryefield Avenue because Pauline has another photograph this time of her brother. In it he is crawling and he was born in 1946.

Is there anyone out there who recognises any of the adults or children or remembers this street party? If there is please write to us with any information or memories that you have and we will 'get you into print'.

Alan Rowland

N.B. We are always pleased when we receive a letter or article often with photographs. This is what we need in order to continue to produce your journal.

It also seems that unless Mrs. BOARDMAN was a true relation that we have another example of a neighbour being known as an 'Aunty' by young children.

SYD WILSON REMEMBERS (PART 2)

In this edition we continue with our serialisation of Syd's memories of the life of a young boy in Uxbridge between the wars.

When I first went to Whitehall School it was for infants only. At the rear of the playground was a tall fence, behind which were fields. In the summer, for nature study, we were taken out into the playground, through a green gate and into the field. Here we were taught about the different wild flowers, and we were not encouraged to call them weeds. Whilst still at this school Rabb's Mill burned down (February 1928).



Rabb's Mill circa 1880 (from 'Uxbridge Past' by Carolynne Cotton)

(contd.)

We were able to watch the blaze from the school windows, having a very good view as my classroom was then upstairs. By the time I was eight the senior school had been built (28th Aug.1928) and so instead of going to Cowley Road School, I went to the new school.

On the Rockingham Road side of the River Frays, behind the Prince of Wales pub and the cottages on that side of the road, was Beasley the iron founders. They cast many parts for several of the local agricultural machinery manufacturing companies. Beasley's owned a small field adjacent to the foundry buildings where they used to put unwanted large pieces of equipment, so this was an ideal playground for children and the owners did not mind us using it.

This area was known locally as 'The Old Irons' and we got up to all sorts of things there. The most popular being digging large holes and using old corrugated iron for a roof, these were our caves. Lighting bonfires was, of course, very popular. When we were a little older and had bicycles, what better place to make a race track and for good measure put some ramps in it to see who could jump the furthest.

The allotments I mentioned earlier did not last long in my life. Came the day when it was decided to make the Fassnidge Memorial Ground. I remember watching two great agricultural engines, one each side of the area, pull a four-bladed plough from side to side by means of a heavy hawser loop. They levelled the whole area in two days and The Fassnidge Memorial Ground was opened on 27th October, 1926.



The Gyro Tiller (with diesel tractor)

At a later date the Rockingham recreation ground was levelled, but this time a traction engine was used with a gyro tiller at its rear. This consisted of a number of blades mounted vertically on a heavy wheel, the blades were then pushed into the ground and the wheel was rotated as the engine went along. A large number of allotments were lost in forming these two recreation grounds.

(contd.)

From about the age of eight a great attraction was to go to Button's warehouse to buy a Tate and Lyle sugar box. To this would be fitted a pair of old pram wheels and shafts which meant that we then had a means of transporting heavy objects. Whilst on the subject of Button's, many of their goods came to them in wooden boxes and these were piled outside for sale to the public. For sixpence one could get enough to provide kindling wood for several weeks. Much of the wood was in very good condition and men who were good with tools made all sorts of things with it, particularly toys. Immediately after the war I made a sizeable shed from Button's cheese crate slats.

From a boys point of view a Hudson's soap box was ideal for making a soap box cart. Two pairs of pram wheels and a plank and you were there. Soap box cart racing was very popular, Chandlers Hill being a very good spot.

Because we lived so close to the River Frays it inevitably played a great part in our lives. During the 1920's the water was unpolluted and I had many a drink from it. From a very early age we used to paddle and bathe in the river, usually where there were no railings at the bottom of Lawn Road and The Lynch. Older people used it in the evenings and I can remember, on hot summer evenings, people bathing by the light of several car headlights. The reason there were no railings at this point was so that carters could walk their horses into the river for a drink. The same applied to the area beside the Van and Horses pub in Cowley Road.



*Bathing in the River Frays June 1930. From 'Uxbridge Past' by
Carolynne Cotton, Historical Publications Ltd.*

(contd.)

The Uxbridge 'bathing pool' was in the River Frays half-way between Fountains Mill and the plank bridge. Here there was a row of bathing huts with a concrete base (which is still there) and a three tier diving board. The river here was quite deep and each Tuesday the R.A.F. used to march there on bathing parade. This was exciting to watch as they used to have contests as to who could dive from the highest branch of the trees on the opposite bank.

My friends and I derived great pleasure from rafts on the river. To make these we used to take our barrows down to a tip which was used by commercial companies. This tip was situated close to the River Colne and the entrance for us was a track beside the canal culvert.

At this tip there was a good supply of empty five-gallon oil drums and usually planks of wood. Six drums under a number of planks all lashed together made an excellent raft on which three of us could float down the river. We often had a long ride from Fountains Mill to old Rabb's Mill at Cowley Mill Road but it was hard work pulling the raft back upstream.

The River Frays was kept very clean in those days by two water men, in waist high waders, whose method of cleaning alternated over two years. The first year they would have a large shire horse pulling a type of harrow about four feet square with long spikes at approximately a six inch interval pattern in each direction. The horse was ridden by one man up and down the river, so pulling out a large proportion of the weeds.

These were collected down by Rabbs Mill by a grating across the river. The weeds were taken out and piled along the river bank on the Bridge Road side of the river. The second year the water men were armed with scythes and they would cut the weeds which were again collected and dealt with as the previous year. The scything of course made the weeds bush out and grow faster as most plants will.

As we were surrounded by water, not just the Frays but also the Colne and the canal, fishing was a great pastime. In my early days this was confined to the Frays adjacent to home, first with nets, then bamboo canes with line and bent pin for a hook. As we grew a little older we were free to roam further afield.

Fishing in the dock behind Fountain's Mill was especially interesting, as we could watch barges being unloaded by a hoist which was powered by the main waterwheel.

(contd.)

This was on the opposite side of the dock to the mill itself. The sacks of grain were then taken over the dock by sack barrow via a covered corridor at high level. One also saw these large grain barges being poled round to the mill from the main canal, as it was impossible for horses to pull them, there being no room for the horse. We were always amazed how one man could push such a large barge; they were twice the width of the narrow boats.

The Colne was the favourite for fishing behind the Pipe Makers Arms at Long Bridge and from the point where the culvert runs into it right through to Iver Lane.

Fishing for crayfish is a type of fishing not seen much these days. The best spot for this was where the culvert ran into the river. The method employed a long piece of string with a weight on the end and a piece of meat tied onto it fairly close to the weight. This was thrown out into the river and after a while the string was pulled back and most times a cray fish would be hanging on to the meat. Many people took them home to cook and eat but we used to throw them back into the river.

Whilst talking about rivers, along the Frays beyond the bathing huts and the sluice gate was a considerable area of wild raspberries. We used to pick these in season. Later in the year there were many blackberries along the railway embankment growing over the fence to the river side. Lastly, where the path turned left to go under the embankment there was a very large cob nut tree which was always laden. There seemed to be no squirrels in this area so we were always able to pick bags full.

As young boys, the game of conkers was played very much once they were in season. We collected our main supply of conkers from Proven's farm at the bottom of Chandlers Hill and the Woodlands golf course. Both had long drives lined with Horse Chestnut trees. One could cheat at conkers by baking them in the oven as this made them very hard.

The woods at Swakeleys were ideal for tree climbing. There was no Western Avenue then. The woods started behind what was in recent times the Ski slope and Rugby pitches from where they were continuous to the River Pinn by Swakeleys Lake. Just on the edge of the woods, on the Common side, was what was known as Dick Turpin's cave.

(contd.)

It had a brick entrance centred between three oak trees. The cave was normally full of water and there was reputed to be a tunnel which went down to the Treaty House. One could see a continuous depression leading from it across the field. Also on the edge of the wood was an underground reservoir which supplied Swakeleys House. This was kept full by a spring which frequently overflowed and ran down the public footpath. In those days the woods were full of bluebells, a lovely sight.

Winters seemed to be more severe then, water like Belmont Pond and the flooded fields on Proven's farm always froze over and people used to skate on them. As children we had wonderful slides on them and had competitions to see who could slide furthest from a given spot.

Syd Wilson

THE BONDSMAN

I recently mentioned to a relative, who is not a family historian, that one of our ancestors was married by licence that also required a bond.

This statement elicited the following response 'For how much and when does it mature?'

I explained that that the bond was a pledge of money, usually by a family member or friend, that was sometimes required when an application for a licence was made. This bond money would be forfeit if false statements were made or if facts were discovered at the time of the application or at a later date. With the help of the West Sussex Records Office I obtained copies of the bond document, the allegation and the parish record entry of the marriage.

The ancestor in question was our 5x great grandfather, John BRIDGER who was a blacksmith who worked South East of Chichester and lived in the West Sussex Parish of North Mundhan. He married Charity BOYD at St. Stephen's Church, on 2nd November 1783.

(contd.)



St. Stephen's Church

The interesting thing about his licence to marry was the £200 bond (*see below*) which describes the bondsman as;

Charles JACQUES, silversmith of Chichester.

He was not a member of John's family so presumably he was a friend.

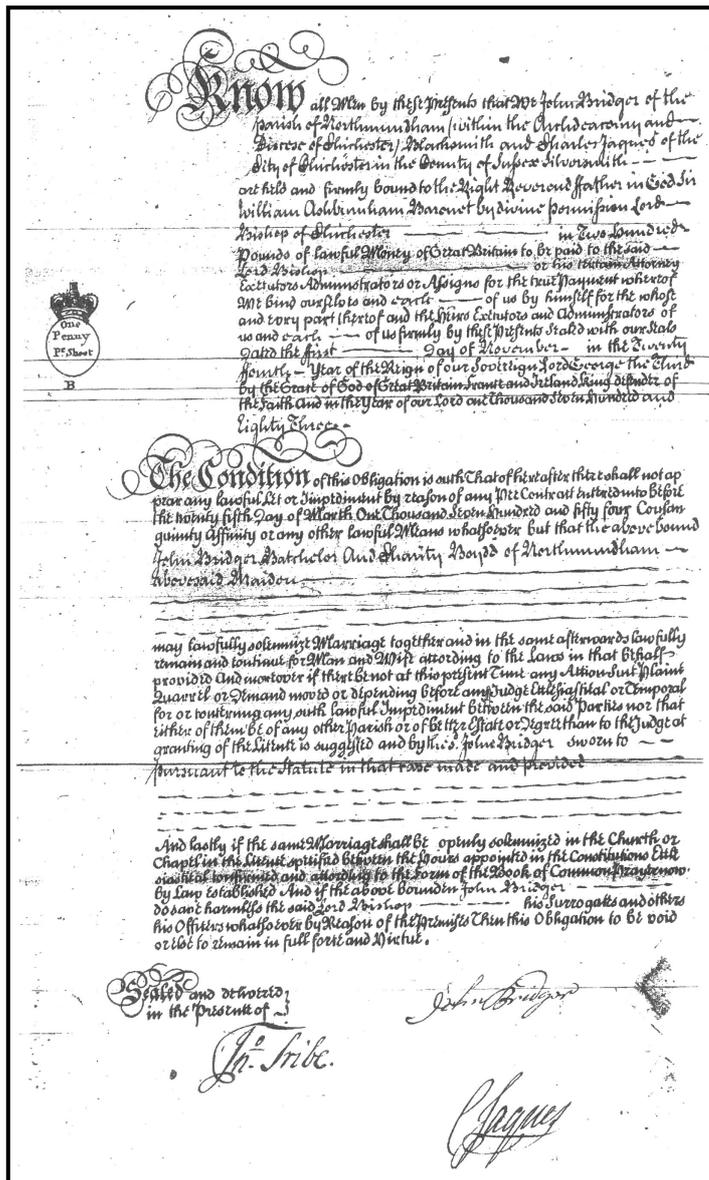
This intrigued me and I decided to find out more about Charles the silversmith in Chichester in 1783. I started with a Google search but Charles' name initially produced nothing. I was determined however and eventually my perseverance was rewarded when one site led me to 'Exeter Working Papers in Book History' which had a list of booksellers in Devon and a few surrounding areas. It all seemed very unlikely that a bookseller would have anything to do with my silversmith but I began to scroll through the list and found an entry for Chichester and a Charles JACQUES.

(contd.)

Was this the bondsman? If it was what was the silversmith doing listed as a bookseller? The full entry contained a description which read:

Chichester Sussex –

JACQUES, (Charles), (watchmaker, silversmith), bookseller, stationer, & printer, (& druggist), agent to the Royal Exchange Insurance Office.



The Bond

So it would seem that the silversmith was not only a watchmaker; he was selling books and stationery as well as being a druggist and printer. Not only that but he was also an agent for the Royal Exchange insurance company.

The site also showed notes of an insurance policy taken out with Sun Insurance covering his premises, materials and supplies to a total of £400. The policy described him as: 'bookseller, stationer, Also hardware man, silversmith, watchmaker, dealer in drugs' (see the policy extract below). I believe it was not unusual in those days for a business to have a number of unrelated lines.

(contd.)

501828 Charles Jacques of Chichester in Sussex Hardwareman.
 9/ Silversmith, Watch maker, Clock maker, Bookseller, Stationer
 and Dealer in Drugs & Patent Medicines - On his Household Goods
 10/1 in his now dwelling house only situated in off newaid Bricks tiled
 Williams not exceeding Forty Pounds _____ 40
 Furniture and Stock not layed out therein only not exceeding Five
 Hundred and Twenty Pounds _____ 270
 Drugs & Medicines therein only not exceeding Forty Pounds _____ 40
 Furniture & Stock in the Watch & Clock making Business & Plate included
 therein only not exceeding One Hundred Pounds _____ 100
 C. Bewicke H. Watts & G. Mason

£ 400
 Duty
 6/4
 6/4

Part of the Insurance Policy



This picture is of North Street, Chichester where further research established that Charles had his premises.

Encouraged by this find I continued with the Google search for Charles JACQUES. Patience was needed to explore every result that may contain relevant information but again I was lucky. This site, hosted by Birmingham University Humanities department, revealed their research into the book trade and traders.

(contd.)

The results matched those found in the Exeter Papers but also added that Charles was a Clockmaker and a Freeman. Yet more strings to my man's bow! My thanks go to Dr. Maureen Bell, Hon. Reader in English Literature and the research team for this information.

Attempts to find further information about Charles as a silversmith were unsuccessful but I did discover more about his clock making activities. The breakthrough came from the British Library catalogue in a book entitled 'British Clockmaker's and Watchmaker's Apprentice Records 1711-1810' by Dennis Moore. The entry read; '*JACQUES, Charles app. to Richard Comber, mas. watchmaker Lewes, Sussex. 3rd December 1771, 7 yrs from 20th October 177, £26/5/0d*'.

This sum was a premium paid to the master by the father of the apprentice. It was a requirement, enshrined in the Statute of Apprentices of 1563, that before becoming for example a clockmaker, an apprenticeship had to be served. An apprentice would not receive payment until completion of the contract and life was not easy because the apprentice was required to carry out the master's wishes even if not relevant to training for the trade and could include household duties.

After completion the apprentice was usually penniless and would work as a journeyman until he could set up business on his own account. Further research established that Richard COMBER was a highly esteemed clockmaker and silversmith. However by 1802 he was declared bankrupt and his 'capacious house and excellent shop in Lewes High Street' were sold at auction.

The licence bond was in the sum of £200 which doesn't seem much in present day terms but what was it worth back in 1783? Using a number of the formulae available to update this sum, its modern equivalent could be any one of the following; £12,570, £19,200 or £254,000 depending on which formula is used

My view is that the equivalent most likely to be accurate is £12,570, a considerable sum even today. In order for a bond of this size to be pledged the bondsman must have been able to afford its possible forfeiture and he must have had great faith in the declarations made by the prospective bridegroom.

(contd.)

In the light of this discovery a number of questions presented themselves.
How did Charles and John know each other?

Do the trades of silversmith and blacksmith have anything in common
which could have brought them together?

Perhaps since the population of Chichester was only 4752 in 1801 did
'everyone know everyone else'?

Was there any connection between Charles JACQUES and John's wife
Charity?

Was the bond forfeited?

I do not know if I shall pursue these questions further but at least I know
enough of Charles to place him as a footnote in my family history.

*My thanks for the bulk of the information I gathered go to:
Ian Maxted, a retired local studies librarian formerly at Guildhall
Library and Devon Library who wrote 'Exeter Working Papers in Book
History'; and the Birmingham University Humanities department (Dr.
Maureen Bell, Hon. Reader in English Literature and the research team).*

John Bridger



DON'T FORGET:

**ALWAYS LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR THE
LATEST INFORMATION AND ANY CHANGES TO OUR
PROGRAMME**

REACTIONS

As we hoped, the article by Arthur DARK in the December 2010 edition produced a reaction from some members and if any one else feels so moved please let us have your comments.

From Colyn STORER in Australia we received a long letter which we summarise below;

As a woman it is my belief that female researchers are often far more interested in their maternal lines for many different reasons, and often don't care who did or did not inherit the land. I have talked to a cousin who lives in New Zealand who, because it was such an interesting story, has written a major biography/family history of her mother's family. Since its completion she has gone on to research her father's family and has completed a similar project.

Although I believe Arthur was born and brought up in Devon he has been in the Middlesex area for many years. If members of his family moved away or emigrated he might not have knowledge of them and invariably the only source of answers to any research questions that arise are the distant cousins/relations sometimes in far off countries. The sort of questions they might be able to answer are; when, where and why did the family member(s) leave? What was their incentive (there were many emigration schemes in place in the 19th century)? Was the move willing or unwilling (convicts for example) or were religious beliefs the cause? Was my ancestor the only one of the family to leave - sometimes it is found that there is a distinct and continuing chain migration, or that another family who seems to be unrelated are subsequently found to be relations - maybe the wife was related to the second family?

Arthur's article also stimulated a couple of the editors to think about the points he raised and here are their views.

Alan ROWLAND writes;

Researching wife's family I found a public family tree on Ancestry which contained an entry of my wife's maternal grandmother. I made contact with the tree author who turned out to be a distant previously unknown cousin in Australia.

(contd.)

As a result of finding this cousin my wife now has photographs of her maternal great grandparents as well as others who were only names she remembered from her childhood. It also transpired that there was another unknown cousin in the UK.

Researching my own paternal line I hit a brick wall when I tried to find out more about my 3xgreat grandfather.

All that I had was his appearance on the 1841 census (he died in 1846) which told me that he was born out of county.

By chance I found a distant cousin who had been researching for more than 30 years who was able to fill in some missing pieces including the fact that 3xgreat grandfather had been married twice. He had little knowledge of the first wife other than her first name but still no extra info on 3xgreat grandfather. Via a chance look at another Ancestry family tree I made contact with three other distant cousins and finally settled that 3xgg was in the army in 1790c, fought in the peninsular wars as did several of his sons and grandchildren. From one of these remote cousins I obtained a handwritten document from c1873 giving the military history of these ancestors and from another a copy of one of 3xgg sons will which revealed the existence of a sister about which I knew nothing at all.

None of the information gathered from the above sources would have been available without finding the distant, unknown cousins and whilst these extended families will probably never meet, without them our researches would be less complete. So a most valuable source of information in both directions

John SYMONS felt moved to write;

Of course Arthur Dark's piece was meant to be provocative and indeed it was. My approach to the subject differs somewhat and for the sake of further argument this is an alternative slant which others may agree or disagree with.

Before I go any further it needs to be stated that many of us in the Society and in the wider genealogical community will know that Arthur is a highly respected and extremely knowledgeable family historian and the author of a number of guides on the subject.

(contd.)

What Arthur accurately describes in his article is the traditional approach to genealogy based on the male descent which was the basis for inheritance of lands and titles. He is concerned about now being faced with vast family trees with different surnames and possibly some dubious family links.

When I started researching my family history many years ago I commenced with my paternal line as it was in my opinion a natural place to start and it yielded some quite interesting results.

Those of you have heard the story of my convicts transported to Australia will know to what I refer. I realised that the lives of these people, though far from blameless, were shaped in no small measure by the social conditions and the government under which they lived. This made history more interesting for I readily admit that at school I found history, for the most part, rather turgid and dull with all those meaningless dates. In those days of course I did not realise my family was a part of it.

So moving on, if I had interesting people on my paternal line, why should I not find more if I examined, for example, my paternal grandmother's ancestry? Well after a few years here I found smugglers and revenue officers and a few more stories to dine out on. Then there was my mother's ancestry. Here also was plenty of interest, although maybe not on the same scale, but undeniably local and relevant to Hillingdon and surrounding areas.

These people had other descendants naturally enough and I soon found that I was sharing my research with cousins both in this country and around the world. Quite a few I have been able to visit in person whilst others have remained electronic correspondents for very many years.

In so doing an undeniable result is that I have acquired a large family tree with many names, but I do not add people to this tree unless I am satisfied that there is an established link.

Even then I have made a few mistakes along the way but have corrected them in the light of better evidence. Sadly it is quite often the case that other trees are published based on the apparent research of others and these might well not be accurate as I have found on several occasions.

(contd.)

So in summary, my view is that there is no right or wrong answer to the study of family history. I have met any number of researchers over the years with many different priorities and interests. Some do indeed wish to concentrate on the paternal line whilst others wish to pursue different lines of enquiry. I do not think this matters much as long as what is published, as incidentally it should be, is understandable and accurate.

From Ron LIGHTNING on the same subject;

Some years ago when I embarked on my family history research I was, like most people, interested in finding out about my parents' roots.

Potentially this would produce two family histories because until their marriage the families had not been connected in any way.

I began my research with my father's family and after some years moved on to look at my mother's family which resulted in two family trees and two written accounts. These incorporated aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces and would require a third written history. My son, should he start his own research, would certainly benefit from the work I have done, but he would also be interested in his mother's family – the GOREs. With no connection between the LIGHTNINGS, my family and the GOREs, prior to our marriage the process would be repeated.

There are obvious exceptions to this situation e.g. on occasions first cousins marry and so from the start two families are inextricably linked.

From these observations it would seem to me that each generation undertaking family research is primarily concerned with their parents, grandparents and their aunts, uncles and cousins. I also feel that the ultimate aim of family research should not stop with the construction of a genealogical tree. The tree is what I would call the barebones of family history that need to be 'fleshed out' as a narrative with information from census returns, certificates of births, deaths and marriages, newspaper reports, letters, etc. Obviously a full story can never be written as the account can only reflect the information available. Those on the periphery of the tree could figure in the narrative in general terms such as 'my grandmother was the third of twelve children' and with further research some of the twelve might well enter the main story.

(contd.)

To conclude, I think that the production of a large family tree can be counter productive, making it difficult to see the wood for the trees!

So if there are any other views on this article please let us have your thoughts.

Editor

A TALK – HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO DECLARE?

It was at the meeting on 21st October 2010 that John Symons gave his interesting talk on smuggling in Cornwall c.1800. Here we give a summary for those who were not there.

At the end of the 18th century smuggling had become a significant ‘free trade’ industry in many coastal parts of England. Governments had raised import duties often to pay for wars and this had made the activity more profitable. There were relatively few customs officers and vessels which ensured that the smugglers were likely to evade capture. So a brisk trade in a variety of goods including, brandy, gin, tobacco, tea, silks, fine cottons, china and glass developed.

The coast around Cornwall and Devon was especially well suited to smuggling with numerous inlets and coves where landings could be made unnoticed. In addition they were some distance from centres of population which made it time consuming and difficult for adequate customs patrols. My ancestors lived in these areas at this time; my 4xg great grandfather Hugh PEARCE born 1759 in Kea, Cornwall decided to join the Customs Service, whilst another 4xg grandfather, Robert REAN born 1759 in Fowey, Cornwall had inherited wealth from his father and invested much of the money in ships. Both played a significant role in the smuggling trade but on opposing sides!

Towards the end of the 18th century Hugh PEARCE had attained the position of First Mate aboard the Revenue Cutter ‘Hind’, captained by Gabriel Bray. The ship and Gabriel BRAY had acquired something of a reputation by apprehending more smugglers off the coast of Kent and Sussex than was usual at the time.

(contd.)

The news that it was transferring operations to Devon and Cornwall was not well received in those parts, where most smuggling had hitherto been given more or less a free run. It was by then becoming apparent to the government that a significant amount of revenue was leaking away in those parts and moves were afoot to place better equipped ships like the 'Hind' in the front line. Too often it was found that the smugglers had better equipped and faster vessels than the revenue service and so evaded capture.

Robert REAN, also born in 1759, had inherited wealth from his father and he invested much of it in ships or part share of ships.

Some of these were used for legitimate trade but to a great extent many were used for smuggling across the channel especially from the Channel Islands which were convenient staging posts for bringing goods across from France. He arranged much business with merchants there and in particular had extensive dealings with the MAINGY brothers of Guernsey.

He would arrange with them the supply of goods to be smuggled across the sea on his ships to satisfy orders placed on him. This was of course all carried out at arm's length, he personally was not going to take risks of being caught; if one of his ships was apprehended, he would simply deny all knowledge. By and large this strategy worked and although on at least one occasion some captured smugglers tried to implicate him at their trial, they were not believed by the court.

Another major player in the smuggling operation was a man named Zephaniah JOB. He arrived in Polperro as a schoolmaster but as a fairly wealthy man was soon involved in the financing of a smuggling operation, in fact he became known as the 'smugglers' banker'. As such he sometimes had to guarantee the debts of Robert REAN who was not known for quick payment. This caused Mr. JOB some problems as correspondence of the time shows.

This sets the scene for the story of the 'Lottery', one of the most capable smuggling vessels in operation at the time. In retrospect it was something of a turning point in the struggle between the revenue men and the smugglers and directly involved Hugh PEARCE along with many others.

It was on Boxing Day in 1798 that the 'Lottery' appeared at Penlee Point near Cawsand in Cornwall intent on offloading contraband.

(contd.)

She was spotted by the local Customs men and their boat, commanded by one Ambrose BAWDEN set out to apprehend them. In the ensuing stand off, shots were fired and one of the Customs men, Humphry GLINN, was mortally wounded.

The death of Humphry GLINN started a full scale hunt for the 'Lottery' and its crew. Notices were posted in the press with rewards offered for information leading to the arrest of the vessel and its crew.

It was some months later, on the 13th May 1799 that the 'Lottery' was apprehended by the Revenue Cruiser 'Hind' off the south coast of Cornwall. Hugh PEARCE led a boarding party while Captain Ambrose BRAY directed operations. The crew was taken into custody and the 'Lottery' itself commandeered by the Revenue Service for their own use. One of the men apprehended on the "Lottery" named Roger TOMS agreed to give evidence on the shooting by naming one of his fellow smugglers, Thomas POTTER, as the man who killed Humphry GLINN and in exchange he was granted immunity from prosecution.

Initially he was taken on the 'Hind' for his own protection and two weeks later, while the 'Hind' was moored in Fowey Harbour, POTTER's wife was persuaded to meet him. It was however a trap and TOMS was abducted by sympathetic local smugglers as they knew the case against POTTER would be unlikely to be successful without TOMS' evidence.

The case against the crew of the 'Lottery' on charges of smuggling took place at the Old Bailey. All were found guilty and sentenced to two years' hard labour. The more serious charge against Thomas POTTER, that of murder, also came to court but the main prosecution witness was absent. The defence moved to have the charges dropped but the judge, Lord ELDON, was scathing about the failure to keep the main prosecution witness safe and directed that the case be adjourned in order that he may be found.

Efforts were redoubled to find the missing Roger TOMS and it was only an informant's information that led to his arrest on the island of Guernsey. A revenue cutter returned him to Plymouth and thence to Exeter jail whilst arrangements were made for his transport to London along with Ambrose BAWDEN the Customs Officer from Cawsand and Hugh PEARCE.

(contd.)

All were due to give evidence for the prosecution but during the journey Ambrose BAWDEN fell very ill and was unable to continue the journey beyond Egham, Surrey. It also seems that just before the trial, Zephaniah JOB had paid BAWDEN the sum of £105. Could these events have been connected?

In time Ambrose BAWDEN recovered and six months later in December 1880 the trial restarted at the Old Bailey. This time with all the prosecution witnesses available the case against Thomas POTTER was proved. He was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Zephaniah JOB contributed some £700 towards the defence costs.

This is not surprising as the ability of the Customs Service to successfully prosecute a major case of smuggling, as well as the attendant case of murder, represented a severe threat to his livelihood not to mention that of many more along the South Cornish coast whose prosperity depended on the smuggling trade.

Amongst their number was, of course, Robert REAN.

The odds were now turning against the smugglers. Permanent shore stations were set up around the coasts to supplement the sea patrols. More men were recruited into the service and responsibility passed to the Admiralty. In 1817 the Coastguard Service was established with further shore stations established all around the coast. These measures ensured that smuggling, even off the south western coast, could no longer be carried out with impunity as there was a very real risk of being caught. The government had at last managed to curtail smuggling, but it still continued whenever opportunity allowed.

As for the characters involved in the 'Lottery' incident, they had mixed fortunes. Humphry GLINN, shot at Cawsand, left behind an orphan son as he was already a widower. The Board of Customs however paid for his education and he became a tailor. GLINN's murderer, said to be Thomas POTTER, was hanged on the gallows at Wapping on 18th December 1800, aged 26 years.

The ripples from this event spread further. Ambrose BOWDEN, the Customs man at Cawsand who first spotted the 'Lottery' was rewarded with promotion to First Officer on the Revenue Cutter 'Busy'.

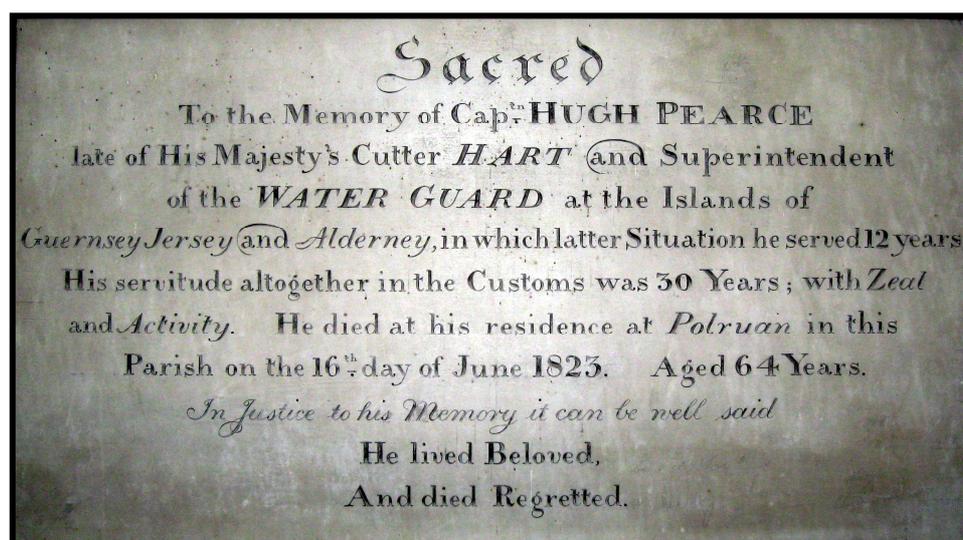
(contd.)

Gabriel BRAY, Commander of the 'Hind' suffered ill-health after the trials and relinquished command to become a Greenwich Naval Pensioner. He died in Charmouth, Dorset on 23rd October 1823. As for Roger TOMS, the informer, he could not return to his own community for fear of reprisals and was employed at Newgate jail for the rest of his life as a turnkey.

Back in Cornwall, Zephaniah JOB had acquired much of Polperro including the harbour but times were becoming difficult for him. This was exacerbated when in 1817 a ferocious storm destroyed the harbour which he owned. He rebuilt it using his own funds and when he died on 31st January 1822 his estate was valued at a relatively modest £7,766.

Finally what became of my ancestors? Charles REAN suffered something of a reverse in fortunes with the decline of the smuggling business. He had to resort to more legitimate sources of income such as farming, having narrowly escaped prosecution by being named in court as a smuggler on at least one occasion. He died in Fowey in January 1835.

Perhaps Hugh PEARCE reaped the greatest reward for his part in the 'Lottery' incident. He was promoted to Commander of the Revenue Cruiser 'Hart' which was stationed in Guernsey to cut off one of the main smuggling supply routes. He married and his three sons (including my 3xg grandfather, another Hugh PEARCE) followed him into the revenue service, two serving on the 'Hart' under his command. The family tradition of serving in the Customs and Coastguard Services continued throughout the 19th century. He retired in 1817 and died on 16th June 1823. This memorial to him is inside Lanteglos by Fowey Parish Church.



A TALK – HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Janet Dineen gave the November 2010 talk ‘Highdays and Holidays — Traditional folklore of the autumn months’ in which she revealed both her knowledge and passion for the subject.

Her colourful slides allowed us a peep at her extensive collection of illustrations and pictures all of which brought to life the many old festivals and traditions. Indeed our ancestors would most probably have taken part in many of these festivities.

The talk began at Harvest and Lammas on the 1st of August when in Medieval times there was celebration at the offering of the first fruits. Lammas comes from loaf mass and the early grain was baked into a loaf to be used for the Eucharist.

Similarly elsewhere there were many celebrations around the first corn, with Kern babies or corn maidens being made. In some cases these were placed in furrows and ploughed back over to bring fertility to the fields, an offering of thanks and a prayer for the future.

The Ivy girl of Kent c 1626 was a derivation whereby some of the best corn a field produced was used to make a human figure which was then dressed by the local women in fine lace to be brought home with the last corn upon a wagon.

Janet revealed similar traditions from other parts of the country and recited songs and poems used in the celebrations showing how deep rooted they were in the local culture and how Church feasts and pagan festivals are often intertwined.

Janet then told us about Quarter days, days on which rent was paid and hiring fairs were held for employment. Michaelmas on 29th September is one quarter day, when goose was often eaten.

October saw the end of the Celtic year Samain, a time when legend said the souls of the dead would return – a time for witches and warlocks. Samain became All Hallows’ Eve, the end of Summer. Often games were played such as apple bobbing or looking at sparks in a fire hearth.

(contd.)

Another ritual was burning the nuts where the name of a lass and a lad is given to particular nuts and depending on how they lay in the fire, burnt quietly together, or started from beside each other would determine the course and issue of courtship.

1st November is All Saints Day and 2nd November the feast of All Souls. Food was laid out for the dead whose souls were believed to visit the earth. Soul cakes (yeasty buns) were made at this time.

4th November was mischief night (later bonfire night). Fires heralded winter and we were shown pictures of gates on house roofs and other tricks. After Guy Fawkes, effigies were carried around for money and burnt.

Janet went on to explain many other days and festivals, such as:

25th November - St Catherine's Day, who is the patron saint of lace makers;

21st December, St. Thomas' Day, when there would be do-gooding and on St. Stephen's Day as well as at the New Year, wrens were hunted.

She concluded her talk when the New Year was reached but at a future date it can be continued with the succeeding season's festivities.

It is impossible in this brief article to convey the detail and regional variations Janet informed us about. The talk was highly informative, interesting and visual and for those of you who missed it I hope that this short article will give a flavour and tempt you to attend when we hear the next talk by Janet.

Charles Hampshire

USEFUL WEB SITES

In editing the journal we often come across similar publications by other family history societies that carry useful information about the latest, updated and sometimes forgotten web sites.

(contd.)

Here are some recent discoveries:

In Eric Probert's regular feature for the Essex Family Historian (the journal of The Essex Society for Family History);

London Lives, 1690 to 1800

www.londonlives.org/ is for those with London ancestors and anyone with an interest in 18th century London life.

Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy

<http://histfam.familysearch.org> if you have Jewish ancestry this site has free databases of over 115,000 names from 30 countries in five areas covering the British Isles (82,000 names), Europe, Americas, Caribbean and Africa & the Orient. The databases are part of the Family Search Community Trees project.

London and Middlesex; Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers

www.wsfhs.org/researchaids.htm

Cliff Webb has updated these research aids to on-line versions and made them freely available on the West Surrey FHS web pages. They are at the end of the listing of Research Aids (RA 49-51).

National Directory of Community Archives

<http://www.communityarchives.org.uk/>

Here you can use a map to find out if there is a community group which has amassed a wealth of information on places and people where your ancestors lived.

A ROYAL CONNECTION

Many people have been researching the ancestry of Kate Middleton including our own Ken Pearce. For the record, two of her great grandparents, Stephen Charles Goldsmith, a carman, and Edith Eliza Chandler born in New Denham, Bucks, were married on 27th March 1909 at Uxbridge Register Office. A far cry from Westminster Abbey apparently.

John Symons

PLANNING VISITS TO VIEW ARCHIVES

John Bridger has kindly produced the following useful information for anybody planning a trip to the Westminster City Archives and the British Library.

Visiting Westminster City Archives;

Westminster City Council run the archives as part of their Libraries service. In the past a visitor need only to sign in and out. However, since September 2010 visitors are now required to become a member of their Library service. Evidence of identity is required as well as completing an application form. Any of the following are acceptable as proof of identity;

Recent Utilities bill (last six months)
Rent/Child Benefit/Pension Book
Current Driving Licence
Bank/Credit card statement (last six months)
Building Society Book

SO, TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, BE PREPARED!

Visiting the British Library;

The registration requirements on renewing or first registering to obtain a Reader Pass have become more stringent. Two forms of identity are now required in the same sort of documents as are required to open a bank account or apply for a passport viz : -

One to show your signature and personal details
One to show proof of your address.

ONLY original documents will be accepted and utility bills, bank statements etc. must be less than three months old. See their website for full list and conditions. Admission will be REFUSED without this documentation.

John Bridger

OUR EAGLE

Why do we use an eagle as our 'symbol'? The eagle is part of the arms of the London Borough of Hillingdon (it is in the middle of the shield) but it seems this section is based, in part, on a much older symbol for the Urban District of Uxbridge (*see below*).



The description of this version is:

Or, on a pile gules between two roundels Barry wavy argent and azure, an eagle displayed or

Source:

From 'A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 4' Published in 1971

(Authors; T. F. T. Baker, J S Cockburn, R. B. Pugh (Editors), Diane K. Bolton, H P F King, Gillian Wyld, D C Yaxley).

It would seem from this publication that this was granted in 948, which considering that Uxbridge isn't mentioned in the Domesday book (1086), seems a little strange. Most early references to Uxbridge in various publications appear to be around 1100 to 1200 so how is it that the arms were granted in 948?

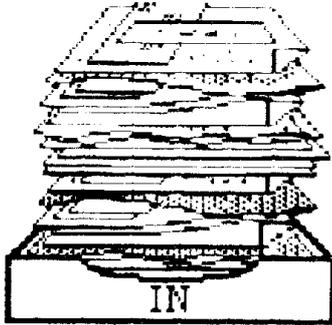
Another source states that there was a similar 'arms' granted to Uxbridge District Council in 1948. Later they were incorporated into the London Borough of Hillingdon Arms in 1965.

Admittedly the Hillingdon Family History Society bird has a few more feathers here and there, but it is basically the same.

Alan Rowland

N.B. We are not too sure about the stated date of 948, so if anyone can throw any light on these dates and the 'bird' please let us know.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Once again thanks to all those members who remembered to return the renewal form with their 2011 subscription, but there were still many who forgot!

If you wish to have your 'Members Interests' on our updated web pages your forms need to be returned as soon as possible.

The total membership for 2010 was 284 including 40 new members.

Thanks to all of you for the lovely Christmas cards and letters of appreciation I received both for myself and on behalf of the committee.

Patricia Reynolds

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

N20 Mrs. Dianne Neal Email: diannemills@msn.com	88 Oakdene Road, Hillingdon Middlesex. UB10 0SQ
R49 Nathan J Rooks Email: rooks@27ferndale.fsnet.co.uk	27 Ferndale Crescent, Uxbridge Middlesex. UB8 2AX
R50 Pamela Routledge	12 Wilder Close, Eastcote Middlesex. HA4 9LU

MEMBER REJOINED

W7 Mrs. Mavourneen Mary Wagner Email: wmary38@aol.com	91 Pole Hill Road, Hillingdon Middlesex. UB10 0QD
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

L22 Mrs. Julie C. Lazou, 6 Coach House Mews, Gatwicke Road,
Worthing, W. Sussex. BN11 4DQ

T26 Mr. Gerald E. Taylor, 39 Kingslodge, King George V Road,
Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5DP

Email: Gerald.taylor6@virginmedia.com

RESIGNATION FROM THE SOCIETY

B86 Mr. Jim Bleasdale, 35 Willowtree Close, Ickenham,
Uxbridge, Middlesex. UB10 8RD

Email: umbravicissim@gmail.com

B88 Mrs. Liz Bostock, Lime Tree Cottage, 8 Nortoft Road,
Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks. SL9 0LD

Email: elizabethbostock@waitrose.com

J8 Mrs. Judy Jones, 25 Blackwood Crescent, Blue Bridge,
Milton Keynes. MK13 0LP

W58 Mrs. Vanessa Wiggins, Elmscott, Bowling Alley, Oving,
Bucks. HP22 4HD

Email: vanessaw@btinternet.com

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

J12 Mr. Derick Johnston. Email: sonder@adam.com.au

MEMBERS INTERESTS

1) B91 Mrs. Andrée Brown, 45 Rushdene Road, Pinner,
Middlesex. HA5 1SW Email: asbrown20@tesco.net

ATHERTON	LAN	LIVERPOOL AREA	18-20 C
COLTMAN	LND	WESTMINSTER AREA	18-20 C
IZZARD	LND	ANYWHERE	18-20 C
MARTIN	LND	WESTMINSTER AREA	18-20 C
PERCY	LAN	LIVERPOOL AREA	18-20 C
STANIFORD	LAN	LIVERPOOL AREA	18-20 C
WATERMAN	KEN	TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA	18-20 C
WATERMAN	SRV	STREATHAM AREA	18-20 C
WHITING	KEN	PEMBURY AREA	18-20 C
WINSTANLEY	LAN	LIVERPOOL AREA	18-20 C

(contd.)

2) B92 Mr. Ian Brown, 45 Rushdene Road, Pinner,
Middlesex. HA5 1SW Email: asbrown20@tesco.net

BOYD	MLN (sct)	ANYWHERE	18–20 C
BURNESS	MDX	UXBRIDGE AREA	18–20 C
BURNESS	SRV	WANDSWORTH AREA	18–20 C
GOODCHILD	BRK	ABINGDON AREA	18–20 C
PLOWMAN	NFK	WELLS NEXT THE SEA	18–20 C
PRICE	KEN	SPELDHURST AREA	18–20 C
TEMPLE	MLN (sct)	ANYWHERE	18–20 C
YOUNG	KEN	SPELDHURST AREA	18–20 C

3) H82 Mrs. Juliet Hutchings, 15 Linden Avenue,
Cheltenham. GL52 3OW
Email: jihutchins@hotmail.com

RATCLIFF	MDX	HAREFIELD	1700 – 1800s
RATCLIFF	MDX	HARLINGTON	1700 – 1800s
RATCLIFF	MDX	HILLINGDON	1700 – 1800s
RATCLIFF	MDX	STAINES	1600 – 1700s

4) P69 Mr. Colin Portsmouth, Cymal Gwichlyd, No. 3 Crug Du, Penparc,
Aberteifi, Ceredigion, Wales. SA43 1RD

PORTSMOUTH	MDX	ANYWHERE	Pre 1805
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H.F.H.S. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 21 st April 2011	NO MEETING EASTER
Friday 22 nd April 2011	RESEARCH ROOM CLOSED EASTER
Friday 29 th April 2011	RESEARCH ROOM CLOSED ROYAL WEDDING – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

HILLINGDON H.F.H.S. PROGRAMME

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
Thursday 19 th May 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Ian Waller	'Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings'. Day to day workhouse life, with records of inmates and staff.
Thursday 16 th June 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Jeanne Bunting	'Is the Internet Killing the Thrill of the Chase?'
Thursday 21 st July 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Dave Annal	'Brick Walls and Lost Ancestors'. Problem solving for Family Historians.
August 2011	CLOSED	
Thursday 15 th September 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Paul Blake	'British Property and Land Records'. An introduction to sources
Thursday 20 th October 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Ian Harvey	'How to Feature in Medal News: Notes on an Ancestor in the Napoleonic Wars'
Thursday 17 th November 2011 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	Hugh Granger	'Our Ancestors' Superstitions'

UXBRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Uxbridge at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

April 26 th 2011	Tony Mitchell	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by Uxbridge Past – Public Services
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RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip at 8.15pm. For further information, please contact The Programme Secretary on 01895 673299.

(contd.)

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
21 st March 2011	Sally Brewer, Education Manager, Benjamin Franklin House.	'The Life & Times of Benjamin Franklin'.
11 th April 2011	Cathy Ross Museum of London	'Twenties London'

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

This event will take place from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 25th June 2011 at York Racecourse, Knavesmire Exhibition Centre.

All the usual stalls associated with such a major event will be there. Car parking is free - admission £4.00. There will be cafeteria facilities.

Further details available from
Mr. A. Sampson,
1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland. TS10 4ND England

Tel/Fax:- (01642) 486615 or www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Regular meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at [Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow](#) and start at 7.45 pm.

Meetings include talks on aspects of family or local history. In addition, many of the Society's resources and indexes are normally available for consultation from about 7.15 pm. Note that parking in the adjacent car park on Montague Road is free after 6.30 pm.

(contd.)

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
21 st April 2011	Michael Pritchard	'My Ancestor was a Photographer'.
19 th May 2011	John Sheaf	'The River Thames and Riverside Homes from Hampton Court to Hampton - Flintstone to modern day'
16 th June 2011	Paul Blake	'The India Office Library'
21 st July 2011	David Ayling	'The War Graves Photographic Project'
18 th August 2011	Ian Waller	'Upstairs, Downstairs - Records of family and workers on and in the estates of the "Big House"'
15 th September 2011	Meryl Catty	'The Promiscuous Letters - A wealth of information from an index placing naval widows'.
20 th October 2011	Jane Moss	Members' Evening and Creative Writers. A workshop on writing up your family history
17 th November 2011	Colin Chapman	'Sin, Sex and Probate in the Ecclesiastical Courts' Not just the normal court room cases!

THE QUAKER FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Quaker F.H.S. will hold their Spring One Day conference on Saturday 30th April 2011 10:30-16:00 at Bootham School, 49-57 Bootham, York, North Yorkshire YO30 7BU.

YORKSHIRE QUAKERS OVER TWO CENTURIES - PROGRAMME

10.30am Arrival & tea/coffee

10.55 Welcome by Margaret Page (QFHS Chair)

Talks on Edward Royle — Quaker Survival and Revival in York and Yorkshire 1764-1914.

Pamela Cooksey — on the Yorkshire Quaker Joseph Wood (1750-1821).

Sarah Sheils — Twentieth Century Rowntrees.

(contd.)

LUNCH bring your own, a time to talk with fellow family historians and make new connections. Cost £6 per person payable in advance.

Everyone is welcome - you do not need to be a member of QFHS. Bring a friend and your family records to share.

The QFHS Bookstall will be present with a range of Quaker related books to browse and purchase. Contact: o.s.pickering@leeds.ac.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE F.H.S. OPEN DAY

Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 30th July 2011, between 10am and 4pm at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH (south-east of the town, between the A413 and the A41).

The many attractions for researchers will include the Society's full resources, including baptism, marriage, burial and other databases; parish register and other publications; talks; expert advice; guest societies and local heritage groups and commercial suppliers.

Admission is free, with free parking available at the venue.

For further information visit www.bucksfhs.org.uk

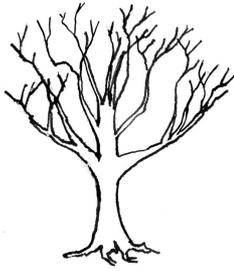
CRAWLEY FAIR – FEBRUARY 2011



The fair at Crawley was the first opportunity that we had to show off our new acquisition – the free standing banner shown left.

Our stall was manned by Pat Reynolds, Joy Higgs and Gill May (behind the camera). They report that we had a good day with lots of interest being shown in H.F.H.S.

RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



The society undertakes a limited amount of investigation on behalf of members and others.

(contd.)

Local investigations involving the London Borough of Hillingdon and its nine ancient parishes will generally be restricted to the sources detailed in 'Family History in Hillingdon' published by the society (at present in the process of being updated and revised).

In addition we can extend searches using the London Metropolitan Archives and the National Archives at Kew and other London record offices.

We can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. as well as other countries worldwide.

The society charges members £5.00 per hour for pursuing such enquiries (£10.00 per hour for non-members), plus the cost of any expenses necessarily incurred such as copying, postage etc.

Those who want to make use of this service should be specific as to their requirements and should indicate clearly the upper limit of expenditure they are willing to incur. It must be appreciated that in some cases an investigation may not produce any results or may result in a negative answer, in these cases a charge will still have to be made.

Please contact the Membership Secretary or email the society, see back cover for contact information.

HELP LINE – BRICK WALLS DEMOLISHED?

In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance. If you have become “stuck” on some part of your family tree but believe that the answer may lie here in our corner of Middlesex, our local knowledge may be able to help.

Members may advertise at no cost, but a charge of £2 for each entry is made for non-members. Send your queries (with as much specific detail as possible please), together with payment, to the membership secretary:-

Mrs Patricia Reynolds,
20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton,
Middlesex UB7 8LR.

HELP WANTED

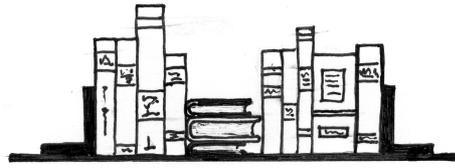
1) H85 Mr. E. A. Hazelgrove, 16 Purcells Court, George Lane,
Marlborough. SW8 4BS
Email: ernesthazelgrove88@btinternet.com

I'm researching George FOX born around 1883. I have his death as 18th June 1914 in Kensington, London. I need to find him on the 1891 and 1901 censuses, can anyone help, please? Thank you.

2) H82 Mrs. Juliet I Hutchings, 15 Linden Avenue, Prestbury,
Cheltenham. GL52 3DW
Email: jihutchings@hotmail.com

I'm looking for my 5xG Grandparents Ralph RATCLIFF and Margaret RATCLIFF who were buried in St. Peter and St. Paul, Harlington. I have found their headstone but I am unable to find their marriage.
Grateful for any help, thank you.

BOOK REVIEWS



A Shop Boy Remembers

Michael Pitson

Privately printed, 2010

No price given.

Mr. Pitson can be reached at:

1, Fairlands Court, Fairlands Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3NS.

These eight gentle pages are the reminiscences of Mike Pitson who became, at fifteen, an ironmonger's apprentice at Kirby's of Uxbridge in 1957. Some of our readers may remember the shop in the High Street and perhaps even Mike.

Kirby's was a shop with three departments; hardware, electrical and ironmongery. The ironmongery assistants like Mike wore long brown coats, whilst the coats of those in the other two 'clean departments' were white. What is so extraordinary about this is the realisation that ironmongers simply no longer exist and many will not even know what they were. They were the precursors of D.I.Y. shops and warehouses where absolutely anything in the way of iron, brass, zinc or copper required for repairs and maintenance could be obtained, as well as a range of useful liquid products which included paraffin, methylated spirits and creosote; hence the brown coats.

Their other great characteristic, as Mike emphasises, is that nothing was pre-packed and therefore nothing was wasted. You certainly never had to struggle to tear off the packaging, because everything was put in brown paper bags. If you asked for 6 brass counter-sunk screws, size 8, then that was what the shop assistant gave you, neither more nor less, with the cost calculated by him with astounding rapidity. This was of course, in the days of 240 pence to the pound and four farthings to the penny.

(contd.)

Ironmongers and their assistants required an astonishing and encyclopaedic memory of the vast stock they carried. People like Mike were never caught out by a request for a Citadel catch, a plough plane or a Portiere rod. Very often, a customer was required to visit the establishment's backyard where they kept their liquids and piles of different sized iron weights, for sash windows, or rolls of wire of every conceivable diameter.

Above all, perhaps, the most characteristic single feature of the shop interior were the hundreds of small wooden drawers that covered the entire wall behind the counter containing amongst other items all manner of screws, nails, nuts and bolts.

Ironmongers helped you. I remember my mother buying a secondhand Victorian wooden box for her needle-working equipment. It was a handsome object made of mahogany and brass and it was going cheap because there was no key. I was slightly astonished and perplexed, but not my mother. Off we went to the Ironmonger in High Street, Bideford, who promptly took down one of the drawers marked 'keys' and emptied a vast collection of different sized and often ancient keys on to the counter. Within a minute or two one was found that opened the box.

If we had hoped for a couple of gold sovereigns or a pile of letters bound with a pink ribbon we were disappointed but the ironmonger had not failed us. They never did.

Arthur Dark

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the death on 24th December 2010 of Mrs. Ethel Catherine TRETT (Cathy or Kitty to her friends). Cathy had been a member since 1989 and was a regular at our meetings, was always ready to have a chat and she also submitted articles for publication in the journal.

Cathy will be sadly missed and we send our condolences to her husband and her family.

Patricia Reynolds

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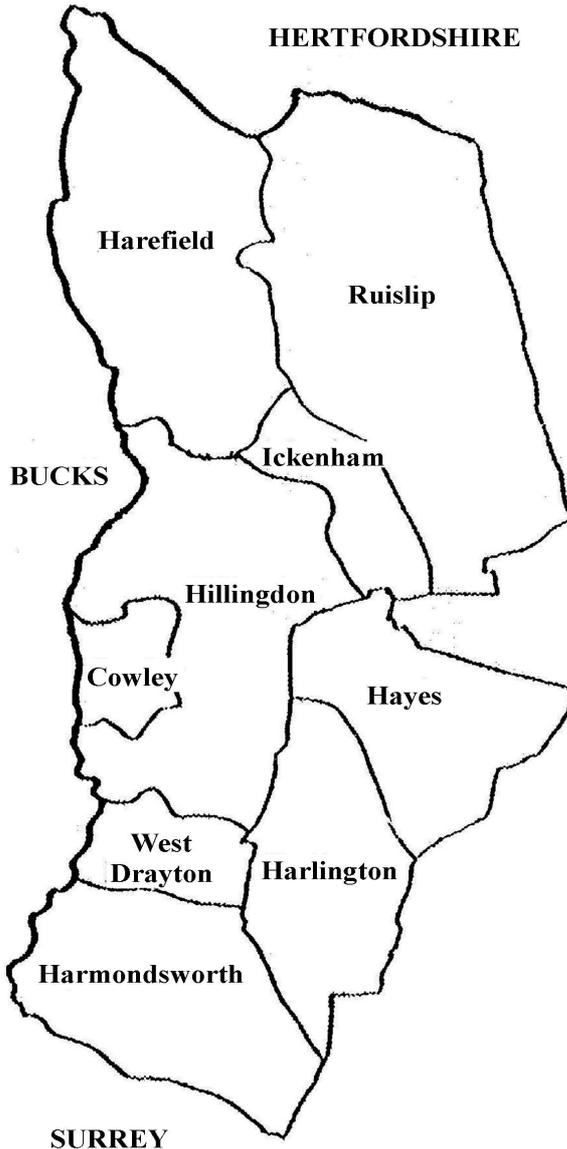
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Their original parish records and registers are now at:
London Metropolitan Archives
40 Northampton Road, London
EC1 OAB.

Hillingdon today embraces a mixture of ancient and modern, large & small Greater London suburbs, each with a distinctive identity. Heathrow Airport lies at its southern end.

Hillingdon suburbs:

Colham Green, Cowley, Eastcote, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, West Drayton, Yeading, Yiewsley