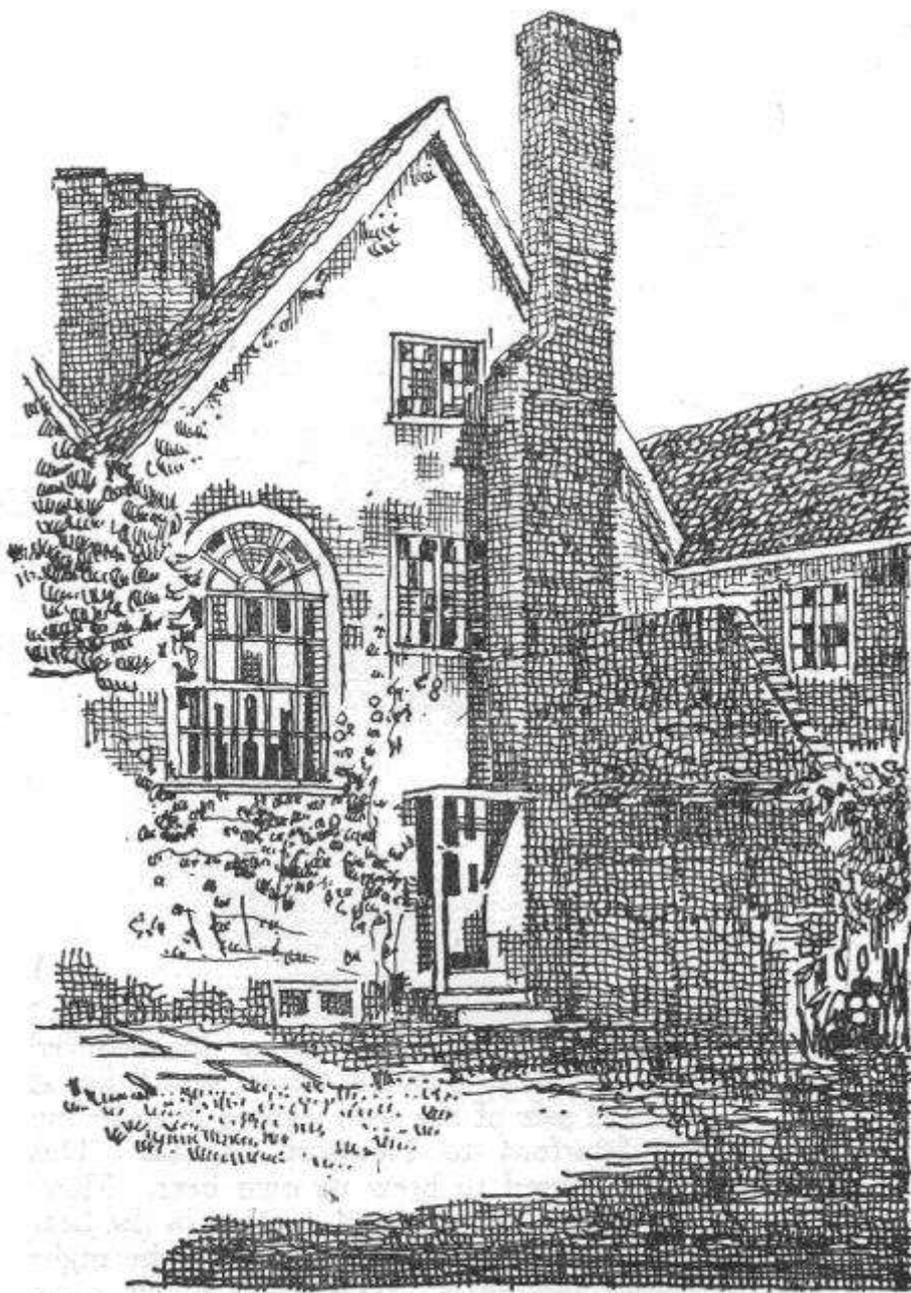


**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 21 No 1 March 2017



Harlington Manor House

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Founded 1977
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**BEDFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL**



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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Here is the garden door and staircase window of Harlington manor, a place which must ever hold an intense interest for all pilgrims in Bunyan's county; for in one of its panelled rooms Bunyan was brought before the squire-magistrate, Francis Wingate, who committed him to Bedford Goal for his unlawful preaching of the word of God. That room is much as it was when Bunyan

entered it to confront intolerant authority and answer it with invincible patience and courage. The house has a lesser claim to fame in the tradition that Charles Stuart slept in it.

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

EDITORIAL

Following publication of the short article about one-place studies in the December *Journal* I've been passed some further information. I gather there are two places where a one-name study can be registered:

- 1PlaceStudyRegister is managed by Martin White. It is free to list your study.
- The Society of One-Place Studies <http://one-place-studies.org/> costs to register all studies however a bit like the Guild of One-Name Studies, it has a committee, blog, a website with education and tips, forum, hang-outs and a conference. The chairman is Janet Few and the secretary is Kirsty Gray.

I owe a sincere apology to member Val Brown. It was nearly a year ago that Val submitted an article for the *Journal*. Unfortunately, for some reason it got overlooked and this only

recently came to light when she made an enquiry. The article, *The Accident*, can now be found on page 4.

The big event of the genealogy calendar, Who Do You Think You Are? Live, takes place once more at the NEC Birmingham, 6 – 8 April. If any members are planning to attend I'd be grateful for any feedback or notes about the event we can publish in the *Journal*.

Following his talk at the January meeting, Derek Niemann has kindly shared an article about his quest for truth regarding his 'Nazi in the Family'. A remarkable story and one well worth reading.

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

journal@bfhs.org.uk □

*Geoff Young
Journal Co-ordinator*

Bedfordshire has its own mailing list for genealogy in and around the area. To subscribe send an email to:
BEDFORD-L-request@rootsweb.com
with 'subscribe' in the BODY of the email



PROGRAMME

31 MAR 2017	HOW FAR DID YOUR ANCESTORS TRAVEL BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE RAILWAYS	CELIA HERITAGE
5 MAY 2017	THE HISTORY AND BELIEFS OF THE PANACEA SOCIETY	JEMMA PAPINEAU
9 JUN	AGM + QUIZ	
7 JUL	READING OLD HANDWRITING	IAN WALLER
8 SEP	AMPTHILL'S GREAT HOUSES	JOHN HELE
6 OCT	A MARCH THROUGH TIME – 800 YEARS OF PROTEST AND DEMOCRACY	DR NICK BARRATT

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2017/18

2017: 3 NOV, 1 DEC

2018: 12 JAN, 2 FEB, 2 MAR

MEETING VENUE

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

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

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



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

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

THE ACCIDENT

The following appeared in the Luton Times and advertiser on 22 July 1876

A sad and distressing accident occurred on Saturday last about a quarter to seven in the evening near The Park Road Lodge of Luton Hoo. It seems that James and John Crew, the former age 20 years and the later 25 years were swinging near their homestead on an old swing that had been attached to one of the trees in the Park for years, when one of the chains that held the swing snapped, and the fall produced almost fatal results. James Crew sustained such painful injuries that internal haemorrhage became apparent. John Crew was not so seriously injured as his fellow sufferer, but neither of them had recovered consciousness on Wednesday night last. Dr Haward of Luton was sent for and was promptly in attendance, but gave no hope of their recovery. At the time of going to press we are pleased to report that under the able skill of the doctor there has been considerable improvement and that the cases are not hopeless. The sufferers must have fallen from a considerable height and with great force.

A further article on 12 August reported

The late accident at the Park Lodge we hear that the young man Crew who met with so serious accident while swing with his elder brother on an old swing that was attached

to a tree has been in an unconscious state ever since the accident. The elder brother has completely recovered from the shock received

So did these young men recover and were they able to live active lives.

John and James were two off the six children born to George Crew who on 8 July 1848 had married Fanny Fensome at St Marys Church Luton. George worked on the Luton Hoo estate and so lived in one of the Hoo properties. I will start with the younger son James, who was more seriously injured.

The first entry I can find for him is that of his marriage on 7 Jan 1879 at St Marys Luton to Emma Hunt, Two years later when the 1881 census was taken, age 24 he was "a helper in the kitchen" of the Hoo and lived with Emma and a baby daughter Nellie born in 1880 in Blackwood cottage, which is noted as "out of the park". In subsequent census James was still working for the Hoo estate as a shepherd or a cowman and lived in their properties in East Hyde or West Hyde. In all James and Emma had 5 children and according to the 1911 census, all born living, by then they had celebrated 32 years of married life.

James died on March 6 1834 in Harpenden and on the 10th he was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard East Hyde age 77 years, Emma had died on 7 Feb 1930 and shares the memorial in the graveyard, along



*Winifred Ethel Crick
in mourning for her Mother*

with one of their sons John who died of wounds on 17 May 1915.

In all James had a long and happy life in spite of his life threatening accident in 1876.

I now turn to the elder brother John born on 4 January 1852. John was still with his parents when the 1881 census was taken, he is described as a labourer in a foundry. On 10 March 1883 John married Amelia Smith Fisher at "The Ceylon Chapel" (Baptist) Luton when he described himself as an Engineer. Sadly Amelia died on 6 Feb 1892, at the time of her death they were living at



*John Crew in the garden of
36 Bishopscoe Road Luton*

9 Lea Road Luton. There were no children of this marriage. By the time of the next census in 1901, John had remarried. The marriage took place at All Saints Church St Pancras on June 2 1896, his bride was Martha Bailey, the widow of Charles Bedford Bailey, who had died in 1891, her maiden name was Andrews, she had also been born in Luton. In 1911 they had been married 15 years, with no children and had moved to 7 Lea Road Luton. John describes himself as a foundry machine hand, and gives his place of work as Hayward Tyler Luton. After 31 years of marriage Martha died on

26 December 1927 age 74. After his wife's death John moved in with his nephew Horace Crick a son of his sister Mary Ann at 36 Bishopscote Road Luton, this is where he is still residing when the 1939 registration took place. John died at his nephews' home on 18 November 1940, so he also had a long life.

What is my interest in this family? The only girl in the family of George and Fanny Crew was Mary Ann. born on the 27 March 1854 in Lea Road Luton, age 21 she married George Crick at St Marys Church Luton, they had 7 children born between 1876 and 1898, the

youngest, a daughter Winifred Ethel born on 5 November 1894 at 5 Peach Street Luton was my mother. Again sadly on 14 July 1898 Mary Ann died of breast cancer. After her death, my mother lived for a time with her Uncle John and his wife Martha (known to the family as Aunt Pattie). Mum never spoke of this serious accident, if indeed she knew all about it, so I am eternally grateful to the digitised newspaper archives as it has enabled me to as it is said "put flesh on the bones" of these names that appear on my family tree. □

Valerie Brown

BOTSFORD - AN AMERICAN FAMILY FROM BEDFORDSHIRE *Part One*

Throughout history people have travelled across the globe seeking better hunting, more arable land, to avoid conflict, to conquer, for religious freedom, and simply for a better life. Many stay where they go but others are motivated to leave when conditions become unbearable. From 1629 to 1640, during the reign of Charles I, an estimated 80,000 people left England seeking a better life in the Netherlands, Ireland, the Rhineland, the West Indies, and North America, as my progenitor Henry Botsford did. While these 17th century departures are significant we also know that former Bedfordshire residents travelled to other British Colonies - Australia, New Zealand etc. as well. Who are these people? Where have they gone? What did

they do? And, how have they fared? I thought it may be of interest to others about what happened since Henry Botsford left Bedfordshire in 1636. My writing serves another purpose as well - to record for my children and grandchildren, the stories my father told me about my grandfather who died before my birth.

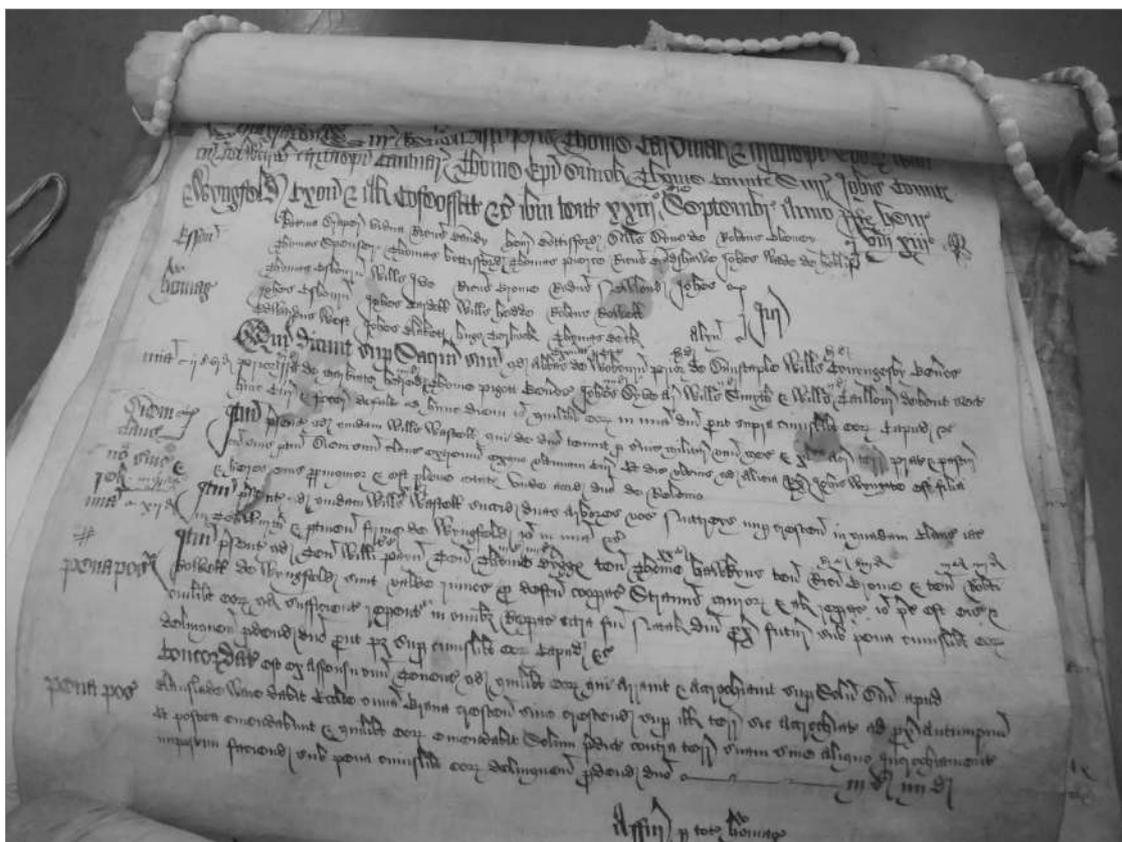
From 2006 to 2012 I researched the male side of my family history assisted by Mary Wooldridge, researcher for the *Bedfordshire Family History Society*. My efforts concentrated on identifying male Botsfords back to an ultimate origin point if possible. Results of research by Mary and myself generated enough information to allow me to write a book, *Journey to Chalgrave*, that details our findings, published

in 2012.

Analysis of my Botsford Y DNA disclosed the ultimate origin back to the first Homo sapiens departure from Africa, some hundred thousand years ago. The genetic evidence reveals a route out of Africa, up through the Middle East, past the Black Sea, and continuing north to northern Europe/Scandinavia. The subclade I1a, of Haplogroup I, to which Botsford DNA belongs, includes a mix of Saxon/Dane genes that identify us as invaders of the British Isles, perhaps as early as the fifth century.

The earliest datum found records one John Bottesford as a tenant of Wynefeld (Wingfield) paying rent on five acres of land in 1376. Ten years

later John Buttesford is named as a free tenant holding five acres of land. I believe this is the same individual and Wynefeld is one of two settlements (the other is Tebworth) that are part of Chalgrave Manor. The first entry dated 1376 is twenty five years after surnames became established, so prior to this John would have been known as John de (of) Bottesford or simply a John from a village named Bottesford. Researching back to one of the villages named Bottisford and how our Saxon/Dane ancestors came to be there must now pass from genealogical research into the realm of archaeological investigation to expand, in a general fashion, how Botsford ancestors lived.



Chalgrave Manor Court Roll dated 1521. Tomas Bottisford and his son Henry are listed. Photo credit Mary Wooldridge.

So, moving from the record of John Buttesford forward in time one hundred and twenty one years we Botsfords are fortunate to have Chalgrave Manor Court Rolls preserved describing the actions of Thomas Bottisford my Great Grandfather x 11. Thomas Bottisford was a successful yeoman farmer on Chalgrave Manor, of modest means, yet prosperous enough to have acquired two plots of land (one in Wingfield and one in Tebworth) by the time of his death in 1525. Thomas's son John (b. 1514), grandson Richard (b. 1545) and great grandson Edward (b. 1579) continued to prosper and work the lands of Chalgrave Manor. Edward's son Henry Botsford (b. 1608), is the individual responsible for the North American Botsfords. Henry's name was changed in spelling from Bottisford, to the current spelling, by a vicar of All Saints Church on Chalgrave Manor.

Little is known about Henry Botsford in Bedfordshire. We know he was born in 1608 on Chalgrave Manor but baptized in Sundon. Henry was the second child born after brother Edward (b. 1607), followed by another brother Richard (b. 1612), sisters Alice (b. 1618), Joan (b. 1620), and a last brother Daniel (b. 1630). Henry being the second in line may explain why he did not inherit his father's holdings on Chalgrave Manor. The next record of Henry is from Eggington where in the years 1637 and 1638 we find him remiss in paying his Ships Money Taxes to

Charles I.

During this time, a non-conformist minister named Peter Prudden from King's Walden Hertfordshire, was actively assembling converts. His intent was to assemble a group of parishioners and depart England for the American Colonies where they could pursue their beliefs unmolested. Our Henry joined this group, although I believe more for economic opportunity than religious freedom, as he did not join the church for several years after arriving in America. Also, it is believed that Henry married at this time one Elizabeth Woolhead.

In 1639 the Prudden Company was in the New Haven Colony of Connecticut and with earlier arrivees tried to decide on a form of government. Peter Prudden, it seems, had a more liberal minded idea of governance as opposed to another minister John Davenport's concept of absolute church domination and control. Prudden assembled his like-minded followers and travelled eight or so miles to the west to establish their own community. The location selected was beside a natural harbour on the coast of Long Island Sound occupied by the Wepawaug band of indigenous people. For the trade of six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives, and a dozen small mirrors, the colonists believed that the natives relinquished their land. I suspect the Wepawaugs believed they were granting usufruct rights to the area, not selling the land, as

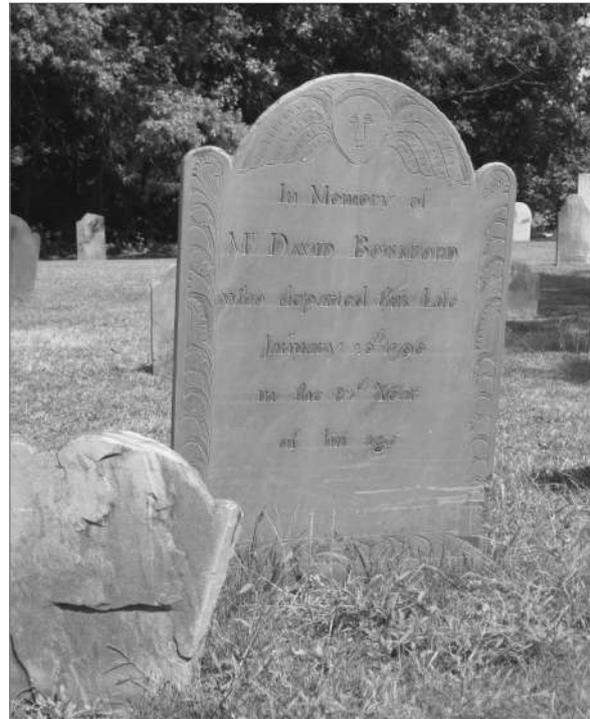
native peoples have no concept of individual ownership of their environment. The Prudden company thought otherwise and established a palisaded village first calling it Wepawaug but changing the name to Milford in 1640. The settlement was laid out in an orderly fashion similar to their former homeland with roads and common areas. Individual plots of land bordered two main roads, with Henry Botsford assigned a parcel of two acres and two roods. A portion of this original parcel remains in ownership of the Botsford Family Association to this day.

Henry and Elizabeth prospered and at his death in 1686 bequeathed to his one son, five daughters, grandchildren and son in laws, considerable amounts of money, material goods, livestock and property. Elnathan, his son, received the home in Milford and the various parcels of land in Milford and surrounding areas.

Elnathan married Hannah Baldwin in 1667 and secured the Botsford clan's future with their twelve children, five being male. Progeny of these children continued to prosper amassing livestock and lands in Connecticut and expanding their horizons to settle in New York and New Jersey.

Botsford descendants followed the westward expansion of the American Frontier and now can be found all across the United States with some in Canada (Loyalist minded descendants?)

Botsford men have served in all wars



View of the colonial area of Milford Cemetery with the headstone of David Botsford (my great grandfather x 4), a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Photo credit the author.

and conflicts of the colonies and subsequent United States. A source of pride is expressed by families to claim ancestors that served in World War II, World War I, The Spanish American War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Fewer families can claim an ancestor who fought in the Revolution of the 1770s as we Botsford's can. And how many American families have an ancestor as we Botsford's do with Henry, the first American Botsford, who served as a Corporal with the colonial force fighting the Dutch in 1654 for control of lands called New Amsterdam (New York). I served during the Vietnam War in the U. S. Navy. □

Manton L. Botsford

PARISH REGISTERS SYNOPSIS

Parish registers record baptism, banns, marriage and burial – remember the difference compared to Civil Registration.

Your entry into Parish registers can be from the ‘place of birth’ column in the census.

Look for an index, this will save a lot of time. However indexes (particularly online) are far from comprehensive and can be highly inaccurate. So be careful, Parish records contain less information than certificates and you can't always be clear you have found the right person. Use other resources to confirm links between generations; wills or monumental inscriptions

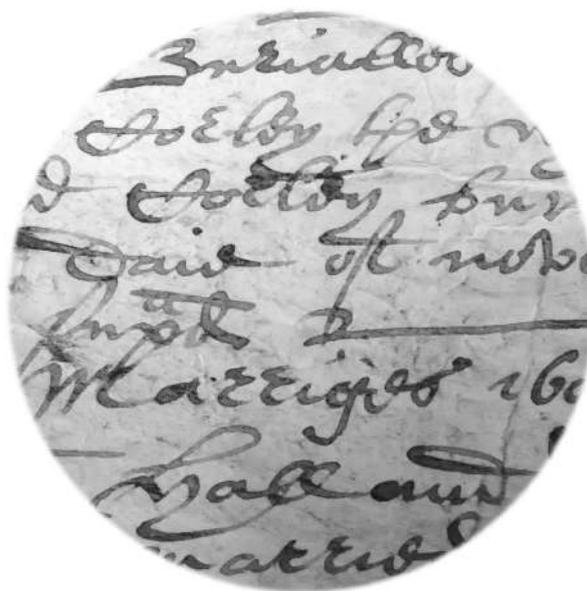
A brief history

Church and religion was the focus of many peoples lives for centuries (political, social and spiritual activities).

In 1534 Henry VIII faced the threat of Papal excommunication for divorcing first wife Catherine of Aragon and marrying Anne Boleyn. So he passed the Supremacy Act and named himself as the head of the Church of England. This led to the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536.

The requirement to keep parish registers came from Thomas Cromwell, Vicar General to Henry VIII. The first records were kept in 1538; however many of earliest have not survived.

In 1597 they are ordered to be



recorded in parchment books and previous records from 1538 were to be copied into these same books. As the order included, especially since the beginning of the then current monarch's reign (Elizabeth I), many parishes copied records from 1558 onwards.

In 1653 marriages were removed from the clergy (under Oliver Cromwell) and a civil ceremony conducted under justices of the peace.

The monarchy was restored in 1660 under Charles II.

In 1752 the calendar changed and the year begins 1 January not 25 March as in previous centuries. So the 18 March 1751 would fall in 1752 in modern times (record as 18 Mar 1751/52).

Remember until 1753 Latin was the official language of the church, so registers may be in Latin¹.

In 1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act

stipulated all marriages had to be in Church of England (except Jews and Quakers). Register books were pre printed for marriages, and separated from baptism and burial (also banns were to be recorded).

George Rose's Act of 1813 introduced pre printed forms for baptisms and burials. During the 1820's – 1830's with a growing population the church reformed; new dioceses, parishes and churches were established.

Finally in 1979 parishes asked to store registers at county record office, however some remain with churches or church archives.

Finding Parish Records

Parish registers can be located with the Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers. Other indexes to Parish Registers have been compiled by FHSs.

Online records for the East of England include the following websites:

- Essex ancestors
(seax.essexcc.gov.uk)

- OPC (essex-opc.org.uk)
- familysearch.org
- findmypast.org.uk
- freereg
- thegenealogist.co.uk
- norfolkfhs.ourarchives.info
- sog.org.uk

To view an outline of my slides presented with the talk please use this link:

www.slideshare.net/RobertParker6/talk-parish-registers

1. Book: A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians, J Morris, FFHS 2009. ISBN: 9781906280185

Robert Parker is a Genealogist and Trainer, based in Cambridgeshire. He delivers courses, guidance (coaching), talks, and research services for those interested in tracing their ancestors. See www.myfamilygenealogy.co.uk for further details. Contact Robert to discuss your requirements without obligation.

What stories could your ancestors tell? Happy Hunting!

Robert Parker

LOOKING FOR A PAST COPY OF THE JOURNAL ?

Member Victor Manton has a set of incomplete (4 numbers missing) Journals going back to Volume 2 (1979) which he is no longer able to keep. He'd like them to go to a good home (*Ed. obviously*) so if you are looking to complete your collection or you know someone who would be interested then please contact Victor: pilobilus@tiscali.co.uk

MEMBERS' PROFILES (ABRIDGED)

*Mrs Avril Forkings (4253) avrilforkings@btinternet.com
17 Headington Road, Upton, Wirral CH49 4GG*

BONE: Flitton BDF 18C, Edlesborough BKM 17C, Maulden BDF 18C

GOSS: Maulden BDF 18C

SEABROOK: Flitton BDF 18C, Southill BDF L16-18C, Edlesborough BKM 17C

A FREEMAN'S OATH

When Thomas Craft, bellman and crier of Bedford was admitted as a Freeman of the Borough, he had to take a truly portentous oath before the Court of Aldermen. It started with calling upon him to bear true faith to the King, and to *"forsake and eschew the unlawful Jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome"*. The declaration proceeded in stately language, thus:

"All Traitors, Rebels, Commotions, the King's Majesty's Enemies, and their Adherents, to the utmost of your power you shall resist, detect, and disclose to the Mayor of this Borough for the time being, and to the Justices of the Peace within the same Borough, and in their absence to the King's other Officers there; and to apprehend and attack all Offenders, to bring them to Justice for the reformation of such their Misdemeanours, you shall do best you can by your wisdom, force and discretion."

After commanding obedience to the Mayor, Justices and other Primates, and assistance to the Bailiffs and Liberties, the document concluded by exhortation that *"You shall use yourself, both in words and deeds during your life as a true Freeman of Bedford ought to do."*

The Town Crier

Thomas Craft was the great-grandfather of Rose Maud Beauchamp (née Craft) of 161 Tavistock Street, Bedford, and she used to have a portrait of him in his blue coat with silver buttons and tails

and a tall hat and other regalia of the bellman. In the Bedford Directory of 1847 he was still town crier and living in Newnham Street. One would scarcely imagine that the emoluments of his office would not have been sufficient to keep him in the comfort to which an official and freeman would be entitled, so possibly he filled in his time with other small municipal jobs. For instance, he was paid 7s 6d per day for attendance at the Borough Quarter Sessions, together with his dinner at the Swan, and a pint of wine. Then the court made him the same allowance as the Beadle, 30s a year. This was after the "purging" of the old Corporations, when many of the old duties were dispensed with, such as those discharged for centuries by the Field Drivers, the Bucket Keepers, the Ale Tasters, the Fish and Flesh Searchers and the Wood and Chimney Searchers – the ancestors of the modern sanitary and fire services.

Above article taken from: *"The Beds Times"* 22 April 1949

Thomas Craft was my 3x great grandfather. 13 March 1809 he was sworn and enrolled in the Bedfordshire first battalion of local Militia. On 6 February 1810 at St. Cuthberts Church, Bedford, he married Elizabeth Smith. They had one child, Clara, born 1811, but sadly Elizabeth died leaving Thomas with a baby under a year old. Elizabeth's mother, also Elizabeth, took on Clara

and cared for her. Thomas was required by the Mayor, Grant David Yeats, to pay his mother-in law the sum of 2/- a week to help care for Clara. Then in 1812 Thomas married his sister--n--law Ann Willmar (Smith) a widow. Ann took on Clara as her own and they went on to have seven more children: the first, Felix born 1816, died less than a year later. Then Felix no. 2 born 1818, Caleb 1820, Tamah 1823, Jabez 1825, Kezia 1827 and Cozbi 1833. The various occupations of Thomas on his children's baptisms were: Cordwainer (1816), Bedford Militia (1818), shoemaker (1821), and gardener (1823).

Thomas became Town Crier of Bedford on the 14 October 1833. On the 14 January 1836 he joined Bedford Borough Police and was appointed Constable. He earned 10s 6d rising to 11/- per week for night duties. Then 14 August 1837 his pay went up to 14/- for extra duties performed on Sunday evenings; but on 8 March 1842 he changed from night constable to day constable at 7/- a week in place of William

Covington. 8 August 1842 he was examined by William Covington and warned to be more vigilant in his duties. 27 August he was suspended for a week as a result. The date of leaving the Force is unknown.

In December 1848 he was elected to a vacancy in the Alms Houses in Dame Alice Street. He died 13th November 1850 of Ileus (bowel obstruction) and is buried in St. Cuthbert's churchyard. The memorial inscription reads:

Sacred
To the memory of
THOMAS CRAFT,

Who departed this life November
13th 1850

Aged 68 years.

*"I sought the Lord and He heard me
and delivered me from all my fears"*

I'm trying to find out where and when was Thomas Craft born? On the 1841 census it just says Bedfordshire, estimated birth year: abt. 1781. □

Jane Smith.

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

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

DIANA CAMBERS BAPTISED ON 13 AUGUST 1797 AT COPLE

Thomas CAMBERS who was baptised on 14 July 1751 at Cardington was my 5xgreat grandfather, I call him Thomas III to distinguish him from Thomases I, II and IV. I became interested in him because his daughter Ann, baptised 27 July 1788 at Cople, married my ancestor Abraham BURR on 15 May 1809 at Cople. In spite of much work by a lot of people over many years, no-one has yet found the origins of Abraham Burr, so I thought that if I investigated Ann and Abraham's children, and Ann's Cambers family members and their whereabouts, it might hopefully throw some light on Abraham's past.

At Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (Record Office) one day some years ago, I overheard a lady who was asking about Thomas and Mary Cambers of Cople, the parents of Diana (sometimes called Dinah) Cambers who married Samuel KNIGHT at Cople on 8 August 1817. I told her that I knew the family, I thought it was going to be straightforward to help her, but further examination showed that her ancestor Diana Cambers baptised 13 August 1797 at Cople, as the daughter of Thomas and Mary Cambers, did not appear to fit into my family groups.

"My" Thomas III appears in the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society's Vol 52 "The Inhabitants of Cardington in 1782" by David Baker. He is living at Farm 52 where his

father (Thomas Cambers II) is the occupier, Thomas III is given as married by licence on 8 May 1779 at Cople to Mary BYWORTH and they have with them their children Mary baptised 17 September 1780 and Thomas (Thomas IV) baptised 2 October 1782, both baptisms at Cardington.

Thomas III's wife Mary née Byworth was buried on 13 October 1785 at Cople and Thomas III then married Sarah THOMPSON by licence at Cardington on 17 November 1785. It looks as if they moved to Cople where five children were baptised:

Mary, 3 December 1786 buried three months later;
Ann, *my ancestor*, 27 July 1788;
Sarah, 15 August 1790;
Rebecca, 9 June 1793 buried eight months later;
Esther, 21 June 1795.

In addition to Diana Cambers, daughter of Thomas and Mary, there are two more Cople baptisms and a burial said to be of children born to Thomas and Mary Cambers:

Diana, 13 August 1797;
Jeremiah, 15 September 1799 buried seven months later;
Abraham, 23 August 1801.

So who could the parents of these children be? They were not children of Thomas Cambers III and his first wife Mary née Byworth who were baptised later in life, because later records show them to be infant baptisms. Was it possible that

Thomas III's second wife Sarah had died after giving birth to Esther and that he had then married a Mary in between 1795 and 1797? In fact Thomas III and his wife Sarah show up on the 1841 census as living together in Cockayne Hatley and they were buried at Cople within weeks of each other in 1845, he on 6 March aged 96 years and she on 27 March aged 91 years, both "of Potton". There was once a memorial to them in Cople churchyard:

"Long wooden board on tressels; In memory of THOMAS CAMBERS who died March 14 1845 aged 97 years/also SARAH wife of THOMAS CAMBERS who died March 21 1845 aged 91 years". Other side; "In memory of ESTHER CAMBERS who died January 24 1868 aged 76 years *Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Psalm 37,v3.*"

Was there another Thomas Cambers who would fit the bill as the father?

Thomas III's father Thomas II is shown in the BHRS book living at Cardington in 1782, by which time he was a widower aged 68. He appears to have been baptised in Ravensden on 23 October 1713, his marital history is somewhat uncertain and he may have been married before, but it is likely that he married Mary DRAPER on 29 January 1750 at St Peter's in Bedford. They had eleven children baptised in Cardington starting with my ancestor Thomas (III) baptised 14 July 1751 and the last one being Samuel in

1775, mother Mary was buried in Cardington on 18 August 1775. She was most likely baptised on 8 July 1733 at Cardington which fits with a marriage in 1750 and would make her age 42 at death. There were banns for a Thomas Cambers to marry Mary SUMMERFIELD on 5 October 1777 but there is no evidence that a marriage took place, and he is shown as a widower in the 1782 survey. He would have been 84 when Diana was baptised in 1797. It looks as if he moved to Cople in his old age as he was buried in Cardington "brought from Cople" on 18 December 1801. But being so old and with no signs of a marriage he looks an unlikely bet!

The only other candidate would be Thomas IV (not one of my ancestors), son of Thomas III and his first wife Mary Byworth, he also appears in the BHRS volume. He was baptised on 20 October 1782, born 9 October 1782, so would have been aged almost 15 when Diana was baptised. He married Elizabeth JAMES on 30 September 1803 at Cople. Being so young, and with no signs of a marriage, he looks like another unlikely bet.

There are other facts that suggest Diana and her two siblings were children of Thomas III and Sarah née Thompson, in spite of the parish records stating that their mother was "Mary". During her marriage Sarah had a child roughly every two years from 1785 up to 1795 (see above), and these three would carry on that pattern.

On the 1841 census Thomas and Sarah Cambers were in Cockayne Hatley in east Bedfordshire, when Thomas aged 90 and Sarah aged 88 were living with Esther aged 45 and Abraham aged 40. After Thomas and Sarah died in 1845, the 1851 census of Deep Dale in Potton shows Abraham aged 50, gardener, is living with his sister Esther aged 60, housekeeper. In 1861 they are over the county border in Steeple Morden as brother and sister, and in 1871 Esther has died (buried at Cople on 24 January 1868 aged 75 “of Steeple Morden”) and Abraham is still in Steeple-Morden. He was buried in Cople on 21 November 1871 aged 74 “of Steeple Morden”. If the three children were not born to Thomas III and Sarah, then for Esther and Abraham to have considered themselves sister and brother, they would presumably have grown up together.

Samuel Knight was baptised at Cople on 28 September 1800, son of Richard and Ann Knight. Samuel and Diana’s first four children after their marriage in 1817 were Richard 1818, Thomas 1820, Sarah 1822 and Anne 1825 (after that came Samuel 1828, William 1837, George 1839) and these four names correspond to the names of Samuel’s parents and Diana’s parents (assuming that Diana’s mother was Sarah), and they did not have a Mary. Was this just a coincidence?

But how could such a mistake as getting the mother’s name wrong have happened? I went to the Record

Office and looked at the Cople parish records on microfilm for the period between the baptism of Esther (mother Sarah) in 1795 and the baptism of Diana (mother Mary) in 1797. Already looking at the baptism and burial register (combined at this period) I could see that although the handwriting of the entries for this period looked similar, examination of the “B” and “d” of various entries “Baptised” and “Buried” showed that the entries were by different hands. I then looked at the marriages which were in a separate book in a different format since 1754. The name of the person performing most of the marriages from October 1779 up until October 1795 was R WILLAN, curate. There then follows a period with a number of different names, until October 1797 when R CUMMINGS, curate, becomes the regular name. The baptism/burial register and the marriage register do seem to show that there were changes of clergy personnel during that period.

Because Thomas III married Sarah Thompson at Cardington by licence, there is no record of their marriage in the Cople marriage or banns registers, so if someone unsure of local family names had been looking back in the Cople marriages register to confirm a mother's name he would only have found the marriage of Thomas III to Mary Byworth. And once “Mary” had been used on one baptism, it could simply have been carried through on the subsequent ones, and the burial.

It's impossible to say what did happen. I have however now satisfied myself that the three children Diana, Jeremiah and Abraham were not children of

Thomas and Mary Cambers but were in fact born to Thomas and Sarah Cambers and that the Cople baptism/burial register is not correct. □

Maureen Hall

MEMBERS

DON'T MISS OUT!

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

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

Why not come along?

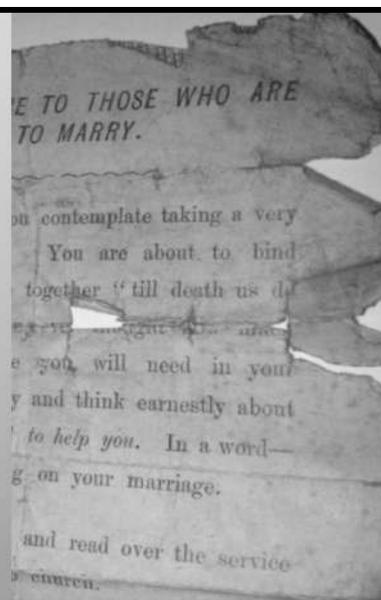


Vicki Manners

BA (Hons), BSc (Hons)

*For the repair and preservation of
family history documents*

Tel: 07976 718624



BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH RECORDS ON CD

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

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

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

Each CD contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 (images)

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

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

all Marriages up to 1837; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire (images)

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

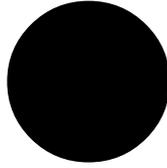
Those marked * contain *records from the registers or graveyards of*

Non-Conformist chapels in the parish;

photographs and other records are included as available.

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

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



DOES YOUR JOURNAL HAVE A BLACK SPOT ON THE FRONT?

If there is a Black Spot on your Journal front cover you need to read this.

The Society year runs from January to December and subscriptions are collected at the beginning of each New Year.

The black spot on the front cover tells you that, to date, we do not appear to have received your subscription for 2017 and so this will be your last Journal.

If you do wish to continue to be a member and receive the journal then please renew your subscription immediately. Details of subscription rates and forms for renewal, to be sent to the Membership Secretary via the PO Box, were included in the centre of the December journal. Alternatively you can renew on the internet at www.genfair.com (overseas members only) or at www.parishchest.com (all members) for a small additional charge.

Your membership entitles you to four quarterly journals, which contain articles to help you with your research into your ancestors from both inside and outside Bedfordshire, as well as up-to-date information about what is going on in the Society and in the world of family history. Information on the latest research aids available to members is included in the Journal, on our website and in the Members' Handbook (available to existing members from the Bookstall). Membership also gives local members free entry to our monthly meetings with talks, library and bookstall.

**David Townend
(Membership Secretary)
membership@bfhs.org.uk**

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Nominations for Executive Committee Members

Nomination for the post of:

Committee Member

Name of Nominee

Name of Proposer

Signature of Proposer

Membership Number

Name of Seconder

Signature of Seconder

Membership Number

Signature of Nominee

Membership Number

The Committee would welcome nominations for the Secretary and the Executive Committee, which must be made in writing by 25 May 2017, signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, and sent to the Secretary, PO Box 214, Bedford, MK42 9RX.

NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Friday 9 June 2017 at Mark Rutherford School, Bedford at 7.45 pm.

Under clause 7 (d) (iv) of the constitution, any member wishing to move a resolution at the meeting must give signed notice in writing, stating its terms, sent to The Secretary, PO Box 214, Bedford, MK42 9RX by 11 May 2017.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Constitution

The relevant section of the Constitution approved at the EGM on 7 February 2003 relating to election of Executive Committee members reads as follows:

Clause 5

(d) All Officers, that is Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, will be elected by a simple majority at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years and will then be eligible for re-election. Any person elected to fill a casual vacancy will be deemed to have been elected for the remaining period of the original term only.

(e) Ordinary Committee Members shall be elected by a simple majority at the Annual General Meeting for a period of one year when they will be eligible for re-election.

• **Officers**

Chairman – Geoff Sewell:	elected 5 June 2015, has served two years of the three-year period.
Treasurer – Peter Sharp:	elected 5 June 2015, has served two years of the three-year period.
Secretary – Lynn Manning	elected 10 June 2016, has served one year of the two-year period remaining after the previous Secretary's resignation.

• **Executive Committee**

Members of the Executive Committee willing to be nominated and eligible for re-election are: Noel Evans, Val Thomas, Paul Woodcraft, Mary Wooldridge.

A nominations form is attached. If you require further copies please use photocopies or contact the Secretary.

AREAS WHERE WE NEED HELP IMMEDIATELY

Executive Committee

We currently have vacancies on the Executive Committee. It is considered a necessity for nominees to have email. You will need to attend a committee meeting held on the third Friday of every month. Please come along, under no commitment, and see how the Committee works.

Membership Secretary

We urgently require a Membership Secretary as the current holder of the position is moving out of the area. This position needs to be filled urgently, to enable a smooth handover of duties, the sooner the better. You will be handling new memberships, keeping the membership database up to date and sending out membership renewals. This job is particularly busy in the months of January, February and March when the membership is due for renewal.

Programme Secretary

We need someone who can book the Speakers for members' meetings at least four months to a year in advance of the meetings. Good communication skills are needed and also a knowledge of Microsoft Word to supply the speakers with a contract for the talk they will give. A speakers list is available.

M.I. Publications Officer

We need an M.I. Co-ordinator who can compile the information collected from the Churchyards into a prepared Access database. A good knowledge of Microsoft Office is needed for this. This information will then be forwarded to the CD Co-ordinator for adding to the Parish Register CDs.

M.I. Co-ordinator

An M.I. Co-ordinator is required, someone who can organise and lead a small team of people to go out and collect information from Graveyards. This is usually a day's activity which includes a lunch break in the local pub, making it a good day out.

In all cases Microsoft Office will be provided if required.

If you have any queries regarding any of these, or wish to offer help, please contact Chairman Geoff Sewell or myself. You can write using our PO Box address or send an email to **chairman@bfhs.org.uk** or **secretary@bfhs.org.uk** or alternatively you can talk to us at meetings.

Lynn Manning
Secretary

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

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

Some baptism indexes only cover the period 1813-1851, but as more stocks are needed, they will be updated to include the full period from the start of registers. This also applies to the issue of new MI listings. Any revised CDs will be indicated by the **issue number**. Complete details of the content of each CD may be found on the Society website: www.bfhs.org.uk □

A NAZI IN THE FAMILY

Following his talk at the January meeting – Derek Niemann on a quest for truth that led him to the very heart of the Holocaust.

One spring evening five years ago, the German grandfather who died before I was born came unbidden into my house. Google was the genie which summoned him, though I had not typed in his name; indeed, I had half-forgotten it. I was researching a small street in Berlin where I recently learned my father had lived as a child through the war. The only connection that the internet found for ‘Dienstweg’ was stark and uncompromising: SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Niemann, crimes against humanity, use of slave labour.

That night, I reeled back in my chair. A grandfather who was a Nazi? That I knew. But an SS officer charged with unspeakable crimes? That was something different. The writer in me wanted to find out more, to understand how the man I had been told was a simple pen-pusher had been involved in one of the worst atrocities of the twentieth century. Where did he fit in, where did the family fit in, and where did I fit in? They are the questions that anyone researching family history wants to have answered, but there was the extra risk here in knowing that the answers might be profoundly disturbing.

In retrospect, I could see that the foundations and first sprinkling of

evidence had been set out two years before, when my aunt died and – so it appeared – my father considered himself released from a vow of silence. His sister had come to Scotland after the war, the bride of a Scottish soldier belonging to the army of occupation. In 1956, my dad followed her to Scotland to build a life there for himself too.

The siblings never spoke German together and, crucially, they skated around details of the Nazi period. Once, my dad said: “*I was at Dachau. No, not as an inmate – I was one of the bad Germans. I used to tell people I was in Munich, but no, I was at Dachau.*” My cousin told me much later that her mother had told her the exact same story. Somehow, the two siblings, perhaps guilty of nothing more than shame, had created a Scottish smokescreen.

Hitherto, I had been given snatches from a select period in time – my dad’s teenage years in the pied piper town of Hamelin, and recycled vignettes of his own father’s life as an Iron Cross recipient in the Great War and an interned prisoner of war in France. And everyone was open about Karl Niemann’s last years, his sad descent into dementia, an old man sitting mute in a corner of the room, with a walking stick propped up by his chair.

Now, with the restraining influence of his sister gone, my father was explicit about his early childhood, but curiously it was all from his

perspective as a child, his early memories framed intact, before he too sank into dementia. I learned that he had lived through the war in Berlin, that he had seen Allied planes shot from the skies, that he had dived into a bomb shelter in the garden during air raids. Concentration camp inmates had come to the house –

electricians, plumbers and labourers who dug the shelter. His mother had fed them, all against orders. But I assumed that the men from Sachsenhausen were free labour for the people of Berlin; I didn't know then that they were reserved for the SS elite. His father, he said, had been a secretive man, always off on



Stormtrooper parade through Dortmund, early 1930s



Arrival of senior SS officer at Dachau concentration camp, winter 1935/6



Karl Niemann gardening in his SS uniform, summer 1944



Karl Niemann in old age, Hamein, 1959

‘business trips’ or preparing to go on another as soon as he returned home, and a Nazi who had believed in Hitler.

The family had escaped from Berlin before the Russians arrived, and they had stopped off at Dachau concentration camp on their way to the Alps. In vivid detail, he recounted how he had seen American soldiers in a jeep come to their chalet in the mountains and take his father away ‘for denazification’. At that time, I was surprised at just how much effort had gone into capturing someone who I understood was a committed Nazi, but who had nothing else on his conscience.

My Google discovery of something that was evidently far more sinister prompted two years of intensive

research, involving three trips to Germany, numerous exchanges with concentration camp archivists and military historians, and conversations with Holocaust specialists in Britain, Germany, Israel and the USA. And members of the family, many previously not keen on me writing the book, were now committed to having the story told. They were frank about disclosing what little they knew.

It was clear from quite early on that this tale could be likened to a chessboard. The family could provide the clear white squares. My dad and uncle, who had witnessed a great deal as uncomprehending children, nevertheless only had a relationship with their distant father at home. The harder part of this work

was going into the black, those near-impenetrable dark squares where Karl Niemann's secret working life in offices and concentration camps would prove harder to follow, never mind understand.

When I came back from Berlin, I knew I wanted to turn this story into a book and lay bare the unfolding of a mystery. I had gone to Holocaust archives and found a bound volume that listed my grandfather's inglorious career in terms of appointments and promotions. He was one of thousands proudly recorded as supporters of Hitler. Karl Niemann had been a relatively early adherent of Nazism, joining the party in late 1930 or at the beginning of 1931, a full two years before they came to power. The document recorded his entry to the SS in 1935 and the climb up a ladder that ended with him attaining the quasi-military rank of captain: *Hauptsturmführer*.

He also featured in footnotes of books about the history of the SS. It transpired that Karl had been a business manager for the SS and his so-called 'business trips' were in reality visits to concentration camps to inspect work carried out by inmates. When I went to Dachau the following spring, the archivists impressed upon me that during these trips he could not have helped but notice the emaciated bodies, the brutality, torture, and murder, and been well aware of what was taking place in the camps. They even pointed out that in the years between 1936-8, when I learned he had



Anne and the family maid on the newly-built air raid 1930s

supervised slave labour in Dachau itself, he would have socialised with some of the greatest war criminals of the century, including the kommandants of camps such as Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Sympathetic to me, but unsparing towards my ancestor, the historians were in no doubt that Karl Niemann drank from a very poisoned cup indeed.

We had telling and informative photographs. Unbeknown to her siblings, my aunt had taken all of the family photographs away after her parents died. They served as useful prompts for my uncle, still living in Germany and seeing them for the first time in more than 50 years. Even more significantly, he produced a

box of negatives that the family had left behind when they fled Berlin. Inexplicably, a Jewish woman who had been given the house after the war, hung on to them for the rest of her life. Her son gave them to my uncle in the late 1980s and it was only when my wife began working on them that we realised they included photographs that, as prints, the family must surely have destroyed as potentially incriminating. Two of those photographs taken by Karl are reproduced here, an early Stormtrooper parade through Dortmund, and the arrival in the winter of 1935-6 of an important Nazi official at Dachau.

More books, more papers, more experts brought more to the story. Nazi Germany was a prolific accumulator of official documents and not all of these papers had been destroyed. Furthermore, my grandfather's denazification trial from 1948, assessing the level of his culpability, had survived in Hannover archives. In that pre-computerised age, some of the most incriminating documents that Karl had prepared for the SS in 1942 and 1943, were not available to the prosecution, for they were being used at Nuremberg as evidence in the trial of his superior, one Oswald Pohl (overall head of the concentration camp system, hanged for war crimes in 1951). The evidence that Karl knew about the massacres of Jews, and built them into his business model, 'allowing for the loss of 8,000

workers', was such that an American lawyer had written in the margin that: "Interrogation on the extent and meaning of this measure is suggested".

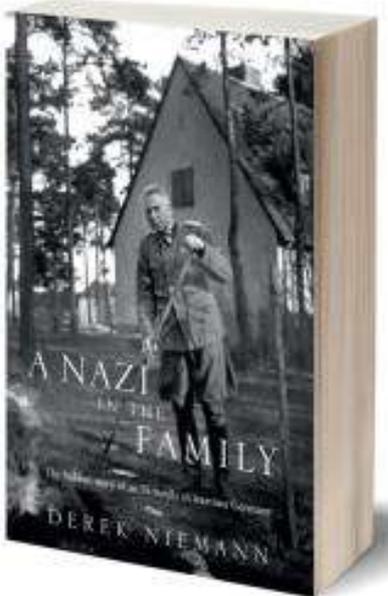
Karl escaped extreme censure, partly because there was no evidence that he had physically abused anyone, and partly because his niece found former inmates who testified in his favour. These were political prisoners who Karl had managed to get released... to work for the SS! Finally, Karl was one of the last interned lesser Nazi criminals to be tried, at a time when Germans were trying to forget, and the Allies, preoccupied by the Soviet threat, were inclined to forgive, relying on the rebuilding of a strong post-war Germany as a bulwark against Communism.

What lessons do I want people to learn from reading my book *A Nazi in the Family*? I hope the reader will have a better understanding of the moral complexities facing an ordinary family under a totalitarian regime. Under Hitler, Mao and Pol Pot, otherwise decent people behaved in ways that we would find abhorrent. It is important to talk with Jews and other once-persecuted groups, to share understanding of our common humanity and our very human failings. And it is crucial for us to learn lessons about how this can happen, especially now in a period where extremism is once more on the rise. □

Derek Niemann

www.whispersfromthewild.co.uk

A Nazi in the Family: the hidden story of an SS family in wartime Germany, by Derek Niemann, is published by Short Books.



Author Derek Niemann in Berlin, April 2013



GLEANINGS FROM THE RECORD OFFICE

Reference: QSR1801/36

Title: Memorandum re. George SABY and James LUTTLEY

Date free text: 7 October 1801

Scope and Content: George Saby “convicted of felony in ripping stealing taking and carrying away Lead affixed to a stable of Samuel WHITBREAD esquire at Southill is ordered and adjudged to be transported beyond the seas as soon as conveniently maybe for the term

of seven years to such place as his Majesty by and with the advice of his privy council shall think fit to direct and appoint pursuant to the Statute.”

James Luttlely “An indictment having been found against the said James Luttlely for certain riots and misdemeanours And a Certiorari having been lodged for removing the said Indictment into his Majesty's Court of King's Bench and the said James Luttlely having neglected or

refused to give security for his appearance in His Majesty's Court of Kings Bench on the first day of next term wheresoever the said court shall then be in England to answer the said indictment and so from Day to Day and not to depart the court without leave Is order to remain until he shall give such security or be otherwise discharged according to law.”

Reference: X440/249

Title: Memorandum of Agreement

Date free text: 23 Jul. 1812

Scope and content:

1) John FOSTER of Biggleswade, merchant

2) Luke BROADHEAD of Biggleswade, ostler consideration: £120 to be paid by 1)

2 tenements in St Andrews Street, Biggleswade, in occupation of John MORLEY and Mary MANYWEATHERS adjoining tenement late in occupation of ~ MOSELEY, widow, with yard, outbuildings and rights

2) Agrees to raise roof of tenement late in occupation of ~ Mosely widow at his own expense and to alter and make the outward form and appearance of the tenement like the 2 tenements sold to John Foster in case he should alter and raise the roofs of them

i) Agrees to make the fence across the yard and has paid 2) 5s in part of the purchase money

witness: S.B. GEARD at foot:

description of premises

- West St Andrews Street in front
- South back gateway leading to Swan Yard
- East buildings of Samuel BARTLETT
- North remaining tenements of Luke Broadhead

[From Court Book X 338/12 Admission

1) John Foster of Biggleswade merchant, on surrender of

2) John EMERY of Tempsford yeoman consideration: £120

2 cottages sometime since erected in St Andrews Street in Biggleswade in occupation of John Morley and Mary Merryweather

- West St Andrews Street
- South back gateway to Swan Inn yard
- East buildings of Samuel Squire Bartlett
- North other tenements intended to be surrendered by ii) to Luke Broadhead to site on which said dwellings and those surrendered to Luke Broadhead were erected ii) was admitted at court 28 and 29 April 1786 on surrender of Jeremiah Bryant 27 and 28 April 1813]

Reference: QSR1837/2/5/8

Title: Depositions and examination - James ROBERTS charged with stealing a copper tea kettle from William ASHBY

Date free text: 16 March 1837

Scope and Content: William Ashby of St John, Bedford, coach harness maker – he lives in Upton's Yard in the parish of St John. On Tuesday evening 14 March he saw his wife place a copper tea kettle which she had used to boil water for tea on the ground outside the door. About ¼ later his wife found the kettle was gone and asked if he had taken it in. He said he had not. Yesterday he told Mary PAVIOUR who lives next door of his loss, and asked her to make enquiries. Last night when he returned home he saw the 3 pieces of copper now produced by John Paviour, constable, which were given to him by his wife, and part of the handle of the kettle. He knows it from marks and from the general appearance.

William GOBBY, son of Thomas Gobby of Pepper Alley, St John, Bedford – last night he was playing about their court when James Roberts came up to him and said he wanted him. Roberts gave him the three pieces of copper kettle and asked him to go and sell them. He took them to Mr FLOOD and sold them for 3d. He told Mr Flood he found them in the muck. He gave the money to Roberts, who gave him a penny out of it. He left Roberts and went and spent his penny, then afterwards went and played in the yard.

Mary Ashby, wife of William Ashby – she agrees with her husband's evidence. About 8pm last night, John Flood, whitesmith, brought the pieces of copper kettle to her and asked if

she knew anything about them. She saw they were part of the handle of a copper kettle she had lost on Tuesday evening. She bought the kettle for about 7s from Mr KILPIN a few months ago.

John Flood of St Mary's, Bedford, whitesmith – on Wednesday evening 15 March Wm Gobby brought the 3 pieces of copper now produced to his shop and asked him to buy them. From information he had received that morning he suspected the prisoner had not come by it honestly. When asked he said he found it in a muck hill some time ago. He asked his name, which he said was William Gobby and that he lived in Pepper Alley. He gave Gobby 3d for it and let him go. After he bought the copper he took it to Mrs Ashby who said it was part of the handle of her kettle. He went to Gobby's house and from conversation he had with him in the presence of his parents he sent Gobby for Roberts who lives in the same alley. He asked Roberts where he got the kettle hand – Roberts said it was from the gutter at the bottom of the alley, and took him to the place.

John Paviour, one of the constables of Bedford – he received the pieces of copper from William Ashby that morning.

James Roberts of St John Bedford – yesterday morning (15th March) he left home and when he got to the bottom of the Alley he stopped a little while. He saw something laying in the gutter that was sticking up. He kicked it and it shone, so he picked it

up. It was the largest piece of copper. One end was lying over the drain and the other end was in the gutter sticking up. He then searched about the gutter with his hands and found the other 2 pieces.

Reference: QSR1891/1/5/5

Title: Depositions of Charles WELCH of Luton, Engineer; John KING of Luton Police Sergeant; Charles Thomas JONES of Luton, Straw Hat Manufacturer.

Date free text: 26/11/1890

Scope and Content: This Deponent of Charles Welch on his Oath saith as follows: I am an Engineer and I live in Barkers Lane Luton. On the 12th day of April last, I let out on hire two straw hat sewing machines to Herbert BROWN. He was to pay two shillings a week for each machine. The machines were worth about £4 each as let out. Brown paid me about thirty shillings for hire and then the payments stopped. I did not see Brown myself till about three weeks ago. I asked for the machine he said he had sent them out of town on work. I said I did not believe him. He said "Well I will tell you the truth I have got money on them" I saw brown again last Thursday evening he then told me that the machine were at Mr JONES in Bute Street. I have got my machine again Brown brought them in company of Sergeant King on Saturday after he had received the summons.

(Cross-examined) I am sure of the date April 12 I took them. They were my own make not WILCOX and

GIBBS there is a difference between them appreciable to anyone understanding the machine. Brown asked me to withdraw the summons if he bought them back. I paid. I could do nothing myself. I refused to accept the machines except through the Police. On Saturday Brown again asked if I could stop the proceedings.

Sergeant John King of the Luton Borough Police Force on his oath saith as follows:

On Saturday morning defendant come to me in Waller Street. I first said "Have you got the Machines?" He said "Yes come on" He was carrying them under his arm in a sheet. We went into the office He said "I have seen Mr ALEXANDER (the ex-mayor) and he says the charge is to be struck off and the machines taken back to Mr Welch" I said "In the face of that I will go with you to Mr Welch and see if they are his machines" He took them there and Mr Welch identified them both as his. Brown and I left the shop and we separated. I saw Brown again last night and informed him he must attend court in the machine case as I found he had told me a lie. He said "I did not see "Mr Alexander myself but Mr Jones did and I thought that would do as well"

(Cross-examined) I saw Brown give them up Welch said. They're my machines there're all right.

Charles Thomas Jones of Bute Street Luton. Straw Hat manufacturers on his oath saith: I had the machines from Brown. He came to me on 11 April and asked me to lend him £3 I

said “yes if you give me security” He bought the two machines which I understood to be his own and I lent him the money. Last Thursday the 20th instant Welch came and asked if I had two of his machines from Brown. I said I had two machines from Brown and they were there just as he left them. He did not want to see them. I believe the same evening Brown came and said that Welch meant to summon him if he did not produce the machines. I said I simply wished for the money I lent to them. My claim has been since satisfied and I let Brown take them away on

the Saturday I saw Mr Alexander about it and he said Brown would have to see Welch and get him to withdraw the case. He gave no orders to withdraw the charge.

(Cross-examined) I think the date was the 11 April. The machines are of the ordinary appearance, very much similar to Willcox and Gibbs. I understood from Brown that Welch would withdraw it and that was why he wanted the machines back.

Statement of the accused “I have nothing to say” □

Mary Wooldridge

NOTES AND QUERIES

I had this in my mailbox way back in September and thought that maybe some of our members living in the Luton area could help? It was on a forum I belong to on Facebook a while back and I think the Betty he mentions was found but just in case anyone else can throw some light on to the query. You can contact Mary on research@bfhs.org.uk

My name is Peter Vercaemer, I’m living in Belgium and I have a somewhat unusual question.

I’m doing some historical research about the liberation of Ledegem (a little village in Belgium) on 14/10/1918.

That day a British soldier found a dying German soldier and took his belongings, with the intention to send them back to the family. Unfortunately, although the German soldier’s name was known to be

RUTZ, there was no address to which to return the items.

The British soldier must not have given up hope of returning the possessions as it was 13 years later before he found the clue to the RUTZ family. In December 1931 it came to his attention that a Miss Anny Rutz had played the Virgin Mary in the 1930 Passion play at Oberammergau and he wrote to her in the hope that she was related to the dying soldier.

That letter did indeed lead to the tracing of the family and it identified the unknown British soldier as Charles Edward FOSTER and his address by then of 47 Stockingstone Road, Luton. I have been able to trace the descendants of the German soldier, but now I would like to trace the descendants of Charles Foster, in the hope of completing the story.

Charles Edward Foster is mentioned

in section 3 of the Luton Absent Voters

List:
www.worldwar1luton.com/sites/default/files/

[LutonAbsentVotersSection3.pdf](#), and that identified him as being Pte 40395 Foster, of the South Wales Borderers.

In the meantime I'm in contact with David AINSBURY (a volunteer who is contributing much of the material to the worldwar1luton website) and he found out that Charles Foster: was the son of Herbert and Mary Jane Foster born in September 1897 he married Elsie M. MOULE in Luton in 1923 they had a daughter, Betty in 1924 and lived at 47 Stockingstone Road, Luton, where Charles and Elsie were included on electoral rolls up to and including 1965.

My ultimate goal still is to tell the story of that encounter on 14/10/1918, seen from both sides.

That's why I was hoping that the *Bedfordshire Family History Society* can help me in tracing the descendants of Charles Edward Foster (such as what happened the other way around in 1931)

I've spent already a lot of time on websites like Free BMD Family Search and Find My Past etc. trying to find out whether the daughter (Betty Foster) maybe still is alive or not and whether there are any children that I could contact (in case it would turn out that Betty Foster already died), but searching through the BMD records is not very easy and in the end I start to doubt everything. That's why I wanted to

ask if I can call upon your expertise?

I would very much appreciate if BFHS could help me with my research so that we can prevent this little but great and fascinating story about The Great War from being forgotten forever.

Many thanks in advance.

~

If anyone knows anything about the next query they can write to Mary as BRIGHTMAN is one of the lines she is also researching

I am trying to tie up some loose ends with my Dad's ancestors, at present concentrating on Dad's mother's forebears. I have been working on this project since my grandmother died in 1982.

I am desperate to find out a couple of pieces of information regarding my Brightman ancestors of Streatley, Bedfordshire. Both my Brightman and CURRINGTON ancestors came from Streatley.

George Brightman married Emma SEARLE surname sometimes derived as EARLE at Sundon on 9/2/1862. George was born 16/12/1838 at Streatley and Emma was born 1846 Tebworth Bedfordshire.

According to a relative of mine here in Australia, apparently George spent some time in jail before dying in England, as Emma was registered as a widow when she came to Australia for a family reunion in Cooktown North Queensland, which ended in disaster as the RMS "Quetta" struck an uncharted rocky outcrop and

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Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire

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sank in the Albany Passage on 28/2/1890 with most of the passengers/crew drowning.

My first query is the date of George's death and what was the name and ship and date it sailed which Emma Brightman and her two youngest children come to Australia on.

~

New member Dave Varney email address:davevarney@care4free.net

I became 'stuck' about 3 years ago on my paternal side (VARNEY) after extending the family back from St Albans into Bedfordshire via visits to Beds and Bucks Record Offices and buying some of the Beds Parish Records CD's. I did speak to a Family Researcher at the Bucks RO before I found the link with Beds, who asked if I was related to the 'rich' Varney's or the others! My ancestors are definitely in the latter but it did make me wonder if anyone had researched the Aylesbury / Bucks Varney's which may go back to a link with the Varney's that moved down the A5 sort of route to Beds / Herts and eventually Essex?

I can't remember if I have put this one in the column before. But you can contact me in the usual way if anyone knows anything

Are any of your members researching the ROSE family as they may be interested to find out that they have an ancestor of whom they might not be aware.

George Henry Rose b. 1866, Bedford, was my great grandfather, his occupation was pork butcher, his

wife was Alice and his children were called Geoffrey, Margaret and Wilfred.

According to the documents I have it appears that George had an affair while still married to Alice and my grandmother is his illegitimate daughter.

George himself registered his daughters (my grandmothers) birth as he is the informant on her birth certificate and he states that he is George Rose , pork butcher, father.

I also have my grandmother's unusual workhouse baptism record. There are two pieces of paper stuck into the book over my grandmother's entry with comments written on them by the Chaplain, one stating that my great grandmother falsely claims to be the wife of George Rose, journeyman pork butcher. Even the members of staff at the archives office remarked on how unusual the document is considering the book spans 102 years of workhouse baptisms with all the ladies being unmarried mothers, so why was my ancestors entry the only one to be singled out. Also it is clearly obvious by the different hand writing that George Rose's name is entered, as the father, sometime after the baptism.

I am happy to share any info I have found and likewise hope that someone may be able to add to the information I have. □

Mary Wooldridge

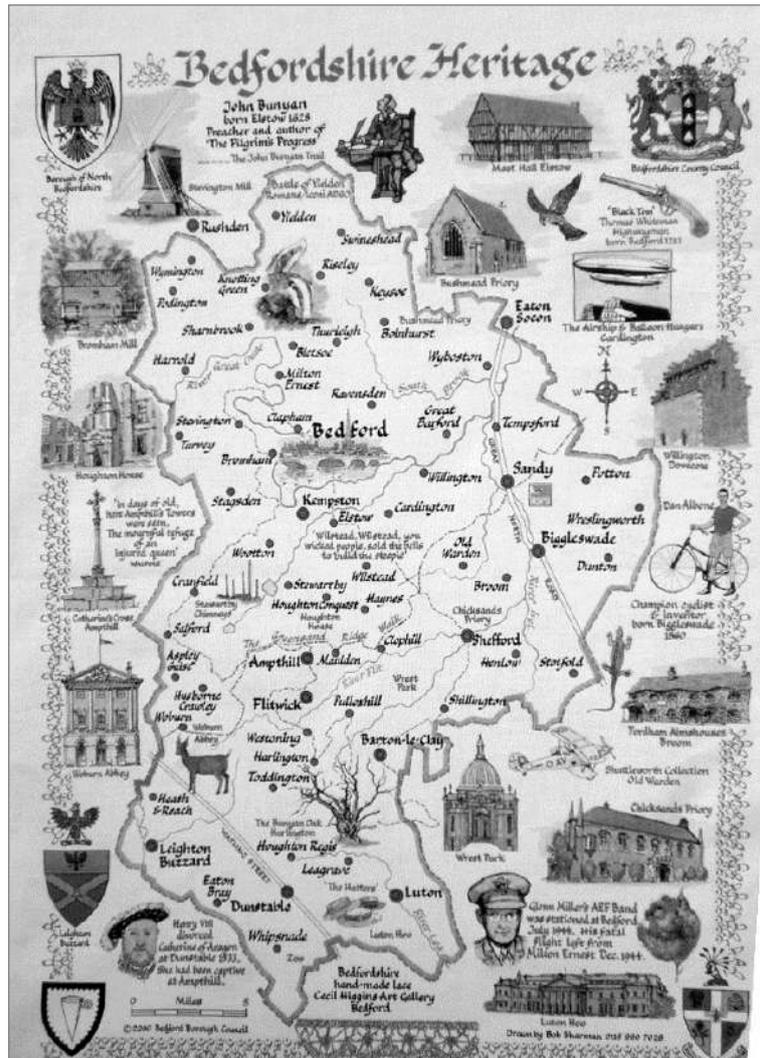
BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

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

These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you don't have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts. They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at Members' meetings by email to Lynn at secretary@bfhs.org.uk or by post (please add £1 for UK postage and packing—for outside the UK please enquire before ordering) from:

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

Cheques to be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society



CUTTINGS FROM CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

Further cuttings from Canadian Newspapers sent in by "The Cornishman".

"JOSEPH THOMAS GRANBY passed away at Victoria General Hospital on May 2 1988 at the age of 83 years. Mr Granby was born in Wootton Bedfordshire England on March 22 1905. He served with the British Grenadier Guards in France during the First World War, at which time he was severely gassed. Mr Granby came to Canada in early 1920. He joined the Winnipeg Police Department in 1923 and served until his retirement on January 1st 1955. While with the Police Department he was an expert marksman in revolver shooting, winning many prizes and medals. He was also an expert in rifle shooting, receiving a plaque for scoring 5930 out of a possible 6000. Mr Granby was an active member of the YMCA for many years. He resided at the "Y" for approximately 46 years. He was a life member Ancient Landmark Lodge No 3, A.F. A.M.G.R.M.

He was also a member of the I.O.O.F. Minnehaha Lodge No7. joining in 1027. Mr Granby was predeceased by his first wife Ruth in July 1924 and his second wife Ella in 1937. He will be sadly missed by his many friends."

ARTHUR WILLIAM HILLYER On September 13. 1987 at the St Boniface Hospital, Arthur William Hillyer aged 78 years of Homebrook Man. Funeral Service will be held on

Wednesday September 16 at 2pm in the St Martins Community Hall with Rev J. Erickson officiating. Interment in the Davis Point Cemetary. Arthur was born October 26 1908 in Bedfordshire near Wilstead England. In 1912 he came to Canada with his parents Eva & Harry and brother Bernard. His family resided in Rivers Mam., then Transcona and finally moved to David point in 1916. As a young boy Arthur attended school in Davis point and enjoyed fishing and hunting. He began homesteading in Homebrook on April 25.1928, and married Ella Decker on June 15th 1940. There he farmed for 45 years and raised three children, Mabel, Arnold and Caroll. At the age of 63 he retired but continued to help his son farming until 1983. He leaves to mourn his loving wife Ella, children Mabel and husband Neil Campbell of St Martin Caroll and husband Stanley (junior) Olender of Winnipeg. Son Arnold of Homebrook; two grandchildren Dwight and Teralyn; brothers Bernard of Airdrie, Alta. And Gordon of Dauphin Man: also many nieces and nephews and friends. He was predeceased by his mother Eva on May 28 1984, father Harry William on July 8 1974; brother Cyril on November 26 1966.

JOHN HAMBLIN HEDLEY Passed away December 29 2000 at Peace Arch Hospital, White Rock BC. Born January 30 1919 in Kempston England and arrived in Canada spring 1921, settling eventually in

Montreal. Following completion of education at Ecole Polytechnique, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force serving principally with 5BR Squadron in Newfoundland, Iceland and Scotland. John joined Trans Canada Airlines (Air Canada) March 1st 1944 working in maintenance in Armstrong, ON. Medicine Hat AB and Winnipeg, MB until August 29th 1975.. Following retirement John lived in Courtenay, BC. From 1975-1977 and resided in White Rock from 1977 until present. John was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion No 1 branch in Winnipeg and transferred to No 240 Crescent Beach Branch. For service to his comrades he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Palm Leaf. John is survived by his wife Eileen (Married April 29. 1950); sons Rick (Angelika) of Ladner BC. And Bruce of Pinawa, MB. Brother Tony (Murial) of Surrey, BC. And many nieces nephews and cousins across Canada. He was predeceased by his mother Lucy in 1977; father Jack in 1984 and sister Sylvia in 1995.

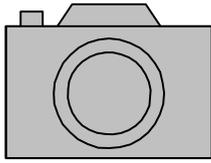
Arrangements in care of Chapel Hill Funeral Home, White Rock. Funeral Service 1:00pm Wednesday January 3 2001 with closure there. Reception following at No 240 Crescent Beach Legion. Flowers are gratefully declined. Donations may be made to the No 240 Crescent Beach Legion

Poppy Fund or the Peace Arch Hospital. A sincere thankyou to the Doctors, Nurses and staff of peace Arch Hospital for their dedication and kindness during Dad's recent illness.

WILLIAMS – Michael (Mike) James Williams of Calgary, passed away at the Foothills Hospital on Monday August 28 2000 at the age of sixty years. Mike was born February 12 1940 in Bedford England. He is survived by his loving wife Janet, daughter Michelle, son Michael Jr (Carla) and grandson Tyler. Mike will also be lovingly remembered by his brothers Alan and Jeffery in England, as well as by many other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his mother Daisy and brother Bob. A Celebration of his life will be held in the Chapel of MOUNTAIN VIEW FUNERAL HOME (17 Avenue S.E.at Garden road, 1.5 km East of 84 Street S.E.) on Friday September 1 2000 at 12 noon. If so desired Memorial Tributes may be made in Mike's name directly to The Canadian Cancer Society. To email expressions of sympathy mtnview1@telusplanet.net subject heading Mike Williams. Arrangements entrusted to MOUNTAIN VIEW FUNERAL HOME and CEMETARY Phone 272.5555. ☐



REMINDER
The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the
June 2017 *Journal* is
15 April 2017



PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED !

Are you a BFHS member with a digital camera or smart-phone? If so could you take some photographs of nearby villages to add to the parish CD? Although we have now published a CD with data for all 128 ancient parishes, some have no photographs, or very few.

Can you provide some pictures of the parish church, interesting buildings and local sights for the benefit of distant members buying the CD?

The following have no photographs at present. So if you live nearby or are visiting, why not take your camera along.

Battlesden, Clifton, Edworth, Flitton, Higham Gobion, Holwell, Husborne Crawley, Kensworth, Leighton Buzzard including Eggington and Heath & Reach, Potsgrove, Stanbridge, Streatley, Studham, Sundon, Tilsworth, Upper Stondon, Whipsnade

If you think that you can help, please contact Mark Tresidder by email at:
parishcd@bfhs.org.uk



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