

ISSN 0309-913X (print)
ISSN 2055-5512 (online)



Hertfordshire People

The Journal of Hertfordshire Family History Society

No 172
March
2025





G. N. R.
WHITSUN EXCURSIONS

FOR SUNSHINE AND BRACING AIR

VISIT THE

**COAST RESORTS OF NORFOLK,
LINCOLNSHIRE, AND YORKSHIRE.**

QUICKEST ROUTE, LONDON (King's Cross)

AND

**Harrogate, Scarboro', Sheffield, Leeds, North
Eastern District, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, &c.**

PROGRAMME OF EXCURSIONS TO 500 STATIONS

Gratis at any G.N. Office, or of Chief Passenger Agent, G.N.R. King's Cross Station, London, N.

Extension of Week-end and Saturday-to-Monday Tickets.

OLIVER BURY, *General Manager.*

Contents

**Editor: Jane Tunesi of Liongam,
53 Hitchin Street, Baldock,
Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ
e-mail: editor@hertsfhs.org.uk**

Your letters, comments and contributions for publication are welcome and should be sent to the Editor. Please quote your membership number, and enclose a SAE if postal acknowledgement is required. Articles should not have been published elsewhere, and where necessary copyright clearance must have been obtained for pictures, quotations from books etc. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

The views expressed in these pages are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Society.

Copyright © 2025 Hertfordshire Family History Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced in any form, including electronic without the written permission of the Officers and Committee of the Society.

Journal deadlines: 31 December for March edition; **31 March** for June edition; **30 June** for September edition; **30 September** for December edition.

Front Cover: Arthur Christopher Taylor (1898-1976) see Page 34

From the Editor	2
From the Chair	6
Ashfield School, Bushey - Boy's Football Team 1919/1920 by Janet Sutton	10
Hertfordshire FHS Competition: Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors	20
James Crew 1745-1811 and Moss connections, Gardener/Woodman Luton Hoo by Felicity Brimblecombe	22
What's New at HALS	29
When does a year start	32
Cover Story: Arthur Christopher Taylor by Jane Tunesi	34
Society Talks reports	35
A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany No 69 - The Arms of the Barons Rothschild, of Tring in the County of Hertfordshire - by John J. Tunesi of Liongam	42
Members Interests & New Members	44
Society Services	47

From the Editor.....

I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Hertfordshire People*.



Your Society Committee have been busy planning events and talks for 2025 that we hope you will enjoy. Our first in person meeting, for those members who can, will be at HALS in March with hybrid talk meetings resuming at Woolmer Green and simultaneously on Zoom in April. We will be continuing with the Query sessions on Zoom this year as these are proving popular for members - see Page 4 for the dates. These sessions are an hour long and are designed to offer help with your research conundrums and also a chance to talk with other family historians from all over the world.

At the end of March, in a change to our planned programme, we will be offering a repeat of our January talk, Where does my family come from?: Unlocking the secrets of DNA Testing, with Karen Evans as in January our zoomed talk with Karen was overtaken by a porn site. Not the first time this has happened to a family history society, but the first for us. Well done to all for getting out of Zoom, and rejoining, and especially to Karen who did a presentation for us 'off the cuff' and not using PowerPoint! We had a great number for this talk, nearly 60, and only lost a couple after the unscheduled shenanigans. Please join us again in March for what will hopefully be an 'event free' presentation.

We have also decided to extend the deadline for our Competition to the end of May to give members more time to submit their entries on the theme of Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors. Take a look at Page 20 for the guidelines.

To be honest I haven't had much opportunity to do any of my own family research over the last couple of years, but hope to do more in 2025 by revisiting research I did in the 1980s on my Hertfordshire ancestry and see if, with more datasets and digital images, I can push the families back further whilst making sure I did not make any mistakes or assumptions.

I have already found an intriguing connection between one branch of my Mum's family and Beadlow Manor near Shefford, but in the parish of Clophill, in Bedfordshire, now a golf and country club. Not technically Hertfordshire, but the county boundaries are 'in and out' in that part of the county and some branches of my family do seem to be originating in Bedfordshire, but still within a 25 mile radius of Hitchin!

I am always happy to receive your articles, snippets, research queries or photographs for inclusion, especially photographs of 'Hertfordshire People' for the front cover. It is *your* contributions that make *Hertfordshire People* the great journal that it is.

Jane

Social Media



www.facebook.com/HertfordshireFamilyHistorySociety/



@Herts_FHS - Hertfordshire People



@Herts_FHS@genealysis.social

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget that Subscriptions are due at the beginning of March 2025. The renewal form can be found as a yellow insert in the middle of the December 2024 issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

To renew, please send your remittance to me, the Membership Secretary at:

50 Chelwood Avenue
Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL10 0RE

The instructions on how to do pay online are below. If you don't renew this will be your final issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

Sue Jackson
Membership Secretary

Renewing Membership by Internet Banking

If you have signed up with your bank for internet banking, please consider using it to renew your membership. To set up the Society as a payee three items are essential:

The Sort Code is 40-40-01

The Account Number is 72239752 (Business Account)

Name of Payee: Hertfordshire Family History Society

And you will need to quote a reference so that we know who has paid us. The reference should be of the form NNNN SURNAME, where NNNN is your membership number (to be found in the address label of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*) and SURNAME is as much of your surname as your bank's system will accept.

There is one trap for the unwary. Some banks allow you a one off payment without quoting a reference. Please do not let this happen to you.

And one reminder. If you have changed your postal address or your e-mail address, then let us know by e-mail to mbsec@hertsfhs.org.uk

HFHS Query sessions

These hour long sessions are designed to help with brick walls, give you an opportunity to share your research stories and interesting sources you have found with other members and for members to get to know each other and the committee. Our helpful members will be on hand to help you with any family history queries. The sessions are inclusive and welcoming and are offered to members, and sometimes non-members.

Information about joining will be sent out by the Registrar and we will also publicise on social media. Meetings will start at 14.30pm (UK time) and last for about an hour, unless otherwise stated.

Dates for 2025

Saturday 15 March - in person at HALS

Saturday 17 May - Online

Saturday 12 July - Online

Saturday 9 or 16 August - Online

Saturday 11 October - Online

Saturday 13 December - Online

We could do with some more Research Queries for
Hertfordshire People.

Don't forget to send them in!

From the Chair

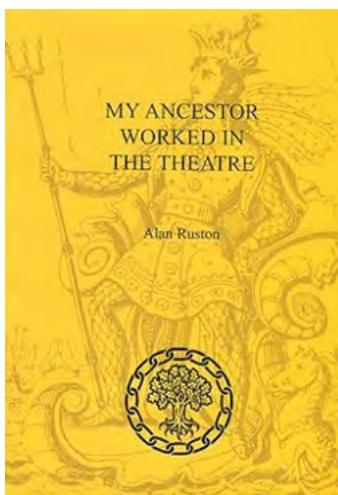


The Federation of Family History Societies was established 50 years ago in 1974 as the overarching

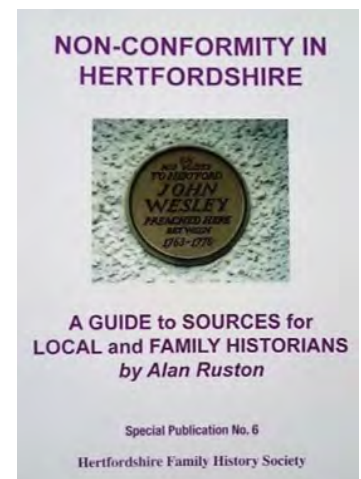
body for Family History Societies in the UK and elsewhere. They publish the monthly *Really Useful Bulletin*.



The lead article in two recent issues was written by our President, Alan Ruston. In December the topical article was *The Story of the Pantomime*. An interesting read but even more fascinating if, like me, your ancestors trod the boards and were also involved with pantomimes and their scenic backdrops. January's article was *Old Dissent in England up to 1914* which explains why records of nonconformist ancestors may not have been recorded or preserved plus tips about where to search. Read them in Really Useful Bulletin Archive www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/bulletins



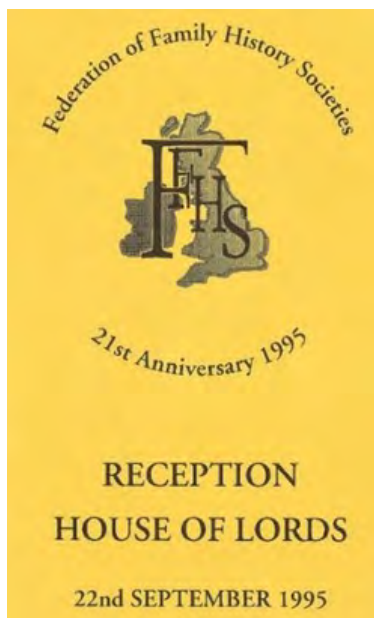
More information on both these topics: *My Ancestor worked in the Theatre* (new edition out soon), *My Ancestors were English Presbyterians or Unitarians* are part of a series published by the Society of Genealogists SoG Publications.



These can be followed up with more details from books by Alan and others. Books specific to Hertfordshire are listed on Hertfordshire Family History Society | Supplier | GenFair.

Coincidences abound when researching! As well as researching my ancestors, I also delve into Garden History for both Bedfordshire Gardens Trust and the Luton Hoo Estate. Changes in ownership, either a new generation or new owner, are often key to alterations in gardens. One of many estates investigated is East Hyde spanning the Herts / Beds boundary. It was owned from 1806 to 1833 by Robert **Hibbert** who founded a charity in nearby Luton as well as setting up the Hibbert Trust. Alan Ruston has written a book about the history of the Trust and its connections to Unitarianism!

Mormons are also non-conformists. An old query via HFHS Facebook page asked about an ancestor being baptised into the Mormon faith in Caddington as early as 1830. Bedfordshire Archives provided a detailed answer which was useful today when asked about a similar baptism in Flamstead in 1847. Do others have the problem of remembering where unusual pieces of data are filed?



The lives of my one parents have been documented and printed. So, I knew where to find my father's memorabilia about the 21st anniversary of the Federation with a different name and logo. Dad was involved in setting up the Federation and served as the second Treasurer. He would be delighted that the organisation is now 50.

Felicity Brimblecombe
chairhertfhs@gmail.com
secretary@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk



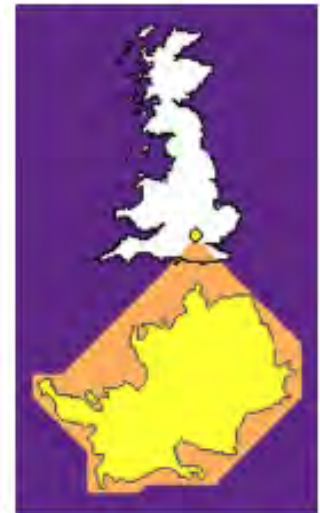
Herts Family History Society and Hertfordshire Archives

Combined Event organised by
Society of Genealogists

SOURCES in HERTFORDSHIRE

Monday 10th March 2025

2 – 3.30 pm



Free Event Book a spot to watch live

The event webpage is now live for booking here:

<https://members.sog.org.uk/events/674dd7072f980600086c0ef7/description>

2:00pm Introduction and SoG collections for Hertfordshire

2:15pm Janice Brooker - HALS

2:45pm Felicity Brimblecombe - HFHS

3:15pm Vision of Britain for Hertfordshire

3:20pm Q&A

Book a spot to watch live. No pre-booking required to view the recording, which will be available in the SoG Member area and on [YouTube](#).



Herts Local Studies Library - Special Event for Family Historians



Saturday 15 March 2025 2 – 5 pm



Both the Archive Reading Room and the Local Studies Library will be open to the public from 10am - 2.00pm.

HFHS has booked the Local Studies Library 2 -5pm

Help from HFHS experts and HALS staff. Material available:

- **Printed** – family history data, local history books, directories, maps, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs etc.
- **Microfilm** - parish registers, newspapers, wills etc.
- **Computers** - free access to Ancestry and Find my Past
- **NB** Material from the Archives will not be available in the afternoon

HALS, County Hall, Hertford SG13 8EJ

[Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Parking outside. Hot drinks machine and water available in the lobby.

Let HFHS know you are coming

chairhertsfhs@gmail.com

Ashfield School, Bushey - Boy's Football Team 1919/1920

By Janet Sutton

My curiosity was sparked when I came across a photograph of Ashfield School's football team of 1919/1920 which was published in the journal of the Friends of Bushey Museum Trust some years ago. Only recently I investigated further, wondering what had happened to those boys.

Ashfield school was originally it was set up in 1846 and was run on the monitorial system – the Master teaching the older boys, who in turn taught the younger ones. It was renamed Ashfield school in 1907, after Arthur **Ashfield** who bequeathed money to the school. The first Master was Robert **Soar**. He was succeeded by Edwin **Bamford**. Edwin retired in 1896, when he was succeeded by his son in law Ralph Beardmore **James**. At the time of this photo, the Headmaster was Oswald **Atkin**.



Map of School Lane – National Library of Scotland Old Maps (OS 6" map 1892-1914)



© Bushey Museum Trust

Back Row: Frank **Chester** (Referee), Mark **Thatcher**, Arthur **Thatcher**, Bob **Gear**, Len **Shepherd**, Teddy **Jacks**, Harry **Cobb**, Charlie **Cobb**, 'Pedler' **Palmer**

Front Row: Ken **Hall**, Percy **Cobb**, Fred **Cobb**, Ted **Archer**, Gilbert **Wells**

The Boys in the Back Row

Mark Thatcher (Ernest Mark Thatcher)

Mark was the son of Ernest Mark **Thatcher** and his wife Bertha Elizabeth (nee **Broome**). He was born on 26th August 1906 at Munsters Row, Annesley Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. He was one of four children. His father was a carpenter/joiner, born in Ottershaw, Surrey and his mother was from Harwich, Suffolk. Mark was baptised on 4 March 1906 at Annesley. In 1911, the family were living at Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey. His brother Phillip is noted as "feeble-minded from birth".

Prior to Ashfield, Mark had attended Thorpe Church of England school from 28 June 1911 to 17 July 1914 - the register is marked "Gone to London". By 1921 the family are living at "Fair View", Elstree Road, Bushey, Mark is listed as a plumbers mate for W. **Taylor**, a builder in Bushey Heath. In 1937 Mark

married Jessie Elizabeth **Cushens**. The 1939 register shows Mark and Jessie living at 4 Orchard Cottages, Bushey, his occupation was still a plumber, but it is also noted that he also belonged to the AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service) at Bushey.

Mark died 23 June 1980 at 7 Moatfield Road, Bushey.

Arthur Thatcher (Arthur William Thatcher)

Arthur was Mark's brother, born 27 January 1908 at Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey. He was baptised on 5 July 1908 at Thorpe. Like his brother he attended Thorpe C of E school (from 6 January 1913) He appears on the 1911 and 1921 census with his family and two siblings. By 1921 the family had moved to Bushey.

Arthur married Florence M **Fayer** in 1933. The 1939 register shows the couple at 36 Park Road, Bushey, and he is noted as a fireman, also with the AFS.

Arthur died in 1997.

Bob Gear (probably Edward Joseph William Gear)

The only **Gear** I can find in the area is Edward Joseph William, born (according to the 1939 Register) on 9 May 1906, said to be from Aldenham, Hertfordshire. He was the son of Herbert and Betsey/Bessie (nee **Scott**). His siblings were born in Abergavenny (Frederick H 1897) and Radlett/Aldenham (Hetty/Henrietta 1899), his parents were from Nether Compton, Dorset and Hertfordshire respectively.

On the 1911 census, the Gear family are at 8 Station Road, Radlett, Aldenham, his father's occupation is a painter. His schooling pre-Ashfield is unknown, although his sister attended Cobden Hill Infants school at Radlett. Hertfordshire.

By 1921, the family lived at *Battle Axes* public house, Aldenham, Elstree, where Herbert was now the public house manager, on behalf of the Home Counties Public House Trust Limited. In 1929 Edward married Irene Beatrice **Wakes**. The couple were on the 1939 Register at Chilwick Green, St Albans,

where Edward was said to be an estate foreman carpenter. Edward died in 1991 in the St Albans area.

Len Shepherd (Leonard John Shepherd)

Leonard was born on 23rd April 1907, the son of David and Annie (nee **Wells**) (my great grandfathers sister). He had 6 siblings and a step brother. On the 1911 census, the family is living at 110 School Lane, Bushey. Len attended Merry Hill Lane school, Bushey, admitted on 25 April 1911, transferring school in September 1914.

By 1921 census, the family is at 9 School Lane, Bushey, Len is a hall boy for a Mr Alfred Stroud **Axton**, of Merry Hill House, Bushey. In 1929 Len married Kathleen M N **Bibby** at Dartford. Sadly, Len died in November 1932 and his death was reported in the *Uxbridge and West Drayton Gazette* (25 November 1932).

*"While working at a vat of caustic soda at Croxley Mills, Watford, Leonard John **Shepherd** aged 25 years, of Bushey, slipped into the liquid and sustained severe burns to which he succumbed in hospital".*

His widow is recorded in 1939 at Merry Hill Mount, Bushey. She remarried and passed away in about 1987.

Teddy Jacks (Edward William Jack)

I found an Edward William **Jack**, born 26th April 1906 at Bushey, son of Edward John and Mary Ann (nee **Brickley**). He had a brother Patrick and a sister Kathleen. On the 1911 census, the family are at 64 Benskin Road, Watford, his father is a domestic porter at a school. By 1921, they had moved to 42 Robinson Avenue, Bushey. Teddy married Florence Kate **Eteson** in 1930, in the St Olaves area of London, (First Aid) at Lloyds, E.C. No death was found in the UK, but a shipping entry was found on 5 February 1958 for the *S.S.Orontes*, Orient Line. Edward was listed as overseer (printing) and was travelling with his wife and two sons to Sydney. A death entry was later found in 1987 in Queensland, Australia.

Harry Cobb

There were two possible candidates for this boy. Harold **Cobb** and Harry **Cobb** – both brothers of Frederick, sons of Frederick Cobb senior and Emily Elizabeth (formerly **Thornton** nee **Wells**). Harold was born in 1910. Both are on the 1911 census with their parents and brother at 53 Clay Hill, Bushey. Harold attended Merry Hill school, initially on 16 February 1914, but was too young and was readmitted on 11 May 1914, leaving on 7 July 1917. Both boys are living with their parents in 1921 at 49 Sparrows Herne, Bushey. On the 1939 register, Harold is still living with his parents, at 49 Sparrows Herne. Harold died in 1984.

It is more likely this is his brother Harry Cobb who was registered as Henry on the GRO indices, The school records from Merry Hill School give his date of birth as 16 May 1908. He started school on 22 May 1911, and left on 1 September 1914, being transferred to another school. On the 1939 register he is at 9 School Lane, Bushey, a labourer with Bushey Urban District council, also with the ARP Bushey (Decontamination) for the Urban District Council. His wife was Amy Elizabeth **Langford** (married 1932). Henry/Harry died 1978.

Charlie Cobb (Charles Thomas Cobb)

Charles Thomas **Cobb**, born 14 November 1906 at Bushey, Herts, baptised on 6 January 1907 at Bushey. He was the son of Charles Cobb and Rosetta nee **Thornton**¹. In 1911, the family were living at 3 Rosebery Road, Bushey, Charles senior is a cowman. There are four children, Charlie and his three sisters, Mary, Eva and Joyce. In 1921, only Mary and Charlie remain at home. His father is employed as a gardener for Dr **Bubb** of Hillfield, Bushey Heath. Charlie is listed as an engine boy for Henry **Kingham** and Son of Watford. The family is still living at 3 Roseberry Road. It appears Charlie married Doris **Bennetts** in the Watford area in 1932. The couple are living at 32 Oakmeade, Harrow, Middlesex. Charlie died in 1983, on the Isle of Wight.

The Boys in the Front Row

Ken Hall (Kenneth Frank Halls)

It was a bit of a challenge, but I found **Kenneth Frank Halls**, born 28 May 1908 in Fulham, London. His parents were George Samuel and Lilian (nee **Hembley**). In 1911, the family were living at Rucklands, Park View Villas, Kingsley Road, South Harrow. By 1921, Ken is living with his maternal grandparents George Richard and Doreen Hembley, along with his mother (mis transcribed) at 9 The Rutts, Bushey. Ken married Edith M **Hunt** in 1933. The 1939 register shows the family at 20 Queens Road, Watford, Ken is listed as an omnibus driver. He died 1975 in the Watford area.

Percy Cobb (Percy Edward Cobb)

Percy was born on 4th April 1906 at Bushey, one of 8 children of John **Cobb** and Emma Maria (nee **Gascogne**). He was baptised on 4 May 1906 at Bushey. The family were living at Pinner View, Merry Hill Road in the 1911 census. Percy attended Merry Hill School, Bushey from 5th April/30 August until 25 May 1912 when he transferred school. By 1921 – Percy and family are living at 7 Victoria Road, Bushey. Percy is caddie boy at Oxhey Golf Course (his father is a private gardener for A E **Mason** of Cleveland, Clay Hill, Bushey).

In 1929 Percy married Margaret E **Buckingham** in 1929. In 1939 Percy and his wife were living at 1 Suffolk cottages, California Lane, Bushey. Percy was listed as a private gardener. He died 7 May 1978 at 5 Victoria Road, Bushey.

Fred Cobb (Frederick George Cobb).

Frederick was born 12 April 1906, the son of Frederick and Emily Elizabeth (formerly **Thornton** nee **Wells**). His mother had previously been married to Thomas William Thornton, who died 1903. She had two daughters by her first marriage. Emily remarried November 12th, 1895 to Frederick Cobb senior, at St Peters, Bushey Heath. Fred junior was baptised at Bushey on 11 May 1906 at Bushey.

On the 1911 census, Fred, along with his parents and his 2 brothers Harry and Harold, were living at 53 Sparrows Herne, Clay Hill, Bushey. Living with

Page 79

1905 Marriage solemnized at St Peter's Church in the Parish of Bushey Heath in the County of Hertfordshire

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
157	Feb 26 th 1872 November 12 th 1905	Frederick Cobb Emily Elizabeth Thornton	29 29	Bachelor Widow	Labourer —	Clay Hill Bushey Heath Clay Hill Bushey Heath	James Cobb George Wells	Labourer Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Frederick Cobb } in the Presence of us, { Charlotte Gibbs }
{ Emily Elizabeth Thornton } { Frederick Cobb }

1872. Marriage solemnized at St Peter's Church in the Parish of Bushey Heath in the County of Hertford.

Marriage certificate of Frederick COBB and Emily Elizabeth THORNTON/WELLS (GRO)

them was a boarder – David **Wells**, Emily's brother. By 1921, the family were at 49 Sparrows Herne, along with David Wells.

Fred married Ethel **Munton** in 1936, and they appear on the 1939 Register at Sparrows Herne, his occupation being a heavy worker/builders labourer. Fred died on 16th February 1974.

Ted Archer (Albert Edward Archer)

According to the 1939 Register, Ted was born on 21st February 1907, the son of Charles Joseph **Archer**, a painter and Louisa (nee **Allen**). He had 6 siblings – Charles Joseph, Elsie, Daisy Olive, Dora Eveline, William John, and Frederick George. In 1911, the family were living at 128 High Street, Bushey. By 1921, the family had moved to 167 Sparrows Herne, Bushey. Ted is 14 years 4 months, with no occupation, nor at school. Both his father and brother William were working for T P **Bliss**², builder of Bushey. As to marriage, there is a possible one in Totnes, but I have not been able to confirm this.

Gilbert Wells (Gilbert Thomas Wells)

Gilbert was born on 25 October 1907 at Bushey, the son of Samuel Edward and Elizabeth (nee **Pepler**), one of 7 children. Gilbert was baptised 1 December 1907 at Bushey. In 1911, the family were living at 132 School Lane, Bushey, Samuel is listed as a general labourer. Before Ashfield, Gilbert attended Merry Hill School, Bushey – 18 March 1912 – 1 September 1914. In 1921, the family were still living at School Lane, Gilbert is noted as a full-time scholar. By 1939, He was a builders labourer at 246 High Street, Watford. There is mention of a Gilbert Thomas Wells listed on the Royal Artillery Attestations, but no further details. There is a possible death recorded on 14 December 1999 in the Hull area.

This is the sum of my research to date. It was a fascinating look at a group of boys and what happened to them. Further investigation is planned about the two adults with the team.

End Notes

*1 – Emily Elizabeth Cobb (formerly Thornton nee Wells), mother of Fred. Harold and Harry, was the sister-in-law of Rosetta Cobb (nee Thornton)

*2 – T. P. Bliss, employer of Ted Archer's father, was the father of Cyril P Bliss, who was involved in the case of the "Body in the villa" mystery, see my article 'Henrietta Weightman: The Body in the Villa' in *Hertfordshire People* 171, December 2024.

Sources

Find My Past and Ancestry websites. (including newspaper articles)

GRO certificates.

Friends of Bushey Museum Journal.

If any members have photographs of Hertfordshire ancestors they would like featured in *Hertfordshire People*, but perhaps haven't got enough information for an article, I would be delighted to include them. They can either feature on the cover, or within the pages.

I look forward to receiving emailed scans of your photos, with a short biography of the person, or people, in the photo. Please email me on editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

From the Gentleman's Magazine.....

30 January 1756

Richard **Hitch**, aged upwards of 60, formerly a hog butcher at Islington, was committed to the New Gaol in Southwark by William **Hammond**, Esq., for the murder of his wife eleven years ago. The night this murder was committed, the prisoner, by his own confession, fled to Hitchin in Hertfordshire, and has been strolling up and down the country ever since in a wretched condition. Last Thursday being accidentally met at Ditton upon Thames by two butchers who knew him, they treated him until they came to Wandsworth, and there seized him. Since his commitment he hath confessed that he was in the room when his wife's throat was cut, but says she snatched the knife from him and did it herself.

14 January 1790

Mr **Bentley**, grocer, of Hertford, riding to London about five in the morning with a considerable sum of money, which, the night before, had been overheard to boast he would defend against any man, was attacked, on the edge of Hertford Heath next Hoddesdon, by a single footpad, whom he knocked down. A second fired a pistol, which frightened his horse d that he reared up and threw him, and ran home. Mr Bentley being now left at the mercy of three villains, was robbed of eighty pounds in banknotes and fifty in cash; and, after beating him with some violence, they made off across the heath. Three men were afterwards apprehended at a public-house on Cheshunt Common; but Mr Bentley not being able to swear to them, they were detained for other offences, and have impeached a large gang.

10 January 1794

CAMPBELL. At his seat at Hemel Hempstead, in his 87th year, the Right Hon. Hugh Hume **Campbell**, Earl of Marchmont, Viscount Blssonbury, Lord Polwarth, Red Braes, and Greenlaw, in the county of Berwick, and a baronet..

21 February 1796

SAUNDERS. In Theobalds Park, aged 24, after the birth of her second child at 7 months end, the wife of Mr **Saunders**, farmer, and only daughter of Mr **Ninny** of Enfield.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Hertfordshire Family History Society Competition

A kind donation by the late Sherry Martin made it possible to fund a biennial competition open to members of the Hertfordshire Family History Society which is to write an article between 1,500 and 2,000 words long on a particular theme. There will be a £50 prize and a certificate for the winner which will be announced at the AGM in 2025. The winning article will also be published in the next available issue of *Hertfordshire People*.

Theme: Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors

- Cite the family history sources that you have used
- Include illustrations, if you have them.
- It is preferable that your relative concerned has a Hertfordshire connection.
- The aim of the article is that it should be both interesting and educational to the readers of *Hertfordshire People*.

The Rules of the Competition are:

1. Each entrant is to be a member of Hertfordshire Family History Society
2. Members of the Committee are not eligible to enter
3. Only one entry per member
4. The article should not have been published before
5. The deadline for submission to the Editor is the end of **May 2025**
6. Entries can be handwritten or typed, hard copy or submitted electronically in MS Word format and illustrations in jpg format preferred.
7. The Judges decision is final
8. Please ensure your entry is clearly marked COMPETITION

Send your entries to the Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ or by email to editor@hertsfhs.org.uk no later than 28 February 2025.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For details of in person and online events and lectures from The Society of Genealogists and Family History Societies and groups do check out the GENEVA website which is updated regularly - Geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php

New Publications

Do keep an eye on our website for the announcement of any new publications and refer to the pink publications list (in September issue of *HP*) for full list of publications available.

M.I. Vol 27 - Aston - St Mary - a new rewrite and reprint - price £6

M.I. Vol 114 - Woolmer Green - St Michael & All Angels - price £6

M.I. Vol No 115 - Hockerill - All Saints - price £6

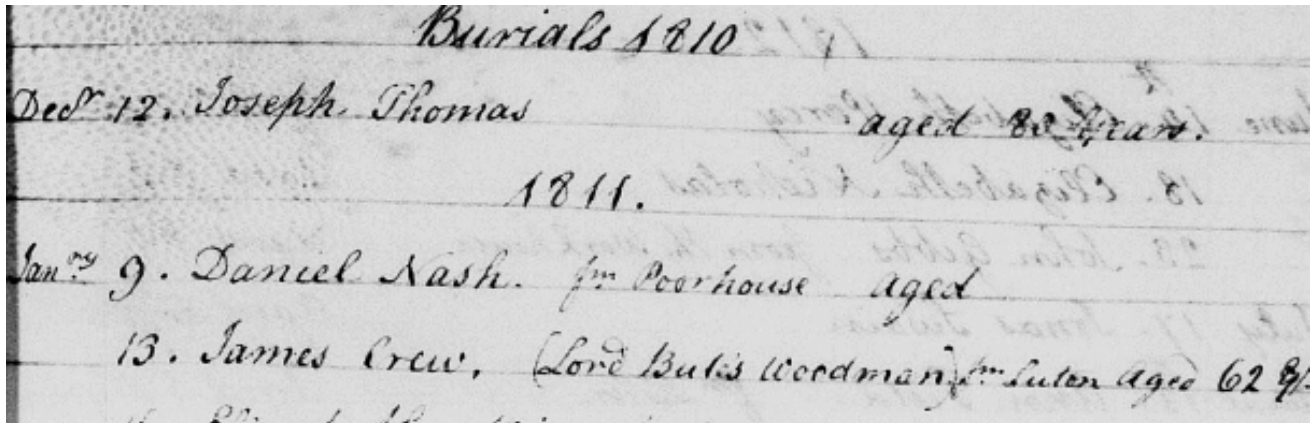
Ruston, Alan *Nonconformity in Hertfordshire* - revised edition - price £7

For online orders please visit our GenFair page

[Hertfordshire Family History Society | Supplier | GenFair](#)

James Crew 1745-1811 and Moss connections Gardener/Woodman Luton Hoo

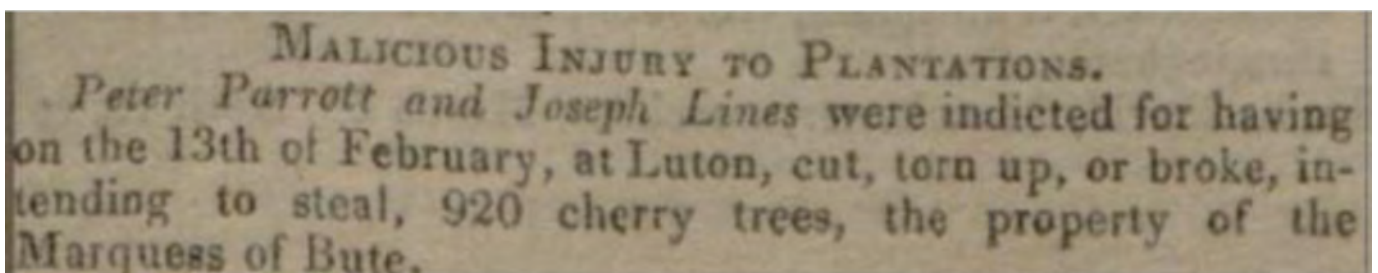
Born: Kimpton Hertfordshire in about 1745 the son of William & Mary (née **Groom**) **Crew**. His burial entry at Kimpton in 1811 confirms his employment as a woodman for Lord Bute in Luton.



He would have been about 20 when Capability **Brown** started to make plans for the extensive landscaping of Luton Hoo for the new owner John **Stuart** the 3rd Earl of Bute in 1764. Brown was involved with this project for 16 years and many trees would have been planted or moved. One of the very few documents recording the work done in the park and gardens after all the landscaping had been completed was for the 'Labourers under the care of James Crew'. It is for the week from 18th to 25th April in 1801. The work sheet lists 18 men at a total cost of £3/16/- and itemises some of the tasks undertaken - see p.13 (on p. 23).

One of the workers was Thomas **Crew** who was the son of James. He was also a woodman and lived in a cottage owned by the Marquis of Bute as listed in the Land tax records for 1813 - see p.14 (on p.24)

Thomas Crew may have planted some of the 920 cherry trees in Kidney Wood that were stolen in 1833 by Peter **Parrott**. The court case was reported in the newspapers and Parrott was transported to Australia.



County of Hertford
So writ
for the Hamlet of Northgate
in the parish of Luton
in the said County

In assessment made in pursuance
of an act passed in the 38 year
of His Majesty's reign for granting
an aid to His Majesty by a land
tax to be raised in Great Britain
for the service of the year 1795 and made perpetual by an
other act passed in the 38 year of the reign of his present
Majesty and also in pursuance of an other act passed in 39 year
aforesaid for continuing and granting to His Majesty a duty on
pensions offices and personal estates for the year 1814

May 20

Proprietors Names	Occupiers Names	£	s	d
Most Noble Marquis Duke for the woods & tythes of the Hamlet	Himself	31	0	0
Hills a ferme	William Gaudley	60	0	0
Hills a ferme	Henry Jones	17	2	6
Hills a ferme	John Harris	16	5	0
Hills a ferme	Walter Scott	10	4	6
Hills Land	Samuel Maydon	6	13	10
Hills Land	John Maywood	0	10	0
Hills a mill & Land	Edwards & Brown	4	5	0
Hills Land	Thomas Cook	1	12	6
Hills a Cottage	Thomas Wood	0	10	0
Hills a Cottage	Thomas Cress	0	8	0
Hills a Cottage	Thomas Cress	0	4	0
John Crawley Esq & Thomas Wood	Henry Mabbott	0	4	0
Head Mr Hall vicarial tythes	William Parr	2	4	4
Mr Hale Esq & a ferme	Himself	0	8	0
Grace Quarry a ferme	William Roberts	10	10	4
Mrs Case Land	Thomas Bridger	4	18	0
Mrs E Bridges Land	Henry Sawman	0	6	0
James Gubbidge Land	John Higgins	0	12	6
Thomas Cookson Cottages	Himself	2	10	0
Exonerated	Himself & others	0	6	0
William Healan a ferme	James Gubbidge	8	15	0
Mr & Jonathan Harris Land	Themselves	0	19	0
Francis Gyon Esq Land	Samuel Gyon	0	15	0
Walter Scott assessor		£ 180	17	6
	Geo Harrison			
	A. Douvert			
	W. P. Northcott			



Later Thomas Crew 1777-1854 was in the London Lodge (1841) and in Luton as impoverished woodman in 1851.

The Crew family are unusual in that they worked on the estate for many generations under several different owners. In the family tree on p.26 all those with their names in capital letters were employed at Luton Hoo. The often married into other Luton Hoo Estate families.

Further research:

Is there a connection between the gardeners and woodmen in the **Crew** family who worked at Luton Hoo and the large number of gardeners in the **Moss** family? The possible link has resulted from research into an enquiry to Herts Gardens Trust about Francis Moss who emigrated to Australia:

Mossmont Nurseries was established in 1853 in the gold mining area of Bunninyong near Ballarat in Victoria. Francis Moss who established the nursery arrived from Kent England in search of his fortune, but then saw the need to supply fresh vegetable to the miners. He also started growing fruit trees for the farmers in the surrounding districts.

www.mossmontnurseries.com.au

Both the Moss and Crew families have strong connections to Kimpton in Hertfordshire. The families intermarried (also shown on the family tree).

Capability Brown was consulted at both Luton Hoo and Kimpton Hoo in the 1760s which implies that well trained gardeners were employed on both landscapes. For Gardeners to travel around the UK and gain employment suggests that they were well trained.

John CREW 1690-1758 m 1708 Sarah GUTTERIDGE c1690-1756				CREW FAMILY TREE with links to the Moss family NB not all siblings are on this tree <u>Key</u> First Names in Bold Capitals - workers at Luton Hoo Estate Surnames in Bold Capitals - Luton Hoo Estate families Place of Birth/Place of Death Occupations													
William CREW 1712-65 Kimpton Kimpton/Kimpton m Mary Groom																	
JAMES CREW 1745-1811 Kimpton Kimpton/Kimpton <i>Gardener/Woodman</i> m 1770 Mary Bedford		John Crew 1740-1819 Kimpton Kimpton/Kimpton <i>Dairyman?</i> m 1761 Mary Young		James MOSS ?-1823 Kimpton ?/Kimpton <i>Sawyer</i> m Susanna Gooding													
THOMAS CREW 1777-1854 Kimpton/Luton <i>Woodman</i> m Mary TOYER		Ephraim Crew 1763-1853 Kimpton/Kimpton <i>Tailor</i>		married Elizabeth Moss 1762-1810 n Kimpton/Kimpton		Thomas Moss 1767-1835 Kimpton/Watford <i>Gamekeeper</i> m Hannah Stepney											
JOHN 1807-71 Luton/Luton <i>Woods/Game</i> m Mary Armitage		JAMES 1814-93 Luton/Luton <i>Woods/Ag Lab</i> m2 Sarah Holdstock		WILLIAM 1816-88 Luton/Luton <i>Ag Lab</i> m Ann Day		John Stepney Moss 1793-1857 Kimpton/Stammore <i>Gardener</i>		Francis 1796- Kimpton <i>Gardener</i>		William 1798-1868 Kimpton/Kent <i>Gardener</i>		George 1800- Kimpton/USA <i>Gardener</i>		Abednego 1803-71 Kimpton/Herefordshire <i>Gardener</i>			
GEORGE 1825- Luton/Luton <i>Ag Lab</i> m Frances		WILLIAM 1833- Luton/Luton <i>Ploughman</i> m Maria		JAMES 1847-1927 Luton/Luton <i>Ag Lab</i> m Ellen		FREDERICK JAMES 1861-1929 Luton/Luton <i>Head Woodsman</i> m Rebecca		Francis 1834-1916 Durham/Australia <i>Nurseryman</i> Mossmont		Thomas 1837- Durham		William 1845- Wales		Edwin 1848- Wales		Charles 1852- Hereford/Australia <i>Gardener</i>	
FENSOM		Munn		Simpson		Horn											
JAMES 1857-1934 <i>Ag Lab</i> m Emma HUNT		THOMAS 1849-1917 <i>Farm Lab</i> m Mary Troop															
Nelly 1880- m Stephen Tomsett		GEORGE HENRY 1882-1934 m Nellie Chambers		JOHN 1895-1915 died WW1		WALTER 1889-1923 m Bertha HOWARD		Bertie 1899-1965 m Bertha Snowden									

For example, Abednego **Moss** (father of Francis):

- Baptised in Kimpton in 1804
- Married in Hurworth, County Durham 1831
- Tenant at Hurworth of late Bishop Jonathan **Featherstone** 1838 (see below)
- Cheltenham, Gloucestershire in 1841 census
- Presteigne?, Radnorshire 1845 when son born
- Norton, Radnorshire (near Presteigne) 1848 when son born
- In Hereford, Herefordshire in 1851, 1861, 1871 census.

Francis Moss' brothers have not been traced successfully. Edwin seems to have been apprenticed as a draper. Some of the others could have emigrated to Australia but there are too many Moss emigration papers to be sure. One Charles Moss, who emigrated and arrived in Melbourne in 1870, had his occupation listed as gardener.

Tithe details for Abednego Moss:

Landowner » Tithe Records » Full	
Relationship to Landowner	Trustees of
Landowner	The Late Bishop Jonathan Featherstone
Occupier	Abednego Moss
Parish	Hurworth-On-Tees
County	County Durham
Original Date	29th September 1838
Description of Land	Garden
Quantities in Statute Measure	2.0.32
Plot	131
Reference	IR 29/11/146

LANDOWNERS	OCCUPYERS	Position entry in the File	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LAND AND PREMISES	STATE OF CULTIVATION	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURES			Amount of Rent-Charge appertaining upon the several Lands, and Premises in the Banns	REMARKS
					Acres	Roods	Poles		
Mortons, Knights Successors of the Chadforth and Moore	William Thomas	87	Hampden Lane Field	Grass	6	2	12	2	A
		88	Thrift Field	Arable	12	-	3	1	A
		89	Grass do	do	10	3	13	1	A
		90	Grass do	do	12	2	10	1	A
		91	Whiting Pasture	Grass	12	2	1	1	A
		92	Longford Hill	Arable	11	1	11	1	A
		93	Little One Pasture	do	7	3	-	1	A
		94	Elbow Field	do	7	3	35	1	A
		95	One Pasture	Grass	17	-	27	1	A
		96	Long Field	do	10	-	50	1	A
		97	Garden	do	-	-	35	-	A
		98	do	Household	-	1	22	-	A
		99	Three Pasture	Grass	10	5	50	1	A
		100	Bank Field	do	10	1	9	1	A
		101	Long Field	do	9	-	35	1	A
		102	Little Ploughing Field	Arable	2	2	24	1	A
Trustees of the late Featherstone Donation	Hemsted	103	Two Bank	Plantations	2	3	36	-	A
		104	do do	do	2	-	5	-	A
	Herdal Thomas	105	Ring	Arable	7	-	12	2	A
		106	do	do	10	1	24	3	A
		107	San Holme	do	11	1	16	4	A
		108	Three Pasture	Grass	3	-	34	2	A
		109	Plantation	Wood Land	-	3	36	-	A
		110	do	Household	-	2	5	-	A
		111	Grass	Grass	1	-	14	1	A
		112	Long One	do	10	1	17	2	A
		113	Big Field	do	11	2	4	2	A
		114	Lodge One	Arable	3	2	22	3	A
		115	Garden Field	do	6	-	29	7	A
	Lonsfield George and John	116	Manor	do	1	3	12	-	A
		117	Lane	do	-	-	17	-	A
		118	Lane	do	-	-	14	-	A
		119	Lodge Cottage	do	-	-	6	-	A
	Mops, Hedges	120	Garden	do	2	-	12	1	A

Source: National Archives and The Genealogist

Other sources: Ancestry, Find My Past, Hertfordshire Archives, Bedfordshire Archives

Researched by Felicity Brimblecombe

© Luton Hoo Estate 2021

What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) have free events on **Getting started at Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies**, a great introduction and guide to researching their archive and local studies resources.

The sessions are available at 11.00am or 2.00pm, and on different days.

Wednesday 12 March at 2.00pm

Thursday 10 April at 11.00am

Tuesday 13 May at 2.00pm

Wednesday 11 June at 11.00am

Thursday 17 July at 2.00pm

Tuesday 12 August at 11.00am

Wednesday 10 September at 2.00pm

Thursday 16 October at 11.00am

Tuesday 11 November at 2.00pm

Wednesday 10 December at 11.00am

Booking details can be found at this link - [HALS | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

In the Archive Reading room you will be able to view original documents including county council, parish church, family, estate and business records.

In the Local Studies Library you will be able to find on the open shelves printed and published materials, e.g. books, pamphlets, periodicals, directories, maps, photographs and also sources on microfilm such as parish registers, newspapers and wills.

Hertfordshire Family History Society have a special session at HALS for members on 15th March.

Contact details for HALS

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)

Register Office Block, CHR 002, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford
SG13 8EJ

Tel: 0300 123 4049 (as for Local Studies)

Email: hals.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hals

You can also follow HALS on X (Twitter) @HertsArchives

HALS opening hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday 9am – 5.00pm

First Tuesday evening of the month , 5pm -7:30pm, open
by appointment. Contact HALS to book by 9.00am the
previous Friday.

Wednesday 9am – 5.00pm

Thursday 9am – 5.00pm

Friday 9am – 12.30pm

Saturday 10am – 2pm

First and third Saturdays of the month

Sunday Closed

Useful links

www.findmypast.co.uk Hertfordshire parish registers, school logbooks, historic newspapers & the 1939 National Register searchable online (subscription site, normally free to use at HALS and Hertfordshire libraries)

www.thegenealogist.co.uk Hertfordshire tithe maps and apportionments searchable online (subscription site)

www.workhouses.org.uk the story of the workhouse with information about workhouses in Hertfordshire and across the country

www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk Genealogy in Hertfordshire

www.hertsmemories.org.uk history, memories and photos of Hertfordshire

www.halh.org.uk Hertfordshire Association for Local History, with links to local history societies' websites. Details of free online local history talks can be found on the home page.

www.hertspastpolicing.org.uk Herts Past Policing: crime and policing in Hertfordshire through the ages

www.hertsatwar.co.uk Community led project to commemorate the diverse experiences of Hertfordshire during WW1

www.prisonhistory.org Database of prisons, prison records and lock-ups in England, searchable by county

maps.nls.uk/os Historic Ordnance Survey maps, including of Hertfordshire, at the National Library of Scotland

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk The National Archives (TNA)

The National Archives at Kew re-opened on 27 April by appointment only; more on their website. Downloadable files are still being available at no charge (usually £3.50). These include PCC wills, navy and marine records, New Poor Law correspondence (Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union only for Herts) and title deeds.

When does a year start?

That might seem a very silly question but if a family historian manages to trace their ancestors back to the start of the eighteenth century, then they might wonder why a date is written as 1730/31.

We are used to adjusting our calendar to match with the solar year with the addition of a day every 4 years. But the absence of any alterations required a major amendment of 11 days in 1752 in this country. So, Wednesday 2nd September 1752 was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September 1752. At that time celebrating one's birthday was not such a common event otherwise there would have been many birthday parties on that Thursday!

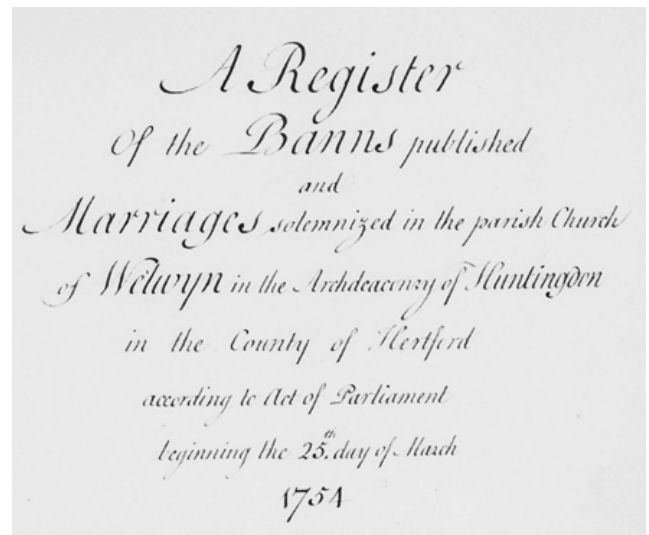
The Act of Parliament also changed the start of the year from the 25th March to the 1st January.

Events between 1st January and 25th March before 1753 are recorded with the years as 1750/51. Very annoying when you want to know how old your ancestor was when they died in May 1812 and were born February 1742/43. Another good reason for always looking at original documents!

The original Welwyn parish records use the new start of the year correctly, but old habits were ingrained so this register begins not at the start of 1754 but on the 25th March 1754.

For ancestors in other countries – check when that country's calendar changed and the year started.

Scotland also lost 11 days in 1752, but the start of the year had moved to 1st January in 1600. Perhaps that is why the tradition of Hogmanay, the Scots word for the last day of the old year, is such an important event in Scotland. They have celebrated on the 31st December many more times than in England!



The end of a year also included celebrating Christmas. For many people it might be one of the few days that they were not working so marriages and baptisms often took place.

25 December 1858 at Welwyn there were 2 weddings:

William **Nash** to Susan **Harwood** and Henry **England** to Anna Maria **Lawrence**.

25 December 1855 at Baldock there were 4 baptisms:

Fanny **Covington**, Richard **Clements**, Richard **Lee** and William **Webster**.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Baldock</i> in the County of <i>Hertford</i> in the Year 18 <i>55</i> .						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <i>55</i> . Dec. 25 th 11.0p	Fanny	James	Covington	North Wish	Labourer	Mr. Nichol, Rector.
No. 833						
18 <i>55</i> . Dec. 25 th 10.0p	Richard	Richard	Clements	Baldock	Labourer	Mr. Nichol, Rector.
No. 830						
18 <i>55</i> . Dec. 25 th 10.0p	Richard	Daniel	Lee	Baldock	Labourer	Mr. Nichol, Rector.
No. 831						
18 <i>55</i> . Dec. 25 th 10.0p	William	George	Webster	Baldock	Labourer	Mr. Nichol, Rector.
No. 832						

Recent births record the date and the time. But time was not standardised until the Victorian era. As trains began to travel across the country differences in time made railway timetables difficult so 'railway time' was started in the 1840s. Greenwich Mean Time was legally adopted in 1880.

Interesting occupations connected with time were knocker-up and time seller. A knocker-up was the equivalent of an alarm clock and would go round banging on doors and windows to rouse factory workers for their shifts. In London some people made a living by going to Greenwich every morning, adjusting a time piece to the correct time, and then walking round London selling the right time.

Felicity Brimblecombe

Sources: *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia*, National Records of Scotland, Find my Past.

(This article originally appeared in Welwyn parish magazine)

Cover Story: Arthur Christopher Taylor



The picture on the cover of this issue of *Hertfordshire People* is of Arthur Christopher Taylor, the son of Arthur and Kate Taylor of Hitchin, resplendent in his Great Northern Railway uniform. He was my Nana's brother.

Arthur was born on 27 August 1898 in Hitchin and baptised on 9 October the same year. In the 1901 census he is aged 2 and living with his family at 4 Hitchin Hill Path. The family are still living at the same address in the 1911 census.

He seems to have served in the first world war from 1916 in the Machine Gun Corps as his service papers can be found on ancestry (The National Archives; London, England, UK; War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War Wo363). In these papers he states his occupation to be a Railway Porter and he was living at 1 Railway Cottages, E End Road, East Finchley when he joined up. He was five feet nine inches tall with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion.

In the 1921 census he is still living in Finchley, boarding with the **Barnes** family at 1 Railway Cottages, E. End Road, Finchley, and working as a Railway Porter for the Great Northern Railway. We next find Arthur getting married on 30 December 1922 at St James Church, Wigan, Lancashire to Elizabeth **Roby**, the daughter of James Roby, a lampman. He is now a Railway Coach Fitter. In the 1939 Register Arthur and his wife are living at 12 Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh in Essex where Arthur is a Motor Driver (Parcel van) and Shunter LNER. Living with them is Regina **Wadeson** (b.1915) who is a niece of Elizabeth nee Roby. Arthur died in 1976 (GRO Southend on Sea 9 3299) at the age of 77.

Regina Wadeson would eventually marry William (Bill) **Garner**, the son of Daisy Garner nee **Darton** who was brought up with Arthur Taylor and his sister Sarah, my nana **Morgan**, in Hitchin. It is a small world.

Jane Tunesi

Society Talks

October 2024

William Wilshere: a Hitchin lawyer, and his garden 1790-1824 presented by Bridget Howlett

Our speaker is the author of the recent Hertfordshire Record Society volume *William Wilshere's Hitchin Farm and Garden 1809-1824* which was reviewed in *Hertfordshire People* 168, March 2024.

Supremely knowledgeable about her subject, Bridget's talk was presented without notes accompanied by a superb powerpoint presentation with a plethora of pertinent illustrations in which William Wilshere and his garden in Hitchin were put into context. One of the most interesting illustrations was a *View of Windmill Hill, Hitchin, looking towards William Wilshere's Garden* painted c. 1827 by local artist Samuel **Lucas**. It vividly shows the extent of the house and garden and from this one can work out what is now on the site, as no trace of the garden remains to be seen today.

William **Wilshere** (1754-1824) was a JP for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, the son of William Wilshere from Kimpton who moved to Hitchin and became a Maltster. The family were Quaker and he was a cousin of Samuel **Whitbread**. He was Clerk to Richard **Trustrum** who lived at The Hermitage. In 1785 Wilshere married Martha **Wortham**, who had a dowry of £1,700, but tragically she died only 13 months later. Richard Trustrum left The Hermitage to William Wilshere when he died. Wilshere worked for Hitchin Priory and also the Southill Park Estate and over time invested in property and 122 acres of land in Hitchin. As Lord of the Manor of Wymondley he featured in the Coronation of George IV. This manor was held of the king in chief by grand serjeanty for the service of rendering the king a silver-gilt cup at his coronation feast, the last time this service was offered at a Coronation. He was also one of the founders of Hitchin British School. His Clerk, Joseph **Eades** did the day to day work, as Wilshere had done for Richard Trustrum. At his death Wilshere had £230,000 worth of assets. The bulk of his Estate was left to his nephew, William Wilshere and his descendants, heirs and assigns and in default was to go to Samuel

Whitbread. It remained in the Wilshere families until the family died out.

Using documentary sources the ownership, descent and personalities associated with William Wilshere's Garden were discussed, using maps to illustrate various points. We learned of the type of trees planted and the fruit and vegetables cultivated such as cucumbers, melons and pineapples.

The MS Cash Book (HALS 61496) was researched in depth to trace the payments made to farm bailiffs, gardeners and casual labourers. By tracing the gardeners and farm Bailiff's it is clear that experts from around the country were employed. John **Fells** (1804) was succeeded by Thomas **Grant**, from Elgin who subsequently moved to Fulham. He was succeeded by James **Carter**, then James **Bowie** whose Journal of his time working for William Wilshere is extant. He is an interesting character who travelled with Sir Joseph **Banks** on a plant gathering expedition to Brazil. Bowie was succeeded by John **Downing**, from Flintshire who subsequently worked at Chicksands and Shefford. Following on from Downing there was James **Gray**, who was succeeded by Daniel **McIntosh** who then became gardener at Wrest Park. McIntosh was succeeded by John **Carter**, who was born in Tamworth in Staffordshire and finally Charles **Prime**. Prime brought The Hermitage after the death of Wilshere and it was subsequently owned by Frederic **Seebohm**, a Quaker banker, who lived next door.

The old thatched house in Walsworth Road in Hitchin is the only part of Wilshere's garden still extant.

November 2024

Hertfordshire Sources - The Obvious and the Unexpected presented by Felicity Brimblecombe

Felicity provided a comprehensive overview of genealogical research resources and techniques, focusing on Hertfordshire but also covering neighbouring counties. She emphasised the importance of utilising various records, including those from record offices, family history societies, and online platforms, to trace ancestors and understand their living conditions.

Sharing examples from her own family research to illustrate the process of

connecting family members across different records and locations, Felicity also highlighted the value of local history societies and historical maps in genealogical studies.

Researching Ancestors in Hertfordshire

Felicity discussed the various sources for researching ancestors in Hertfordshire, including the Hertfordshire County Record Office and the Hertfordshire Association for Local History. She emphasized the importance of using original documents and transcriptions, and suggested using the card index on Ancestry for more accurate information. Felicity also mentioned the Hertfordshire FHS's specialised publications and their project to collate information from parish churchyards. She used her own research as examples, focusing on her grandmother and her ancestors in Hertfordshire.

General Register Office Records Explained

Felicity discussed the General Register Office's extensive records, which now include mother's maiden names dating back to 1837. She highlighted the usefulness of these records in verifying family connections and identifying individuals with the same surname. Felicity also mentioned the London Orphan Asylum, which was relocated to Watford in 1871, and how its records could be accessed through various platforms like Find My Past and Ancestry. She emphasised the importance of cross-referencing baptism records and the potential for finding additional information through monumental inscriptions and school admission registers.

Genealogical Research Resources and Tools

Felicity discussed various resources for genealogical research, emphasizing the importance of understanding census data, directories, and tithe maps. She highlighted the usefulness of the University of Leicester's directory collection and the Hertfordshire Record Office's search facilities. Felicity also shared her experience with finding detailed information about her ancestors, including a butler named Daniel **Elcock**, through will entries and other records. She encouraged the use of online resources like Hertfordshire Names Online and the National Library of Scotland for further research.

Tracing Family History With Records

Felicity discussed various research ideas and resources for tracing family history. She mentions using wills that mention extended family members,

removal orders between parishes for supporting individuals, bastardy records to identify fathers, military ballot lists as early censuses, and photos/postcards with potential family connections. Felicity also explored intermarriages between the **Elcock** and **Merchant** families in Little Hadham and Braughing using marriage records, illustrating how to trace family connections across records and locations. Her grandfather married Eleanor, whose father James was a wheelwright and publican in Braughing according to census records.

Exploring Local History and Ancestors

Felicity discussed the history of the *Brown Bear* pub in Braughing, Hertfordshire, and its connection to the Simpson's and Co. brewery. She suggested using the Brewery History Society on Wiki for further research. Felicity also highlighted the importance of local history societies, such as the Hertfordshire Association for Local History, for gathering information about ancestors and their living conditions. She emphasised the usefulness of maps, particularly the 18th century Ordnance Survey drawings and the 1863 map of Braughing, for understanding the topography and locations of ancestors' residences. Felicity also shared her research on the **Merchant** family, tracing their lineage back to the 16th century and their connections to the **Wyman** family of Westmill. She mentioned the possibility of finding more information about the **Dards** family through estate papers and wills. Lastly, she mentioned another Merchant family member, Elizabeth, who emigrated to America with her children.

Understanding Neighbouring Counties in Research

Felicity discussed the importance of understanding neighbouring counties when researching family history. She highlighted the changes in county boundaries and the need to look beyond the initial county for records. Felicity also shared her research on various counties, including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, and Buckinghamshire, and the resources available for each. She emphasized the usefulness of the Quaker records, electoral registers, and wills beneficiary index. Felicity also mentioned the importance of looking at village websites and family history societies for additional information.

She concluded by encouraging everyone to continue their research and wished them luck in their ancestry research.

December 2024

Adventures of a Ghost Hunter presented by Damien O'Dell

There were a bumper number of visitors to our Zoom talk in December with it's subject of ghosts and ghost hunting. Whether you are a sceptic or a believer, there was much of interest in this superb presentation by Damien O'Dell.

Presented in conversational style with examples from all over the county, and a couple from Bedfordshire, the subject matter of local history interspersed with spooky stories, was lapped up by our audience.

Stories from towns and villages, such as Royston, Wheathampsted, Flamstead, Harpenden, Markyate, Datchworth and Baldock and buildings such as Hitchin Priory, the *Cross Keys* pub, Rose Cottage, Church Green, *The Crown*, in Berkhamstead, Ashridge House in Little Gaddesden, *The Bull* in Redbourn, The Palace Theatre in Watford and *The Banyers* Hotel in Royston were discussed, and in some cases the stories were debunked.

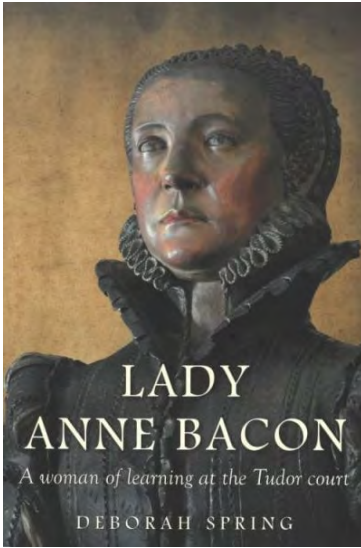
Our members Felicity and Jane also shared their ghost stories with Damien and the audience.

A perfect talk to get us in the mood for Christmas and the darker evenings when our ancestors huddled around a fire and scared themselves silly with the telling of tall tales with a ghostly flavour.

Damien is always interested in learning about new stories and encounters and can be reached via his website - damienodell.com

Jane's husband's encounter of a full body apparition of an Edwardian child in the bathroom of their house will feature in Damien's next book.

New books you might find of interest.....



Spring, Deborah *Lady Anne Bacon: A woman of learning at the Tudor Court.* Hertfordshire Publications, 2024. ISBN 978-1-912260-66-9.

One of the five highly educated daughters of Anthony Cooke, Lady Anne Bacon (1528–1610) lived through the great political and religious transitions of five reigns and was embedded in the network of power at the Tudor court, yet up to now her historical record has remained relatively unknown.

She served as a woman of the Privy Chamber to both Mary I and Elizabeth I. She married Sir Nicholas Bacon, a lawyer and later Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal as his second wife, becoming stepmother to his six children. Her own sons, Anthony and Francis Bacon became respectively a spy and a statesman and as a widow Lady Anne ran a great Estate alone for thirty years,

In this superbly researched and readable book the author uses Lady Anne's letters and other contemporary sources to reveal her part in Tudor history.

Other books of interest.....

Wilkerson, J.C (ed) *John Norden's Survey of Barley, Hertfordshire 1593-1603.* Cambridge Antiquarian Records Society, Vol 2 for 1973, 1974. ISBN 0 904323 01 3.

Have you seen any new books with a Hertfordshire theme or content? Would you like to write a review for inclusion in a future edition of *Hertfordshire People*?

I am always happy to receive notices of forthcoming publications and information on new books or online sources on all aspects of Hertfordshire history and topography.

Editor.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Apart From our Monumental Inscriptions and Militia Lists books, did you know that Hertfordshire FHS has also produced several special publications? They have been produced over the years in a variety of formats, print, CD and flash drive.

- **Transported beyond the Seas** - criminals convicted in Hertfordshire who received transportation sentences to Australia 1784-1866.
- **Fleet Marriages of Hertfordshire People to 1754** - an alphabetical list of grooms and brides.
- **Hertfordshire Settlement Certificates**
- **Hertfordshire Removal Orders**
- **Hertfordshire Examinations**
- **Nonconformity in Hertfordshire**
- **Hertfordshire Places**
- **Hertfordshire Obituaries** - from *The Gentleman's Magazine*
- **Hertfordshire Burial Index (CD)**
- **1851 Hertfordshire Census (CD)**
- **Hertfordshire Militia Ballot Lists (CD)**
- **Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1585-1615 (CD)**
- **Herts Marriage Links 1538-1837 (CD)**
- **Hertfordshire Strays Index (CD)**
- **Herts Poor Law** - Settlements, Removals & Examinations books above (Flash Drive)

We welcome letters on any aspect of the history and genealogy of Hertfordshire places and families, or in response to articles and extracts which have appeared in *Hertfordshire People*. Contact the Editor at the address or e-mail at the top of page 1.

A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam

69) The Arms of the Barons Rothschild, of Tring in the County of Hertfordshire.

The first Baron Rothschild, of Tring in the County of Hertfordshire was Sir Nathan¹ Mayer **Rothschild** (born 8th November 1840 died 31st March 1915) being a member of the eponymous Rothschild banking family. This peerage being created on the 29th June 1885 within the Peerage of the United Kingdom. He was the eldest son of Baron Lionel Nathan de Rothschild,² of Gunnersbury in the County of Middlesex and his wife and cousin, Charlotte de Rothschild.

At the time he became Lord Rothschild, Nathan had already inherited the family baronetcy of Rothschild, of Grosvenor Place in the County of Middlesex from his uncle, Sir Anthony Nathan de Rothschild, the 1st Baronet of Grosvenor Place (born 29th May 1810 died 4th January 1876) under the special remainder that was included in the Letters Patent when this baronetcy was created within the Baronetage of the United Kingdom on the 12th January 1847. The limitation being that failing Sir Anthony's own male issue the baronetcy would be inheritable by the sons (and their

male issue) of his elder brother, Lionel. For although, Sir Anthony had married his cousin, Louisa **Montefiore** (born 28th May 1821 died 22nd September 1910) in 1840 their marriage only produced two daughters neither of whom were able to inherit or transmit their father's baronetcy. So, for the want of a male heir, the baronetcy was inherited by his nephew, Nathan Mayer Rothschild, the future Baron Rothschild.

Nathan married his double first cousin Emma Louise von Rothschild (born 1844 died January 1935) on the 16th April 1867. She was the only daughter of Carl (Charles) Mayer von Rothschild and his wife, Adelheid **Herz**.

Nathan naturally worked for the family bank as did all his brothers.

Apart from banking and good works, he also found time to enter the fray of British politics and sit in the House of Commons at Westminster having been elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Aylesbury in 1865 until 1885 when he left the green benches of the Commons and sat upon the red benches of the House of Lords as Baron Rothschild.

He was appointed as the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in 1889, an office he held until his death in 1915.

In consequence of the King's Coronation Honours List of 1902, Nathan was sworn as a Member of His Majesty's Privy Council at Buckingham Palace of the 11th August 1902. Also on the same day, he received the accolade of knighthood from King Edward VII upon his appointment as a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO).



As can be seen in this example of Goss crested china, the armorial

bearings that the Rothschilds bore have a distinctly Continental European flavour with their triple crests ensigning the whole achievement which may be blazoned as follows:

Arms: Quarterly 1st *Or an eagle displayed sable langued gules* 2nd and 3rd *Azure issuing from the dexter and sinister sides of the shield an arm embowed proper grasping five arrows points to the base argent* 4th *Or a lion rampant proper langued gules overall an escutcheon gules thereon a target the point to the dexter proper*

Crests:

(Centre) *Issuant from a ducal coronet or an eagle displayed sable.*

(Dexter) *Out of a ducal coronet or between two buffalo horns per fess or and sable a mullet of six points or.*

(Sinister) *Out of a ducal coronet or three ostrich feathers the centre one argent the exterior ones azure.*

Supporters: *On the dexter side a lion rampant or and on the sinister side a unicorn argent.*

Motto: *Concordia Industria* [Harmony Integrity Industry] *Integritas*

End Notes

1. Also known as Nathaniel.

2. A Baron of the Austrian Empire. This barony was created for Lord Rothschild's grandfather, Nathan Mayer de Rothschild (born 16th September 1777 died 28th July 1836) by Imperial Letters Patent dated at Vienna on the 29th September 1822.

The grant of this Austrian barony also included Nathan's four brothers:

Amschel Mayer von Rothschild (born 12th June 1773 died 6th December 1855); Salomon Mayer von Rothschild (born 9th September 1774 died 28th July 1855); Carl (Charles) Mayer von Rothschild (born 24th April 1788 died 10th March 1855) and Jakob (James) Mayer de Rothschild (born 15th May 1792 died 15th November 1868).



Members Interests

If interested in any of the names listed here, advise the Registrar who will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. Quote the full line of the submitted interest. The contact addresses are listed below. Apart from the new listings in *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available to members only on family names that they may be researching using our members' interests database. This database is kept up to date at all times. Email correspondence is preferred but, if communicating by post, enclose a sae. For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter so that contact may be made. The contact points are:

By post: The Registrar, 134 Beechwood Avenue, St. Albans, AL1 4XY
 By email: registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk

Name	Period	Parish	County	M/No
Edwards	1760-1850	Flamstead, Redbourn	Hrt	4690
Harris	1800-1930	Flamstead	Hrt	4690
How	1780-1900	Flamstead	Hrt	4690
Lines	1800-1900	Flamstead	Hrt	4690
Robinson	1765-1900	Trowley Bottom, Flamstead,	Hrt	4690
Stratton	1820-1930	Flamstead, Redbourn	Hrt	4690
Tarbox	1780-1900	Flamstead	Hrt	4690
Skeggs	1800-1900	Flamstead, Great Gaddesden Redbourn	Hrt	4690
Wells	1760-1900	Trowley Bottom, Flamstead, Redbourn	Hrt	4690

Your Editor is delighted to receive correspondence, letters or e-mails, from readers in response to any articles, reviews or enquiries that appear within these pages.

Don't forget to write in!

New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
4685	Mr. Terry Gatward	NSW, Australia
4686	Mr. Ken Hornett	Suffolk
4687	Miss Catherine Hilton	Kent
4688	Mrs. Sue Gordon	Hertfordshire
4689	Mrs. Gaynor Trafford	Isle of Man
4690	Mrs. Sandra Hawkins	Swansea

If you would like to advertise your genealogical services in *Hertfordshire People*, contact the Editor who can advise on our reasonable rates at editor@hertsfhs.org.uk or by phone 07989 976396.

Please send all advertisement copy by e-mail.



Family History Research
Hertfordshire, London & Middlesex
All enquiries welcome
Mrs Carolynn Boucher
1 Ivinghoe Close, Chiltern Park
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9JR
Tel: 01727 833664
carolynn.boucher@virginmedia.com

Hertfordshire Family History Society

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *note two rates i.e. Printed / digital PDF*

UK individual - £13/£9; UK Family - £14/£10; Overseas (airmail) - £16/£10;
UK Families receive one journal per household. Subscriptions only accepted in **Sterling**. Overseas members may pay by credit card online using the website www.genfair.co.uk.

Subscriptions run from 1 March to 28 February each year. **Subscriptions by post are payable to 'Hertfordshire Family History Society' and sent to The Membership Secretary, 50 Chelwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10.** All correspondence by post regarding membership of the Society should be addressed to the **Membership Secretary**. Otherwise, email all queries and changes of personal details to the Registrar at registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk.

SOCIETY PROJECTS : Projects are ongoing and volunteers for transcribing, checking etc are always welcome. If you would like to know more, contact the **Projects Co-ordinator: Mr John Pearson** - johnwelburn@talktalk.net

PUBLICATIONS: A full list of Society publications is issued with the September journal each year, and is always available on our website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk. For a booklist, you can also contact the Secretary at any time. You can buy Society publications online using a secure credit card facility at www.genfair.co.uk

- **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS:** over 100 volumes now published with transcriptions of memorials in over 120 churches and churchyards.
- **MILITIA LISTS:** A full set of individual parish booklets are available on one fully searchable CD-ROM.
- **SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS:** On CD or Flash Drive. Check out website for availability www.hertsfhs.org.uk

MEMBERS' INTERESTS: Apart from the new listings in each issue of *Hertfordshire People*, a free search facility is available, to members only, on family names that they may be researching, from our database of Members Interests. The names searched for will be completely up to date with the membership details held. Email correspondence preferred, but if by post enclose a s.a.e. For all enquiries, the Registrar will liaise with the submitter

JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION: if there is any problem with the delivery of your copy of *Hertfordshire People*, please contact - registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk

UNWANTED GRO CERTIFICATES: Can be donated to the Society, making them available to other members. **MEMBERS' FAMILY TREES** or family histories are also welcome additions to the library. Please make clear what surname they relate to, what location in Hertfordshire the family comes from, and keep them compact! Contact the Secretary.

OTHER MEMBERS WITH SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reference Box: Would you like to take responsibility for bringing our reference books to meetings? If so, please contact the Secretary.

HOUSE GROUPS: At present, one House Group is active.

Hoddesdon Area Group – Organiser: Mrs Janet Pearson - johnandjanet@ntlworld.com Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon. 2 - 4pm. New members welcome.

The Society would be pleased to help set up further House Groups – contact the Secretary if you would like to help to start one near where you live.

HFHS SEARCH SERVICES

Our Society is always looking for ways to help members with their research. We use income from our search services to provide further research material and in this way we hope to expand our services in the future.

The Hertfordshire Burial Index 1800-1851

Please request searches through 'Genfair' at www.genfair.co.uk.

BOOK, CD & FLASH DRIVE SALES

All sales are now online via Genfair -

www.genfair.co.uk/supplier/hertfordshire-family-history-society-66/



Hertfordshire

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies
Registered Charity No. 285008

President:

Mr Alan Ruston

Vice Presidents

Mrs Christine Hill, Mr John Pearson,
Mrs Janet Pearson, Mrs June Thomas

OFFICERS

Chair: Mrs Felicity Brimblecombe, chairhertsfhs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mr Brian H. Worboys, treasurer@hertsfhs.org.uk

Secretary: Dr Tracy Turner, secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Miss Sue Jackson

Ms Anna Schlenker

Miss Janet Sutton

Mrs Jane Tunesi of Liongam

John Tunesi of Liongam

Mrs Elaine Tyler

All Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary

e-mail: secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk

Information is also available on the Society's website:

www.hertsfhs.org.uk

Hertfordshire Family History Society

Meetings Programme 2025

at Woolmer Green Hybrid / Zoom
From 2.15pm - Speaker 2.30pm (UK time)

Please check our website News & Events page and our social media platforms for the latest changes to the programme.

- Mar 15** **Help Session at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.**
2.00pm until 5.00pm.
- Mar 29** **Where does my family come from?: Unlocking the secrets of DNA Testing** presented by Karen Evans. This talk covers understanding how the test works, getting the most from the test (what the results mean) and how to use your results to validate paper research or overcome brick walls like illegitimacy.
- Apr 26** **The Devil's Daughter and Me** presented by Ben Nicholls. Allow our speaker to show you the underside of Victorian respectability through the eyes of some of his ancestors. Aaron who broke with his community to be with the woman he loved and Caroline whose passion for a dashing Parisian left her in total disgrace amongst others, and finally you will meet Melusine herself...
- May 31** **AGM at 2.00pm followed by My 400 Years of Harpenden History** presented in person by Peter Wilson. Our speaker will outline his centuries of Harpenden family history with particular emphasis on Peter Parrot, who was transported overseas on more than one occasion, giving the background to his offences and his time 'overseas'.

Website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk

Printed by Triographics Printers Limited of Knebworth - 01438 811905