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Hertfordshire People

The Journal of Hertfordshire Family History Society

No 173
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2025

W. & J. BROWN

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

Front Cover: The 1918 wedding of Frank Lionel Charles ***Leigh Dugmore*** *and Ethel Alice* ***Ellcock****. See article on Page 9.*

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From the Editor…….

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

With the recent anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day to come later in the year, my thoughts have been with members of my family who served in the Second World War, in the Services or at home, the men and the ladies. For the September issue of Hertfordshire People, I wonder if any of our readers would like to offer a short piece, with a photo if possible, about your ancestors, or relatives, activities in the War.

My Dad was an engineer and therefore was deemed to be in a 'reserved occupation' when he went to Cambridge to join up so he joined the Home Guard in Letchworth and worked at various engineering firms during the hostilities in Letchworth firms like Brierley Engineering, Jigs Engineering and Irvin's Parachutes and at Addis in Hertford. His three brothers all joined the Army. Jim and Dick served in France and Germany and Basil ended up in Burma after the end of the War so was a bit peeved he didn't get the Burma Star as he wasn't out there long enough!

Vi with the Glebe Dairy milk cart.

My Dad's sister Nellie owned and ran the Glebe Dairy in Letchworth whilst her husband Reg was serving in the RAF Police, at RAF Tempsford and in Belgium, with her elder sister Vi coming up from Newhaven to help as the War progressed.

His younger sister Bella worked at the Spirella.

My Mum's only brother was working at the Kryn and Lahy Ltd in Letchworth in the 1939 Register so he too was in a reserved occupation. In the 1939 Register, her eldest sister Vi's husband, Henry **Brown**, was a 'universal grinder metal machine able to set up' and her next eldest sister, Dorothy's husband, Bernard **Spicer**, was a 'Yardman Joinery Works heavy worker'. The other children were too young in 1939 and still living at home, but by the end of the War my Mum, by then 20, was also working at Kryn and Lahy. They all 'did their bit' for the War Effort be it at home or abroad.

What did your family do? I'd love to hear from you.

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

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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 mbrsec@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 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

Publicising our society and our publications has been a recent aim to increase our presence, sales and membership.

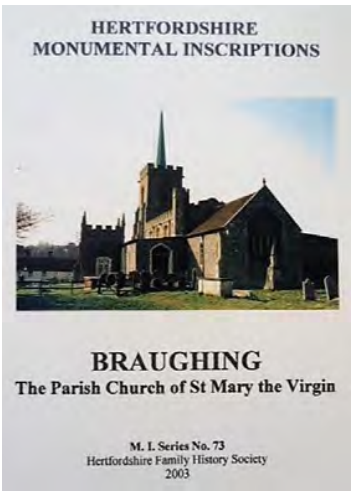
The Society of Genealogists www.sog.org.uk suggested organisations combined with them to promote their counties. March was selected for Hertfordshire. We worked with Hertfordshire Archives and Local History Studies to provide two talks: one covering what is available at our county record office; the other how those and other sources can be used to research ancestors in and around Hertfordshire. Our talk used my paternal Granny's family history to illustrate a wide variety of sources. The result is available online: https://youtu.be/eTyCW6cs-JU

This has been followed by a longer talk recorded for Lost Cousins - Putting Relatives In Touch and facilitated detailed advertising of our publications including our major project recording Monumental Inscriptions. Do you realise how much information is included in our publications?

Hertfordshire Family History Society | Supplier | GenFair lists all our 106 MI books (and other items). Prices vary as parish graveyards can be large or small resulting in publications of different sizes.

Data produced elsewhere such as by Find my Grave is useful but our publications have more details.

For example, the book for Braughing, Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, has 72 pages. It includes an index of all items both inside and outside the church and a location plan of all gravestones in the churchyard.



Entries are checked before publication with parish registers and other sources. Even when a grave is almost unreadable the information has been deduced:

worn h/s, covered by lichen ~ ~ inscr. unreadable ~ probably George **MERCHANT** *who died Jan 14th 1819 aged 54 and his wife Sarah who died Dec. 14th 1804 aged 44 f/s ~* G.M. 1819; S.M. 1804 *(details from Gerish and confirmed by Par. Reg.)*

Also listed in this publication are:

- Graves recorded by Gerish and Cussans, now illegible
- Names on the Village War memorial
- MIs in the Congregational Chapel

Graves were recorded by William Blyth Gerish circa 1908 (article about him in the members' area of our website). John Edwin Cussans also recorded graves in the 1870s. His *History of Hertfordshire* is useful for genealogists and is available, and searchable, online via Google books.

NB our MI project does not record burials in unmarked graves. Burial information is available online via Findmypast which has 688,657 entries for Hertfordshire of which, for example, 6,307 are listed for Braughing.

Felicity Brimblecombe
chairhertfhs@gmail.com

A Paying Guest in the Workhouse!

Back in the September 2023 edition of *Hertfordshire People* I wrote an article about my 2x great grandfather George **Reed**, who, despite fighting in all the major battles of the Crimean War, ended up in the workhouse at Ware. He is shown there on the 1901 census, age 69 and is described as a pauper.

When he died of Bright's Disease on 27 April 1905, the Matron at the workhouse was recorded on the death certificate as being present at the death. George had previously worked as a gardener and lodged at the *Black Horse* Inn in West Street, Hertford. I thought that maybe once he was too old to work, with only an army pension, he didn't have enough money to continue paying the landlord at the *Black Horse*.

A few weeks ago I decided that I would visit the inn to see where George had once lived. Prior to my visit, I thought that I would just look at Ancestry to see if there were any new hints that might be relevant. We all know that a lot of Ancestry hints have no relevance whatsoever, so when I saw a British newspaper article from the *Nottingham Evening Post* 6 May 1905, entitled 'Workhouse Paying Guest', I nearly discounted it, as George had never been anywhere near Nottingham. Imagine my surprise when I read the whole article in the *British Newspaper Archive*. It seems that George had achieved fame in several provincial newspapers because as well as having had an exemplary army career, he actually paid for his accommodation in Ware Workhouse which must have been highly unusual.

The Herts & Cambs Reporter & Royston Crow 12 May 1905 recorded that he 'was in receipt of a pension of 1s. 2½d per day. He had been in the workhouse since 1899 and paid for his maintenance. He was much liked by the other inmates, being of a cheerful and kind-hearted disposition.'

Unfortunately there is a gap in the workhouse accounts for the period George was there. It would have been interesting to see how much he paid and how they recorded the payment.

Marcia Bell (HFHS 4518)

Orphans and Orphanages

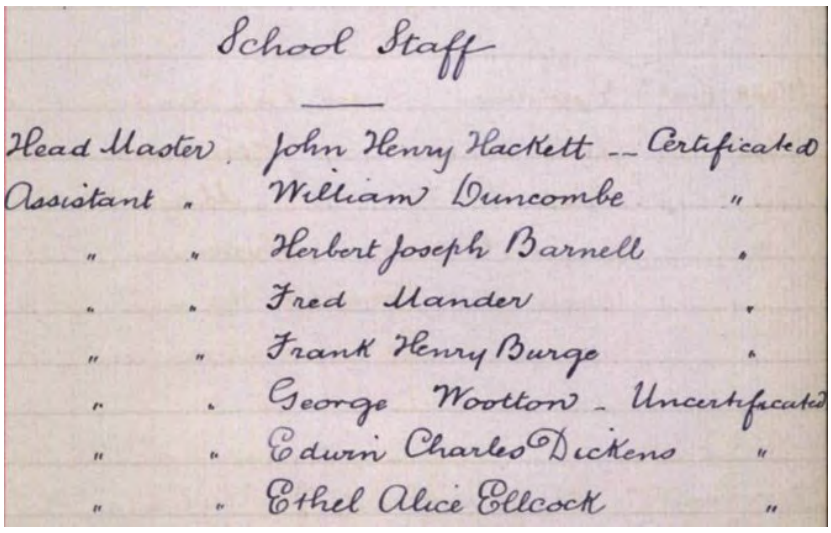
What is the definition of an orphan? Silly question, a child whose parents are both dead! But I was surprised to discover 'orphans' in two successive generations of my family who were placed in an orphanage and deemed to be orphans because they had lost their working parent although their mothers were still alive.

Oral history records that my paternal grandmother, had gone to a boarding school and became a teacher. When access to the 1901 census arrived, it provided the location of the school as the London Orphan Asylum in Watford.

Ethel Alice **Ellcock** was 6 when her father, William Ellcock, died in 1894, aged 34. Records summarised on FindmyPast state that she was from Luton, one of 3 children dependent on the mother, whose father had been a confectioner, and she attended the orphanage from 1898 to 1901.

Reverend Andrew **Reed** (1787-1862), philanthropist and Congregational minister, opened the London Orphan Asylum in 1813 in Shoreditch. Its *raison d'être* was to care and provide an education for destitute children, boys and girls, who had lost both parents or their father, with the mother unable to provide for them. The first permanent building was opened in Clapham in 1825, in 1871 the school moved to Watford in Hertfordshire.

Ethel was sufficiently well educated to finish her education in Luton where, on 5th July 1907, she commenced duties as an Assistant Teacher at Surrey Street Primary School.



School Staff

Head Master	John Henry Hackett	Certificated
Assistant	William Duncombe	"
"	Herbert Joseph Barnell	"
"	Fred Mander	"
"	Frank Henry Burge	"
"	George Wootton	Uncertificated
"	Edwin Charles Dickens	"
"	Ethel Alice Ellcock	"

She was still there in 1909.

By 1911 she was working as a library assistant in Luton library and then married a WWI soldier in Luton in 1918.

What happened to her siblings?

Her older brother Arthur William Ellcock born in 1890 attended the same orphanage in Watford from 1899 to 1901. His entry page in the 1901 census illustrates the wide range of birth locations of the attendees: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Devon, Essex, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, London, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex. His education resulted in a career lasting 43 years in the design department of the Austin Motor Company.

Logically their younger brother Henry William born in 1894 would have also attended the orphanage but he did not. However, he was well educated judging by his job as the Luton Borough Treasurer. Why were the 2 eldest siblings admitted to the orphanage?

In the preceding generation their father's eldest brother, Henry James Ellcock, also attended the same orphanage from 1868 to 1872. Their father, the second child, seems to have been looked after by his grandmother and then an aunt while the youngest, Alice, remained initially with her mother and was then working as a house maid in her teens.

Deductions from such a small sample may not be valid but perhaps if the older children in the family were educated then they might be able to care for others later?

The Orphanage records say that Henry James Ellcock was the son of a pianoforte maker of St Pancras and the circumstances of this earlier family were also 3 children dependent on the mother. Sadly, this was the second time that the head of the family had died aged 34.

Perhaps Henry was there because of the family's brief connection to London? Maybe not because in the April 1871 census, on the page recording Henry at the orphanage, the birth places of the attendees were also wide ranging

adding Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Ireland, Leicestershire and Yorkshire to the previous list!

Henry would have joined the orphanage when it was situated in Clapham but transferred to the new premises in Watford in the summer of 1871. Various newspaper reports state *"..the new buildings were formally opened on July 20, 1871, by the Prince and Princess of Teck. The area covered by them, including the play-ground, is sixteen acres, but there are also twenty-four acres of arable land attached. Six of the buildings are appropriated to boys, and one to girls. They will accommodate 600 orphans, and 100 officers and servants; 100 orphans being admitted every year. The children are maintained and educated from seven to fifteen years of age; the Institution is supported by voluntary contributions." "Up to this time 3,459 orphans have been maintained, clothed and educated by this Society."*

Delving further, information about how orphans gained places has been found in Hertfordshire Genealogy: Places: Watford: London Orphan Asylum which contains information quoted from *The History of Watford, Trade Directory*.

"The orphans of professional or mercantile men, farmers, master traders, and clerks, or children whose parents have lost their lives in the army, navy, or marine services, are always esteemed the first claimants on this charity. Children are eligible between the ages of seven and eleven, and are usually retained in the Asylum until they have completed their fifteenth year."

"The elections take place invariably on the fourth Mondays in January and June of each year, and votes of unsuccessful candidates are carried forward during the whole period of eligibility. Children eligible by the rules can be admitted irrespective of election (provided there are vacancies) on the payment of one sum of £150 for a child between the ages of eight and nine years, £135 between the ages of nine and ten years, and £120 between the ages of ten and eleven years. An annual subscription of 10s. 6d. gives one

vote at each of two elections, £1 is. two votes; a life subscription of £5 5s. gives one vote at each election so long as the donor lives, £10 10s. two votes, the votes increasing in proportion to the subscription. Of the 4640 orphans admitted to the benefits of this charity the county of Herts has sent 145 children, of whom fifteen were Watford orphans."

General View of the London Orphan Asylum, Watford. (The Quiver. 1899)

Renamed Reed's School in honour of its founder in 1939, the girls and boys were evacuated to separate locations in 1940 and did not return to Watford. Today it operates as an independent boarding and day school located in Cobham, Surrey and the Charitable Foundation remains an integral part of its ethos. A Timeline of Reed's School - Reed's School

Addendum: Some of the buildings still exist in Watford FORMER LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM, Non Civil Parish - 1175648 | Historic England. More details about Andrew Reed can be obtained from Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Felicity Brimblecombe

AGRA

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Henri Victor Lemenager - Bushey Photographer (From Paris to USA via Hertfordshire)

People may have heard of the Hertfordshire photographer Frederick Downer but less seems to be known about Henri Lemenager. It began with a *carte-de-visite*, which came up during an eBay search for Bushey. The *carte de visite* format was first patented by a French photographer Andre Disderi in 1854. The CDV style of photos were introduced to England in about 1857. A trip down a 'rabbit hole' followed, which took me from France to America via Hertfordshire.

Carte de Visite of an unknown lady. Author's collection.

The photograph which I purchased was of a Victorian lady, quite severe looking, the information of the reverse reads "H V Lemenager, Photographer, Chalk Hill, Bushey, Herts. Within three minutes of the Bushey Station". This was my starting point.

Arrival in Bushey

According to later records/newspaper articles, Henri was born on 2nd August 1832 in Paris, France, the son of Henri (Victor) Lemenager. I have been unable to trace any French records, or when he came to England.

However, in an obituary in an American newspaper, it was said that his schooling was done in Normandy.

The first mention of Henri in England was in an advert in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* on 7 January 1860, for King Edward VI Grammar School at St Albans, where he was listed as "Mons. H Lemenager - French Master".

ST. ALBAN'S, HERTS.

KING EDWARD VI. GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
FOUNDED 1549.

TRUSTEES:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF VERULAM,
And Seven other Gentlemen.

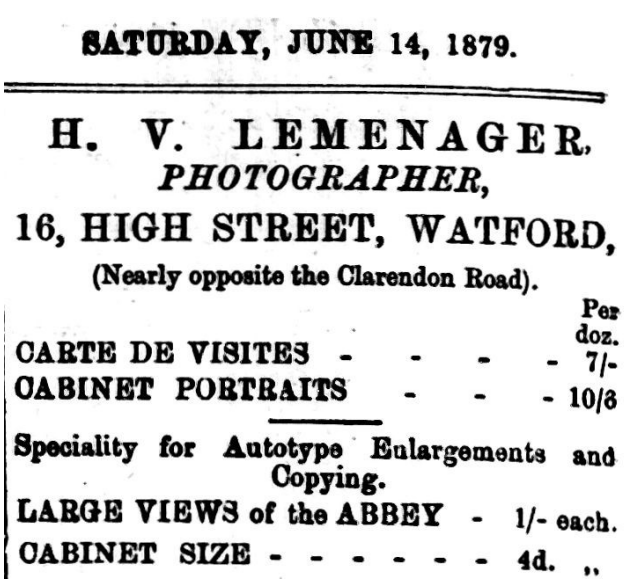
MASTERS:

HEAD MASTER—REV. H. HALL, M.A., Chaplain to Lord Monson, and late Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge.
SECOND MASTER—REV. J. H. BENNETT, M.A., Exeter College, Oxford.
ASSISTANT MASTER—MR. NOBBS.
DRAWING MASTER—MR. PAREZ.
FRENCH MASTER—MONS. H. LEMENAGER.
GERMAN MASTER—DR. EUPHRAT, of the University of Berlin.
DRILLING MASTER—MR. W. ROWLAND, late Troop Sergeant Major, 2nd Dragoon Guards.
Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Head Master.

Henri appears on the 1861 census at High Street Bushey, as a teacher of French at Bourne Hall (House) school (run by H **Biggs**, uncle by marriage to Henri's future wife). Later that year, on 26th December, he married Mary Jane **Braden**, at St Sepulchre's, London, giving his address as Aldenham Cottage, Bushey and his occupation as Professor of languages. His wife's address was St John Street, London EC. Both fathers were noted as grocers.

Henri and Mary initially had 2 daughters and a son - Amelia Victoire (1863), Sophie (1866) and Henri V (1870). During this time he gave his address as Chalk Hill Bushey, which was confirmed by a directory entry which states "Teacher of French and photographer". An advert in December 1869 in the *Herts Advertiser*, lists him as Master of French at Claremont House Collegiate & Commercial school. The children were baptised at Bushey Independent Chapel. (Source – Herts CRO).

In 1871, the family were still at Chalk Hill, with a visitor from France and her servant. Henri is listed solely as a photographer. There is no house number on the census form, though the next household is noted as Chalk Hill Lane. In the *Watford Observer* in March 1872, he is advertising his business at 16 High Street, Watford, quoting his rates etc. In a later advert in the *Herts Advertiser*, June 1872, he stated the business had been established in 1863 and he had added "Equestrian Photography" to his business.



SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1879.

H. V. LEMENAGER,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
16, HIGH STREET, WATFORD,
(Nearly opposite the Clarendon Road).

	Per doz.
CARTE DE VISITES	7/-
CABINET PORTRAITS	10/6

Speciality for Autotype Enlargements and Copying.

LARGE VIEWS of the ABBEY	1/- each.
CABINET SIZE	4d. ,,

On the 1881 census, the family are living at 16 High Street, Watford, with three further sons – Charles Seward (1873), Alfred William (1875) and Alexander George (1877). Henri senior is listed as photographer. In 1878, he had applied for plans for an addition to his studio. Adverts appeared in newspapers advertising his move from Bushey to Watford. He appears in Kellys directories at the later address from 1882-1886.

Henri in the Newspapers

Aside from the adverts, Henri appeared several times in the local newspapers – the first was in the *Herts Guardian* on 2nd August 1862. At the Petty Sessions, he charged a 13-year-old boy (Jonathan **Lambert** of Bushey) with throwing stones on a public thoroughfare. The case was dismissed.

Henri also advertises in the *Watford Observer* newspaper (1871), letting both his shop premises and his house –

"To let, a shop 33 feet 6" frontage 16 High Street, Watford, almost opposite the Clarendon Road – may be easily adapted for an office – Also – A house, pleasantly situated within three minutes of the Bushey station , in thorough repair, and containing three parlours, four bedrooms, two good attics, kitchen, scullery, garden, yard; gas and water laid on. Rent £30"

On the 1st of August 1872, Henri appears in court as a defendant. He was being sued by a manufacturer of photographic card. Henri had ordered the card, having sent a sample of what he required. He then claimed it was not of suitable quality. The Judge could find no discernible difference between the card supplied and sample. Henri lost the case and had to pay the supplier for the card.

There are reports in the local papers about his daughters taking part in concerts and musical evenings. One of them also received a certificate in model drawing from the School of Science and Art. In 1884 Henri writes to the *Watford Observer*, blaming officials for denying his daughter a first-class certificate for singing. There followed correspondence by those involved, refuting his comments.

Henri's next "appearance" in the local press was when he was the victim of an assault from a from a couple of drunken men. The main assailant was Thomas **Pullen** of Hemel Hempstead. The men had walked to the area and asked for their photographs to be taken. Henri declined and a scuffle followed, during which Henri had his glasses broken and received a black eye. Pullen was fined 10 shillings, with 16s 6d costs – In default 14 days

imprisonment with hard labour. (*Watford Observer* 2 October 1886.)

Off to America

Henri and family emigrated to America 2 July 1887, on the ship *Adriatic*, confirmed by an arrival document at New York. (Henri, his wife and 5 children – his occupation given as traveller). The ship had sailed from Liverpool, via Queenstown, Ireland, with about 750 passengers. By the time of the 1889 census Henri, his wife and three children (Sophie, Alfred and Alex) were living in Pierce Territory, Washington but there was no trace of Charles. Henri's occupation is unclear (merchant?), but Sophie is listed as a music teacher. Tacoma is the county seat of Pierce County, Washington, United States. A port city, it is situated along Washington's Puget Sound the area was chosen to be the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the late 19th century. According to an 1895 city directory, Henri is an apiarist at 414 S 35th Street, Tacoma. In 1900, Henri is now an apiary owner, confirmed by a directory entry.

Henri passed away on 9 May 1912 at Tacoma USA of chronic myocarditis (together with senility and rheumatism). His wife Mary died 15th April 1936, aged 94 (probably due to senility, arteriosclerosis and heart failure).

Carte de Visite of an unknown gentleman. Author's collection.

Unfortunately, there are no photographs of Henri and Mary Lemenager, only images of people who had their photographs taken by him during his time in Bushey.

Henri's Children

Amelia Victoire

Amelia had remained in England and married John Charles Bruton on 28 September 1881 at St Mary's, Watford. John was a draper's assistant. In 1891, the couple were living at 62 Queens Road, Watford. By 1901, they had moved to 71 Casio Road, Watford. John is now listed as a funeral furnisher (for undertakers).

Amelia died 29 November 1918 at Boscombe, Hampshire (of 6 Fore Street, Hertford).

Sophie

Sophie emigrated to the USA with her parents and on 7 October 1890, she married Frederick William **Chovil**. He was born in 1867 at Hampstead, Middlesex and baptised at St John at Hampstead. On the 1900 census, they are residing in Tacoma. Frederick is bookkeeper. They had three sons and remained in Tacoma for many years. By 1930, Frederick was listed as a general manager. He died 1936, and Sophie died 23rd January 1938 in Los Angeles, California. She is buried in Glendale, Los Angeles County.

Alfred William

In 1893, Alfred is listed as a finisher at Tacoma Woolen Mill. He married Grace **Fry** and in 1920 was a farmhand in Sonama, California. Alfred and Grace were later divorced and he married Delphine **Vincent**, (originally from Oregon) in 1929. She was 25 years younger than her husband. In the 1938 directory he is in Santa Rosa, California as a cook. According to the California Voters registration for 1942-1944, he is still a cook. It even gives their political affiliation! In the case of Alfred and his wife, they were Democrats. Alfred is listed as a farmer in 1940 census. On the 1950 census, Delphine's occupation is waitress. Alfred died 1961 at Alany, Somana. Delphine died in 1975. Grace later remarried, to Frederick **Gerchens**.

Alexander George

In an 1895 directory, Alexander is listed as a bellboy at *Hotel Chilberg*. According to newspaper reports, he was the victim of a shooting in 1898, when he was a clerk at the Olympic Hotel, Tacoma. On the 1901 census, Alexander is in Canada, employed as a steward. He appears in the Yukon News (1902) as having been employed as a cook on one of the government steamers upon the opening of navigation. He married twice, firstly to May **Norton** in 1903, then to Sadie Margaret **Carr** in 1912. Alexander had been employed at various hotels and from July 24, 1913, to 7 June 1918 he was employed as a dining car attendant with Northern Pacific Railway Company. He was dismissed for carrying flasks of liquor into Seattle, arrested and fined $100. These documents give details of Alexanders description – Six feet tall, 175lb, brown eyes, dark brown hair, with a scar over his left eye. It also gives

details of previous employments and reference requests from them. Later occupations included labourer and timekeeper. He had 7 children in all. Alexander died in 1951 at Renton, King County, Washington. USA.

Charles Seward

So far, I have been unable to trace the fate of Charles Seward. He remains a mystery from the time he arrived in the USA.

Henry / Henri Victor junior

The most interesting of Henri's children was Henry/Henri. He married Jessie Florence **Bouchier/Boucher** in about 1889. Jessie was born in Lambeth, England and had emigrated that same year. They had two children – Dorothy (1891) and Wallace (1895), and lived in Olympia, Washington USA. From 1889 to 1894 Henry was a draughtsman with the Northern Pacific Railroad. On the 1900 census Henry is noted as a manager (Musical). On the 30 December 1903 Jessie and the two children were attending an event at Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, when there was a fire. It was at a matinee performance of a musical *Bluebeard*. 602 people died and there were 250 non-fatal injuries. Jessie and her children were among those killed. On 6th August 1906 he submitted a Patent – "have invented certain new and useful improvements in Improved Note-Sheet Rolls" for perforated music sheets.

Henry is said to have married Ida May **Lewis**, but the marriage has not yet been traced. They had 3 children - Henriette (born 1901), Henry (1903) and Marcelle (1907). Henry died in 1909. He had been the Chief Draughtsman of the US Reclamation Service. His obituary gives no mention of his first wife and children. It lists his brothers (one in Seattle and one in Fairbanks, Alaska) and sister (in Tacoma). Ida, on the 1910 census, was listed as a widow, employed as a temporary Government clerk in the Reclamation Service. She had been born in Indiana, her parents were born in Ohio. Ida died aged 52 in 1929.

*As a postscript, while writing this article, I came across 2 "Lemenager" entries in the records of England Alien Arrivals on Ancestry.
1 – Arrival at Folkestone from Boulogne 10 July 1851 on "Princess Mary"
2 – Arrival at London from Boulogne 13 November 1854 on "City Of Paris"
Neither entry is very clear, so further research is needed.

Sources

FMP & Ancestry websites
Newspaper articles from Find My Past and Newspapers.com.
Herts CRO
Genealogy in Hertfordshire website
www.cartedevisite.co.uk

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

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

Don't forget to send them in!

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

Notes on the family of Richard Iloatt/ Ilott

By Marcia Bell

Richard Iloatt/ Ilott was baptised 24 Sep 1775 in Codicote, and was my 5 x great Uncle.

Richard Ilott (Ilatt in register) married Elizabeth Lewis on 26 Oct 1816 at St Anne, Soho, Westminster. She signed the register and he made a mark. According to the 1851 census, she was born in Tewin, Merionethshire, Wales. By 1851 she was a widow, age 63, living at Hill Farm in Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire with son William age 30 and one servant. She is described as a farmer of 114 acres, employing 6 men.

Richard and Elizabeth's eldest son, Edmund Ilott was baptised on 12 Mar 1818 at Codicote and married Mary Ann Chockley (Chalkley) on 22 November 1841 at St Anne, Soho, Westminster, the same church where his parents were married. In the marriage register, both Edmund and his father, Richard, are described as farmers. This is important when it comes to the validity of a story printed in a book at a later date.

Edmund then saw that there was money to be made in trading so he took malting barley from the Luton and Welwyn districts to Ware and Hertford. He would return with coal that had come up on barges to Hertfordshire from London. He also made flour at Hyde Mill.

According to family sources, in 1856 Edmund rented the Town Mill in Hertford from Lord Salisbury. This was a corn mill recorded in the Domesday Book with good water power. After that it became known as Ilott's Mill. Edmund put his 14 year old son in charge, under his guidance. He was Edmund Henry who was baptised 6 Nov 1842 at Shephall. The family were living at Wheathamstead, according to the baptism register and his father's occupation is given as a farmer. The mill stood in the centre of the town on Mill Bridge. Hertfordshire was a major corn producing area.

On 28 Aug 1867 Edmund H married Ann Ephgrave by licence in St Pancras Church London. Both he and his father Edmund give their occupation as millers. At the time of Edmund H's baptism, Edmund senior is described as a

farmer but by 1867 milling may have become his main occupation, with other members of the family running the farms.

Edmund H and Ann's children included Edmund Joseph Ilott, baptised 13 Sep 1874 in Bengeo and Percy Henry Ilott who were both millers and Sidney John Ilott, a bank clerk. They are mentioned in the National Probate Calendar when Edmund H died on 30 January 1907. He left an estate worth £14857 10s 10d. Percy Henry Ilott became a well known Hertfordshire poet.

Ilotts mill was demolished in 1967 and is now gardens next to the theatre.

Edmund Joseph and his wife Kathleen Mary Overell married on 25 October 1911 in St Pancras Church, Camden. They had a son called Edmund John born in 1919 who unfortunately died at the end of WW2.

A book was produced for the family entitled *Edmund John Ilott The Last of The Ilotts Millers - Hertfordshire*, Privately produced by AE Wilkinson & Co Hertford, Printed by Rose & Son 2 Bull Plain Hertford. A copy of this is held by the Imperial War Museum. This book commemorates the life of Bom'dr Ilott 894887 Sussex Yeomanry 144th Field Regt. R.A. He died of diphtheria on returning home from WW2. It is believed that the booklet was written by Percy Ilott, the brother of Edmund John (as opposed to Percy the poet born in 1877).

Extract from the book:

'*Edmund Ilott*
Miller, Hertfordshire

How long the Ilotts have been millers in Hertfordshire is unknown. There are no written records but stories have been handed down from father to son, from father to son.

Many stories through many generations.

They scarcely realised it but "tradition" ruled their lives. One small thing would make this apparent. If you walked into the mill today you would find that the millers would not refer you to "Mr Ilott": they would say, naturally

and simply "Master Ted": and, if you asked them why, they would look surprised and probably answer
"It always has been so.
You would find, if you were observant, that many things
" always had been so."

The First Ilott

One of the stories refers to the first Ilott. It has been told by father to son, probably in the same words each time.

"Our name was not always ' Ilott,' boy. One of your ancestors had a windmill at Rabley Heath and he always heated the oil to lubricate the bearings. The village lads would call after him ' Old Oil-'ot' and the name stuck. When was it? Well that I don't know but it was a long time ago."

My father told me and his father told him and so the story has come down: but it is quite true."

Round about 1890 two young Ilotts walked to Rabley Heath from Hertford to find out what they could of the old mill. Alas, no one had ever heard of it. An old farm labourer who had been born and bred there said " There ain't never bin no windmill 'ere. Leastways not to my knowledge an' I never heard tell of one. This did not disprove the story, it only confirmed its antiquity, nevertheless, they returned disappointed at finding no concrete evidence of the old mill.'

Note

It seems that this was probably just a story as Richard was not a miller, but a farmer.

His son diversified into trade and milling because it was very profitable. There is a note in the parish registers that Richard's father, another Richard, did live at Rabley Heath at the time of his first marriage to Lettice Saunders, but there is no mention of a mill.

The booklet is very interesting for genealogists as it is more a family history than an account of someone's army life. It has a description of five

generations of Edmund Ilotts, back to the author's great great grandfather. In actual fact the first Ilott he describes was actually a Richard and not an Edmund. There is a story about 'Edmund' meeting his Welsh wife. They have the wife correct as Elizabeth Lewis was indeed Welsh. A family story fits neatly into the wider history of the area. The Yeomanry were very active at this period and one of the tall brothers of 'Edmund' was returning from drill with his commanding officer Lord Dacre. After visiting a local inn and having had a bit too much to drink, this brother drew his sword, galloped down the road and leaning over his horse, cut into a mile stone. Lord Dacre cried out "Have you gone mad, Ilott? You have broken your sword." Trooper Ilott's reply was "Are well, it'll still make a good carving knife, my Lord."

Thomas Brand, 20th Baron Dacre did in fact raise and command the Kimpton Volunteer Rifles, a part time unit of the Volunteer Corps formed in 1803. This does add credence to this story. Kimpton is only a couple of miles from where the family lived at Codicote.

Edmund John Ilott is buried in Hertford in the Hertford Corporation Cemetery.

Ilott Bombardier, Edmund John, 894887, 144 (The Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regt., Royal Artillery. 19 April 1946. Age 26. Son of Edmund Joseph and Kathleen Mary Ilott, of Hertford. Grave Ref. Sec. E. Row 1. Grave 29.

Percy Henry Ilott, Poet

Percy H Ilott, mentioned in his father's probate record, was born 6 Jan 1877 and baptised 15 Mar 1877 in Hertford. His father was Edmund Henry Ilott who had been given the job of managing the Town Mill at an early age. Percy was the uncle of soldier Edmund John Ilott.

On the 1901 census, Percy is shown as a miller and corn dealer along with his brother Edmund Joseph and father Edmund Henry. As well as being a miller, Percy was a well known author and local historian.

The following is one of his children's poems:

The Witch

by Percy H. Ilott

I saw her plucking cowslips,
And marked her where she stood:
She never knew I watched her
While hiding in the wood.

Her skirt was brightest crimson,
And black her steeple hat,
Her broomstick lay beside her—
I'm positive of that.

Her chin was sharp and pointed,
Her eyes were—I don't know—
For, when she turned towards me—
I thought it best—to go!

To summarise the generations mentioned in the booklet to commemorate Edmund John Ilott's life:

Richard **Ilott** (referred to as 'Edmund' in booklet) married Elizabeth **Lewis** 1816
Edmund Ilott married Ann **Chalkley** 1841
Edmund Henry Ilott married Ann **Ephgrave** 1867
Edmund Joseph Ilott married Kathleen Mary **Overell** 1911
Edmund John Ilott died 1946

Miss Virgin

My Dad remembered with much fondness his teachers from Pixmore School in Letchworth, Miss **Virgin** and Miss **Carlisle**. He kept in touch with them long after he had left school. They at one time lived together in Norton Road, Lethworth. Miss Virgin and Miss Carlisle left a lasting impression on young 'Nick' **Nickels**. They were encouraging and supportive and seem to have been teachers who saw the potential in their students.

Amongst my Dad's treasures, which I have inherited, is a school register from Pixmore School where each pupil is given a position in the class, in this one Dad is No 1, top of the class. No wonder he treasured it. It is also interesting to note how many children were in the class, over 30, and the range of subjects that were studied. I also have a copy of the *Pixmore Pie,* the newsletter that was devised and printed by the pupils. Dad had wanted to become a printer, but no apprenticeships were available so he became an engineer instead.

Miss Virgin died in 1991 and I remember Dad attending her funeral. At her death, which occurred on 14 October 1991, she was living at Macfadyen Webb House in Letchworth. Her Will was proved on 27 July 1992 in Ipswich.

From the Will entry in the National Probate Register we learn that Miss Virgin's name was Eveline Dorcas, an unusual combination of names.

In the 1939 Register she is living at 148 Pixmore Way, Letchworth, with an Elizabeth **Pratt**. Her occupation 'School Teacher'. Her date of birth was 19 November 1896.

So, when my Dad was at Pixmore School in the 1920s she was still a relatively young teacher.

The 1921 Census is more enlightening and confirms that Eveline Dorcas Virgin was a certified teacher employed by Hertfordshire County Council, working at Pixmore School. She is boarding with a Grace **Pratt** at 134 Rushby Street, Letchworth. I presume this road is now Rushby Mead.

Grace Elizabeth **Pratt**	Head	54	6	F	Sp	Hackney, London	Home Duties At Home
Sarah Ann **Giblings**	Boarder	64	5	F	Sp	Marylebone, London, None	Invalid
Mildred Mary **Smith**	Boarder	32	9	F	Sp	Henley on Thames	Assistant in Millinery Studio Wightman Letch'wth
Eveline Dorcas **Virgin**	Boarder	24	7	F	Sp	Bincombe, Dorset	Certified Teacher Herts CC Pixmore Sch Letch

It also informs us that Miss Virgin was born in Bincombe in Dorset, a long way away from Hertfordshire.

In the 1911 Census, 14 year old Evelyn is boarding with Alice **Sewell** at Hazelmere, Balmoral Road in Parkstone, Dorset and is at school.

Alice Sewell	Head	43	18	1	1	M Apartment House Keeper	Own Act London Highbury
Vivian Frank Sewell	Son	16				Electrical Engineer Apprentice	Electric Light Co Dorset, Poole
Eveline Dorcas Virgin	Boarder	14				School	Dorset, Bincombe
Elizabeth Joyce	Boarder	12	61	M			Sussex, Hartfield

In the 1901 census Evelyn D Virgin was located in Charminster Dorset with her parents and siblings. Her father, Fred Virgin, was a Dairy Farmer.

Dairy House, Main Street, Charminster, Dorset

Fred Virgin	Head	Mar	37	Dairy Farmer own acc't	Devon, Stockland
Fanny Virgin	Wife	Mar	38		Dorset, Broadway
Arthur H. "	Son	S	11		Dorset, Bincombe
Reginald G. "	Son	S	9		" "
Clara M. "	Dau	S	8		" "
Mary E. "	Dau	S	5		" "
Evelyn D. "	Dau	S	4		" "
Winifred H. "	Dau	S	3		" "
Sidney Biss	Servt	S	19	Dairyman's	Somerset, Tolter Porcoram
Ella Samways	Servt	S	14	Gen Serv Dom	Dorset, Kingcombe

Miss Virgin was baptised in the parish church in Bincombe on January 17 1897 and was the daughter of Fred and Fanny Virgin.

Miss Virgin's parents were married at Broadway in Dorset on 8 February 1888. Fred was aged 24 and Fanny Symonds was aged 25. Fred was a Dairyman, as was his father William Virgin, from Bincombe. Fanny's father George Thomas Symonds was also a Dairyman, from Broadway. Both Fred and Fanny signed their names and the witnesses were George Thomas Symonds and Rosina Dorcas Symonds.

In the 1921 Census, Fred Virgin is still a farmer in Charminster, Dorset. His eldest son, Arthur Henry is also living in Charminster, a Farmer and younger son, Reginald George was also a Dairyman at the Charminster Dairy. Both boys seem to have survived the first world war where both served.

Maybe Miss Virgin was amongst the many people who moved to Letchworth for work after the First World War. In the next issue there will be a similar biography of Miss Carlisle.

The Pixmore School Football Team with my Dad back row, far right. Other names he could remember were: top row, second left, 'Fatty' Sattherthwaite and middle row, far left, his great friend Ken Holmes.

Can any readers recognise anyone else?

What's new at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies?

By Sheila White

Events at HALS

Getting started at HALS - a guide to researching resources at HALS

Forthcoming sessions: Wed 11 June 11am and Wednesday 10 September 2pm Free; booking essential (see contact details below).

Family history one-to-one advice

Are you stuck with your family history? Book a session with an expert for some one-to-one advice. You can have the session over the phone, online (via MS Teams) or in person at HALS (cost £15.40). See contact details below.

Hands-on workshops

HALS is offering the opportunity to learn new practical skills. Workshops on family history and house history are currently available. Find the best ways to take your research forward, whatever stage you're at. Workshops can also be provided online. Workshop (up to 2 hours) – £65. Use the contact details below to find out more and book.

Herts Memories – do you have memories of Hertfordshire Libraries?

2025 marks 100 years of a countywide library service in Hertfordshire and Herts Memories is asking people to share stories of visiting their local library. Read more on the home page and add a comment by clicking on the 'get involved' tab.

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

Please be aware that there are no longer any facilities for buying hot drinks or snacks at HALS.

You are advised to take your own refreshments which can be consumed in the foyer. It is a ten minute walk into Hertford with quite a climb back up.

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.

Never miss an online talk again!

As well as the links in the Members' Area of the website, Hertfordshire Family History Society now have an Eventbrite page where you can follow us and register for a free ticket for our talks and be sent the talk link automatically via Eventbrite - www.eventbrite.co.uk

https://eventbrite.co.uk/o/hertfordshire-family-history-society-33381283673

If you have forgotten your password to the Members' Area

please contact the Registrar on registrar@hertsfh.org.uk

Hatfield Railway Station

Someone said in passing during our Committee meeting on Zoom in April: 'Why is Hatfield station so far out of the town, its so inconvenient.'

There is a simple answer to that from the 19th century and comes down to the power and influence of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury (1830-1903). He was three times Prime Minister and owned about 13,000 acres of land in Hertfordshire.

He lived, as have his successors, in Hatfield House whose entrance is nearly opposite the station. When the Bill was passing through Parliament setting up the railway to pass Hatfield, he insisted that it pass not through the town but near the entrance of his home. It meant he could use it regularly without problem. Attending Parliament at all strange hours, he also required the legislation include the provision that he could require any fast train passing through Hatfield to stop at his behest, either going into London or leaving it. The provision of course no longer exists but the siting of the station of course remains.

Alan Ruston

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!

Postbag

editor@hertsfhs.org.uk

Ashfield School, Bushey

Janet Sutton emailed me to say that the photograph of the Ashfield School, Bushey football team that appeared in the last issue of *Hertfordshire People* had unfortunately been 'flipped' when I copied and tweaked it with Microsoft Paint - oops! Janet noted this as the gentleman with one arm is Frank **Chester**, the Referee.

© 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**

Jill Williams has also emailed me regarding this most interesting article:

You can never tell when or where a piece of local/family history might turn up. In this instance it was in the *Hertfordshire People* Vol 172 page 10 – the Ashfield School, Bushey article.

In the photograph of the 1919/20 boys football team there were two boys from the **Thatcher** family. As a local historian (President, Egham-by-

Runnymede Historical Society) who researches the history of Thorpe village and parish this was a real thrill as the Thatcher family was a very large, Thorpe based family. In sorting them out for a society publication I was able to help a descendent of the family with her side of the Thatcher family tree which is always satisfying.

It was delightful to see images of both lads and have emailed Bushey Museum Trust to see if I can obtain a copy of the photograph.

This would be the school the boys attended in Thorpe. The building survives and is now our village post office and shop.

Two of their distant cousins were killed in WWI and are on the Thorpe War Memorial. Their father was one of 12 so there are quite a few lines to keep tabs on!

Thank you for an unexpected pleasure.

Society Talks

January & March 2025
Where does my family come from?: Unlocking the secrets of DNA Testing presented by Karen Evans

Karen discussed the importance of understanding why one takes a DNA test, as it can affect the type of test and how matches are viewed. She highlighted the utility of DNA testing for validating and verifying ancestral information, especially in cases of illegitimacy or missing parents. Karen also explained the genetic basis of DNA testing, including the role of autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y-chromosome DNA. She emphasized the use of these tests for deep ancestry and direct male antecedents, and noted that only Family Tree DNA offers matching databases for mitochondrial and Y-chromosome testing. Karen focused on autosomal testing, which is accurate for about 5 generations, and mentioned five main companies offering this service.

Karen discussed the concept of recombination in DNA inheritance, explaining that each parent contributes half of their DNA to their offspring, with the randomness of recombination leading to different combinations of DNA in siblings. She also provided an overview of various DNA testing companies, including their database sizes and test costs. Karen recommended taking an Ancestry DNA test and then uploading the results to other companies like MyHeritage, Family Tree DNA, and Living DNA, as these allow free uploads and access to their tools.

Karen provided an overview of DNA matching in genetic genealogy, explaining that to match with a cousin, both individuals must take the same type of test and be on the same database. The amount of shared DNA decreases with more distant relationships due to recombination. Karen showed a chart showing average DNA percentages for different relationships and explains how to interpret match lists. She emphasised that ethnicity estimates are just estimates and can change over time or vary between companies. Karen then focused on match lists, explaining how to use them to validate family trees and solve genealogical problems. She stressed that

the relationship predictions provided by testing companies are estimates based on shared DNA amounts and should not be taken as definitive.

Karen also discussed the importance of understanding DNA matches and their relationships. She emphasized the need to cluster matches and analyse shared DNA to determine common ancestors. Karen also highlighted the importance of building personal trees offline to avoid mixing up information. She demonstrated how to create groups and clusters based on shared DNA and how to use these to identify relationships. Karen also mentioned the potential for pedigree collapse and endogamy, which can complicate the process. She encouraged attendees to practice building trees and clustering matches to improve their understanding of DNA relationships.

Karen also discussed her experience with DNA testing and how it helped her uncover family secrets, explaining how she used DNA matches to identify her grandfather's father, who was previously unknown. Karen also shared resources for those interested in learning more about DNA testing.

The challenges of tracing illegitimate ancestors through DNA testing were also discussd, particularly for those born in the 19th century. Karen suggested that if a descendant of the illegitimate person could be found, a Y-DNA test could potentially help trace the natural father. However, she noted that the amount of DNA available for testing decreases with each generation, making it increasingly difficult. Karen also shared her experience of finding illegitimate ancestors through judicious clustering and matching, but emphasized the need for luck and effort in this process. She mentioned that she will be doing a masterclass on making quick and dirty trees with FamilyTreeDNA in October.

Karen also discussed the usefulness of Pro Tools in genealogy research, particularly in identifying unknown relatives and understanding DNA clusters. She emphasized the importance of understanding clusters and how Pro Tools can help shortcut some of the work.

DNA clustering techniques and tools for genealogy research were also discussed, with Karen explaining that Ancestry is introducing an auto-cluster tool similar to MyHeritage's, which will initially work for matches within a certain range (possibly 60-90 centiMorgans) and later expand to more distant

matches. Karen emphasised the benefits of sharing DNA results with known relatives to gain additional matches and recommended the Donna Leeds method for clustering DNA matches across multiple testing companies. Karen encouraged users to find clustering methods that work best for them, as there are various approaches available. Free versions of programs like Roots Magic or Family Historian were suggested for compiling offline family trees and for those interested in clustering, look up Donna Leeds method and videos for additional information.

The talk was excellently illustrated throughout and delivered in a way that a complete novice could understand with lots of advice. Karen encouraged attendees to ask any questions they had, emphasizing that no question was too simple to ask. There were many questions from the floor, via the hall or via zoom, with Karen's email shared in case there were more delicate questions that needed her advice.

February 2025

What would Great Aunt Emily think? presented by Frances Francis

Frances introduced her talk by giving the audience a potted biography of her life, explaining that through family estrangement due ot her parents divorce, she did not have much to do with one half of her family. Although born in Surrey, Frances has Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire ancestry.

Migration fascinates the family historian who wants to know the why, where, how and who went with their ancestors if they moved away from their birthplace. Our ancestors travelled much further than we might expect, especially in the nineteenth century.

A 1930's /1940's photograph album was the catalyst for Frances finding out more about the family. One intriguing photograph was labelled 'Aunt Em & Uncle Joe'. Who were they and where did they fit in the family?

Frances discovered that Emily **Collett** was born in Cowley near Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and moved to Cobham in Surrey for work in Service. By the

1911 census five Collett siblings, Jane, Richard, Janet, Charles and Anne were all living in Surrey, but where was Emily? She was located, mis-transcribed as Cottet, as a servant (cook) to Elizabeth **Preedy** in Kidlington, Oxfordshire. In the household was a boarder, Frederick Ephraim Tuffrey a nurseryman / gardener and his wife Selina Emma, also a servant to Mrs Preedy.

Emily married Joseph Thomas **Tuffrey**, a bootmaker, on 17 October 1911 at the church in Kidlington in Oxfordshire. Emily, aged 34, was the daughter of George Collett and Joseph, aged 33, was the son of Jesse Tuffrey. Both their father's were Labourers. On further research it transpired that Frederick Ephraim and Joseph Thomas were brothers.

In 1901 Joseph was boarding with another brother, Herbert J. and his family in Rushden, Northamptonshire. Herbert was also a bootmaker. By 1921, Joseph is employed by H J Tuffrey Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and he and Emily have two daughters, Lily (b. 1912) and Doris (b. 1920).

Frances found the Rushden Heritage website particularly useful in tracing the Tuffrey family and their bespoke boot and shoe business, from advertisements to cemetery records. Rushden & District History Society - Title Page

The talk had excellent illustrations, from the photograph album, and of places in Rushden associated with the Tuffrey family.

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? The 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

70) The Marital Arms of Barnes and Medley

The arms as shown on the livery button illustrated here are the marital arms of **Barnes** and **Medley**.

This button was undoubtedly commissioned by the couple after their marriage which would indicate that they were of a certain social status that allowed them to employ within their household several servants who wore their livery.

The couple concerned were John **Barnes** (born 1791 died 13th February 1866), of Chorleywood House, Chorleywood in the County of Hertfordshire and his wife, Sarah **Medley** (born 1803 died 27th July 1872).

They were married at the Parish Church of All Saints, Great Faringdon in the County of Berkshire on the 21st July 1824. At the time of their marriage, John was stated as being a widower, although presently the name of his first wife is unknown. Given that he was born in 1791, he was most probably married sometime after 1810 and his first wife had died some little time prior to his marriage to Sarah Medley in 1824. Sadly, there is a dearth of genealogical information about John's parentage and family origins.

One clue is found in the 1851 Census of England and Wales which states that he was born at Keswick in the County of Cumberland. At this time, he and Sarah, together with their children and household servants were living at 48 Portland Place, Marylebone in the County of Middlesex. In this census, John was a banker by profession as well as being a magistrate (Justice of the Peace). The following Census of 1861 states the Barnes household had moved in the interim to 80 Gloucester Place, Marylebone and in this census, he was described as a 'Gent' – a Gentleman, but more importantly, he appears to have forgotten his place of birth giving it

as 'Middlesex, Westminster' rather Keswick in the far north-west of England. Which was correct? The plot thickens!

Certainly, there was an armigerous family of Barnes living at Bunker's Hill in the County of Cumberland in the 18th Century who bore similar arms and crest as seen upon this button. Was John a descendant of this family? Without further in-depth genealogical research we cannot be sure at present.

Given John's chosen profession as a banker there is a presumption that he must both have been well educated and of good stock. More so with his second marriage to Sarah Medley whose father was Charles Medley, a partner in the firm of Barnes and Medley, Bankers, which firm John also joined. The question here is, was the firm Barnes and Medley in existence prior to John Barnes employment there? As it is stated elsewhere, John became immensely wealthy and so was he too a partner in the firm? One would imagine that this must have been so. It is also known that he was also both a director of the Union Bank of London and of the Buckinghamshire Railway Company at some stage.

Prior to his marriage to Sarah Medley, John acquired a property at Chorleywood upon which there was an old farmhouse that he demolished and in 1822 set about building himself a new house which was to be the centre of an estate of around 300 acres to which he and his family could resort to at weekends and at other times from his London residence.

After John's death in 1886, the family kept ownership of the estate until it was put up for sale in 1870.

John was appointed as the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire for the year 1844.

During their marriage, John and Sarah had eleven children: Edmund John, Augusta, Sarah, Lucy Antoinette, Charles Augustus, Edward Medley, John Henry, Osmond, Harold, Ada Mary, and Jocelyn.

One of the children, Osmond (born 23th December 1834 died 20th May 1930), became a career officer in the Indian Army in 1855 and served throughout the Indian Mutiny (1857-59). He also saw active service in Abyssinia in 1868 and in the Afghan War of 1878–1879. He eventually achieved rank of Colonel and retired from the Indian Army in March 1893. In the Queen's Birthday Honours in June of that year, he was

appointed as a Companion of the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (CB). Finally, Osmond was appointed as the Chief Herald of India for the Delhi Durbar of 1877 with the task of proclaiming Queen Victoria Empress of India.

The armorial bearings upon the button may be blazoned as follows:

Arms: (Dexter) *Quarterly or and vert upon a fess azure three estoiles argent* (for Barnes) (Sinister) *Argent two bars gemel sables in chief three mullets pierced of the last* (for Medley)

Crest: *An estoile argent* (for Barnes)

Whether the arms and crest John bore were with authority or were purely assumed we cannot say. Could he prove his descent from an armigerous Barnes family, such as the Barnes, of Bunker's Hill? Although the tincturing of their arms was slightly at a variance with those depicted upon this button.

Regarding the arms of Sarah's family, the Medleys. The arms seen here are blazoned the same as those of the family of Medley of Buxted in the County of Sussex who descended from Benedict Medley who served as the Clerk of the Signet during the reign of King Henry VIII. Were her family of Medley able claim such a descent? Perhaps, these are questions to be asked for another day.

Chorleywood House pictured in 1904

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Name	Period	Parish	County	M/No
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Baker	1790-1850	Barley	Hrt	4606
Beaumont	17-18c	Biggleswade	Bdf	4689
Beaumont	17-18c	Watford, Aldenham	Hrt	4689
Benwell	c1840	North Mymms	Hrt	4718
Berry	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700
Brasier	18-19c	Barton in the Clay	Bdf	4711
	Variants: Brazier			
Brown	17-19c	Little Berkhampstead	Hrt	4710
Buckmaster	Any	Kings Langley, Watford	Hrt	4716
Buckmaster	Any	Chalfont St Giles	Bkm	4716
Burlinson	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Walden, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Burr	+1829	Tring	Hrt	4716
Burr	+1837	Great Missenden	Bkm	4716
Burr	+1857	Harrow on the Hill	Mdx	4716
Burr	19c	Pegsdon, Shillington	Bdf	4711
Burr	+1909	Watford	Hrt	4716
Caulcott	18-19c	Edgcott, Wing, Soulberry	Bkm	4711
Chamberlaine	18-19c	Hexton	Hrt	4711
	Variants: Chamberlayne			

Cogdell	-1800	Watford	Hrt	4689
Crawley	c1755	Rickmansworth	Hrt	4716
Dagnell	18c	St Albans	Hrt	4689
Dagnall	-1800	St Albans	Hrt	4689
Davis	17-18c	Little Berkhampstead	Hrt	4710
Dimmock	18-19c	Offley	Hrt	4711
	Variants: Dymock			
Elbun	-1800	St Albans	Hrt	4689
England	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700
Farmer	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700
Fitzjohn	19c	Sandridge	Hrt	4695
Flindall	Any	Any	Any	4710
	Variants: Flindell			
Frindle	Any	Any	Any	4710
	Variants: Frendle			
Garment	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700
Gover	Any	Watford	Hrt	4716
Gover	Any	Fareham	Ham	4716
Gregory	1600-1800	Tring Area	Hrt	3590
Gutteridge	18-19c	Barton in the Clay	Bdf	4711
Gutteridge	18-19c	Offley	Hrt	4711
Hammond	1800-2025	Ware	Hrt	4697
Harding	-1800	St Albans, Tring	Hrt	4689
Hare	18-19c	Pirton, Holwell	Hrt	4711
Hull	19c	Harpenden	Hrt	4695
Hull	19-20c	St Albans	Hrt	4695
Jackson	17-18c	Little Berkhampstead	Hrt	4710
Kendall	Any	Isleworth	Mdx	4716
Kingham	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Langley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Kirby	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700
Kitchener	17-18c	Bishops Stortford, Baldock	Hrt	4689
Kitchener	19c	Croydon	Sry	4689

Latchford	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Langley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Lipscomb	Any	Harmandsworth	Mdx	4716
	Variants: Lipscombe			
Lowin	17-18c	Hertford	Hrt	4710
Mead	1640-1708	Sawbridgworth	Hrt	4701
Oliver	1600+	Hexton	Hrt	4711
	Variants: Olifer			
Parker	18-19c	St Albans	Hrt	4695
Parton	1600-1990	Hexton	Hrt	4711
Peacock	-1850	Hendon	Mdx	4689
Peacock	-1800	Hammersmith	Mdx	4689
Pearce	18-19c	Pirton	Hrt	4711
Platt	1530-1630	Ware	Hrt	4702
Platt	+1786	Harrow	Mdx	4716
Prior	18-19c	St Albans	Hrt	4695
Protton	18-19c	Shillington	Bdf	4711
Raoach	-1900	Any	Mdx	4689
Sells	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Kangley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Sexton	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Langley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Seymour	c1789	Harrow Weald	Mdx	4716
Shepard	17-19c	Pirton	Hrt	4711
	Variants: Sheperd, Sheppard			
Slough	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Langley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
	Variants: Slow, Slowe			
Smith	17-18c	Hertingfordbury	Hrt	4710
Smith	17-18c	Watford	Hrt	4689
Smith	c1825	Watford	Hrt	4716
Suitters	1700-1930	St Albans	Hrt	4700

Taylor	17-19c	Hertingfordbury	Hrt	4710
Titmass	17-18c	Stevenage	Hrt	4710
	Variants: Titmouse			
Waring	19c	Buckland	Hrt	4711
Weeden	18c	Pirton	Hrt	4711
	Variants: Weedon			
White	+1802	Harrow on the Hill	Mdx	4716
Whitehouse	1700-1950	Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor, Apsley, Kings Langley, St Albans	Hrt	4699
Wood	1550-1650	Ware	Hrt	4702

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Hertfordshire Family History Society

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Meetings Programme 2025

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

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Jun 28 **The Baldock Waggon** presented by Brendan King, Chairman of Baldock Museum & Local History Society. Learn about the operation of a short-haul London waggon pre-railways, the people who ran it, the inns used at both ends and what sort of goods they carried.

July 26 **The Old and New Poor Laws** presented by Dr Kate Thompson. A talk about the legislation and the records created, both under the Old Poor Law (the Parish system) and the New.

Aug 30 **A Day out in Hitchin**. Contact the Programme Secretary on editorhertsfhs@gmail.com if you intend to come and he can send you more details.

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