

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



Hertfordshire People

The Journal of Hertfordshire Family History Society

No 175
December
2025



FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

There's Nothing Like Leather!

YOU are invited to inspect our Stock of Embossed Calf and Cowhide Bags, Pochettes, Blotters, etc., of *Best Workmanship* at *Reasonable Rates*.



(OUR STAND AT EDINBURGH CONFERENCE)

Or, if preferred,

Why not make your own Christmas Gifts!

For which purpose we offer Art Suedes for Hats, Bags, Moccasins, Table Runners, etc. Grained Hides in infinite variety and EVERYTHING FOR LEATHERCRAFT.

G. W. RUSSELL & SON LTD

Works and
Showrooms:

BANCROFT, Hitchin.

From: Hitchin Thespians, Souvenir Programme, *Trial By Jury & H.M.S. Pinafore*
November 22nd to 27th 1926. Printed by Paternoster & Hales, Hitchin.

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: Amos and Mary Ann Darton see article on p. 29

From the Editor	2
From the Chair	6
Gatwards - Jewellers of Hitchin by Terry Gatward	8
A belated hello from our new Secretary: Anna Schlenker	19
Research Hints	20
Competition Winner	23
HFHS Out and About: Visit to Hitchin	24
A Family Tragedy by Jane Tunesi of Liongam	29
What's New at HALS by Sheila White	33
Society Talks	36
Book Reviews	38
A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany No 72 - The Marital Arms of John William Egerton, the 7th Earl of Bridgewater and Charlotte Catherine Anne Haynes - by John J. Tunesi of Liongam.	42
Members Interests & New Members	45
Society Services	47

From the Editor.....

I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Hertfordshire People*. This issue is a bit different to the norm with the content having distinct Hitchin flavour, an angle we have not tried before. We would be interested to hear from readers if this works, or you prefer the usual mix of a broader Hertfordshire content.



In the North of the county the market town of Hitchin was the focus of our 'day out' in the summer. My own maternal ancestry is also very much in the Hitchin area, and a 25 mile radius around it, indeed I was born in Hitchin at the old North Herts Maternity Unit. 2025 was also the 265th anniversary for one of Hitchin's businesses, Gatwards the Jewellers, and we had received an interesting article via a Facebook contact on the Gatwards and their family and business history.

Researching your family history you do sometimes come up against a story that is tragic and if you have a similar story to that of my Great Grandfather's sister on page 29, I would love to hear from you. It is important that these family members are not forgotten. As they say, if names and stories are remembered and repeated that person will never be truly forgotten long after they have departed this earth.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 February 2026: The Family History Show Online

14 March 2026: The Family History Show In-person, Malvern, Worcestershire, UK

18 April 2026: The Really Useful Family History Show LIVE. The East Anglian Group of Family History Societies will be holding another LIVE show in April 2026 in St Ives, near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. In-person, St Ives, UK

25 April 2026: The Register of Qualified Genealogists Conference In-person, Birmingham, UK

9 May 2026: The Family History Show In-person, Aintree, Liverpool, UK

***Hertfordshire FHS will be there!**

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

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 2026.

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

50 Chelwood Avenue
Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL10 0RE

The instructions on how to pay online are below.

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 in 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 registrar@hertsfhs.org.uk

HFHS Online 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 2025-2026

Saturday 13 December - Online

Saturday 10 January - Online

Saturday 11 April - Online

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](#)

From the Chair

As the evenings draw in and the weather is less conducive to gardening etc. it is time to dust off the files and do a little more family history. Our October talk should have helped with information about researching WWII but unfortunately the speaker was ill - this talk will be rescheduled.



The November talk provided tips for finding a way through those annoying brick walls. We all have them, often at the end of a long line, more annoying are the more recent ones when the family seem to vanish!

Occasionally one finds a contact in the right place who might be able to do some investigating.

A recent HFHS visitor from Australia, mentioned in the last Journal, lives very near to a church on the outskirts of Brisbane. The origins of my actress 2x great grandma, Elizabeth **Brown**, baptised 1825 to William and Elizabeth, has been a mystery for 50 years. DNA has helped unearth another actress, and a brother, whose son William Brown became a Minister of a church in Sherwood near Brisbane.

Perhaps that church has some more useful information as it has just produced a history of the last 100 years?

Sherwood Uniting Church – a 100 years of history

Minsters and Milestones

Note: *Some of the early records are lost and the chronology was researched from personal records, letters, photographs and memories from early descendants and relatives of some of these ministers. Any help or contributions which may enable chroniclers to complete this history would be greatly appreciated.*

1886	1 st meeting at the Johnston residence.
1887-1888	Reverend Albert E Fox <i>Skew Street Church opened November 1887</i>
1888	Reverend William Brown

I hope to tell you more in the next Journal.

HFHS aims to offer help to members as much as possible but unfortunately our volunteers can't provide nearly 400 members with complete trees.

But we will be offering help sessions on occasional Saturday mornings at Hertfordshire Archives in the Library.

This area has a large amount of family history material. Two sessions will have been completed by the end of 2025. The next two will be on 7th February and 2nd May from 10 am to 12 noon.

Group help sessions by Zoom will continue in 2026. The first two will be on 10 January and 11 April 2.30 – 3.30pm UK. This is often accessible from America and Canada. We will also offer some sessions at times that suit members in the Antipodes.



Search Hertfordshire
Names Online

For all our members there are large amounts of excellent information in Hertfordshire Names Online available on [Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies | Hertfordshire County Council](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/archives)

Best wishes for your research in 2026

Felicity Brimblecombe
chair@hertsfhs.org.uk

Gatwards - Jewellers of Hitchin

By Terry Gatward



Figure 1 The Gatward Jewellery Shop, Hitchin. Authors Picture 2017.

Gatward is a name well regarded in the Jewellery profession largely due to the reputation of Gatwards - Jewellers of Hitchin, who started their business in 1760. Still trading today and for all that time it has been a family business now in its seventh generation.

The business is reported to have been founded by James **Gatward** in 1760 a Watch and Clockmaker¹. To contextualise this, George II was King of Great Britain and Ireland, it was 20 years before the French Revolution and James Cook had not yet set sail on his expedition to the South Pacific Ocean aboard *HMS Endeavour* (1768). Whilst family history records have been found for James there is a lack of any business records. The first business records identify his son Benjamin Gatward who served a formal Apprenticeship in London before returning to Hitchin. Benjamin is listed as a Watch-Maker of Hitchin in the 1791 *Universal British Directory* and he rented a premises in Sun Street, Hitchin in 1792. Benjamin was the inaugural Minister of the Bethel Baptist Chapel in Hitchin Hill.

The following description of Benjamin comes from *The Diary of Francis Lucas* and quoted by Reginald L. Hine in his book *Relics of an Uncommon Attorney*, "From his Watchmaker's shop came Benjamin Gatward, a short, thick-set man, rather knock kneed, with very large calves and a round bald head. He was of a very grave countenance as befitted a Baptist lay-preacher and the father of seventeen children. He was a notorious smoker and was often to be seen with his churchwarden pipe in the doorway of his shop." He was married 3 times with 17 children by his first two wives. His first wife Katherine **Yates** was known to him from his days as an Apprentice in London, the second Elizabeth **Cherry** was his Housekeeper with his third when he was aged 66 being a local Schoolmistress. Benjamin Gatward was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard in Hitchin on 3 July 1837. Four of his sons followed him into Watch and Clock making but it was his eldest son, John, who succeeded him in the Hitchin business. The other three all set up Watchmaking businesses elsewhere Thomas Gatward in Saffron Walden, Benjamin Gatward Junior in Welwyn and Samuel Gatward in Huntingdon. Some of his other children also have interesting stories including Joseph Gatward who became a Partner in 'Gatward & Jeeves', Drapers & Outfitters, at 19 Market Place, Hitchin opposite Benjamin Gatward's original shop in Sun Street. Daniel Gatward an early emigrant to South Australia and Reuben Gatward a Gold Miner in Victoria, Australia.

Benjamin's son John was another character and we are again indebted to Historian Reginald Hine who in his book *History of Hitchin* said about him. "John Gatward, the leading Baptist, developed an unholy passion for angling. For a time he kept his guilty secret to himself and, lest he should lead the weaker brethren astray, he visited his favourite streams like Nicodemus² at night. If he wanted a whole day's angling he would 'drive out on business,' with a barometer stuck out prominently in the gig to be returned duly rectified to a country customer. But the barometer was usually seen to come back at night along with Gatward's fishing-rod and catch."



Figure 2 A skeleton Clock made by John Gatward c 1820-1840. Photograph by Paul Gatward, Sept 2025 at the Gatward 265th Anniversary Exhibition.

In the early part of the 19th Century Hitchin was a booming market town and John could see other business opportunities that might enable him to pass on a business to each of his sons. In 1835, John Gatward opened his Ironmongery business in Cock Street, just off Market Place. He continued with the Watchmaking shop in Sun Street on the opposite side of Market Place and advertised both businesses in the local newspapers and trade directories. In 1839 John is listed in the Pigots Trade Directory both as: 'Watchmaker, Sun Street' and 'Ironmonger, Cock Street'. John Gatward and his family now lived above their new Ironmongery shop. Benjamin and his wife Frances were still living above the Sun Street shop.

At the time of the 1851 Census John Gatward Senior was running two businesses and assisted by his sons. Elder son John was helping his father run the Ironmongery shop in Cock Street living in nearby Quakers Alley, whilst his younger son, Cornelius Willson Gatward, having now added Jewellery to the Watchmaking business, was working and living above the Watchmakers shop in Sun Street. On 22 March 1853 the Ironmongers shop was destroyed by fire which also destroyed the family premises and claimed the life of John's wife, Charlotte. Newspapers reported that the fire was fought by *"townsfolk, frightened out of their beds, had formed themselves into a double cordon of bucketeers, one line from the horse-pond up Sun Street and the other line from the river by the Biggin and past the Red Cow Inn. Their efforts were all directed to stop the spreading of the fire, and in that they succeeded. But Gatward's shop was doomed; so was the good woman whom everybody longed to save. Soon everything was one seething cauldron of fire, and constant explosions of gunpowder added to the inferno of the flames. It was for those who witnessed it a night of terror, an unforgettable scene."* Interestingly mains water became available on Christmas Day 1853 in Hitchin, a few months too late for the Gatward family. John Gatward moved his business temporarily to a premises just opposite in Cock Street, the rebuilt premises can still be seen in High Street (the revised name for Cock Street). Visitors to Hitchin were sometimes puzzled as to why manhole covers in the town would have the name of a Jewellery shop on them.

Shortly after the fire Cornelius Willson moved the Gatward Watchmaking and Jewellery business from Sun Street to its present premises in Market Place, which he initially rented. In 1854 *Craven's Commercial Directory of*

Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire had advertisements for both the Gatward shops in Hitchin: Watchmaking & Jewellery in Market Place and Ironmongery in Cock Street. It was around this time, that Cock Street was renamed High Street. In 1876 Cornelius purchased the current Gatward Jewellery building and also took over the tenancy of Whaley's hairdressing next door, purchasing both for £1,300 and considerably enlarging the premises.

Cornelius Willson, usually known as Willson, was a keen cricketer and was regarded as genial and kindly. Shortly before he died in 1893, he made over his Jewellery and Watchmaking business to his eldest son, Willson Bradly. He and his wife Martha moved to 20 Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, where he died on 9th April 1893 aged 82; Martha died on 26th February 1900. They are buried in Tilehouse Street Baptist Churchyard. On the Watchmaking side of the Gatward family, there has always been a strong Baptist tradition of attending Tilehouse Street Baptist Church and many members of the family are buried in the Churchyard.

Willson Bradly Gatward, usually known as Bradly, was the last of the Gatwards to actually make a clock and it is understood that he only made about seven. His great love wasn't jewellery or watches it was music. On the staircase leading from the flat to the shop there is still a spyhole which he used to decide whether or not to come down and serve a customer³. While he was in charge Queen Victoria celebrated both her Golden and Diamond Jubilees. Willson Bradly was a noted musician, and was the Organist at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church, Hitchin for over 50 years. He died in 1947 and is buried in Tilehouse Street Baptist Church Churchyard with his wife, Ethel, who died in 1946. Bradly Gatward's musical papers are preserved at the British Organ Archive, University of Birmingham.

Bradly passed the business to his son Willson Hayden Gatward in 1935. When he took over storm clouds were gathering for World War II and the Great Depression proved to be very difficult times. During the War the shops extensive workshops and machinery were used to make small



Figure 3 Willson Hayden Gatward outside the Gatward Jewellery Shop 1935

parts for an aviation instrument company. Like his father, Willson was very musical and was Organist at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church. He married Sylvia **Lawmon** and they had two daughters, Anna and Lisa. When Willson died in 1960 aged 59, the business was continued by his widow, Sylvia, their two daughters and their long-time manager Ray **Edwards**.

In 1965 a grandson of Bradly Gatward established Robert Gatward Jewellers in Thame, Oxfordshire. The business was sold in 1999 but such is the reputation of the Gatward name that they still trade as Robert Gatward Jewellers currently with stores at Abingdon, Ipswich and Windsor.

Anna and Lisa Gatward were still at school when their father died but Anna soon took her place in the Hitchin shop and clocked up over 50 years, although it wasn't until 1991 and Sylvia Gatward's death that she took control of the business. The two sisters and Jim **Hunter**, who joined the board in 1991, led the company through the rapid changes whilst remaining true to the family ethos.

The current manager of the business is Charlotte Gatward, daughter of Lisa. She was exposed to the business at an early age *"As a child as soon as the school term broke up for Christmas, I used to come with my mother to the shop most days of the Christmas holidays. I just loved being in the shop with Mum - being around all the Christmas decorations and the excitement of the build-up to the big day. By the time I was 12, I used to help the team with the gift wrapping and earn myself some extra pocket money."*⁴

Charlotte had to steer the business through the Covid Lockdown Pandemic which closed the Jewellers for the longest period in its history. In June 2024 she led a complete refit and overhaul of the premises although the changes were sympathetic to the age and the charm of the Tudor building. The early generations of Gatwards would still recognise the business today, although some aspects have changed with the passage of time. Gatwards no longer make watches or clocks but continue the tradition by stocking many fine watch brands. Gatwards is now renowned for fine diamonds and beautiful, coloured gemstone jewellery.



Figure 4 Charlotte Gatward outside the Gatward Jewellery Shop, 2018

The Ancestry of the Gatwards of Hitchin

The ancestry of James Gatward who started the Watchmakers Shop in Hitchin is known.

There are only eight entries in the Willian Church of All Saints records for the for the year 1744 and the third Baptism simply states:

Joseph the bastard son of Elizabeth **Ellis**. September. 9 1744

This subtle message of disapproval may have been conveyed to James and Elizabeth as three weeks later, there is a marriage entry for the couple at the same Church following Banns⁵.

James and Elizabeth had eight children. Their eldest was Joseph (baptised 1744) and the youngest Benjamin (baptised 1767). Both sons were sent to London as Apprentice Watchmakers.

The big question is what is the ancestry of this James Gatward?

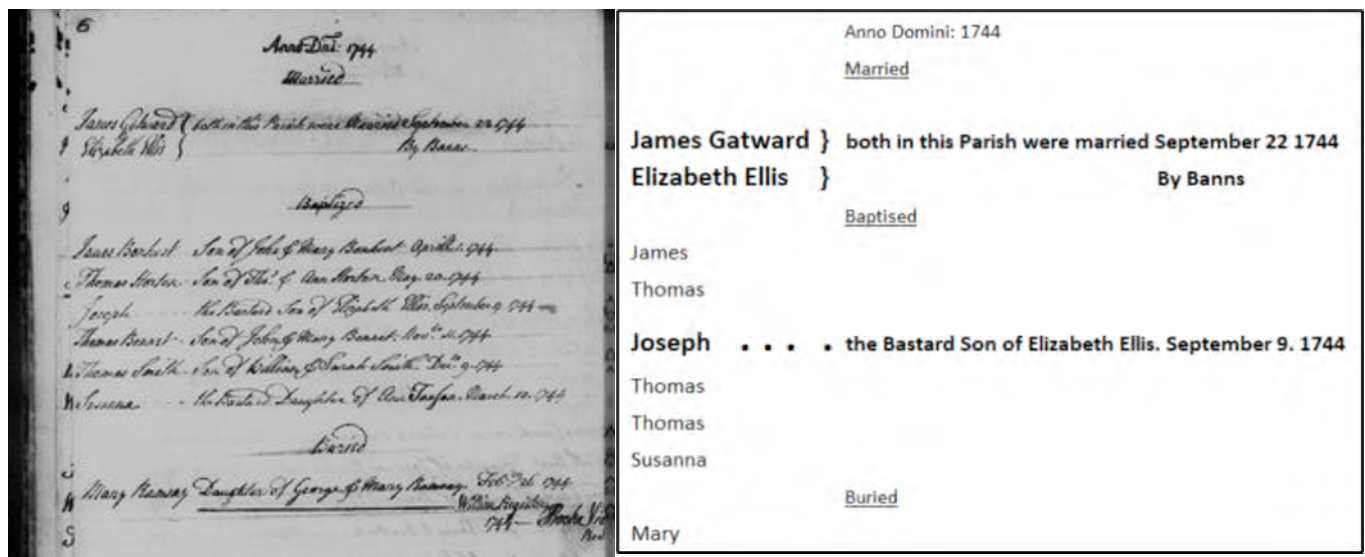


Figure 5 Willian, Hertfordshire, Parish Records for 1744 and Author's transcription of relevant entries. Source: FamilySearch

The business states that the family are generally thought to have descended from Oliver Gatward⁵, described as a Gentleman, who was born in Coveney, Cambridgeshire in 1534 and died at the same place in 1604. Oliver was granted the Gateward Coat of Arms in 1591 whilst residing in Wicken. Gatwards Jewellery use a stylised version of the Gatward Coat of Arms in their marketing.

In the Visitation Pedigree chart⁷ for the Gateward Coat of Arms Oliver Gateward⁶ is listed as the first person, suggesting that he is the Armiger who obtained the heraldic design.

Coats of Arms are legal property transmitted from father to son. In the late 1500s under the Heraldic laws and procedures a Gentleman had the right to a Coat of Arms but what determined you as a Gentleman was less well-defined. The 'Heralds' were the people who determined this status and there is some evidence that the criterion for granting arms was a monetary one. This helped raise money for the King or Queen and largely started in the reign of Henry VIII. The traditional presumption is that a Gentleman was someone who was entitled to bear arms ("gentleman of coat-armor"). This definition does not correspond to the social reality of the 17th Century Gentry. People moved up into the Gentry, successful City Merchants buying Country Estates, or rich Yeomen accumulating enough land to live from its income⁸. I believe Oliver purchased his Coat of Arms.

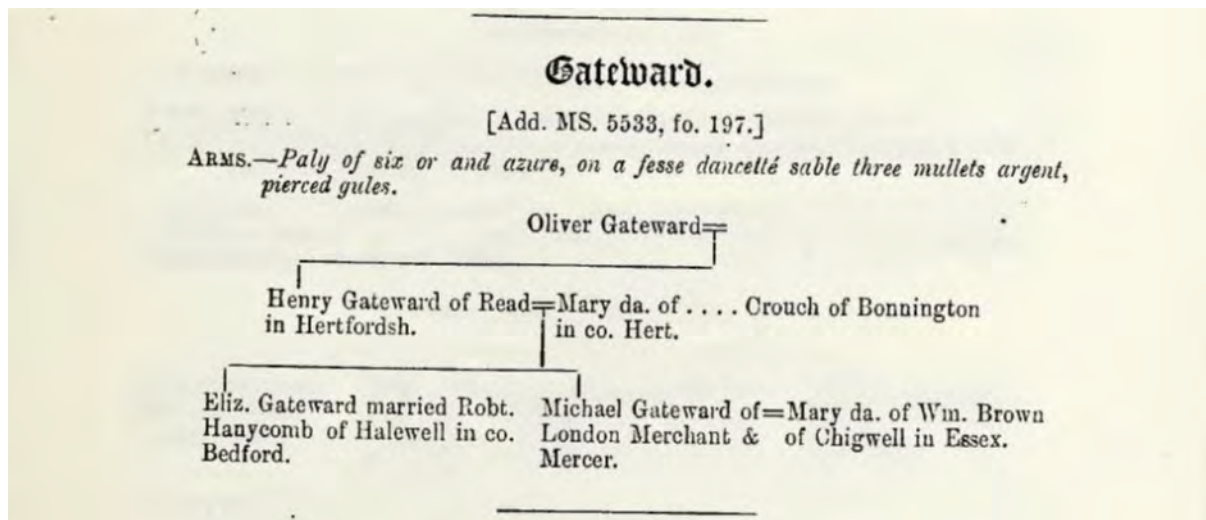


Figure 6 Visitation Pedigree for Gateward family, London Visitations 1664

The Gateward Family Pedigree was included as part of a set of Pedigrees published at the Visitation of London 1664. Every ten years Heralds would visit towns and any family bearing Arms had to prove its lineage for three generations. This was known as a 'Visitation of the Heralds'. At the Visitation of the Heralds in 1664, Oliver Gateward, Henry Gateward and Michael Gateward were all recorded in the 'Gateward Family Pedigree'. This can be taken as conclusive evidence of three generations of the Gateward family.

The bearer of the Gatward Coat of Arms in the 1844 edition of the *Burke's Encyclopedia of Heraldry and General Armory of England, Scotland and Ireland*, was listed as Gatward (Reed, Hertfordshire).

Most ancestry.com trees have the ancestral connection between Oliver Gateward and James Gatward the founder of the Gatwards of Hitchin Jewellery Shop showing him as baptised on 27th June 1710, at Kelshall, Hertfordshire the son of Edward and Alice Gatward. Edward was a descendent of Henry Gatward of Reed. If true I would be the 10th cousin of Charlotte Gatward as Oliver Gatward Gent is my 11th great-grandfather.

My correspondence with another Researcher has recently created questions as to if this is the correct James Gatward. There are three things that support his doubts. Firstly, there is a lack of any evidence that links these families together. Secondly, James Gatward of Kelshall married Sarah **George** in 1733 and was a Wheelwright. Sarah died in 1738. We then have two James Gatward's getting married in 1744. One to Ann **Herbert** in Saint Luke, Old

Street, Finsbury, London and the other to Elizabeth **Ellis** on 22 Sep 1744 at Willian, Hertfordshire. There is no doubt the Willian marriage is our Watchmaker but which was James Gatward of Kelshall? The Will of James Gatward of Saint Luke, London matches the siblings of James Gatward of Kelshall. Finally, James and Elizabeth had eight children between 1744 and 1767. The last being Benjamin who ran the Watch and Clock making shop in Hitchin. If this was James Gatward of Kelshall baptised in 1710 he would have been 57 years old when Benjamin was born. These three things do suggest a strong doubt that James Gatward Watchmaker is James Gatward of Kelshall.

Over the past years I have been looking for an alternative line. I have found a possible link through the Independent Church Records, a calling we can see strongly in the Jewellery Shop family.

A James Gatward of Great Munden, Hertfordshire was baptised on 18 Jul 1714. His father also James Gatward had his house registered to be used by Protestant Dissenters on 30 Apr 1700 after the passing of the Toleration Act, *"These are to certifie that a house congregation of Protestant Dissenters intend to meet for religious worship at the premises of James Gattward, called the Mill Farm, in Munden Magna."*⁹ The Great Munden family were also active in the Independent Church in Hertford. This family have been traced back to Ashwell, Hertfordshire and there is a family there connected to Oliver Gatward Gent through Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire. Proving this alternative line maybe impossible but is an important task for the Family History of The Gatward Jewellery Family.

I wish to conclude this article by mentioning the importance of the Gatward Jewellery shop to us Gatwards. Many Gatwards have paid a visit to the shop, had a picture taken outside, proudly posted it on their social media and purchased at least an item of Jewellery. I recall myself seeing a rug embossed with my family name in the shop and wishing I could have one in my house. I think the 2014 refurbishment removed the rugs but there are still plenty of bags and other merchandise proudly showing off our joint name.



Figure 8 Gatwards Rug, Authors Picture 2017



Figure 7 The Author outside the Gatward Jewellery Shop 2017

Terry Gatward has been researching the Gatward family for over 50 years. Born in Luton he emigrated to Australia in 1988. He completed a Diploma of Family History with the University of Tasmania, Australia in Aug 2017 and the Family History Diploma with the Society of Australian Genealogists in 2020. He is a One-Name Study Researcher who enjoys collaborating with other Gatward Researchers to bring to life the unknown stories of Gatward families and notable individuals from across the ages.

gatwardhistory@gmail.com

End Notes

1. *Celebrating 250 years 1760-2010* Gatward Jewellers Hitchin. The research for this book was largely done by Susan Robinson (née Gatward)
2. Was the Nicodemus a Stream or River in the Hitchin area?
3. As detailed in *Celebrating 250 years 1760-2010* Gatward Jewellers Hitchin.
4. A history of Christmas at Gatwards. Gatwards of Hitchin website. 2 Dec 2020.

5. Susan Robinson (née Gatward) 'The Gatwards of Hitchin - A short family history'. July 2007 unpublished

6. Gateward is an older variant of Gatward.

7. *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica and the British Archivist*. Volume V Fifth Series. Edited by A. W. Hughes Clarke. Published London 1923-25. Section London Pedigrees. <https://geneagraphie.com/pedigrees/miscellaneagenea-S5V5-1923.pdf>

8. <https://www.heraldica.org/topics/britain/england2.htm#1688>

9. *Nonconformity in Herts: Being Lectures Upon the Nonconforming Worthies of St. Albans, and Memorials of Puritanism and Nonconformity in All the Parishes of the County of Hertford* by W. Urwick, published in 1884



Really Useful Bulletin - The Federation's Newsletter

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>

Visit the website for articles on a wide range of research topics - click on **Explore Your Genealogy**. Whether you are a beginner, or more experienced researcher you will find articles of interest and links to societies and organisations that are Federation members and also access to back numbers of the Bulletin. To receive the next edition of the FHF Really Useful Bulletin subscribe at <https://familyhistoryfederation.com/#contactlink>

A belated hello from your new Secretary.



My name is Anna. I have been running a lot of the HFHS zooms since May 2023, so my face will be familiar even if my name isn't (the name displayed is always 'HFHS!'). I joined HFHS and the Executive Committee that same month.

The HP editor asked me to do a short bio way back and I didn't.... Either as I forgot or as I was preferring to remain 'the committee member of mystery' (apart from to those of you I know through other clubs and via any conversation online, of course)!

I have lived in Herts for a lot of my life, although not all, and have family history throughout Suffolk, Yorkshire, Herts and Germany. I have an interest in family history without researching mine myself (my mother's hobby!) I listen to the lectures and pass titbits of interest on to her.

I was elected as Secretary in May but the last few months have gone by in a flash. As there are behind-the-scenes changes in progress (a new website), and as these will affect the way we do things internally, it's been a challenge trying to get a handle on new tasks whilst they are simultaneously changing and evolving! However we hope the new website will be worth it for everyone. With the new website, there will be slight changes as you the members access zooms, for example, but we will guide you through them.

Thanks to my predecessor Tracy Turner for filling this demanding role on top of other commitments for several years. She has remained on our committee.

Meanwhile, we've split small bits of the Secretary role out between us, and as I have previously said, I don't research my own family history. Thus the previous Secretary Jottings included things that are currently sitting with other people, or were to do with research methods, so my Jottings will be a little different in content.

Anna Schlenker
HFHS Honorary Secretary

RESEARCH HINTS

Can't find someone?

Try swapping the forename and surname!

Some of you may have problems that you were hoping the 1921 census would solve. You might like to know of an annoying problem that can arise. The original form asks for NAME and SURNAME, but some people didn't do as asked!

Harriet **Sessions** did not seem to be recorded in the 1921 Census. An address search for 82 Piccadilly revealed a chauffeur at that location and by moving along several entries she appeared with her forename as her surname!

NAME and SURNAME:—
of every person who is alive at midnight on the night of Sunday, 24th April, 1921, and who, whether as member of the family or as visitor, boarder or servant in the household or establishment:—
(1) passes that night in the dwelling of the household or establishment, or
(2) arrives and is received into the household or establishment on the morning of Monday, 25th April, not having already been enumerated elsewhere.
No one else must be included.
(For order of entering names see Examples on back hereof.)
(a)

1	Sessions Harriet
2	Mills Leonora Louisa
3	Reedman Kate
4	Quell Alice
5	Smith Ethel
6	Lair Violet

First name(s)	Last name
Sessions	Harriet
Mills Leonard	Louisa
Reedman	Kate

The transcriptions are even more complicated when are several names as Louisa Leonora Mills indicates.

There are numerous other people listed with a surname of Harriet.

A quick search for the other surnames in the above list produced: Louisa 276, Kate 713, Ethel 237, Alice 356, Violet 333.

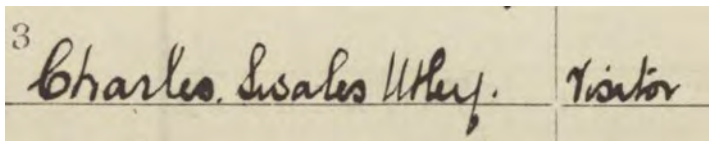
More detail of 237 entries in 1921 with a surname of Ethel.

Some are obviously wrong. Some are genuine surnames:

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Sex	Birth year
Thomas	Ethel	Head	Male	1876
Sarah Ellen	Ethel	Wife	Female	1882
Amy	Ethel	Daughter	Female	1906
Nona	Ethel	Daughter	Female	1919

Blunt	Ethel
Bosher Olive	Ethel
Bradley	Ethel
Bradley Dorothy	Ethel
Bryan Violet	Ethel
Burton Daisy	Ethel
Caney Dorothy	Ethel

Others are transcribed incorrectly such as:



Charles Swales Ethel

Mistakes also occur because the surname is only written on the first line and not added to all subsequent members of the family:

	(a)	(b)	(c)
1	Arthur Henry Cortell	Head	48
2	Edith Ellen	wife	39 7
3	Edith Ellen	Daughter	19
4	Harriet Maud	Daughter	17 2
5	Arthur Thomas	Son	14 9
6	Rose Mary	Daughter	12 3
7	George Alfred	Son	9 11
8	Mellie Margarette	Daughter	6 9
9	Anne Ethel	Daughter	under 1 month

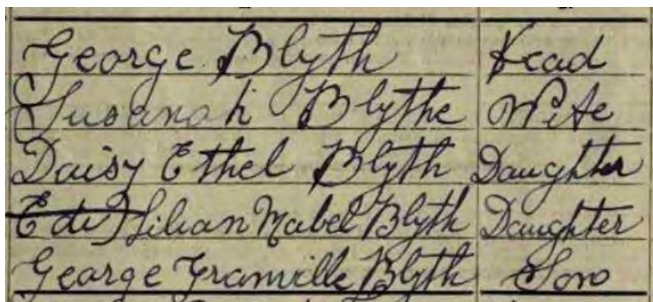
Do these errors occur in other census returns?

1911 has fewer entries with the surname Ethel – only 60.

This one is in muddle:

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head
Carter Herbert	Francis	Head
Carter Lillie	Ethel	Wife
Carter Violet	Ethel	Daughter
Sylvia May	Carter	Daughter

As is the transcription of this Blyth family:



First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head
George	Blyth	Head
Susannah	Blyth	Wife
Daisy	Ethel	Daughter
Lilian Mabel	Ethel	Daughter
George Gramille	Ethel	Son

So, if you are stuck then one suggestion is to swap the forename and surname and see if that helps.

I have amended three entries in the 1921 census on Find my Past with the surname Felicity.

Perhaps you have some research tips you can share?
Either by writing an article or by sending me a few details.

Felicity
chair@hertsfhs.org.uk

First name(s)	Last name
Lane Fox	Felicity
Lewile	Felicity
Mary Lloyd	Felicity

Competition Winner

Congratulations once again to **Beverley Reynolds**, the winner of our Competition for 2025. Her winning article 'Tales from the Playground - Educating our Ancestors' was published in the September issue of *Hertfordshire People* and has received some really positive feedback from our readers.



We were delighted to be able to welcome Beverley to our November Zoom meeting and to officially congratulate her on her win, but before this we had sent her Certificate and £50 prize to her and she has sent us this photo to prove it!

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

HFHS Out and About - Visit to Hitchin

Meeting members at Woolmer Green has been part of the fabric of Hertfordshire Family History Society for many years. Now so few people attend talks there that our main talks will be by Zoom and can be attended by people from far and wide.

Meeting members is important. Our Hoddesdon group still meet in person and offer talks to a small audience. How else can we fill the gap for those who live locally – a visit to Hitchin was proposed and planned.

On 30th August a small group met in Hitchin in the market square edged with shops such as Gatwards trading since the 1760s and with a pop-up beach in the middle providing summer fun in the sun for children.



Just round the corner was the war memorial and the parish Church of St Mary's.



Bridget Howlett, a member of the Hitchin Historical Society and a Church Guide, provided us with an excellent tour of the St Mary's Church as the sun streamed through the windows.

With many memorials and several unusual features such as a brass of a figure in a shroud and a Mouseman mouse on a handrail.

All the memorials are recorded in HFHS Monumental Inscriptions book (no 88), as are those in a separate publication about Tilehouse Street Baptist Church (no 47).



Next a guided walk along some of the old streets showcased a wide range of buildings of various ages and styles all existing side by side.

Our guide, tour notes and plaques provided interesting information about inhabitants many centuries ago.



Lunch next!



Followed by a visit to the British Schools Museum. Our visit allowed us to explore the history of 200 years of schooling including the stunning monitorial schoolroom, once commonplace, now unique providing school a huge number of children by one teacher.



We even had a go writing with a dip pen and ink.

The recreated Victorian Headmaster's House is another interesting feature.

[A Great Day Out in Herts | British Schools Museum](#)

And a great day out for HFHS organised by the Tunesi Team (Editor and Events).



Become your family's historian with the original school of family history

Choose Flexible **Bitesize** Courses

Explore the Higher Certificate – **the UK's
premier genealogy distance learning course**

Ask our trusted professional genealogists to
trace your family tree

www.ihgs.ac.uk/courses
enquiries@ihgs.ac.uk



18th April 2026

St Ives Cambridgeshire



At the BURGESS HALL, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU

A big event, all day, speakers, stalls, and friendly
Family History Societies.

Hertfordshire Family History Society and
Hertfordshire Archives will be there.

Come and discuss you family history.

Bring someone with you.

Spread the word so that others know about the event.

Let see if we can gain more members.

£9 a year is a bargain!

A Family Tragedy

By Jane Tunesi of Liongam

My great grandfather, Arthur **Taylor**, was the youngest of the twelve children of William and Mary Ann Taylor who lived in Hitchin in the mid-nineteenth century. In the early 1980s I compiled a basic family tree for this branch of my family using oral reminiscences from my Mum's siblings, census records, the IGI (on microfiche), burial records and sometimes MIs in the municipal cemetery and parish registers. Recently I have gone back over this research and tried to trace the descendants of my great grandfather's siblings using more modern methods such as digital copies of census and parish registers and Wills via Ancestry and FindMyPast

One conundrum in the 1980s was to try and identify the parents of my mum's 'Auntie' Daisy, who was brought up as a sibling of my grandmother but was actually an older cousin. We knew that she was called Daisy **Darton** who had married a man called Jack **Garner**, a farm bailiff from Preston and had one son, Bill Garner. During my early forays into family history Mum got back in touch with Bill Garner and his wife Jean (Regina) and we kept in touch for many years. They showed me a family bible, photographs and told me much about my Nana's brother Arthur Taylor and Auntie Daisy's brother, Frank Darton, who had been killed in the first world war.

They were also the owners of a beautiful little Victorian photograph album that had belonged to Auntie Daisy and they were able to identify some of the people depicted in the photographs which date from the 1870s to 1890s.

Many of the photographs were from photographers in Hitchin and Luton, so fairly local, such as T.B. Latchmore in Brand Street, Hitchin (1870-1908), J. A. Baker Junr in Market Square, Hitchin (1882), H.G. Moulden, The Biggin Studio, Hitchin (c.1884-1902), King Bros in 30 Bute Street, Luton, (c. 1876) and Henry Gregson in King Street, Luton (c.1870-1886). There were also a few unidentified 'rogue' photographers from Huddersfield, Wakefield, Hammersmith and Finsbury Park. By looking in Trades Directories I was able to work out when these photographers were in business at the address on the photographs. Bill very kindly let me borrow the precious album in order to take photographs of the photographs in the album for research purposes.

I arranged the photos in the order of the original album in a new one as I felt there may be some significance in the arrangement. From the fashions it could be posited that they were taken from the mid to late 1870s to the 1890s.

This photograph was positively identified as Amos and Mary Ann Darton, the parents of Auntie Daisy. The photographer was F. Langlois, 128 King Street, Hammersmith (one door down from the Windsor Castle), which I take to be a Pub. The photograph shows a couple in probably their best clothes. He is seated with his arm on the edge of a table and she is standing with her hand on his shoulder.



Their story however is tragic.

The first time we find Daisy Darton in a census is 1891 when she is five years old. She is living with her widowed mother, Mary A. Darton and her two brothers, nine year old William and seven year old Frank at 40 Waterdell, St Ippollitts.

Amos Darton and Mary Ann **Taylor** were married in St Ippollitts on 11 August 1881 when Amos was 26 years old. His father was a Thomas Darton. Two sons arrived in 1882 and 1884 before Amos died in 1885. His daughter Daisy was born after his death. Poor Mary Ann, left with three children and no husband.

Mary Ann proved to be one of my great grandfather's sisters. He had four. Ann the eldest, who was blind, Elizabeth, Mary Ann and Rosetta. So the mystery of where Daisy fitted into my Mum's family was now solved.

Amos' parents were Thomas Darton and Hannah nee **Butterfield** who were married at St Ippollitts on 29 September 1849. Thomas' father was John Darton.

Amos is still living with his parents in the 1881 census, with his brothers Arthur, James and his nephew John as he did not marry until August 1881. He and his father were Labourers.

In the 1871 census, Amos is living with his family in Gosmore, his parents, his brothers George, Thomas and Arthur and sisters, Emma, Alice and Lilly. Earlier, in the 1861 census the family are living at Well Head, St Ippollitts. Father, Mother and sons William, George, Amos and Thomas and daughter Emma. Also living with them is Thomas' mother, Mary Darton who is aged 74.

In the 1851 census we find Thomas Darton and his wife Hannah and son William aged 1 living at 4 Folly, St Ippollitts with John Darton and his wife Mary living at No 3. Both John and Mary were in their 60s and on parish relief. With them is their grandson James **Marshall** aged 11.

Why is this family so tragic?

1. Amos and Mary Ann Taylor were married in August 1881.
2. William Thomas Darton was born at the end of 1881 (Dec Qtr, Royston, 3a 39s).
3. Frank Amos Darton was born in St Ippollitts or Kimpton on 17 July 1884.
4. Amos Darton died in 1885 (Mar Qtr, Hitchin, 3a 285).
5. Daisy Darton was born in St Ippollitts on 26 April 1885 (Jun Qtr, Hitchin, 3a 465).
6. William Thomas Darton died at the early age of 15 in 1897 (Dec Qtr, Hitchin, 3a 324).
7. Mary Ann Darton nee Taylor died in 1899 (Mar Qtr, Hitchin, 3a 358).
8. Frank Amos Darton joined the Army in 1901 and served in the Boer War and in the 1911 census was still in the 5th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps based at Woolwich.
9. Daisy Darton was living with my Gt Grandparents and their family in the 1901 and 1911 census.
10. Daisy married John **Garner** on 20 January 1912 at St Ippollitts.
11. Frank Amos Darton, after 12 years in the Army, emigrated to Canada arriving at Portland, Maine on 4 March 1913 on the *Dominion* and then travelling on to Ontario in Canada. He had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and red hair and was 5'8^{1/2}" tall.

12. Daisy and Jack Garner welcomed their son, William Arthur (Bill) Garner in 1915 (Jun Qtr, Hitchin, 3a 1356) - some good news!
13. At the outbreak of the First World War Frank Amos Darton joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in the 86th Machine Gun Battalion. He was killed 8 October 1916 in Le Sars, France, blown to pieces by an enemy shell and has no known grave but is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. His sister Daisy was his next of kin and received all his worldly goods at his death.



William Thomas Darton
1881-1897

Photographer:
HG Moulden, The Biggin
Studio, second turning
from Market Sq nest to St
Mary's School, Hitchin.
Fl. c.1884-1902



Frank Amos Darton
1884 - 1916

Photographer:
No photographer name on
this photo at all but must
have been taken early 1890s



Daisy Darton
1885-1970

Photographer:
H.G. Moulden, Portrait &
Landscape Photographer,
The Biggin, Hitchin
Fl.c, 1884-1902

The photograph album, family memories and some research for this article will hopefully make sure that this family is not forgotten.

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 session: Wednesday 10 December is FULLY BOOKED.

Keep an eye on the HALS website for details of events in the new year.

County Views catalogued online

The County Views Collection at HALS is made up of photographs, prints, engravings, watercolours, drawings, lantern slides, 35mm slides, glass plates and film negatives all relating to buildings, landscapes and townscapes in Herts. The collection was previously accessed using a manual card catalogue and details from these cards have now been added to the online catalogue. Further work has been under way to add previously uncatalogued images. Details of images can be searched via the online catalogue.

Did you know?

Volunteers at HALS added details of over 54,000 documents to the online catalogue in the year 2024/5.

Christmas Opening Hours

Mon 22 Dec Closed

Tues 23 Dec 9am - 5pm

Weds 24 Dec 9am - 5pm

Thurs 25 Dec Closed

Fri 26 Dec Closed

Sat 27 Dec Closed

Sun 28 Dec Closed

Mon 29 Dec Closed

Tues 30 Dec 9am - 5pm

Weds 31 Dec 9am - 5pm

Thurs 1 Jan Closed

Fri 2 Jan 9am - 12.30pm

Sat 3 Jan 10am - 2pm

Normal hours resume from Tuesday 6 January 2026.

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.

Research Queries

Are you stuck with your research? Don't forget you can still call on the help of fellow HFHS members.

Send your research questions to: The Editor, 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ. Or send an email to editor@hertsfhs.org.uk



We could do with some more Research Queries for *Hertfordshire People*. Don't forget to send them in!

Society Talks

July 2025

The Old and New Poor Laws: 'Ye have the poor always with you' presented by Dr Kate Thompson

The treatment of poverty can be divided into four periods: before about 1600; up to 1834 (the old poor law); from 1834 to 1930 (the new poor law); and after 1930.

One of the best introductions to the various systems can be found in the excellent website, www.workhouses.org.uk; the link to the introduction is <https://workhouses.org.uk/intro/>.

The old and the new poor laws generated a lot of potentially very useful documents and there are guides to them here: <https://workhouses.org.uk/bookstore/>.

For the old poor law, the principal documents are overseers of the poor accounts, settlement certificates, removal orders, settlement examinations, pauper apprenticeship indentures, bastardy bonds and vestry minutes.

For the new poor law, there are many more and they are divided between those in the National Archives and those held locally, because the system was a national one governed by a central authority. For family historians, the admission and discharge registers are very valuable but they do not survive very well. There are also birth and death registers.

There are many books on the subject and the booklist referred to above lists many of them. In addition, there will be university MA and PhD theses, which you may be able to access.

Kate Thompson

September 2025

Heraldry for Local and Family History presented by John J. Tunesi of Liongam

Our regular Hertfordshire People Heraldic Miscellany columnist gave us a basic introduction to the study of heraldry, blazoning and how this fascinating study can be used to enhance your family history research.

A useful downloadable guide is available from the website of The Heraldry Society if you wished to delve deeper into this fascinating adjunct to family history - [Heraldry-For-Beginners.pdf](#)

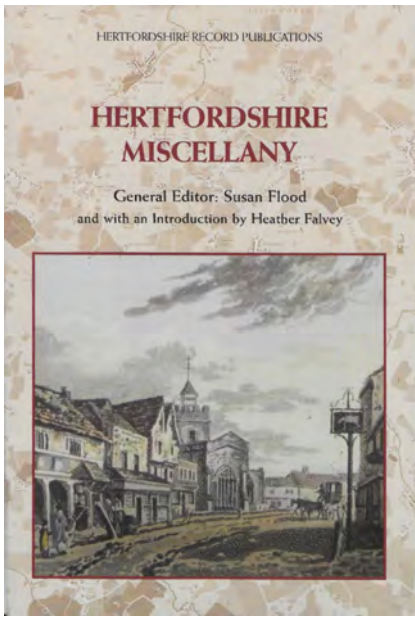


Well illustrated, with some Hertfordshire examples, he showed us how looking at an heraldic monument and understanding how heraldic quarterings work can provide a visual family tree which could then be backed up with documentary and secondary sources.

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!

Book Review



Flood, Susan (ed) with an introduction by Heather Falvey. *Hertfordshire Miscellany*. Hertfordshire Record Society, Special Publication III, 2025. ISBN 978-0-950174-18-1. Free to members, £22 to non members + £4 p & p.

This is an additional volume for 2025/6 to mark 40 years of publications by the Hertfordshire Record Society. As Professor Steve Hindle notes in his foreword, HRS should rightly celebrate this achievement. Academic historical research constantly changes, but access to original material is enduring. As the title suggests, this volume is a collection of eighteen essays by local authors including our Hon. President Alan Ruston.

These essays are all drawn from documents held in Hertfordshire Archives and range in date from the 10th century to the 20th. There are plenty of illustrations, maps and charts.

The first chapter looks at the 10th century will of **Aethelgifu**, a woman of some wealth. She left detailed instructions and made it very clear that anyone who did not carry them out would suffer on Judgement Day. One feature that struck me was that in every village where she held land she frees whole families from serfdom/slavery. These people are named but only forenames.

The volume exposes aspects of life in the past. It is interesting to learn that Hexton church had a "comelye covering" for its altar table in the 16th century and a "convenient pulpit". Domestic items are revealed by the inventory of Benjamin Hoskins **Stiles** goods at Lincoln Inn Fields and Moor Park in 1739. Another woman who was to the point is the pauper, Ann **Harris**, as demonstrated in her letter seeking financial support. The Steward's Accounts for Hadham Hall tell us much about provisioning. Some 300 people were fed there on Christmas Day 1628 on beef, mutton, veal, pork, venison, turkey,

capon, chicken and partridges. (Not much sign of a vegetarian option).

Going on to 1780 there is a list of people who had to pay a tax on male servants giving the number that they employed. Most had only one. The largest number I noticed was William **Plumer** of Gilston who paid tax on fifteen servants. Sadly the servants are not named. There is also a 1697 list of Quakers who pledged loyalty to William of Orange and Queen Mary.

The last chapter deals with the Hertfordshire Reformatory at Chapmore End, Bengoe. This was set up in 1857 and finally closed its doors in 1982. The list of rules and regulations, and the way that the boys were well treated, contrasts favourably with the harsh 19th century workhouse conditions.

The interest for the family historian will be the 16-page index of names. Perhaps your ancestor was recorded as one those wealthy enough to be registered in 1780 as employing a male servant. (Credit is acknowledged to the HFHS for additional information on the servants provided by the CD-ROM on Hertfordshire Militia Ballot Lists). Might he/she be recorded as an owner or occupier of property in the survey of Chipping Barnet in 1787?

You could liken this volume to a box of chocolates that you are not familiar with. Each one tried is a delight and some make you dig your teeth in.

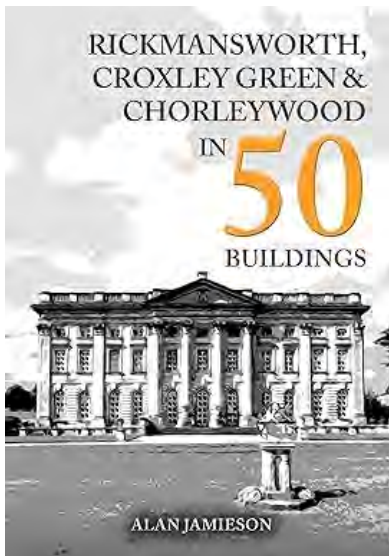
Janet Pearson & Jennifer Ayto

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.

Book Review



Jamieson, Alan *Rickmansworth, Croxley Green and Chorleywood in 50 Buildings*. Amberley Publishing, 2025. ISBN 9781498122079. £15.99.

This new volume in Amberley's '*.....in 50 Buildings*' series is of special interest for anyone living in the Rickmansworth area of Hertfordshire.

Profusely illustrated with archive and up to date photographs, the 50 buildings and landmarks chosen range from pubs, railway stations and houses to farms, mills, schools, almshouses and churches. There are also entries relating to substantial houses, mansions and estates, such as Basing House, Chenies and Moor Park. Each of the 50 chosen buildings are illustrated with pertinent images with accompanying historical notes.

Areas covered, with the numbers of buildings in parenthesis are Rickmansworth (21), Moor Park (4), Croxley Green (6), Chorleywood (10), Sarratt (9).

For the family and local historian there is a useful coloured map with numbered dots to denote the buildings described in the historical notes. There are also references to the builders, church memorials, plaques and the people who lived in the buildings over the centuries.

The book is a splendid guide for both local residents as well as anyone interested in heritage and architecture.

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

72) The Marital Arms of John William Egerton, the 7th Earl of Bridgewater and Charlotte Catherine Anne Haynes.

Located within the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Little Gaddesden in the south of the county is found the Bridgewater Chapel, the family mausoleum of the Egertons, Dukes and Earls of Bridgewater who were once seated at nearby Ashridge House. The chapel was built by the noted the noted architect Jeffry **Wyatt** (later known as Sir Jeffry Wyatville) under the direction of the subject of this article prior to his death in 1823.

Within the chapel is found a myriad of mural monuments celebrating the lives of the Egertons. None more so than the founder of this chapel, John William **Egerton**, the 7th Earl of Bridgewater. The large mural monument of John and his wife, Charlotte is found above the altar on the east wall of the chapel. The monument is the work of the prolific 19th Century sculptor, Sir Richard **Westmacott**. The monument is ensigned with earl's coronet of rank under which are the monumental inscriptions to both John and Catherine.



Between the aforesaid inscriptions and marital arms at the bottom of the monument is a large bas-relief entitled 'The Midday Rest' which is considered to reflect a monument of The Holy Family seen by Westmacott in Florence when a pupil of Antonio Canova.

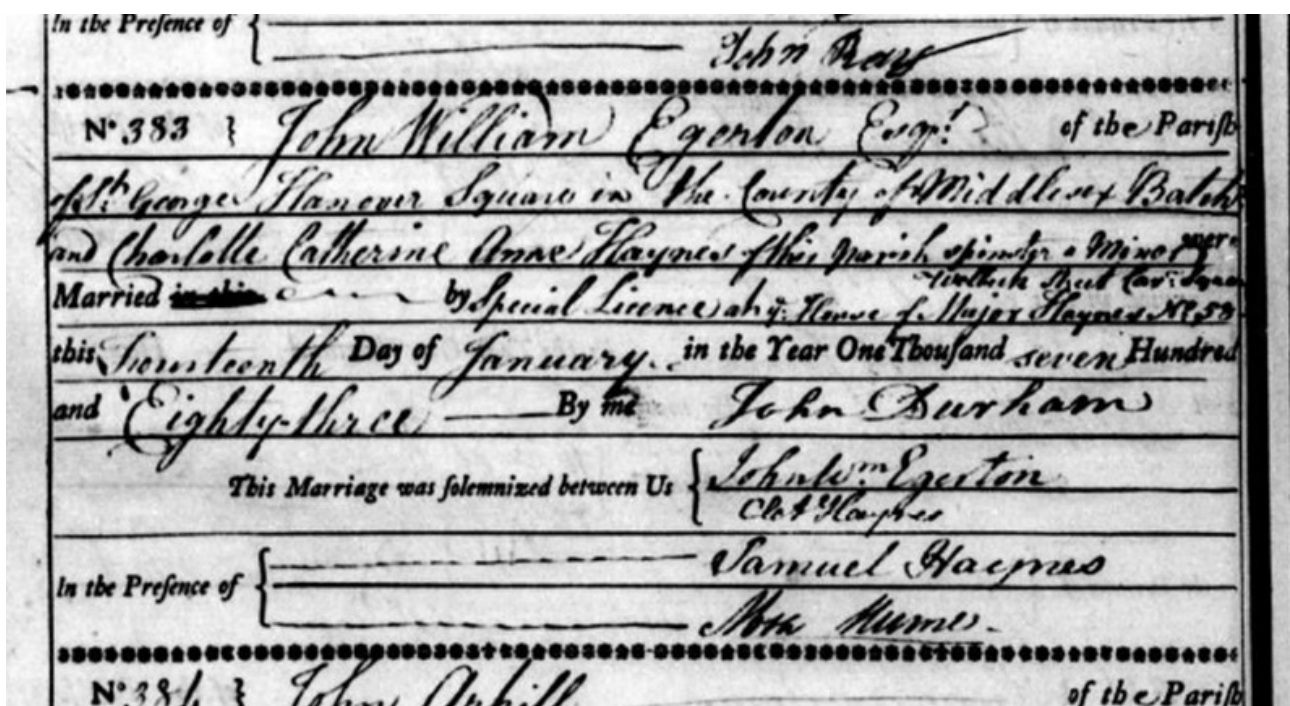
It has also been ventured that this sculpture is one of Westmacott's best works.

John William Egerton (born 14th April 1753 died 21st October 1823) was the eldest son of The Right Reverend John Egerton, Bishop of Durham and his first wife, Lady Anne Sophia Grey, whilst Charlotte Catherine Anne Haynes (born 20th November 1763 died 11th February 1849) was the only daughter and heiress of Samuel Haynes, of Sunninghill in the County of Berkshire and his wife, Elizabeth (possibly Weaver). John and Charlotte were married by Special Licence at the house of Major Haynes, 58 Welbeck Street, Marylebone in the County of Middlesex on the 14th January 1783 and recorded in the Register of the Parish Church of St. Marylebone.

March 1803, John succeeded as the 7th Earl of Bridgewater. Prior to his succession to the family's earldom, John had been a career officer in the British Army being commissioned as such in 1771 serving in both the 7th Light Dragoons and the 14th Light Dragoons. He achieved the rank of Colonel successively in both regiments and was Colonel of the 14th Light Dragoons when he saw active service with the regiment during the Peninsula War. John remained Colonel of the regiment for the remainder of his life. He was promoted successively to the ranks of Major General in 1795, Lieutenant general in 1802 and full General in 1812.

Upon the death of his first cousin once removed, Francis Egerton, the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater on the 8th

Apart from his military career, John also found time to sit in the House of Commons as the Member of



Parliament for Morpeth (1777 – 80) and then for Brackley (1780 – 1803). He was elected both as a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1808.

Sadly, as John and Charlotte's marriage produced no issue, upon his death in 1823, his peerages were inherited by his younger brother, Francis Henry Egerton, 8th and last Earl of Bridgewater. The earldom and its minor peerages fell into extinction upon Francis's death in 1829 for the want of a male heir.



Upon the monument the arms of Egerton and Haynes are shown impaled which is a little odd as ordinarily as Charlotte was her father's heraldic heiress, her paternal arms of Haynes would be placed centrally upon John's arms as an escutcheon of pretence. Perhaps in this instance both John and Charlotte preferred an impalement for aesthetic reasons?

Arms:

(on the dexter) *Quarterly 1st and 4th Argent a lion rampant gules between three pheons sable* (for Egerton) 2nd and 3rd *Barry of six argent and azure* (for Grey)

(on the sinister) *Or on a fess gules three plates in chief a greyhound courant azure* (for Haynes)



John William Egerton, the 7th Earl of Bridgewater by William Owen. © Creative Commons



Charlotte Catherine Anne Egerton (née Haynes), Countess of Bridgewater. Engraving by James Posselwhite after Henry Edridge. © Creative Commons

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
Barrantine	15c	Kelshall	Hrt	4730
Beale	15-16c	Kelshall, Royston, Buckland	Hrt	4730
Bysouth	1800+	Therfield, Reed, Sandon, Walkern	Hrt	4732
Day	18-19c	Any	Hrt	4734
Draper	1800+	Therfield, Reed, Sandon, Walkern	Hrt	4732
Fardle	1800+	Therfield, Reed, Sandon, Walkern	Hrt	4732
	Variants:		Fardel	
Gilbey	1800+	Therfield, Reed, Sandon, Walkern	Hrt	4732
Knights	1800+	Reed, Royston	Hrt	4732
Markaunt	16c	Kelshall	Hrt	4730
Nex	15c	Kelshall	Hrt	4730
Tomlin	18-19c	Any	Hrt	4734
Ward	1900+	Braughing	Hrt	4732
Ward	1800-1900	Sandon, Wallington, Royston	Hrt	4732
Warner	Any	Walkern	Hrt	4732
Willmott	Any	Kelshall	Hrt	4730
Willmott	15-16c	Kelshall	Hrt	4730
	Variants:		Any variants	

New Members

Number	Name	County / Country
4728	Mr. Stephen Harris	Northamptonshire
4729	Ms Anna Freeman	Canada
4730	Mrs. Margaret Willmott	East Sussex
4731	Mr. Graeme Vine	Essex
4732	Ms Samantha Ward	Buckinghamshire



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/



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: Ms Anna Schlenker, secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms Sue Day

Miss Sue Jackson

Mr John Purdy

Miss Janet Sutton

Mrs Jane Tunesi of Liongam

John Tunesi of Liongam

Dr Tracy Turner

Mrs Elaine Tyler

Ms Jill Wilcox

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 2026

All our talks are by 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.

- Jan 24** **Humour in Genealogy** presented by Chris Broom. Join our speaker as he takes us on a light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents.
- Feb 28** **Researching your Rural Ancestors** presented by Clare O'Grady. Until well into the nineteenth century, England and Wales was predominantly rural in nature. As a result most of us will find our roots in the English and Welsh countryside. This talk will introduce you to some of the main sources for research such as Estate records, manorial surveys, tithe records and labour / wage books.
- Mar 28** **William Schaw Lindsay: Victorian Entrepreneur** presented by Bill Lindsay. Born in Ayr in 1815, William Schaw Lindsay had an amazing life. Orphaned by 10, he ran away to sea as a teenager and was the Master of an oceangoing vessel within nine years. When he retired from the sea, after many adventures, he built up one of the largest shipping companies in Britain in the 1850s. His diaries are full of personal anecdotes of famous people he met and he also wrote the four volume *History of Merchant Shipping*.

Website: www.hertsfhs.org.uk