



ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



View near Newport, ISLE OF WIGHT.
Drawn & etched by Rowlandson. Stated Aquatinta.

November 2025

Number 159

The Heritage Resource Centre (HRC)

The HRC in Northwood Cemetery is open on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings

(see details on [page 4](#)).

Why not **pay us a visit** and discover the many resources we keep available?

We have maps and photos from many different eras. For example, a wonderful view of Newport in the 1950s with cars parked all along the High Street, showing the fashionable dresses worn by ladies who were in town doing their shopping in the butchers, bakers, fruit and veg shops and Dabells, the wonderful department store. Nowadays, we just have supermarkets that seem to cater for all of our needs.

You will find an 1844 reference to the prisoners held in Parkhurst awaiting deportation to the new world of Australia. Not all of these were Islanders; it also contains the names of lads who were sent to the Island from all over the country, some as young as 6 years old. These youngsters had to spend some years in prison on the Island before they could be transported because they were too young and had to wait till they were deemed old enough... I think at 12.

From last year's Conference, you will find research into 270 churches; some of which have been demolished and some converted into houses.



Northwood Cemetery. 1st September 1869



Northwood Cemetery. 2025



Continued [inside back cover...](#)

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Programme of Events Winter 2025-6

Date	Subject	Speaker
3rd November	The National Coastwatch Institution	Jeremy THOMAS
1st December	The IW Women's Movement	Mark EARP
5th January	Schools Workshop	Geoff ALLAN
2nd February	A Talk on Cowes	Geoff BANKS
2nd March	Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum	Andrew MORRIS
13th April	Isle of Wight small ships at Dunkirk	Michael MILLS
11th May	The Big Class - J Class Yacht Racing in the Thirties	Rosemary JOY

For more information and an up-to-date list of future events visit

www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/events

Monthly Meetings are held (unless stated otherwise) at
Arreton Community Hall, Main Road, Arreton, Newport PO30 3AD

Doors open at 1:30pm talks start at 2:00pm

Admission members £2, non-members £3

2026 Calendar Year Subscriptions

Standard Membership (eJournal)	£8
Classic UK Membership	£16
Classic Rest of the World	£30

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Authors are expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for lengthy quotations and the use of illustrations.

Editorial

I am writing this the week after the Society's One Day Conference and 40th anniversary lunch in the Lakeside Park Hotel at the end of September. We were treated to a glorious weekend of educational presentations and the opportunity to meet up with old friends and new. Many thanks to everyone involved for making it such a success.

The winter season is upon us and the committee have put together a lively programme of speakers for our popular monthly meetings at Arreton. Details can be found on [page 2](#). Please make a note of the dates in your diary.

It's also the time of year when we start to nag you about renewing your subscription. You will find:

- Detailed information on how to renew on [page 22](#)
- Membership forms in the [central yellow pages](#)

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

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Cover Picture

The image depicts 'View near Newport, Isle of Wight'. An aquatint by Joseph Constantine STADLER (1755-1828) from 'Sketches from Nature', a set of 18 plates after etchings by Thomas ROWLANDSON (1757-1827), published in London, 1822. At our ODC on 27th September, we were enthralled to hear Mark EARP wax lyrical about the history of the 'Eel Pye House' tavern illustrated in Rowlandson's etching. Remarkably, the building still exists on the banks of the Medina in Newport.

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The deadline for the February Journal is 1st January 2026

Heritage Resource Centre

West Chapel,
Northwood Cemetery,
Newport Road,
Cowes PO31 7ER

Opening Times

Tuesdays 1 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays 10 am to 1 pm

Please do not use this street address for correspondence

Email enquiries to research.iowfhs@gmail.com

We can also be available at other times by arrangement with the Librarian, Hazel PULLEN.

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will have representatives on hand at other times during the week.

We are pleased to be part of the Heritage Resource Centre at the West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery.

Northwood Cemetery is a working cemetery, managed by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services section. Priority is given to any funeral services and visitors should be respectful of the needs of people attending such services and other visitors to the grounds.

There is very limited parking at the Cemetery. Visitors **must not** use the nearby Medical Centre Car Park. The Park & Ride car park at Somerton is a few hundred metres away (one bus stop).

Use the Southern Vectis bus service (Route 1) from Cowes Red Jet Terminal or Newport Bus Station and stop at Cowes Medical Centre. Only use the service showing '**Park & Ride**' which operates approximately every 15 minutes. Buses showing 'Round House' use a different route.

A Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant toilet facility is available to visitors. We have facilities to copy, scan and print materials for personal use (subject to copyright restrictions).

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed.

Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

From the Desk in Westward Ho!



I am writing this immediately after the Society's 40th birthday weekend. Firstly, a sincere thank you to those who organised the weekend and especially to all those who have contributed to keeping IWFHS running for forty years. It was lovely to see so many friends of longstanding once again and catch up as if we'd seen each other only yesterday.

At the conference, we learned about the ongoing pubs and publicans project from Geoff. Do volunteer to help if you can; you do not have to be local. There was also an account of the MURSELL family, who ran several IW licensed establishments. Next up was Mark EARP with pub-related anecdotes.

After the lunch break, during which tasty toasted sandwiches and cakes were available, Tony BEVIS related accounts of inquests that had been held in Island pubs. This included a shout out for Negretti and Zambra, for whom my mother had worked and a mention of the SWEETINGHAM family, who are the subject of my somewhat dormant, one-name study. There were some excellent displays to look at too.



Conference Speakers.
From the left: Mark Earp, Janet Few, Tony Bevis
and Geoff Allan

Experience shows that it is the things that you can't control that cause the issues on occasions such as this, not that any of this spoiled the day. It was a little cool in the hall but we had been forewarned to dress warmly. We had also been advised to bring cushions, another wise move. Despite careful preparations, the faulty HDMI cable causing one or two slight technical delays could not have been foreseen, nor could the flooded toilet necessitating very loud hoovering during Tony's talk.

By the time it got to my turn to speak, it was only what seemed to be a shouty protester outside in the square to contend with; or maybe, in line with our theme, he'd been overindulging at a local licensed premises.

My remit was to talk about changes in the family history world over the last forty years and suggest thoughts about where we might go in the future, with some Isle of Wight anecdotes throw in. Thank you to all who allowed me to spend a self-indulgent hour reminiscing. There was a second enjoyable day on the Sunday with an anniversary lunch at Lakeside in Wootton and more chatting followed.

In connection with the above mentioned Sweetingham one-name study, I recently revisited this side of my children's ancestry, who come from the Hamble estuary and area around Alverstoke and Gosport. You can read the account here www.grannystales.co.uk/othersidestories. The family left several wills and inventories, which are online at www.ancestry.co.uk.

One inventory entry that caught my eye was in relation to debts owed to Thomas Emery, a cooper of Bishopstoke in 1680. It was stated that £10 was owed to Thomas by 'Henry Stubbington of Shalflette [sic] in the Isle of Wight'. Can anyone claim him? If so, can my children have the £10 back – plus interest of course?

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member 50)

Vice-President

Email: jfewhistory@gmail.com



Membership Secretary's Report

It was a great pleasure to meet so many of you at our One Day Conference and Anniversary Lunch at the end of September.

I wish a warm welcome to those of you who have joined or returned to our Society in the past three months. If you have not already done so, please take the time to have a look around our website and familiarise yourself with the self-managed aspects of **My Account**.

Advice and guidance can be found from our Home Page under the **Help** and **Members > Membership Information** tabs and, as always, you are welcome to either email or write to me for assistance.

Subscription Renewal Once again it is that time of year when we ask you to renew your subscriptions for the coming year. The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December. Due on 1st January 2026, renewals can be made from November onward. [Page 22](#) of this Journal contains important information regarding renewing your membership including how you can renew direct through our website.

The unnumbered centre pages of this Journal contain a renewal form, details of our subscription rates and methods of payment. They include a Banker's Standing Order form which you can send directly to your bank to set up a new Standing Order. Payments are made by you to us, we do not have the ability to take payments from you.

If you prefer, please complete the renewal form and submit it to me by post along with a cheque and I will process the renewal for you.

The February Journal will only be sent to members who have paid by Friday 16th January 2026

You should receive your copy of the February Journal (or an emailed link to an online copy) around 1st February and receipt of the Journal is confirmation that your membership has been renewed.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)
Membership Secretary
membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Obituary - Martin James COSH (1952-2025)

Sadly, a long-standing member of the Isle of Wight Family History Society, Martin COSH (IWFHS Member 1744) died on 2nd June 2025, following a long battle with cancer. Martin was born at Lymington, Hants in 1952 to parents who had both recently moved off the Island. Educated at Brockenhurst and Barton Peveril Grammar Schools, he became a company accountant, moving to Kenilworth near Coventry in the latter part of his career. He had a keen interest in cricket, particular the statistical aspects, and history – his knowledge was encyclopaedic. Upon retirement he took up the study of genealogy, extensively researching his own family – hence his membership – and others.

His research into the Cosh direct line took him back to Robert COSH, who married a local girl, Rachel WILLIAMS, at Gatcombe church on Christmas Day 1707. The Coshes of the two succeeding generations, also called Robert, resided at Carisbrooke, the latter at Miller's Lane, Clatterford. As, presumably, agricultural labourers, they had to move around the island. Martin's three-times great grandfather, James COSH (1786-1857) was born in the parish of Carisbrooke, married at Shorwell, his first child christened at Brighstone, worked at Rew Farm (then in the parish of Godshill), and ended up in Whitwell.

His son, William (1809-1894) moved northwards, and resided for many years at Wood House, one of the farms that was purchased by Queen Victoria along with the Osborne estate. He died in one of the two lodges at Barton Manor (his brother occupied the other), also the property of the Queen.

William's son, Walter (1841-1910) – Martin's great grandfather – and his elder brother, Woodman COSH moved to work at Bonchurch where they became gardeners at East Dene and Combe Wood (afterwards re-named 'Peacock Vane') respectively. Walter married into the WALLDER family, and lived at Ventnor. Walter's father-in-law, a local builder, and his wife, were involved with the Temperance

Movement, although Walter was apparently fond of his drink, and on at least one occasion was convicted of being drunk and disorderly.

Martin's grandfather and father were born in Ventnor. His father, Robert COSH, crippled by polio following a sea-swimming competition, managed to get a job with the Newport brewery, Mew, Langton and Co at their office on Lymington town quay.

Martin never married, and his elder brother Stephen has no children, so the long line of Coshes will be defunct with the demise of the latter.

Stephen COSH, D Litt, FSA (non-member)

Obituary - Anne CLARIDGE

We have sent a message of condolence to Michael CLARIDGE who notified us that Anne CLARIDGE (IWFHS Member 61) passed away on 20th August. Michael added:

‘Anne was mostly following her Urry and Hollis heritage but was unable and unwilling to use a computer in recent times, so things have pretty much come to a halt. But she continued to look forward to reading the Society's most excellent magazine, as I do.

I, too, do my own intermittent research and have just been told that my DNA results are available. The present circumstances and lack of familiarity with the technology seems too daunting to access it at present, so I may have to ask for advice at some point in time.’

Michael CLARIDGE (IWFHS Member 61)

The Licensed Premises and Licensees Project

A progress report

We kicked off this project in October 2024, calling on volunteers, local and remote, to add information and do research on the many Isle of Wight licensed premises and their licensees over the years.

With around 20 people working on this project, we quickly established that it was going to be one of those ‘never-ending’ projects in that we could extend the range and depth of the information collected, to match the interests and keenness of the individuals involved. Having set up two data capture spreadsheets in our shared Google workspace, we set out to identify sources of information and fill in the gaps for the premises and people involved in the licensed trade. Many thanks to all those who have contributed so far.

Not surprisingly there has been a great deal of local research already done on the subject, so our task has been mainly to collate the information from published books, websites local and national, trade directories, Census returns, Birth, Marriage and Death indexes, and Burial entries. Much of this is available on our own website. A great deal of information is available from the local newspapers, particularly regarding license transfers, obituary reports, and also court reports, as law infringements were commonplace, both from landlords and customers alike.

We have had many historic photos supplied to us from the Council Heritage Service as well as from individuals with ancestors in the trade and other local societies. Several of our volunteers have been out and about taking photos of the buildings as they are now. It is obvious in some cases that a building has been an inn or tavern – indeed some signage still exists (the Mayflower in St Mary’s Road, Cowes still retains the Brickwood tiling). In many cases, especially where the premises were simply an ale house or beer shop, there are no clues at all – it is likely that beer was simply served in the front room of someone’s house – the Magnet in Chapel Street, Newport is now just another of the many terraced houses in that street. Many premises have been demolished.

In total we have identified around 800 premises that have had a license at some time, and over 2000 licensees. This covers mainly the period 1800 – 1950, although if we know of later information we can record it, but we tend not to include information about living individuals. Compare these numbers with the present day situation, and without counting them, I suspect there are no more than 120 traditional inns or taverns on the Island, with many closing as trade dwindles, lost to the big supermarkets and convenience stores allowing more home consumption rather than going out for a beer with your mates.

Many licenses were passed down through families, eg the MURSELL families described elsewhere in this Journal, and the multi-generational occupation of the Noah's Ark (Borough Arms) in Newtown, which was in the same family for over 80 years.

We shall continue to add to our databases, and new volunteers are welcome to share their information and skills in making this set of data as comprehensive as possible – just contact me for more details.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)
Chairman chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com

The MURSELL families in the Island Licensed trades

Many families were engaged in the licensed trades on the Isle of Wight, but perhaps none more so than the MURSELL families, where several generations were inn keepers or beer house keepers from the early 19th century to the end of the 20th century – often as a supplement to their normal occupations. Concentrated mainly in Cowes and Bembridge, some of the family also ran pubs in Ventnor, Newport, Shorwell and Hulverstone.

We have records of at least 25 Mursell family members and their relatives. The following paragraphs describe some of the main families.

Nicholas MURSELL (ca 1796-1870), a butcher and poulterer in Newport, married Ann ATWELL in the 1820s and they had 9 children. Five of their six sons and three of their grandsons became licensees in Cowes, and Newport.

1. Henry William MURSELL (1825-1864), a Coachman, was the inn keeper at the Sun Inn, Hulverstone, in 1861.
 1. His son, also Henry William MURSELL (*) (1847-1913) was a grocer, but later in life he took on the Solent Inn in Cowes, where he died.
2. Christopher John MURSELL (1832-1886), a 'servant and car driver' in 1851, was the Licensee at the Castle Inn in Newport High Street in 1861. In later life, he suffered from a nervous disease and was admitted to Gaverstock Asylum, in Wiltshire. He was found drowned near there in 1886; the inquest returned an open verdict, as there was no evidence to suggest that he took his own life. He was buried at St John's Church, Carisbrooke (now considered to be in Newport) where all the headstones have been removed.
3. Thomas Atwell MURSELL (1833-1922) was apprenticed as a carpenter and worked on yacht construction in Cowes for the Ratsey family. He held the license for the Prince Regent in Market Hill for 28 years and later lived (and died) at the George Hotel on Cowes High Street, where his son-in-law Sidney BENNETT and his wife Ann were the licensees in 1921.
 1. Nicholas Henry Thomas MURSELL (1861-1941) is perhaps the most renowned licensee, being at the Castle Inn in Newport for 54 years. Trained as a school teacher, he took over the Castle from his uncle Christopher John MURSELL, and he was also a Captain in the Newport Fire Brigade when it was a volunteer service, a prominent member of the Carisbrooke Bowling Club, a Newport Town Councillor, treasurer of the IW Licensed Victuallers Association, and had membership of Cowes Court of Foresters and the Albany Lodge of Freemasons. Twice married, he had seven children in all. He died at the home of one of his sons, Leonard MURSELL, in Branksome, Dorset.
 2. Christopher George MURSELL (1868-1915) was Licensee at two Cowes pubs – The Alexandra, and the Pier Tavern, also known as the Pier View Hotel.
4. George Augustus MURSELL (*) (1840-1926), a fishmonger, worked for a time in Islington, London where he married his wife Eliza JACKSON in 1872. By 1891 he was at the Globe Hotel on Cowes Parade and later retired to Portsmouth where he died, apparently intestate and without heirs in 1926, as there were legal notices for claims to be lodged against his estate in 1929.

5. Robert Edwin MURSELL (1845-1912), a coachman, was at the Green Dragon in Pyle Street, Newport in 1871. His first wife Jessie SNOW, died there at the early age of 26 in 1873. He then married Jane SNOW, Jessie's sister¹ in 1874. Robert and Jane moved to Aberdeen for some reason after 1901 and he died there in 1912. He had 2 children by his first wife, and perhaps 3 or 4 by his second.
 1. Arthur Edward MURSELL (*) (1872-1932) was not directly connected with the Licensed trade. Also a grocer, he became a porter at the Royal Pier Hotel in Ryde but his son and two grandchildren did become involved in the trade in Ventnor:
 1. Sidney Francis MURSELL (1900-1969) followed his father into hotel service as a waiter at the Royal Pier Hotel and later became the licensee of the Volunteer and The Mill Bay in Ventnor.
 2. His son, Lawrence Sidney Alfred MURSELL (1921-2013), took over the Volunteer.
 3. His daughter, Barbara Florence MURSELL (1934-2013), married Alan Alfred JEFFERIES (1935-1997) and they took over the Mill Bay.

Edward Love MURSELL (1815-1876), was a fisherman, who also ran the Pilot Boat Inn in Bembridge (Census 1861, 1871). His marriage to Sarah LOCK produced 5 children, and all three sons followed their father as mariners or fishermen and licensees. I suspect that the men held the licenses, but their wives ran the pubs, especially when the men were at sea.

1. Edward William MURSELL (1837-1927) ran the Vine Inn at St Helens (census 1861, 1871). He is later recorded as the Manager of an oyster fishery.
2. [Albert] Walter MURSELL (1840-1927) is recorded as a fisherman at the Pilot Boat in 1861, and in subsequent censuses as a mariner or fisherman, but at some time he held the license for the Pilot Boat.
3. Thomas Henry MURSELL (1850-1916) applied in 1874 to transfer the license from the Pilot Boat to premises newly built at House End on the Point in Bembridge.

¹ The Act of Parliament (Lord Lyndhurst's Act, 1835) which made marrying a dead wife's sister illegal was not repealed until 1907 when the Deceased Wife's Sister Act came into force. So Robert's second marriage was technically illegal.

Summary table, alphabetically, of those who were Licensees

If not shown, the surname is always MURSELL - this sometimes gets indexed as MURCELL.

Forenames	Father	Born	Married	Died
Barbara Florence	Sidney Francis	1934	1956 Alan JEFFERIES	2013
Charles Thomas	William	1838	1861 Eliza MURSELL	1880
Christopher George	Thomas Atwell	1868	1890 Lily BRADING	1915
Christopher John	Nicholas	ca 1831	1859 Charlotte SANDERS	1886
Edmund Edwin		ca 1835	1862 Caroline MURSELL	1912
Edward	James	1818	1841 Jane SHERWOOD	1871
Edward Love		1815	Sarah LOCK	1876
Edward William	Edward Love	1837	1859 Martha MACKETT	1927
Frank	Charles Thomas	1861	1885 Edith Maria FLEMING	1915
George Augustus	Nicholas	1840	1872 Eliza JACKSON	1926
George Richard Ralph	William	1826	1848 Jane DYER 1855 Elizabeth FRANCIS	1895
Henry William	Nicholas	1825	1847 Rhoda BLANCHARD	1864
Henry William	Henry William	1847	1875 Adelaide Harriet HOWE 1899 Caroline JACKSON	1913
James		1788	???? Fanny [...]	1865
James		1813	???? Elizabeth J [...]	????
Lawrence Sidney Alfred	Sidney Francis	1921	1943 Josephine Marguerite WILKINSON	2013
Nicholas Henry Thomas	Thomas Atwell	1861	1885 Kate PRESSLEY 1910 Edith Maud IRELAND	1941
Robert Edwin	Nicholas	1844	1870 Jessie SNOW 1874 Jane SNOW	1912
Robert Jesse	Thomas Atwell	1869	1892 Amy Jane HITCHMAN 1897 Georgina Luxton CALCOTT	1939
Sidney Frances	Arthur Edward	1900	1920 Florence Blundell DAVIES	1969
Thomas Atwell	Nicholas	1833	1856 Jane Matilda MOYCE	1922
[Albert] Walter	Edward Love	1840	1863 Sophia THOMPkins	1927
William Barton	James Read	1858	1883 Elizabeth DEAN	1927

Summary table of Premises managed by the MURSELL family

Town or village	Premises	Licensee	Dates recorded *
Bembridge	Commercial Inn	William Mursell Charles Thomas Mursell	1859 1861 – 75
	Crab & Lobster	James Mursell Frank Mursell	1871 – 81 1901
	House End	Thomas Henry Mursell	1874
	Marine Tavern	George Mursell Frank Mursell	1855 1911 – 20
	Pilot Boat	Edward Mursell Thomas Henry Mursell	1855 – 61 1871 -
Cowes	Prince of Wales	George Mursell	1861 – 1891
	Alexandra	Christopher George Mursell James William Mursell	1891 1898 – 1901
	Anchor	James Mursell	1841 – 1844
	Globe Inn	George Augustus Mursell	1875 – 1891
	Pier Tavern / Pier View Hotel	Christopher George Mursell	1901
	Prince Regent	Thomas Atwell Mursell	1875 – 1901
	Union Inn	Robert Jesse Mursell	1911
	Sun Inn	Rhoda Mursell Henry William Mursell	1851 – 1875 1859
	Crown Inn	William Barton Mursell	1898
St Helens	Vine Inn	Edward William Mursell	1865 – 1875
Newport	Castle Inn	Christopher John Mursell Nicholas Henry Thomas Mursell	1865 – 1881 1889 – 1921
	Green Dragon	Robert Edwin Mursell	1875
Sandown	Sandown Family Hotel	Sidney Francis Mursell	1922
Ventnor	Marine Hotel	Sidney Francis Mursell	1939
	Hole in the Wall	Sidney Francis Mursell Lawrence Sidney Alfred Mursell	1928 1951
	Mill Bay Inn	Sidney Francis Mursell Alan and Barbara Jefferies (nee Mursell)	1936 – 64 1964 -
	Volunteer	Sidney Francis Mursell Lawrence Sidney Alfred Mursell	1928 1951

* The dates recorded do not represent the whole period of tenure – simply when they were recorded as being the tenant in a Census return or Trade Directory.
In many cases, they were simply the Licensee, not the beneficial owner, which was often W B Mew, Langton and Co



Arthur Edward MURSELL
(b 1872) in the uniform of a
porter at the Royal Pier Hotel,
Ryde. ca1921

Barry MURSELL has kindly supplied some photos of his relatives who are indicated by * in the text above.

Much of the information we have about the Mursell families has come from Barry Mursell, with many thanks, but we have also extracted several newspaper reports, which often deal with licensing transfers, issues over the license conditions, and also police reports referring to either infringements of the licence (usually by serving beer outside permitted hours) or of altercations between the landlords and their customers.



Henry William MURSELL
(b 1847)

In one case, there was also a report of dispute between two of the Bembridge cousins, George Richard Ralph MURSELL and Edward MURCELL.

In 1863, George R R Mursell applied for a licence for the Prince of Wales beer shop, which was opposed by his cousin Edward (of the Pilot Boat Inn) on the grounds that there was insufficient trade to support them both, as they were too close to each other. Edward also implied that George's marital arrangements were improper, as his wife had left him. The case was settled such that both establishments could remain; the magistrates also considered that reference to George's marital circumstances was immaterial to the case.



Union Inn, Cowes
Robert Jesse MURSELL (b1869)
and family. ca 1907

One can wonder whether the feud between the cousins lingered on ... (report in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, 29 Aug 1863).

There are also many obituary notices for the more prominent members of the family, particularly George Augustus MURSELL, who was prominent in the Masonic order, several friendly societies and was a town councillor; and Nicholas Henry Thomas MURSELL whose career is summarised above.

Evidence of the Mursells in cemeteries and churchyards is scarce; a number were buried in Northwood Cemetery in Cowes, but most are in unmarked graves. Several headstones (very worn) are extant at St Helens and Bembridge for that branch of the family.

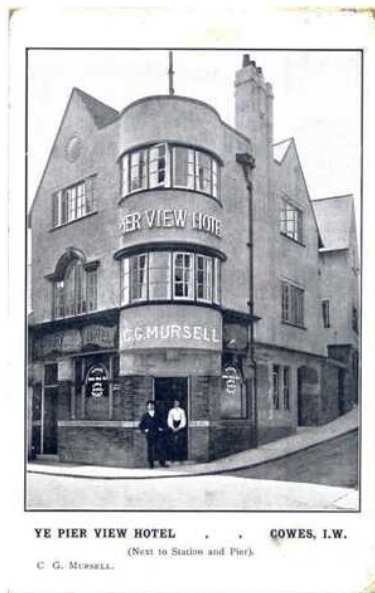
Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member 392)
Chairman chairman.iowfhs@gmail.com



George Augustus MURSELL
(b 1840) in masonic regalia



The Globe Hotel, Cowes
Note the title is
'MURSELL'S GLOBE HOTEL'



Advertisement card for the Pier View
Hotel, Cowes.

The photographer has airbrushed in
the name C.G. MURSELL

John Grapes, Tinman - Real Life Issues

Since John GRAPES, my 4x great grandfather, did not survive to be enumerated in the 1851 England Census which asked where each person was born, his place of birth is at this time unknown. Since ages were rounded down in the 1841 England Census, the best I can gather for a birth date is a date range from 1771 to 1775. According to the 1841 Census information collected, he was not born in the County of Hampshire.

His future wife Hannah, daughter of George BULL, was baptised on 4 June 1776 at Brixton (now known as Brighstone), Isle of Wight. John and Hannah were married on 12 October 1797 in the Parish of Brixton. He established a tinman/brazier business in Newport, Isle of Wight.

- John and Hannah's first child, William Nile, was baptised on 28 October 1798, at Newport
- James GRAPES was born in 1800, Mary Ann was born in 1802 and George was born in 1804
- My direct line ancestor was Jane Trafalgar born on 9 November 1805 at Newport and baptised there on 18 May 1806
- Martha was born 30 August 1807 at Newport and baptised there on 11 October 1808
- Elizabeth was born on 29 May 1809 at Newport and was baptised there on 16 February 1810
- Charles Wellington was born on 18 May 1811 at Newport and was baptised there on 9 October 1811.

John Grapes joined the Albany Lodge of the Freemasons in Newport on 7 August 1811. Page 176 of the lodge register recorded that he paid yearly dues from 1814 through to 1843, the year before his death.¹

- A further son, Robert, was born in 1813

A notice published in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* on 3 October 1814 p2, provided the grim news that John, identified as a brazier and tinman, was imprisoned in '...Her Majesty's Gaol of Winchester...' by order of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

¹ John Grapes record of dues paid to Albany Lodge A No. 200, Albany Lodge B, No. 176B, United Grand Lodge of England Freemasons Membership Registers, Register of Admission: Country and Foreign "B", #146-282, folios 1-296

According to the notice, his case would be examined at a later date to see if he would be entitled to '...the benefit of the Act for Relief of Insolvent Debtors in England.' Fortunately for John and his family, this Act had been put in place in 1813 '...to provide for the discharge from prison of debtors, other than those engaged in trade or guilty of fraud or dishonesty, by settling a fair distribution of their existing and future property among their creditors.'¹

The list of creditors in the notice is long and provides a picture of the expenses that John would incur in conducting his trade. It would also appear that when one business would no longer provide materials he sought out another:

Messrs Rutter and Co	Bristol	bellows makers
Messrs Reynolds and Co	Bristol	merchants
Messrs Langford and Co	Poole, Dorset	oil-merchants
Messrs King and Co	Southampton	merchants
Messrs Warren and Son	Botley, Hants	merchants
Benjamin Williams	Reading, Berks	tinman
Thomas Saint	Lymington, Hants	founderer
James Adams	Southampton	t?yman
Thomas Morgan	of the same place	glazier
Thomas Gough		mariner
Timothy Mew		mariner
William Earton		jeweller
Edward Upward		grocer
John Mortimer		painter and glazier
William Mortimer		carpenter
William Mew		victualler
George Cooke		sadler
William White		ironmonger
John Eames		coal-merchant
George Hubbard		ironmonger
John Milligan		shoe-maker
Richard Read Taylor		builder
Richard Ontridge		founderer
John Atkins Taylor		painter and glazier
James Nicholson		brewer
John Pittis		brewer
Messrs. Bussell and Co		ironmongers
Benjamin Mew		merchant
William Whittington		coach-maker
Messrs James Dennett and Co		merchants
Messrs Francis Carr,		
Benjamin Vicker		
and John Anderson	Sheifield [sic], Yks	cutlers
Messrs Whitheld and Sons	Birmingham	
Richard Foquett	Newport, Hants	coal merchant

¹Records of the Office of the Commissioners of Bankrupts, the successor bankruptcy courts, and the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, TNA

No monetary value was put on what John owed in total but it begs the question, how was he going to pay off all of these debts?

The London Gazette, in the issue published on 27 June 1815, informed the creditors of John Grapes that he had been released from His Majesty's Gaol of Winchester and a meeting was set at Baptist's Head Coffee House, Aldermanbury, City of London for 13 July 1815 at noon, for the purpose of '...appointing a fit and proper person or persons to be Assignee or Assignees of the estate and effects of John Grapes.'¹

Apparently, a plan was worked out that allowed John to continue in his business and pay off his creditors because, at the time that his daughter Charlotte Waterloo was baptised on 3 November 1815 at Newport, his occupation was recorded as tinman in the baptismal register. The plan would make interesting reading after seeing the huge list of creditors.

The county directories of the era captured John a number of times:

- In 1828, *Pigot's Directory of Hampshire* captured John under the heading of Braziers and Tinmen. He was living on St James St, Newport²
- As of 1830, John was still living on St James Street and listed as a brazier and tinman in the *1830 Pigot's Directory for Hampshire*³
- According to the *Robson's Directory of Hampshire for 1839-40*⁴, John had moved to Town Lane, Newport and was listed as a tin plate worker. Two of his sons were also listed:
 - R GRAPES Node Hill, Newport, Hair Dresser and Perfumer
 - Wm N GRAPES High Street, Cowes, Tinman and Brazier

The 1841 England Census captured John Grapes age 65, tinman, not born in the County of Hampshire, his wife Hannah GRAPES age 60, Mary GRAPES age 35, and Martha GRAPES age 30 all living on Town Lane, Newport. The ages given are deceptive since the census takers were to round down ages to the nearest 0 or 5. Thomas MERCER, age 25, a draper and Louise MORRIS, age 25, a drape maker were also part of the household.

¹ *The London Gazette*, 27 June 1815, Issue 17030, p. 1255

² *Pigot's Directory of Hampshire*, 1828, p. 318. University of Leicester Special Collections On-line

³ *Pigot's Directory of Hampshire*, 1830, p. 429. Ancestry

⁴ *Robson's 1839-40 Hampshire Directory*, p. 152. Ancestry

- John was recorded in the *1844 Pigot's Directory*¹ for Newport under the heading of Braziers and Tinmen, as living on Town Lane. This entry suggests that he was working his trade up until his death.

He was not fated to live to see the 1851 census taken. He died on 21 February 1844 at Quay Street, Newport at the age of 72 due to 'gout in the stomach'. His occupation was recorded as brazier. Finding the additional information about his insolvency certainly allowed me to add flavour to my story about him. I enjoy accessing old newspapers for obvious reasons.

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On Saturday 6th September the Albany Lodge of the Freemasons in Newport hosted a rare open day. I went along to this educational event and discovered yet more flavour to add to Alan's article above.



Apparently, John GRAPES is revered by the current brothers as a founder member of the Lodge and was appointed Worshipful Master in 1813, though only for part of a year. John's name appears in several displays and citations on the walls of the Temple.

In the first half of 1813, the Worshipful Master of **Vectis Ancient Lodge, Bro John Squires**, announced that he had joined a Modern Lodge, **Vectis Lodge of Peace and Concord No. 55** and had to vacate the chair. He did, and a successor **Bro John Grapes**, was appointed for the rest of the year.

Steve NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)

Journal Editor

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¹ *Pigot and Co.'s Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography, 1844*, including the County of Hampshire, p. 31. University of Leicester Special Collections On-line

2026 Subscription Renewal

Subscriptions for 2026 are due on 1st January 2026. Where possible, please log on as a member and use the on-line renewals process. Renewals can be made from 1st November onward for the following year. All subscription payments are made by you, we do not take payments from you.

- **To renew on-line** go to **My Account > My Membership** where you will be able to renew your membership.
- **PayPal:** Making a payment using PayPal means that renewal will be immediate and show your membership as 'Active'. You will be sent an automated confirmation email. Any existing recurring PayPal subscription arrangements will be updated manually. Please check that you are paying the correct subscription amount.
- **Using Sumup:** Pay by card using this link: <https://isle-of-wight-family-history-society.sumupstore.com/products> Your 2026 membership status will be shown as 'Pending' until payment is received by us and we have manually updated your account.
- **Standing Order:** If you indicate you will be paying by this method, your membership will be shown as 'Pending' until payment has been received. You must give a Standing Order instruction to your bank either by internet banking or using the Standing Order form provided. When payment has been received, your membership account will be updated. Please do make sure that you quote your membership number as a reference.
If you already have a Standing Order in place for the correct amount, you need take no action.
- **Bank Transfer:** If you indicate you will be paying by bank transfer, your 2026 membership status will be shown as 'Pending' until payment is received by us and we have manually updated your account.
- **To renew manually:** If paying by cheque (sterling drawn from a UK registered bank only, please - **No Banker's Drafts**) this should be made payable to IOWFHS and together with a renewal form sent to the Membership Secretary. Renewals which arrive by **16th January 2026** will be included in the February Journal mail-out. Of course, cash payments can be made to the Membership Secretary at monthly meetings.

Your 2026 membership will change from 'Lapsed' to 'Active' once payment is received. If you think you have already paid for 2026, go to

My Account > My Membership > Membership History. This will show your current membership and any future memberships that have been paid for.

Information about all methods of payment can be found at **Members > Membership Information > Making a Payment to Us** but should you experience any problems logging in or renewing, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Secretary for assistance.

Gerry NEWBERRY (IWFHS Member 2189)
Membership Secretary
membership.secretary.iowfhs@gmail.com

Quarr Abbey Graveyard

Most of the burials on the Island are well documented, either with the Parish Registers or the Burial Register or even the Island's Bereavement Service. A few have slipped through the net and one such is Quarr Abbey. If you are standing in front of the Abbey on the right-hand side is a path signposted to the Pilgrim's Chapel. At the end of the path, on the right is the well-kept graveyard. Most of the headstones are of a uniform design, why some differ is not obvious and there are some ground mounted plaques which look like the burial of ashes.

Family historians are interested in where someone sits in a family tree. By definition, monks are the end of a line. They have taken a vow of celibacy. But they are mother's sons and many will have been someone's brother. In my short visit there I did not have time to document anything; it strikes me that this is a project that an Islander could get their teeth into. Looking at the IOWFHS Deaths Index the names and dates on the headstones seem to correspond which makes the task manageable, for instance Aristides VIENNET I.V. MCMVIII appears on the database as Aristide VIENNET died 1908.

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On DNA Analysis in Family History Research: Part 2

This is the second part of a two-part article written to provide a simple overview of the benefits of DNA matching for those who haven't already tried it and also to help those who have done a DNA test to better exploit their results.

Part 1 (See Journal 158, August 2025, p29) covered some of the basics of DNA testing and introduced the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Ancestor Project, which enables IOWFHS members with ancestors from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to compare their DNA results and discover family links with other members. Unless you are familiar with DNA testing, GEDMatch and the Ancestor Project, it would be advisable to read that article first. In this, Part 2, the information is probed further to discover the degree of relatedness between individual matches, and even pinpoint the branch of each respective family that connects them.

Use of DNA from Other Family Members to Confirm or Discount Matches

Members of the Ancestor Project typically post their results on the Facebook site and connect with other people on their match list to compare their respective family trees. In this way many links have been established or verified which has proved helpful and beneficial to many people's research.

However, I've become interested in taking this further to pinpoint matches more precisely. One invaluable aid is to add kits to the Project from other close relatives including children, siblings, but especially from one, or preferably both, parents. Every segment of a person's DNA must have originated from one or other of their genetic parents. Therefore, a comparison between the results from my kit to each of my parents could help to confirm whether or not a match is genuine.

Opinion is divided over the use of small DNA segments. Segments can be categorised as either identical by descent (IBD) or identical by chance (IBC), and the smaller the segment, the more likely an apparent match may be IBC. Research indicates that matches above 10cM will be mostly IBD; this drops to 50% at about 7-8cM and at 5cM less than 20% of apparent matches will be IBD. (For further information see

Identical by Descent, International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki, https://isogg.org/wiki/Identical_by_descent).

This is why GEDMatch uses a default threshold of 7cM to eliminate false positives. However, cross referencing my matches with each of my parents' kits can better identify those matches that are IBD and this allows the use of smaller segment matches more reliably.

Table 2: Cross referencing DNA matches with Parents' Kits

Identifier	Matching segments					Parental Matching Segments					Probable Common Ancestors
	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	
M5HW1KB	1	35,058,101	38,919,423	5.8	504	1	35,215,989	38,738,214	5.1	447	Currently Unknown
M6HW1J	1	35,360,078	39,285,553	6.1	536	1	35,302,617	39,248,886	6	676	Currently Unknown
J*****3	1	38,366,907	41,286,883	5	450						
Y*****3	1	55,832,031	60,805,150	7.6	240						
P359AN9SS	1	77,819,743	96,025,546	17.3	2679	1	59,618,816	96,025,546	35.2	6636	John Stotesbury (1848-1888) & Ada Shuttle (1852-1920)
P359AN9SS	1	112,357,144	120,526,982	8.5	1284	1	112,357,306	121,312,687	8.6	1620	John Stotesbury (1848-1888) & Ada Shuttle (1852-1920)
P359AN9SS	1	149,815,323	167,022,701	23.3	2867	1	149,717,647	167,022,701	23.4	3677	John Stotesbury (1848-1888) & Ada Shuttle (1852-1920)
A*****0	1	160,391,398	163,444,418	5.4	545						
P10AN1RS	1	191,145,367	204,453,320	14.1	1681	1	175,268,094	204,703,066	27.2	3512	Edward Grist (1739-1817) and Jane Hunt (1746-1792)
P8AN1KT	1	192,514,029	207,894,416	17.7	2281	1	192,547,052	207,894,416	17.7	2275	Edward Grist (1739-1817) and Jane Hunt (1746-1792)
N*****5	2	3,447,827	5,269,417	5.2	389						
P16HW2A	2	7,525,664	9,922,283	7.6	266	2	8,044,396	9,940,897	5.8	216	Nicholas Devenish (b1703) and Mary Cox (b1705)
A*****3	2	7,560,605	9,259,598	5.9	332						
S*****1	2	7,809,505	9,253,906	5.1	270						
W*****8	2	7,978,996	9,912,829	5.9	377						
P5HW2AS	2	8,101,004	9,773,586	5.2	273	2	8,044,826	9,712,160	5.3	349	Nicholas Devenish (b1703) and Mary Cox (b1705)

The table above shows a small selection of matching segments to my kit from the Project, compared with those from both of my parents' kits. In this case the threshold was dropped to 5cM and the results sorted according to chromosome and chromosome position. Paternal matches are highlighted in dark and maternal in light grey. GEDMatch does not permit posting of its own kit numbers in a public forum and I have had to devise a different coding system to identify the kits for publication.

A number of apparent matches to my kit were not found in either of my parents' matches and can therefore be discounted as IBC. Three smaller segment matches to kits P5HW1KB, P6HW1J and P5HW1AS to were found below the normal threshold of 7cM but because they also match one or other of my parents, they are more likely to be IBD.

In this way I was able to confirm a total of 78 kits within the Project that were probable matches to me. Conversely, I was able to discount 17 apparent matches greater than 7cM as they did not match either of my parents above 5cM.

Without knowing anything about the owner of kit P5HW2AS or their respective family tree, I could surmise that Nicholas DEVENISH (b1703) and Mary COX (b1705) might be mutual common ancestors or related to them because P5HW2AS shares part of the same segment on Chr2 with another match, P16HW2A, who has these ancestors in common with me.

Importantly kits P5HW2AS and P16HW2A matched each other on Chr2 (6.7cM from 7,682,371 to 9,758,621). This three-way relationship is an example of triangulation and it's a good indication that the match is genuine and that we all share a common ancestor.

There were other examples of triangulation in the Table: Kits M5HW1KB and M6HW1J were a match for each other on Chr1 (5.3cM from 35,029,632 to 38,680,372) and kits P10AN1RS and P8AN1KT matched each other on Chr1 (13.8cM from 192,405,661 to 204,633,526).

NB The kit assigned code P359AN9SS is from a close relative (2C1R) of mine who shares several matching segments on different chromosomes with me.

Having DNA kits from both parents is a major advantage, but DNA from other close relatives could also be used to confirm what might otherwise appear to be spurious matches. However, the identification and elimination of false positives can only be done by comparison with DNA kits from both parents.

DNA Matches from More Than One Common Ancestor

It's understandable to think about relationships occurring at only one point, i.e. through a shared single set of common ancestors. However, it's important to be aware that there could be more than one DNA connection between any two people, especially from within a limited population such as the Isle of Wight.

Table 3 illustrates a multiple DNA match between the owners of kits M27HW2LW, P7HW14CW and M21AN2SW to myself and each of my

Table 3: Multiple DNA Matches

Identifier	Matching segments					Parental Matching Segments					Probable Common Ancestors
	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	
M21AN2SW	2	175,565,552	183,694,177	7.1	362	2	174,910,616	183,411,197	7.8	460	John Wearne (b1768) and Mary Porter (b1773)
M27HW2LW	2	175,584,157	183,694,177	7	360	2	175,585,616	183,694,177	7	433	John Wearne (b1768) and Mary Porter (b1773)
M21AN2SW	2	208,641,908	223,044,442	20.5	818	2	207,986,713	222,925,667	21.1	953	John Wearne (b1768) and Mary Porter (b1773)
M27HW2LW	2	208,641,908	222,976,013	20.4	815	2	207,890,135	222,925,667	21.3	960	John Wearne (b1768) and Mary Porter (b1773)
M27HW2LW	14	95,015,544	97,781,834	7.5	340	14	95,053,572	97,781,834	7.4	348	Currently Unknown
P7HW14CW	14	95,015,544	97,781,834	7.5	340	14	95,053,572	97,781,834	7.4	348	Currently Unknown
M21AN2SW	14	95,083,116	97,781,834	7.3	329	14	95,083,116	97,781,834	7.3	342	Currently Unknown

parents. These three kits are from a single family group, two siblings (M27HW2LW and P7HW14CW) and their father (M21AN2SW). I match kits M21AN2SW and M27HW2LW on three segments; two places on Chr2 and another at Chr14. I also match kit P7HW14CW, but only on one segment – at Chr 14.

By comparing our family trees, it was straightforward to establish that my primary relationship to the owner of kit M21AN2SW is through my mother's family line; we are 5th cousins through common ancestors John WEARNE (b1768) and Mary PORTER (b1773). My mother shares the same segments on Chr2 as me with kits M21AN2SW and M27HW2LW, but she does not appear to match the owner of kit P7HW14CW.

It's clear that there is a second, different relationship to this family through my paternal line as all three kits match mine and my father's kit on the same segment at Chr14. Currently this segment remains unidentified, but I have found another kit from my match list in Ancestry (not in the IW and Hampshire Ancestor Project), whose owner also matches me on this same segment.

Towards an Understanding of the Origin of Every DNA Segment in Each Chromosome

In the tables above there were some examples of triangulation, where it's possible to make a reasoned assessment of how a third person may be related to two people whose connection is already known. Taking this a stage further, if the ancestor relationship were to be found for every segment in my DNA it might be possible to ascertain the family connection to an unknown match wholly on the basis of DNA.

In the following table, matches were collated from different sources including from Ancestry and various Ancestor Projects into a single table, and grouped according to their position on the chromosome, and whether they are maternal or paternal in origin. In time this could provide a complete picture for each chromosome, similar to that shown in the schematic in Figure 1a from Part 1 (See Journal 158, August 2025, p29). Any known common ancestors are highlighted and if the source of the matching segment can be linked to one of my great-grandparents, it is greyscale-coded according to the key next to the table.

Table 4: List of Matching Segments by Chromosome

Derived Code	Maternal					Paternal					Common Ancestors
	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	Chr	Start	End	cM	SNPs	
M96AN12JM	12	79,312,000	109,028,341	30.6	4354						John Mabey (1801-1882) & Sarah Sanders (1807 - 1883)
M11AN12BN	12	96,438,553	109,258,397	15.9	2169						Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P46AN12SW						12	98,576,565	108,635,232	12.6	1597	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
M6HW12TB	12	109,258,397	115,114,036	6.2	744						Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P46AN12SW						12	117,781,391	125,839,189	11	1281	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
M9AN12RK	12	130,301,142	133,500,611	8.4	330						Thomas Knight (1758-1820) & Bridget Hansford (1760-1839)
M21AN12CH	13	38,876,887	72,964,292	27.3	4715						Nicholas Hansford (1665-1742) - Elizabeth Hawkins (1665-1751)
M11AN13AM	13	38,877,504	52,409,860	16	2327						William Dove (1817- 1881) & Ann Hendy (1814 - 1880)
P59AN13MB						13	58,628,636	99,340,771	38.2	1381	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P33AN14CP						14	20,881,424	27,185,823	18.6	732	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P46AN12SW						14	20,903,778	26,887,454	17.9	1478	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P9AN14RG						14	21,770,730	26,877,020	12.5	1150	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P5HW14RS						14	31,526,395	33,336,881	5.2	282	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P5HW14LB						14	31,641,789	33,367,658	5.1	282	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P143AN20AW						14	61,887,477	76,782,874	15.1	2132	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) and Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P15AN14DM						14	62,003,583	78,591,628	17.7	2430	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) or Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P15AN14CN						14	62,023,264	78,562,248	17.7	2483	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) or Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P6HW14WB						14	69,358,094	74,055,115	6.2	701	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) or Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)
P6HW14AB						14	69,358,094	74,250,100	6.4	240	Robert John Stotesbury (1805-1883) or Rebecca Wingate (1813-1883)

Key: DNA Connection through...

Parent's Paternal Grandfather

Parent's Paternal Grandmother

Parent's Maternal Grandfather

Parent's Maternal Grandmother

This has already enabled me to highlight probable relationships from matches I would otherwise know very little about. For example, the kit coded as M11AN12BN appears to be related to me through my mother's maternal grandmother, and it's likely that either John MABEY (1801 -1882) and Sarah SANDERS (1807 - 1883) are common ancestors or else we share common ancestors further back through either of them. This can be deduced because this kit is related to me on exactly the same chromosomal position as kit M96AN12JM which is a match that I have been able to ascertain. As well as matching me, both kits match each other on Chr12 (17.1cM from 96,422,377 to 110,115,286). This is another example of triangulation.

Similarly, kit M11AN13AM must be linked to me through my mother's paternal grandmother and potentially to Nicholas HANSFORD (1665-1742) and Elizabeth HAWKINS (1665-1751). This is because of the mutual match I have to kit M21AN12CH, and again these two kits match each other at Chr13 (16cM from 38,877,504 to 52,409,860).

The relationship with the two kits P6HW14WB and P6HW14AB is also worth highlighting as they share a matching segment with the owner of kit P143AN20AW who is a third cousin (1 removed) and shares DNA with me through my 2nd Great grandparents, Robert John STOTESBURY (1805-1883) and Rebecca WINGATE (1813-1883). P6HW14WB and P6HW14AB are closely related to each other and the match, though small, appears to be genuine. Both kits are from the IW and Hampshire Ancestor Project, and the most likely connection for this relationship is through Robert John Stotesbury's mother, Martha Knight HAYWARD (1779-1859), who was illegitimate and baptised at Northwood near Cowes. Matches of this kind may ultimately help to discover who Martha's parents were. (See Journal 140, February 2021, p.26)

Final Thoughts

This article has been written to demystify the technique of DNA matching and make it more widely accessible. I hope that there will be some who haven't yet used DNA analysis in their research that will be encouraged to consider it after having seen its benefits. I also hope that it may serve to stimulate greater interest in the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Ancestor Project and also enable those who are familiar with it to get more value from the available information.

In time, it may be possible for members to link their DNA segments to specific Island family groups from a couple of hundred years ago and perhaps also connect this information to the emerging Forest of Trees that Ian ROACH is co-ordinating (See Journal 156, February 2025, p.29). I believe that the potential of these tools could prove to be powerful for researchers of Island family history.

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Appuldurcombe House and What the Papers Said - Part 4

PROTEST.

ISLE OF WIGHT RAILWAY.

WE, the undersigned Landowners and Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, being of opinion that the introduction of Railways into the Island is a measure highly inexpedient, and would prove most detrimental to its general interests, beg to protest against the attempt now making to enforce the construction of a Railway in the Isle of Wight, in opposition to the wishes of a large majority of every class of its inhabitants:—

The EARL OF YARBOROUGH, Appuldurcombe.
 The LORD DOWNES, Binstead.
 SIR HENRY OGLANDER, BART., Nunwell.
 SIR GRAHAM HAMOND, BART., Norton.
 CAPTAIN BRIGSTOCKE, R.N., Ryde.
 JOHN HAMBROUGH, ESQ., Steephill Castle, Ventnor.
 LE MARCHANT THOMAS, ESQ., Sea-View.
 C. SAWYER, ESQ., East Cowes Castle.
 REV. SPENCER PHILIPS, Vicar of Newchurch.
 ALBERT HAMBROUGH, Ryde.
 GEORGE RENDALL, Pier Hotel, Ryde.
 CAPTAIN CROZIER, Norton.

The protest above was published in the *Hampshire Advertiser* on the 27th November 1852.

The *Freeman's Journal* reported on the 13th December 1852 on

'The Dublin Exhibition – its Fine arts Collection – The example set by Lord Charlemont has been quickly followed by the Earl of Yarborough, his lordship having on Thursday last, communicated to the committee his intension of contributing a large number of first-class pictures from his well-known collection at Brocklesby, and of statues from the gallery at Appuldurcombe, Isle of Wight.'

The *London Standard* dated 15th April 1853 reported a

'NOTICE of SALE, in numerous Lots of the splendid ESTATE of APPULDURCOMBE, in the most romantic part of the ISLE of WIGHT, near St. Lawrence, Niton, Ventnor, Bonchurch, and Shanklin.

MESSRS.DANIEL SMITH and SON have the honour to announce, that it has been determined by the noble Proprietor to divide the above important and far-famed Estate (comprising altogether nearly 4850 acres), the greater part tithe free, into various lots, and to SUBMIT the same to SALE by AUCTION, VERY EARLY IN July, at the Mart, near the Bank of England. The noble MANSION and fine superbly-timbered PARK, with its various appendages and plantations will form one lot; each of the several sixteen farms a distinct Lot – all presenting remarkably choice properties for investment or occupation, and some particularly attractive for building, commanding grand views of the sea, with rich inland scenery, and interspersed with ornamental little woods and coppices. Also, the manors of Appuldurcombe, Godshill, Whitwell, Sandford, Stenbury, Nettlecombe Week, and Apse: various woods and plantations: the neat little Griffin Inn, at Godshill: a flour-mill, and numerous small properties and superior cottages.'

On the 13th August 1853 the *Hampshire Chronicle* reported some results of the auction. Apse Farm, Upper and Lower Span Farm, Rew Farm, Wroxall Farm, Sainham Farm, Yard Farm, Stenbury Farm, The Griffin Inn, French Mill and other smaller properties were sold

'...but the bidding for the mansion, park, and the remaining farms did not reach the reserved price. It is rumoured, however, that the lots have since been disposed of by private treaty, and that the estate altogether will realise upwards of £150,000, the sum at which it is understood it was offered as a whole.'

However, the *London Standard* of 11th July 1854 reported that

'MESSRS. DANIEL SMITH and SON respectfully apprise the Public that some Portions of this fine Domain were not sold at the Auction on the 27th of June and Lots 1 and 2, comprising the noble Mansion and larger Portion of the Park, and Two adjoining farms, forming a remarkably choice and compact domain, with some of the smaller lots, are at present still open to PRIVATE TREATY.'

The *Hampshire Advertiser* reported at Newport County Court that

'STEALING LEAD – on Monday (before Thomas COOKE, Esq.), Frederick REUBEN was committed to take his trial at the

Sessions, for stealing a leaden cistern from Appuldurcombe-house, the property of Lord Yarborough.'

On the 19th May 1855, the *Hants Chronicle* reported that

'Wynne WILLIAMS, Esq, is the purchaser of the Earl of Yarborough's beautiful mansion, Appuldurcombe, in the Isle of Wight, with its magnificently timbered park, &c. lately advertised for sale.'

Robert Vaughan Wynne WILLIAMS, born 1798, was a solicitor and lived and worked in London. Married twice, he had nine children.

On the 16th June 1855, the *Hampshire Telegraph* reported the following.

'APPULDURCOMBE PARK, ISLE OF WIGHT

Valuable Library of Books, about 3,000 Volumes, in all branches of literature, more particularly rich in Books of Prints, Works on the Fine Arts and Antiquities, the original drawings for the Museum Worsley, also for the Travels of Sir Richard WORSLEY, Drawings by the Old Masters, &c, &c; Paintings by celebrated ancient and modern Masters including the Pictures of Athens, by Sir Henry TRESHAM; the FURNITURE, large Pier Gasses, Billiard Table, Wines, Brewing Plant, and general effects.

MR FRANCIS PITTIS begs to announce that he has been honoured with instructions to SELL the above VALUABLE EFFECTS by PUBLIC AUCTION, ON THE Premises, early in the Month of July.

Particulars, and Days of Sale, will shortly appear.'

The *Nottinghamshire Guardian*, dated June 1855, reported that

'Appuldurcombe-house, in the Isle of Wight, has been surveyed by several government inspectors, with the view to ascertain whether it would afford sufficient accommodation if it were required for a naval or military hospital.'

Reporting on further particulars of another auction, the *Hampshire Advertiser* dated June 1855 tells us

'MR FRANCIS PITTIS has been honoured with instructions to Sell by Auction on the Premises, on Thursday, the 5th of July, and five

following days (Saturday and Sunday excepted), the VALUABLE EFFECTS IN THE MANSION AND OFFICES'

Furniture including tables, bookcases, billiard table, lamps, glass, china, coppers and culinary articles were auctioned on the Thursday and Friday. On Monday, the 9th July, the capital BREWING PLANT including sixty casks, two fire engines with hose and buckets, and the furniture of six servants' bedrooms were auctioned.

On Tuesday 10th July, 100 dozen of WINE, nautical models and curiosities, yacht fittings and miscellaneous articles in stores and the COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS. Wednesday and Thursday, the 11th and 12th July, the LIBRARY OF 2500 volumes.

'Catalogues 1s 6d each, to admit four persons, may be obtained at the Auction Mart, London; Hants Advertiser office, Southampton; Hants Telegraph office, Portsmouth; and of the Auctioneer, Newport and Ventnor.'

The *Hampshire Advertiser*, dated July 1855, gave an account of the sale, stating that it has concluded most satisfactorily.

'A coach from the Bugle Inn conveyed visitors daily to and from that famous estate during the sale, and numbers from different parts of the Island attended daily.'

The *Hampshire Advertiser*, dated November 1857, reported the

'NOMINATION OF SHERIFFS. On Thursday the annual nomination of Sheriffs for the various counties of England and Wales took place in the Court of Exchequer, Westminster Hall.

County of Southampton. – Thomas SMITH, of Droxford, Bishop's Waltham, esq; Robert Vaughan Wynne Williams, of Appuldurcombe, Isle of Wight, esq; and John DEVERELL, of Cosham, esq.'

The *Field*, dated April 1858 posted an advert advertising

'APPULDURCOMBE, Isle of Wight. – To be LET, this noble mansion (with land if required), late the seat of the Earl of Yarborough, most desirably placed in the fine undulating and well-timbered park, intersected by delightfully-varied walks and drives,

commanding at some points the most lovely and extensive prospects, embracing Sandown and Freshwater Bays, the Needles, and other objects of interest for which the Island is so celebrated. It is about six miles from Newport and within a walk of Ventnor, Bonchurch, Shanklin, and the beautiful scenery of the Undercliff. It contains a noble suite of reception-rooms, principal and secondary bed-chambers, offices etc., and both from its position and other circumstances is alike adapted for the marine residence of a gentleman of fortune or for some first-class collegiate establishment or other institution. It being a place so universally known, the name alone would in itself be a guarantee of the salubrity of the spot and general eligibility of the position – For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Messrs. HEARN and MEW, Solicitors, Newport, Isle of Wight; and to Mr W.H.HEWITT, Land Agent, 23 Hart-street, Bloomsbury-square.'

Lesley ABRAHAM (IWFHS Member 540)

lesley@kitehillfarm.co.uk

Sources: British Newspaper Archives

A Drayman's Day - Christmas Eve 1939

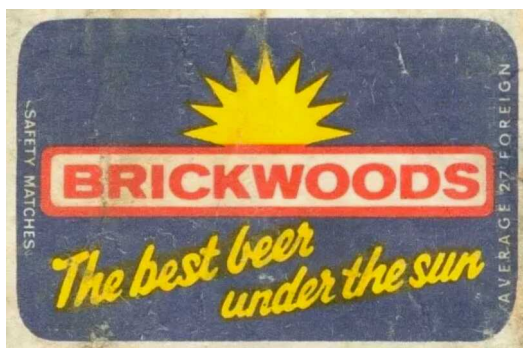
This bucolic narrative written by Philip WILLS was kindly sent in by member Liz POTTINGER, his daughter. In it Philip describes the trials and tribulations of a pair of hapless draymen as they deliver Brickwoods beer to establishments in the far reaches of the West Wight on a wild and wintry Christmas Eve, the first after the outbreak of WW2. They just about manage to complete the journey full of seasonal spirit but live to regret it the next day. A number of the pubs mentioned still exist, including a couple of the Editor's favourites.

'Down the steps and out into the road with the old trusty bike. A lingering taste of bacon, egg and fried bread is quickly whipped away by the bitterly cold wind cutting through one like a knife. A quick check to see if the tyres are hard enough then, it's 'Hey old Raleigh' and away into the darkness.

Pedal like hell along Whitepit Lane, freewheel down Nodehill, round the corner into Orchard Street, pass **The Malt & Hops** and there, in the dim light of the early morning sky, are the steel roller shutter doors of

Brickwoods Isle of Wight store. Push the bike and myself through the small open door, then up the steps onto the loading ramp.

Already there is the rattle of cases and bottles mixing with the sounds of shouts and the odd burst of song as lorries are being loaded for the day's deliveries. Down the slope into the cask cellar I find my driver, 'Cookie', sorting out the delivery notes for the day and from the look of it, we're in for a good day's work. And so it is. Carisbrooke, Ningwood, Wellow, Yarmouth, Totland, Freshwater, Chale, Blackgang, Ventnor and Bonchurch.



Brickwood Brewery advert on a matchbox

While we are waiting for the next lorry to load, I tell Ernie, who has copies of all the delivery notes, in which order we want our load sent along the roller conveyors and down the shute to the loading ramp. I collect the cases of wines and spirits, cigarettes, tobacco and crates of crisps, stacking them at the tail end of the lorry to be placed where required as we load the casks and cases.

Down again into the cellar and roll up our number of casks, mostly kills but a couple of thirty-sixers for the **Prince of Wales** at Ventnor. Our order comes rattling down the shute faster than we can get them on board. A driver of one of the lorries shouts, 'Starting to snow!', and I think of those long lonely roads out to the West Wight. But now we're loaded and we pull the tarpaulin over the top of the load and tie it down. It's bad enough handling casks and cases on a cold day but, when they're covered with snow, it's much worse.

We're just about ready to go when a lad from **Smeed & Smeeds**, a Brickwoods off-licence, rides up on an errand bike with a delivery for some Vicar in Ventnor. So, we untie the tarpaulin and dump the cases of wine on the top of the load. Now, it's up and away – round the corner by **The Malt & Hops** up Nodehill into Trafalgar Road and out onto Carisbrooke Road.

The old Leyland rolls along with its eight or nine tons at a steady fifteen to twenty miles an hour and before the engine has had time to warm up

we're pulling up at **The Waverley** at Carisbrooke. After a tot of whisky and 30 Woodbines it's out and away to the wilds of the west country. There's still a spattering of snow in the air.

Halfway along Forest Road we run into a blinder of a blizzard and in seconds the cab windows have steamed up and the windscreen is a curtain of ice. No windscreen wipers in those days. We manage to reach **The Horse & Groom** at Ningwood without mishap. I step out of the cab into six or seven inches of snow. Cookie and I quickly get the fulls in and the empties out and on board. A pint of bitter awaits us in the bar and a packet of Manikin cigars. The locals advised us 'To return from whence we came before we were "snowed up to the eyebrows."'

Then it was off to **The Sun Inn** at Wellow. Here we met the first misery of the day – the Landlord. Making the miserable half pint of mild last as long as possible to warm ourselves up. I made my way out to the toilet at the side of the pub and, noticing the bottle beer store was still open, nipped inside and obtained a couple of bottles of Guinness.

Cookie at last came out. I had the engine started and was in the cab with both bottles open. So, as it was creeping up to midday, we drove a little way along the road and pulled up with the engine running to keep us warm, to enjoy a sandwich and our bottle of Guinness. It had started to snow again but now with the inner man satisfied we were off again.

Yarmouth our next stop. It was snowing quite heavily. In Yarmouth it was much better and we were glad to be shot of the one delivery at a grocer's shop and to be on our way again. Out through the Square and over the bridge, the small harbour on our right empty except for the lifeboat and over on the left the marsh was just a waste of snow and ice with a forest of reeds poking through. Then we were around the corner and on our way to Totland.

Just one delivery here at a grocers and we were off again bound for **The West Wight Golf Club**. When I climbed down from the cab I found I was up to my knees in a small snow drift. We stacked the half dozen cases of beers, wines and spirits at the top of the steps, regained the cab, lit up a Manikin cigar and enjoyed a tot of rum, just to warm ourselves up.

Then it was on again to **The Freshwater Conservative Club**. The snow had ceased and, after a number of liquid comforts to help us on our way, we made our way to **The Albion Hotel** at Freshwater Bay.

We were jolly glad when we had delivered the fulls and loaded the empties on board, covered and roped down again. It was pleasant in the bar as we enjoyed a drop of Christmas cheer but duty called and we now had the long journey along the Military Road to Chale.

We arrived safely at **The Star Inn** at Chale and, when the work was done, we enjoyed a Christmas glass of sherry, a bit of a natter and then on again. It was now late afternoon and the daylight was beginning to fade. It was not snowing but getting colder by the minute and the roads were becoming ice rinks.

However, we made our way safely to **The Blackgang Tap** where Cookie appeared to have some difficulty backing the Leyland into the yard. When he got down from the cab, he rubbed some snow onto his forehead and said he felt dizzy. He said he believed he had a dose of flu coming. As I had been feeling the same way I told him not to be so daft as it was just the stuffiness of the cab. I did notice, however, that my voice sounded a little 'woolly' and now and then a floating feeling came over me.

It was off again, darkness and the wartime blackout was upon us and the starlight guided us to the one delivery at an Off-Licence at Niton and so on to Ventnor for a delivery to **Smeed & Smeeds**. Then on to **The Prince of Wales**. Here we got rid of two thirty-sixers down into the cellar – hard work. But, soon into the bar for a Christmas drink and then away into the cold night air.

I noticed Cookie was picking up his feet higher than normal and in the bar I found it difficult understanding what people were saying. Still, it was no good worrying and we were soon tucking into a pint of bitter and a pork pie.

We were now all set for Newport and home when Cookie said 'What about the Vicar's wine? Do you know where it is?' Well that raised a problem for not only had the case been pushed around the back of the lorry all day but it was now probably under a stack of empties. There was nothing for it but to clamber in the back and hunt around in the semi-darkness. It was eventually found and Cookie went back into the bar to ask if anyone knew where the place was. Luckily someone did – a road leading off from upper Ventnor. After some time we found the Vicarage and delivered the case of wine via a pathway that had become a ski slope. Back to the lorry and we were on our way home.

With the steady beat of the engine in my ears we were travelling along the wide stretch of road just before reaching the corner to Shide Station. I looked at Cookie and he was sound asleep and we were jogging along at a steady ten or twelve miles an hour on autopilot. I gave him a poke and after honking the horn a couple of times he took us safely into Shide just avoiding an adventurous trip along Pan Lane. Then it was Medina Avenue, Nodehill, sharp right into Orchard Street, past **The Malt & Hops** and there was the store, the roller shutter door open awaiting us.



The Malt and Hops, Newport

There, I found dear old Frank and a few others gathered around a bucket, which judging from the several bottles of Guinness and champagne lying around, had started life as Black Velvet. But what it was now was a bit of a mystery as Ron poured in a quart of V Point British Sherry, a rot gut product.

Seated on an upturned kil, a half pint of the evil concoction in my hand and 'Nellie Dean' ringing in my ears I noticed the floor was behaving strangely, slowly coming up towards me then drifting away again until it finally rose up with some speed and struck me fully in the face. Oblivion followed until I found my mother waking me from a deep sleep on top of the coal in a large wooden box which we stored in our garden shed.

Returning to work after Boxing Day and the lads told me they had been greatly amused to see me struggling with my bike on Christmas Eve. After struggling to get my bike and myself through the door with the help of the lads, they eventually saw me ride off into the night. The mystery is how on earth I managed to ride the best part of a mile over hard frozen rutted snow and yet reach home safely. Perhaps it was that last half pint of Frank's special.'

Liz POTTINGER (IWFHS Member 7396) pp Philip Wills
liz.pottinger@hotmail.co.uk

An unexpurgated version of this saga can be found on the Wightwash website owned by the IOW branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)
<https://www.wightwash.org.uk/drayman.php>

When there's no one left to ask....

Earlier this year I learned that my mother had passed away. It was a difficult phone call to receive. We were estranged for some time, but in the last 15 years or so we had a fairly strong but sporadic relationship. It's been several months of travelling several times to the two houses she owned to sort out the many complications surrounding her estate, making difficult decisions, and also reconnecting with estranged family. But the harsh reality of it all fades a little when I finally get to hold objects and photographs that remind me of her, and those of her own parents, some of which I hadn't seen since I was a child, some I'd never seen at all! Life has a strange way of forcing you to put things into perspective, making you take time to re-evaluate your priorities and start appreciating the little things...

My mother's side of the family were always quiet, almost distant, but I don't think they were secretive. I guess some families are close, and they just weren't. I last saw my maternal grand parents in the late 1990's, and even if I had had an interest in my family's past then, my Grandad was never very approachable. When I *did* start to wonder about my family history, Grandad was gone, and dear old Grannie was suffering from dementia. My mum did try to ask her some questions, but it often upset Grannie. After 21 years of researching my family tree, I felt I knew my maternal roots better through my own research rather than from family knowledge and stories.

Shortly after Grannie died, I went to visit my mum on the Isle of Bute. We spent a whole day together sat on her living-room floor surrounded by family photographs I had never seen before. Even when my grand parents were alive, not once do I remember them showing us any pictures. They didn't have photos on the wall and there were no family albums anywhere. I guess I had presumed that they didn't take pictures! I was very wrong. That day, sat on the floor for hours, we got through a shoebox full of pictures. Suddenly there were faces that belonged to the names I had researched.

I wasn't allowed to take any of the photos away with me, but thanks to the marvel of the modern smartphone I was able to take snaps of lots of them and made some notes of who the people were. Mum reassured me that all of the photos, along with my Grandad's war

medals and the MEADER family clock would eventually come to me one day...she knew it was important to me, and she was delighted they would be cherished. When we finally stopped chatting and poring over the treasure, Mum said there were yet more photos, but they could wait until another day. As she dropped me off at the ferry terminal we made tentative plans for a return visit. We had both thoroughly enjoyed the day.

That was the last time I saw my mum in person. We were in touch fairly regularly, but just like her parents, there was no closeness. We never got to go through the next lot of family 'treasure' together, and finding them for myself in an empty house just wasn't the same.



A few months after this photo was taken, the Covid lockdowns began. Mum and her husband were keen to leave Scottish island life and move to their 'forever home', a nice bungalow in Northumberland. In between lockdowns they managed to start the move to the new house, but due to both of their deteriorating health, they never completed the move. Walking back into the house in Scotland was extremely difficult. Though it was cold and damp, everything

was still in place, just as it was when we spent hours on the floor looking at the pictures. It looked like they had just popped out to the shops and forgot to come home. While the essentials had made it to their new house, they had been a long way from being ready to do the last move.

Under a pile of cardboard boxes ready to be filled and some old curtains was one box that was already packed and ready to go...a huge plastic crate containing all the photos she had shown me, plus hundreds more. Sleeves of snaps my Grandad had taken over the years, packets of negatives, even some glass plate slides. Books, maps, letters, postcards; a HUGE scrapbook of a trip Grannie and

Grandad had taken to Germany which they won as a prize, studio portraits of their children...a box of real treasure indeed. Mum hadn't got round to packing all her clothes or her vast collection of books, but the 'family history' was safe and protected from the damp.

So begins the quite mammoth task of piecing the stories together, unravelling the subject matter and locations of hundreds of photos, putting names to yet more unknown faces, discovering the tales behind book inscriptions and the relationships of the people who wrote to Grannie and Grandad...and there's no one left to ask.



Jeanie MEADER née MURRAY -
Grannie

Now, I didn't spend 21 years of teaching myself how to research family history without picking up a thing or two. And while it's all too easy to be critical or dismissive of technology, it's really come in handy.

- An official letter in German that was sent to my mother (her brother lived in Germany most of his adult life) was easily translated by Google Translate. (Turns out, I have a cousin that no one mentioned!)
- A rather large Chinese art piece of a rooster that I remember hanging in Grannie's house had a series of Chinese characters and an artist's mark...Google Lens has provided me with the artist's name!
- Google Lens has also been helpful in locating various destinations from photographs, old collectable coins, some military buttons and a badges belonging to both Grandad and his father

But some questions probably won't ever be answered...what was the story behind the piece of jewellery often gifted in the Victorian era as a love token? Who was the Victorian jet mourning brooch commemorating? There's a small gold locket with a picture of my

mum in her late teens, and a man that isn't my dad. Who on earth is that?!



Grandad John MEADER outside his step-mother's home in Freshwater

My grandad John MEADER is the whole reason I joined the society. He was born in Freshwater in 1922, and my quest to research my Island family history started with him. Grandad had left the island aged 15¾ to join the army, and never really returned other than to visit. He remained in the military until the late 60's when he became an electrical engineer for a military defence company. His time in the armed forces meant he couldn't attend the funeral of either of his parents in 1944 and 1946 respectively, consequently he had little connection to his Isle of Wight roots. When he left the army, however, he started trying to piece together his family tree, and with the

help of two of his aunts, he began his journey. Anyone who was researching in the 1970s will know the difficulties he would have faced, and it wasn't helped by the fact that Grandad lived in Edinburgh at this time. It wasn't long before his aunts and uncles were starting to die off, and so too his step-mother (Winifred Alice MEADER nee DESMOND) in 1981 (the last Meader featured on the society's death index). Winnie was one of the only people of that older generation alive when I was born.

Grandad didn't get terribly far in his research, but he did discover a new love for the place of his birth which was reflected in the numerous books, maps and postcards he'd collected over the years. Considering I had had no idea there was a family connection to the island before my husband and I decided to move here, I am thrilled that Grandad kept those items, and that the family has come full circle.

It's going to take me many months to get all the 'treasures' shipped here and go through the boxes. The bits I have managed to get back

to the island so far are mostly the photographs and negatives, some of the letters and some old address books. While I won't solve all of the mysteries, I am hoping that with some stubbornness and some good detective work, the story of my rather distant family will become clearer.

But it's the little things that I'm eternally grateful that I have...

- My mum's first pair of point ballet shoes, much scuffed and worn, not exactly treasure, but her dreams of becoming a ballet dancer are reflected in them. (Turns out she was half an inch too short to be offered a place in the National Ballet Company!)
- My Grannie's dressmaking shears (that may even have been her mother's before her!) are still sharp and perfectly functional, and will always remind me of her endless quilting and sewing.
- Grandad's notebooks on lens refraction and a whole bunch of other things I could never begin to understand will be kept with his leather cased slide rule and brittle stencil set – a perfect representation of a brilliant mind that never stopped absorbing knowledge.
- And the much sellotaped and discoloured sliver of photograph of my great grandmother who died when my Grannie was just 16. Grannie adored her mother, and right up to her death in 2018 (aged 92) she had this picture beside her bed, tucked inside her bible.



Jessie SUMMERS, my
maternal great
grandmother

None of these things is going to be real treasure, they won't make thousands at auction or provide my kids with a little nest egg, but they are truly priceless. Sadly, some of our family stories are lost so I make this plea to you all...

Keep asking questions of any living relatives you have

Write potted histories of your family treasures, of events and happenings – you don't have to pen a best seller, just write it down!

Lastly – go through all those photos and write down the names of the people, the places and occasions. If you don't know, an educated guess is better than no clues at all!

Your descendants will be eternally grateful. Especially when there's no one left to ask...

In loving memory of Jane Mary Leonora MEADER (1952 – 2025)

Sharon BEDDARD (IWFHS - Member 2939)
Education Officer
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Navigating the Future

An advertisement for the GOONS 47th Annual Conference at Portsmouth



47th Annual Conference
Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth 24-26 April 2026
Navigating the Future

The game is changing, the way we undertake genealogical studies is evolving, and this conference explores the new frontiers of genealogical research, including available tools, the latest advances in DNA research, and of course AI. This year's Guild Conference will showcase tools, techniques and data sources underpinned by AI which will boost our studies. We will look at what is left for us humans to do, how we can use it in a responsible and ethical way to help us analyse or present our research, while ensuring that errors do not creep in.

Join us for a day or for the whole weekend
Non-members very welcome

For more details contact conference-booking@one-name.org
or visit <https://one-name.org/guild-conference>

One-name Studies - following a surname wherever and whenever it occurs

Some Useful Addresses

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on Tuesdays and weekends)
26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

record.office@iow.gov.uk

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/family-history/>

Isle of Wight Register Office

Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2QS

registrars@iow.gov.uk

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies/>

Bembridge

<https://www.bembridgeheritage.org.uk>

Brading

<https://www.bradingcommunityarchive.com>

East Cowes

<https://www.friendsofeastcowes.co.uk>

Freshwater and Totland

<http://www.fatag.co.uk>

Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries

<https://foncc.org.uk>

Northwood Cemetery

www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Isle of Wight History Centre

<https://www.iwhistory.org.uk>

Ryde

<https://www.rshg.org.uk>

Shalfleet

<http://www.sources.shalfleet.net>

Ventnor

<https://ventnorheritage.org.uk>

Family History Federation

<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com>

The National Archives

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

...continued from [inside front cover](#)

We have the evidence to hand that might help if you are seeking a place that no longer exists. We hold burials information for various graveyards going back through the centuries and you could find something to add to your family tree. We have a whole filing drawer of personal histories that members have done through the ages for the different projects that the society has undertaken; be it war memories, famous Islanders that have contributed to our history or biographies of the great and good of the Island.



HRC: The bright and modern interior

We have just been presented with a document which contains many pages of a settlement made on the marriage of Hartopp Francis Charles Adderley CRADOCK with Margaret Dorothea OLDHAM in January 1908. This beautiful book has been passed to the County Records Office but we are keeping a transcript of the marriage settlement and the family tree.

We can help with sites that you might not think to look at; we have so much to hand now that our parents did not have.

Charlie TAYLOR, who lived most of his life in Cowes, donated many volumes of his research which is in the process of being transcribed by one of our researchers. Who knows, perhaps the information you are looking for has already been found?

We would love to help you with your research and would welcome you with open arms if you feel motivated to volunteer your skill and experience to the Society.

Hazel PULLEN
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ISSN 1356-8256

www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk

