

ORIGINS

SPRING 2025



Included in this Issue

- Howlett Family Research •
- Murder on Whaddon Chase •
- Machine Gun Corps Database Collection •

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

Box 2 c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU

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*The affairs of the Society are governed by a Constitution,
copies of which are available from the Secretary or Chairman*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES for the year commencing 1st January 2025

UK Individual (A)	£12.00	Overseas (E)	£17.00
UK Family (B)	£15.00	Individual online (W)	£6.00
UK Corporate	£14.00		

Go to <https://www.parishchest.com> and join online
Or email membership@bucksfhs.org.uk for how to pay by standing order

MAGAZINE OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Spring 2025 Vol. 49 No. 1

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From the Editor

Welcome to the spring edition of the journal, which features some interesting pieces submitted by members. It's great to receive articles about your research – even if we are researching different families, it is fascinating to see how others approach their research, which sources they use and how an interesting story unfolds. Thank you to those who have taken the time to submit. Likewise, thank you to the writers of the entries to the 2024 Alan Dell Award. Judging is underway and it's not an easy task with excellent articles to choose from. Your contributions to the journal and/or the award are very gratefully received so please keep them coming.

The following pages feature many opportunities for members to help run the society. We would love to be able to continue to provide a full programme of talks and even more resources to help your research, but as always we need a little more help to progress projects and fill various roles.

It is ironic that since the internet has opened up a whole new world of digital research, a hobby that started out, for me at least, as being all about making connections now sometimes feels very insular and confined to database searches online. Being involved with the Society provides an antidote to that – sharing with other researchers is incredibly valuable and not everything can be found on the internet!

Rebecca Gurney editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

Please send your contributions and comments to the Editor, who reserves the right to edit all contributions.

Disclaimer: Buckinghamshire Family History Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by contributors to Origins. © The Bucks FHS and contributors.

A Note from the Honorary Secretary

In 2024 I was disappointed that the Executive Committee was not able to attract more active members after the AGM. This still remains a goal for 2025, as a small Executive is holding up progress in other areas like the new website.

Bucks FHS needs somebody to manage publicity across social media like Facebook and beyond. More family historians need to be aware of our presence. This can only be achieved by regular posting on social media.

Another job that needs a person dedicated to it is Exchange Journals. This role is now totally online and involves placing other societies' journals on our website. It is a role where it is not necessary to be an Executive Committee member. We also need trustees without a defined role to participate in the discussions about running Buckinghamshire FHS.

The most pressing need is to find somebody to organise the booking of speakers for our online talks.

If you can help, please get in touch.

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Origins Submissions Deadlines

July 2025 (Summer) issue – 5th May 2025
December 2025 (Winter) issue – 6th October 2025
March 2026 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2026

Submissions received after the deadline may be held over for the next issue

Society Notices

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS

The first Saturday of the month sees the
Society's Family History Workshop at
Buckinghamshire Archives, Walton Street, Aylesbury,
where we aim to help with:

- **RESEARCH:** Advising visitors on how to conduct family history research, and to offer advice and guidance on how to move forward.
- **RESOURCES:** Explaining the resources available to them via our Society as well as those of the Archives and Local Studies Library.
- **SEARCHES:** Conducting searches for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials on our Names Database for those researching their Bucks ancestors.
- **RECORDS:** Enabling those wishing to see original records to book a space in advance with the Archives. Requests can be made for up to 8 documents per session, ordered in advance. A further 3 documents can be ordered throughout the day.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Come to see us on:

March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th
between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Positions vacant:

Chairman

Executive Committee members

We also need help with:

Publicity/social media officer

Online talks

Exchange journals

All Society activities are run by volunteers

If you would like more details about these roles, please email:
secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Cheque payments

The Society is no longer accepting cheques for search services and new memberships. Those who are already members and renew by cheque will not be affected.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society

A Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Registered charity No. 290335



PROVISIONAL (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 30th MAY 2025

(rearrangement date 27 Jun 2025)

AGENDA

To be held at 7.30 p.m. (UK Time)

(Via Zoom – to be arranged later).

1. Introduction and Apologies.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 23 June 2024.
3. Annual Report for 2024.
4. Annual Accounts for 2024.
5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the 2025 accounts.
6. Election of Principal Officers and members of the Executive Committee.
7. Proposed change to the constitution to change the quorum for EGMs.
8. Proposed change to the constitution concerning Society's assets.
9. Any Other Business.

By Order of the Executive Committee.

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary

January 2025

Family History Federation

Your Future, Our Future Seminar

The Society took part in the above FHF Seminar workshops on 'Surviving the 21st Century' on 15 February 2025. It was well attended by Societies from across the country, and enabled those present to share their goals and concerns.

Topics discussed included:

- Data and projects
- Improving relationships
- Running societies
- Social media.

As a Society, we are primarily looking at moving the new website forwards as soon as possible, making more use of social media platforms to engage people and offer ways of linking up on interests in Bucks, and forming groups for those who wish to research particular areas in more detail.

Any input or assistance from members to help achieve these goals will be very welcome! There are several roles the Society is seeking to fill (see pages 3 & 5) including publicity and social media, so if you can help the Society to progress and improve, do get in touch.

Email: secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk



Society Meetings

Come and Meet Us!

The Society holds regular meetings for members at Bletchley, Bourne End and online via Zoom. Visitors (non-members) are welcome to attend face-to-face meetings, but there is a charge of £2. Online meetings are available to members only.

Most meetings have a topic which is introduced by a knowledgeable speaker, with the opportunity to ask questions. There is time before and after meetings to chat with other members, and some libraries and research aids may be available for consultation. Meetings are held at the venues below.

Note: all speakers are subject to change at short notice.

SOUTHERN GROUP	ONLINE	NORTHERN GROUP
Community Centre Wakeman Road BOURNE END Bucks SL8 5SX email: southernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk On the second Tuesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year). Doors open 7:30pm Meetings start 7:45pm	Held via Zoom. Members only. Log in to the Society's website for joining details, and information about the talk being given. On the fourth Friday of each month, except in December. <i>We need a volunteer to book speakers for online talks in 2025. email society@bucksfhs.org.uk</i>	Methodist Church Hall Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB email: northernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk On the first Wednesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year). Doors open 7:15pm Meetings start 7:30pm

Tea, coffee and ample parking are available at Bletchley and Bourne End.

Northern Group

**NORTHERN GROUP Methodist Church Hall
Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB**

**MIKE CHAPMAN : GARDENING THE GLOBE
Wednesday 5th March 2025 7:30pm**



Mike will look at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's work in the design of its cemeteries and memorials, and the scope and scale of the work carried on to maintain its sites in line with the same vision. Along the way he'll be telling the story of one family of gardeners.

Halton Cemetery by No Swan So Fine CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

**NORTHERN GROUP Methodist Church Hall
Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB**

**REBECCA CLARKE : HMS INDIA
Wednesday 2nd April 2025 7:30pm**



Rebecca gives an account of the fate of HMS India, and the life of her grandfather in law, who with fellow crew members was interned in Norway during World War One. She also discusses the methods used to research a book on the subject, which included connecting with descendants of other men on the former P&O ship.

Soldaterhjemmet, Jarstadmoen, NLN, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

**NORTHERN GROUP Methodist Church Hall
Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB**

**ROGER YOUNG : THE BOMBING OF SAUNDERTON STATION
Wednesday 7th May 2025 7:30pm**



This is the story of the night that two bombs were planted by Suffragettes at Saunderton railway station. Roger looks at the key individuals involved from the station master, to the fire and police officers, and finally suggests a name for the possible offender...

Bain News Service, publisher, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Southern Group

**SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX**

**SPEAKER AND SUBJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED
Tuesday 11th March 2025 7:45pm**



Following a speaker cancellation, the subject of this meeting was unavailable when Origins went to press. Please see local publicity and the Society's website.

**SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX**

**IAN WALLER : NAME-RICH SOURCES PRIOR TO 1841
Tuesday 8th April 2025 7:45pm**



Throughout history, officialdom has regularly created lists of people: pre-1841 census returns, the Posse Comitatus, tax lists, rate books and others enable us to identify our ancestors in specific places and are a great help in locating family events. Ian's talk looks at a variety of records available to find your ancestors

**SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre
Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX**

**SIMON FOWLER : HELP, MY ANCESTOR HAS VANISHED
Tuesday 13th May 2025 7:45pm**



Simon's talk is based on many years' experience of genealogical research, and will discuss the reasons why people disappear from the records before suggesting ways in which you can attempt to overcome this.

Online Talks

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

CLAIRE MOORES : STUDYING THE THREE 'R's
Friday 28th February 2025 from 19:45 UK - UTC



In her talk, Claire will discuss the school and education records which are available, their whereabouts, and how they may be useful for family history research.

Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Former Victorian school at Chetwode (Graham Gough)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

ANDREW REDFERN : AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND RECORDS
Friday 28th March 2025 from 19:45 UK - UTC



Many of us have family branches in the southern hemisphere, through voluntary emigration or conviction, but how do we go about learning more about them?

Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Convict ship Neptune, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

2025
Volunteer Needed To Book Future Talks



Your Society needs a member to volunteer to arrange future online talks, by researching and booking speakers.

Please contact: secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk

Diary Dates

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

Details are correct at the time of writing (February 2025), but are always subject to change. PLEASE CHECK with the event organisers or on the relevant websites before attending.

Family History & Heritage Events

Sat 29th March 10am to 4pm	South West FHS Really Useful Family History Show Kinson Community Centre (Pelhams Park), Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth BH10 7LH Free entrance, free parking, speakers, and family history, local history and commercial exhibitors. For details visit https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/events-activities/family-history-day/
Sun 27th April 10am to 4pm	Northamptonshire Family History Society Heritage Fair Stalls, heritage-related talks, a film show by Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust, tours of the Archaeological Resource Centre, site tours, and more. Venue: Chester House Estate, NN8 2DH Free entry, free parking
Sat 3rd and Sun 4th May 10.30am to 4.30pm	Milton Keynes Museum History Festival Re-enactors will be ready throughout the weekend to answer your questions about life in the past. All the museum's usual attractions will be open too. Venue: McConnell Drive, off H2 Millers Way, Wolverton, MK12 5EL Visit: https://miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk/

Sat 10th May 9.15am to 4.50pm	Family and Community Historical Research Society (FACHRS) Annual Conference 2025 Theme: asylums, with a varied programme exploring some of the key issues in the interpretation and analysis of asylums, and the impact they had on Victorian and Edwardian society. Full details and entry tickets are available on the website at www.fachrs.com
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Places to Visit

The following museums offer a variety of events and exhibitions of Buckinghamshire local history interest:

Amersham Museum

49 High Street, Amersham, HP7 0DP

<https://amershammuseum.org/>

Discover Bucks Museum (Aylesbury)

Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP

<https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/>

Cowper & Newton Museum, Olney

Market Place, Olney, Buckinghamshire, MK46 4AJ

<https://cowperandnewtonmuseum.org.uk/>

Milton Keynes Museum

McConnell Drive, off H2 Millers Way, Wolverton, MK12 5EL

<https://miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk/>

Wycombe Museum

<https://wycombemuseum.org.uk/visit>

Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, HP13 6PX

Pann Mill Open Days

Sundays 11th May, 13th July and 14th September

11am to 5pm

Free admission

Milling demonstrations at this restored historic flour mill (River Wye water levels permitting!) and there will be teas, books and other stalls.

Pann Mill, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BJ (on The Rye)

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

A Walk Around Wycombe Through Time

Photographic Exhibition

**An exhibition at Wycombe Museum, produced in partnership
with Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs (SWOP)**

This photographic exhibition reveals how the streets and open spaces of High Wycombe have changed through time. See historic photographs – some within living memory and some beyond – and compare them with modern views of the town you know today.

Free entry

Runs until March 2026

Wycombe Museum, Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, HP13 6PX

<https://wycombemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/a-walk-around-wycombe-through-time>

Stransoms of Hedgerley

Tony Sargeant

It was winter when John STRANSOM married Susanna NORWOOD from Farnham Royal on the 27th February 1749. Susanna was baptised in Hedgerley. There is no record of John's baptism. Farnham Royal is near the village of Hedgerley, only a few fields to the west. There was mention of a licence for the marriage, but it has not survived to appear in the archives.

The next appearance of the family is the baptisms of the children in the parish registers: Timothy in 1752; John in December 1753; Mary in July 1755; Elizabeth in July 1757; Sarah in April 1760; Thomas in March 1762 and William in January 1765.

The family was typical of many agricultural labourers, living in a cottage on the road leading to Hedgerley church. Their home only attracted a rate of 3d. Orders to pay rates could be made as often as required by the parish vestry to meet their obligations. Being a small parish, the order to pay the rate in Hedgerley came often, sometimes at a rate of once a week or every two weeks. In 1770 there were 30 collections in the year.

All appeared to be going well as the children Timothy and John grew up and started working, and Mary soon followed. Then there was a disaster in the family as the father John Stransom was taken ill and was unable to work. This appears in the overseers' accounts when there were only 18 rate payments made out of a possible 37 in 1772.

In 1772 the Stransom family appear in the expenses column of the overseers' accounts; unfortunately there are no dates in the annual expense lists. Here are the 1772 payments (Buckinghamshire Archives Ref PR99/11/2).

1	paid John Stransom 13 weeks at 2s per week	£1 6s
2	paid Sarah, Tho & Willm Stransom 24 weeks at 7s per week	£8 8s
3	paid Tho & Willm Stransom 3 weeks at 5s per week	15s
4	paid The Expenses of Mrs Stransom's burial & a coffin for John Stransom	£2 1s
5	Gave Elizabeth Stransom When goen to Sarvis [going into service]	5s 3d
6	paid John Stransom Extraordinary In his Illness	5s
7	paid for Sarah Stransom a pair of shoes and pattens	4s 3d
8	Thos Stransom a pair of shoes	5s 6d
9	Will Stransom a pair of shoes	4s 6d
10	Sarah Stransom for a gown &c. to go into service	12s
11	paid Simmonds for a pair of shoes for Sarah Stransom & Mending	6s 6d
12	Uncollected of the Late John Stransom [poor rate]	4s 6d

John Stransom in lines 1 and 6 is the father, who was buried on the 24th July 1772. This is the write-off for the lost income of his rate payments. John also appears in line 4 with the funeral expenses for Susanna his wife who was buried 6 October 1772. The remaining items all cover the support for the orphan children.

The vestry and the overseers would have been searching for positions for both Sarah and Elizabeth to stop them being a burden on the parish. They had to be suitably dressed – Sarah had to have shoes and a gown in 1772 and Elizabeth also received a gown. The women also have other expenses paid by the parish in the following years.

1773 accounts

1.	paid Willm Stransom 51 weeks at 2s 6d per week	£6 7s 6d
2.	paid Thos Stransom 1 week at 2s 6d per week	2s 6d
3.	paid for Elizabeth Stransom going to the hospital	£1 15s 6d

4.	paid for 2 shirts for Wm Stransom & one for Edward Lamb & paid for clothing for Wm Stransom & Ed Lamb as per bill	£1 8s 8d
5.	paid Mr Hopkins with Thos Stransom	£1 1s 0d

Weekly payments for board and lodging continue for Thomas and William, as well as clothing as required. In 1773 the fifth payment is the arrangement of Thos Stransom getting a job working for Mr HOPKINS. Thomas Stransom appears in Colnbrook, where he married Anne WOODBRIDGE (née COLES) in Horton and had two children baptised in Colnbrook Chapel. John Stransom, the second child, married Elizabeth COLES in Eton and was also living in Colnbrook before his death in 1788.

1774 accounts

1.	pd Will Stransom 13 weeks at 2s 6d per week	£1 12s 6s
2.	pd for clothing for Wm Stransom & Jon Hester	£1 8s 8d

1775 accounts

1.	pd Sarah Stransom Expenses in her illness	15s ¾d
2.	pd for 3 writing books and 1 slat[e] for Willm Stransom	2s 2d

William, being the youngest, was given an education. We don't know anything about the teaching except for the purchase of a slate and writing books in 1775 and two more books in 1776. Being able to read and write gave William the opportunity to be more than another labourer in Hedgerley. His opportunity came that year when Mr Jones was paid £5 in 1776. The overseers of Hedgerley had done their job and removed a burden from the rate payers in the parish. They also did a great service to both John and William by setting them up in life.

1776 accounts

1.	pd Willm Stransom 14 weeks and half at 2s per week	£1 9s 3d
2.	pd Mr Jones with Stransom and other expenses	£5 5s 0d
3.	pd for 2 Righting Books and a pear of Breeches for Stransom	5s 6d

We know from William Stransom's grave that he lived the rest of his life in Uxbridge.

Hedgerley grave inscription

Within this vault lieth the remains – of Jane STRANSOM daughter – of William and Ann STRANSOM – of Uxbridge – who departed this life – August 21st – 1820 in the 20th year of her age – here also are interred the remains of William STRANSOM – of Uxbridge – formerly a poor apprentice from this place – who departed this life – March 8th 1829 – aged 72 years – also of the remains of 6 of their grandchildren – also of Thomas STRANSOM – their youngest son – who died May 17 1835 – aged 32 years (Slab)

There are very few baptisms for the name Stransom in Uxbridge and some non-conformist records are missing, so tracing all his family is difficult before census records start. It is interesting that William Stransom's family were also buried in Hedgerley.

Tony Sargeant

Letter from Lord Fermanagh to his father. 21st August 1743

“Had ye misfortune last Wednesday to loose a Tenant at Bottle Claydon. I believe Tom KING the malster killed him with drinking one day & sitting in his shirt after it. Twas William HOLTON. His wife & eldest Daughter are disordered in their heads. What they will do to live without being a Burthen to ye parish I can't guess.”

Source: Verney Archive M11/59.

Howard Lambert

Machine Gun Corps Database Collecton

Clare Bostle

As part of research into a step-uncle who fought in the First World War, I recently re-ran my Discovery Catalogue search on The National Archives website and was delighted to discover that a new resource had been added, namely The Machine Gun Corps (MGC) Database Collection. This is a digital database held by the Vickers Machine Gun Collection & Research Association but, importantly, it has been made freely accessible and searchable through the Discovery Catalogue. The catalogue descriptions are very detailed, often including census entries and some linking to a photographic collection. In the case of my step-uncle, the description included details of his injuries when captured and his personal statement about how his capture came about. This statement is the closest I have come to hearing his own 'voice' as he died when I was a young child.

The following is the Discovery Catalogue description of Private Thomas MEASEY, who joined up with his three brothers. Sadly, all four were killed. He is not in my family tree but perhaps he belongs in the tree of another Bucks FHS member?

The MGC Database Collection is a terrific resource and I do recommend it to anyone looking to find out more about their ancestors who served in the MGC. It is largely the work of one man, Graham Sacker, who has spent over 20 years accumulating information from manual and computerised sources. His aim was to identify as many as possible of both enlisted men and officers who served in the MGC. The database is not complete but work on it continues and, as I discovered, there is a massive amount of information to be found in it already. Details of the sources used to build the database and how to search it effectively are available at <https://vickersmg.blog/about/research/mgcdatabase>. This includes links to YouTube videos.

Discovery Catalogue description

Reference: SKR/DAT/IP/13552

Title: Measey Thomas Private 27362

Description: The user is advised to read the FINDING AIDS document linked to this catalogue for an explanation of the method by which this record has been created and any terms used.

Surname: Measey

Forename(s): Thomas

Initials: T

Number: 27362

Rank: Private

Born in: Oakley, Bucks

Enlisted in: Swansea

Resided in: Gorseinon

Previous Number: 21326

Previous Regiment: Ox & Bucks LI

MGC Branch: Infantry

MGC Unit: 102 Coy

How killed: KIA

Where: France

When killed: 20 Jan 1917

Other Data: born 03/08/1885 at Oakley War Diary 102 Coy - wounded at Lille Post - gsw right leg and left foot - died on the way to ADS 27362 Measey T Pte. Thomas Measey. British Army 101st Coy Machine Gun Corps from Oakley Buckinghamshire (d 20th Jan 1917)

Thomas Measey was the son of Joseph Measey and Martha Gladdy. Who resided at Oakley in BuQkm.

Joseph was a shopkeeper and landlord of The Royal Oak, Oakley which had been run by the GLADDY family. I believe that he was originally in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and joined up with his brothers Charles, Frank and George.

The Measey boys worked on local farms in Oakley and bred horses at The Royal Oak. Thomas later joined the Machine Gun Corps with his brother Charles Henry. The Measey boys were all given a prayer book by the vicar of Oakley before going to their regiments. Thomas was the first of the Measey boys to be killed in action. He died on the 20th January 1917 aged 33. Thomas is buried at the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery at Annentieres. His name can be found on the war memorial and roll of honour at Oakley church and a photo of him is posted on the Buckinghamshire Remembers website.

My grandmother Maiy Anne GOVIER [nee Measey] was the sister of Thomas and was deeply affected by her brother's loss. Maiy Anne Measey was married to Henry Govier of Oakley and the Govier family lived in a large timber framed farmhouse on the Worminghall Road. In the kitchen over the mantleplace to the fire were the three death plaques of Thomas, Charles Henry and Frank, although four of my great uncles had died in the 1st World War. George was not issued with a death plaque as he had died of his injuries in Switzerland. The medals, prayerbooks and photos of my four great uncles were given to me by my grandmother and will be passed down through my family.

There were no Measey boys from my great grandparents Joseph and Martha as they had no male children, but the Measey name survives in Buckinghamshire through Joseph's brothers. Some years ago I spoke about my great uncles at Oakley church on Armistice Day. Although I was not lucky enough to meet them they are still remembered in my family and I tried to find out as much as possible about them.

Other notes: MEASEY, Private, THOMAS, 27362. 101st Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf). 20th January 1917. Age 33. Son of Joseph and Martha E. Measey. Born at Oakley, Bucks. III. D. 10. Cite Bonjean Military

Cemetery, Armentieres – Nord, France.

NB: 102 Coy – evidence War Diary.

END OF RECORD.

This record is held by Vickers MG Collection & Research Association.

Clare Bostle

Discovery Catalogue description courtesy of Vickers MG Collection & Research Association and The National Archives, nationalarchives.gov.uk

A Mystery Clock

On display at Wycombe Museum there is an old wooden astronomical clock, the origins and exact purpose of which are unknown.

The label says:

Astronomical clock, wood, 1745

This clock commemorates Isaac KING, John BIRCH, Henry GRAINGE, and Richard HILL, who were church wardens but we do not know which church they were wardens of, or why they were commemorated. The clock is damaged and has parts missing and so exactly how it worked is also a mystery. It probably showed the sun and possibly also the phases of the moon.

A bit of digging in the parish records by Tony Sargeant revealed that this clock most probably does originate from High Wycombe, as the individuals named were likely to be those detailed on page 23.

If you have any of these individuals in your tree or can provide any further insights, do let us know (editor@bucksfhs.org.uk)



- Isaac King Snr of Panmill buried High Wycombe 18 Apr 1771, 10s (presumably a mortuary payment).
- Henry Grainge – choice of two, 6 Apr 1755 or 25 Apr 1796, both buried in High Wycombe.
- John Birch – Alderman buried High Wycombe 10 Dec 1780, 10s (presumably a mortuary payment).
- Richard Hill – I think there was a chance the family moved away from Bucks – there were two children born to Richard & Susannah Hill – a bit vague!

Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2025

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Murder on Whaddon Chase

David Quennell

Alan Dell Award entry 2023

Late one Saturday afternoon a few years ago, I was wandering around St Mary's churchyard in Whaddon in search of the graves of my KING and HOGG ancestors. It was a beautiful day and I was quite pleased to have found a lot of the Kings buried near the church door. Then, I found a whole bunch of graves belonging to the Hogg family. There they were, some of them anyway – Thomas aged 65, 1837, Elizabeth aged 68, 1889, Ann aged 74, 1866, Thomas (again) aged 16 weeks, 1843, Abraham aged 30, murdered 1825-----Abraham? Who was he? As far as I knew there were no Abrahams in my family tree. Was he someone who had somehow slipped through the net? Checking through all my Hogg family notes when I got home that night, I found that there was definitely no Abraham Hogg. I decided to investigate and this is the story that unfolded.

Abraham Hogg lived in Vauxhall, South London and would appear to have no connection with Buckinghamshire. He wasn't a tall man, being only about 5' 4" to 5' 6" in height and rather stout. He was aged about 30 in 1825, with dark hair and whiskers. He lived with his mother and various other relations in Vauxhall, South London, one of whom was a sister of whom he was particularly fond, and also at least one other sibling, his brother George. Abraham was a cooper by trade and had worked at the distillery of Sir Robert Burnett & Sons in Vauxhall for roughly 15 or 16 years. He was particularly friendly with another cooper at Burnett's named Charles LYNN. Both Hogg and Lynn seemed to be quite well paid, earning between 21/- and 30/- (£1-05p and £1-50p) a week. The two men had been close friends for 6 or 7 years. Charles Lynn was about 29 years old and had also worked at Burnett's for 15 or 16 years. He was below middle height and thick set, tanned and with small pox pits on his face. He was a native of St Mary, Lambeth and lived with his mother at number 4 Moorhall

Place, Vauxhall. She owned two shops selling ham, beef and pastries. His father, who was dead, had been a foreman cooper at Burnett's. He also had two sisters, one of whom lived at home, the other at Brighton. He also had an aunt living in Vauxhall. Lynn, it appeared, was unhappy at work being subject to much jeering and name-calling from his workmates. Lynn and Hogg were apparently right "Jack me Lads", being fond of various amusements, going to clubs and dance halls, shooting parties etc with several other acquaintances, where Charles Lynn was very much looked up to as the leader.

The first noted sign that something may have been wrong with Lynn occurred on Christmas Day 1824 when the family were playing cards. He suddenly jumped up and ran out of the house giving no reason. The next day, Sunday the 26th, he complained about his head, and then on the following Wednesday he knocked on his aunt's door and asked her for money holding a "pistol tinder box in his hand". The aunt was quite a wealthy and prudent woman and had once offered to manage Lynn's money for him. However, on this occasion she refused to give him anything and told him she had made her will and he was to get nothing. His sister Ellen Ann, who was there at the time, took the tinder box from him and gave it to Hogg, who as usual was with his friend. She said to her brother "Charles, do not be such a fool". That night she locked him in his room, and next morning, when she let him out, he wouldn't speak to her. She said when giving evidence during the trial that afterwards she saw foam coming out of his mouth. Later that day, he said to her "This is the last time I shall sleep in this house". Sometime afterwards that day he threatened to kill his mother. He even asked Ellen Ann for a pistol and said that he would shoot himself.

There was a gun in the house and he said he would do it with that. Ellen took the pistol away from him, he then asked for money and Ellen gave him five sovereigns. He laughed then cried, then sang and told her that he "was afraid [he] should send witless into a decline. But never mind", he continued, "I love you dearly". Lynn was apparently of very good character, and had once, at very great risk to himself, saved two young men from drowning.

On Monday the 2nd of January 1825, Lynn had, unusually, come into work before breakfast, and was working particularly hard, to the extent that one

of his mates asked him “Are you going mad?” Lynn appeared to be in very low spirits at that time. On the 3rd of January, Edward Duvall, another cooper at Burnett’s, said later that Lynn had come into work “staring wildly with his eyes ready to start from his head, he complained much of his head,” and Duvall thought he was “not in his right mind”. Lynn was last seen at Burnett’s later that day, although Hogg himself did come into work the following day. Neither man returned to the distillery after that.

Later that day, (3rd) Lynn told Hogg that he intended to “redeem my watch and things and go to Liverpool”. Hogg said that he would go with him. Lynn’s sister Ellen asked him why he was going to go to Liverpool. He didn’t reply, but asked her for the “revolving wheel” (of a gun). She gave it to him and he spun it and said “I’ll seek my fortune with this”. Ellen was quite alarmed and thought her brother was “not in his right mind”. The two men spent all that night visiting “two or three houses” drinking homemade wine. Lynn returned to his aunt’s house and again asked for money. Again she refused, so he and Hogg went for a walk on the nearby Snowhill to work out their plans.

Having agreed on their intentions, the men paid £4 each and booked their journey to Liverpool for Thursday the 5th of January. Before boarding the coach next day, Lynn thought he saw Hogg talking to three or four men, but couldn’t hear what they said. For some reason he became worried that they may be plotting against him.

Before getting on board the coach Lynn asked Hogg who the men were, but Hogg merely hung his head, said nothing about it but told Lynn to “Take the gun, but you won’t want it”. There was a sailor on the coach, Lynn said, who was encouraging him to drink gin while drinking almost none himself and who said to Hogg “Leave him to me. I’ll do the trick, he shall never leave the country”. It seemed to Lynn that Hogg knew the sailor very well as he told him that “We’ll do the job at the gravel pit”. In Lynn’s mind this confirmed his fears that Hogg and the sailor were, for some unknown reason, plotting against him, and he decided to leave the coach at the earliest opportunity. When the coach arrived at the White Lion inn at Little Brickhill, where the Liverpool coach stopped to change horses, Lynn and Hogg disembarked and asked to stay overnight, even though they had paid their full fare to Liverpool.

Mrs Newman, the landlady, asked if they wanted separate beds, but was told “No, one will do”. Mr Newman then asked them why they’d left the coach even after paying for the entire journey, Lynn explained that there had been a sailor on the coach, drinking gin and throwing the bottles away and making him feel uncomfortable. During the course of the evening, while Hogg and Lynn were sitting at their table in the inn, a coachman came in and while passing on the gossip from other parishes mentioned that there had been a robbery at Redburn, and Mrs Newman joined in by saying that the resurrection men were supposed to have taken away “Old Will the cakeman”. The vicar of Little Brickhill was determined that “Their graveyard would not be robbed”. While Hogg and Lynn appeared to be very friendly in the inn, it was noticed that Lynn was rather sullen.

This mention of the resurrection men [1] may have taken root in Lynn’s mind at that time. During the night both Lynn and Hogg left the inn for a short while, but only Abraham Hogg returned. Mr Newman waited up for Lynn as he had said that he would be back. Meanwhile, sometime between 11 and 12 o’clock Hogg went to bed and Mr Newman decided not to wait up any longer, and at 2am he went to bed himself.

Meanwhile, in a lonely cottage near the village, Mr Anthony BRADSHAW, a bricklayer, was woken up by a loud banging on the door. He got up and saw a man (later identified as Charles Lynn) standing there. He demanded lodgings for the night and threatened to break the door down if he was refused. He offered a sovereign and his watch if he was allowed to stay the night. Reluctantly, Bradshaw let him in through the back door. In passing he gave Bradshaw’s apprentice his watch saying “There, take that”. He then turned to Bradshaw and said “Did not your wife tell me to go round to the back door?” Lynn stayed at the Bradshaw’s until about 10am next day, at which time Bradshaw advised him that the coach had left without him. Ann Bradshaw stated at Lynn’s trial that when he was alone with her during the evening, he did not appear to be in a sound state of mind.

Lynn returned to the White Lion where he met up with Hogg. The “Eclipse” coach to Birmingham changed horses at the White Lion and although they had not booked a fare, the two men asked for room for two to go to Birmingham.

Having paid 16 shillings each for the journey from Stony Stratford to Birmingham, they boarded the coach. Their luggage consisted of a box, a bundle, something that looked like a gun in a case, a greatcoat, an umbrella and a shooting jacket. While Lynn had the gun case, Hogg carried the umbrella. Upon boarding the coach, they sat together with their backs to the horses and never said a word to each other, but Lynn stood up several times to look forward. When the coach reached Shenley Hill, Lynn suddenly threw the gun case off the coach and leapt off after it, running as fast as he could. Hogg quickly leapt off the other side and ran after him.

The coach continued to Shenley where the guard, William Weston told Joseph CLARE, the landlord of the White Horse inn about the two men jumping off the coach abruptly and leaving their luggage behind. Not knowing who the men were, Weston and Clare opened up the baggage and found various items of clothing and a memo book containing several names and initials, including "A. Hogg, J. Hogg, Symonds, Flocker, & Little, concerning money and refreshments as well as a memo for the Close, Vauxhall Gardens".

The next sighting of the two men was at Shenley Brook near Whaddon, when they walked past Joseph GRACE's blacksmith shop and Grace heard Lynn say in a loud voice, "How much do you count is coming your share?" Hogg's reply was inaudible as they passed out of hearing range, walking towards Whaddon. Sometime later, they came upon William READ's cottage on Whaddon Common where Lynn asked Read "Master, have you anything to eat?" to which Read replied warily, "I dare say I have". Lynn then asked "Have you anything to drink?" Read replied that he had only water and some buttermilk. Both men drank some of the buttermilk, and after about ten minutes, they left, walking towards Shenley. At Snelshaw Copse they turned off the bridle way towards Whaddon.

As they crossed Shenley Common at about 3 o'clock, neither man noticed someone working in a ditch. This man was George MEECHAM who was digging a ditch near Snelshaw Copse for Mr CLARK of Shenley. On hearing what he later described as an alarming cry, he jumped out of the ditch and ran to investigate. Horrified, he saw Lynn striking towards the ground very violently with something that looked like a gun. Holding

the muzzle with both hands, he struck at least twenty times until the butt end flew off and he threw the remains onto the ground. He then walked backwards and forwards two or three times before returning to the scene. He carried some clothes about 60 yards, took off some of his clothes and put on a jacket and a "hairy cap" and walked away. Meecham waited for a little while before running over to the spot where he found the body of a man, an umbrella and parts of a gun. Turning, he ran to fetch Mr Clark who, with three of his sons and another labourer, set off to arrest Lynn. Meecham saw Lynn coming towards him, and when he was about 50 yards away, Lynn said "What's your reward?" Without answering, as he didn't understand the question, Meecham caught Lynn by the collar, and, when Clark and his sons caught up, Meecham told Lynn to come with him to Whaddon. With Clark and the other three men accompanying him, Meecham took Lynn to Whaddon where he handed him over to John KING, the constable of Whaddon, who took him to the Haunch of Venison inn. [2] Someone there asked if the other man was dead, to which Lynn said "I hope he is, for the resurrection men are after me". He looked wild at that time and Meecham asked if he had any firearms. Lynn said "No! If I had I would not have been taken by you or any other man alive". Later, Lynn repeated "What's your reward? Meecham replied "I don't know what you mean". Lynn said "The blood money, - you would take your own father for sixpence". Later still, he said to no one in particular "Oh Dear! Oh Dear! This will break the hearts of my friends. Who would have thought it would come to this? I would wish some of them to have this", holding up his watch, obviously having retrieved it from Bradshaw's apprentice.

Lynn was kept in a room at the Haunch of Venison under the watchful eye of two men from Whaddon and Mr John King, who upon entering the room that night was asked by Lynn "What! Are you going to sit up with me?" Mr King replied "Yes". To which Lynn said "I am sold. I should not have minded the other two".

While still in custody that night, Lynn was allowed to see the body of his erstwhile friend, and actually shook his hand as if in friendship.

The inquest was held at the Haunch of Venison next day, Friday the 7th, and opened at 11 o'clock The coroner was Mr James BURNHAM and

the surgeon was Mr COWLEY of Winslow. The jury consisted of 14 men "Chiefly farmers of respectable appearance": 4 from Whaddon, 5 from Shenley and 5 from Little Horwood. The reporter from the *Bucks, Beds and Herts Chronicle*, who was present, described the scene in his article printed on the 8th of January, in which he stated that "The corpse presented a most revolting spectacle. The head and face appeared a mass of wounds and blood. Part of the forehead broken in, the nose beaten flat, both lips much lacerated and the tongue protruding from the mouth". He went on to say that "The deceased was dressed in a suit of blue cloth with a white waistcoat underneath a blue one. Wellington boots, white cotton stockings and drawers, black silk handkerchief with a pin or broach and an undershirt marked 'AH'." Hogg had apparently pawned a watch on the 4th of January for £1, as he had a receipt for it. He had in his pocket one shilling, a small memo book, a blue flowered hankie and a red cross barred one.

The gun was very handsome, being silver mounted and copper capped. It was broken off short at the lock and the barrel was bent at right angles about 18 inches from the top. On the Sunday morning, while still under guard in the Haunch of Venison, Lynn was reading the Bible when he suddenly jumped up onto the table and threw himself onto the hearth stone, causing severe cuts and a lot of bleeding. One of the men set to watching over him, Thomas Samuel WATTS, asked Lynn if he wanted to write a letter. Upon Lynn saying yes, Watts asked the constable to remove the handcuffs. Watts then gave the prisoner paper, pen and ink. He was observed to write "Dear Mother, I have committed murder". He could write no more, screwed up the paper and threw it on the fire. Watts, assuming that he didn't want to write any more, asked the constable to handcuff him again.

In the afternoon of that day Lynn was taken from the Haunch of Venison and was transported to Aylesbury gaol in a post chaise accompanied by two guards and 3 or 4 outriders, arriving at the gaol at a quarter to five. When first admitted, Lynn was very agitated and rigid, so much so that for the first day and a half he was restrained in a "straight waistcoat". He was found to have a wound on his forehead from jumping off the table in the Haunch of Venison. During his interview upon arrival, he is reputed to have said "I've been nicely cleaned into this – it was all roguery that brought me here".

When the prison surgeon, Mr HAYWARD, tried to dress his wound, Lynn said to him “What! You want me to live longer? There is no reason for that!” During the interview, he tried to kick one of the attendants and was generally very violent, intending to cause injury to those around him.

The toll keeper at the London entrance to Aylesbury was called George LYNN, and upon hearing that a prisoner in the gaol was called Charles Lynn, and having a cousin of that name, feared the worst. On the following Thursday, the 12th of January, he went to the gaol and discovered that the prisoner was indeed his own cousin. On approaching his cousin’s bed, Lynn cried out “George” and covered his head under the bed clothes. Uncovering shortly afterwards, he asked “Is mother dead?” Thinking George had travelled from London with the bad news. He had been unaware that his cousin was living in Aylesbury. His mother managed to get to Aylesbury on 16th and was able to visit her son who supposedly wrote a letter for her explaining his motive for the murder, but when Mr SHERRIFF, the “keeper of the gaol” examined the letter later, he found it to be “nothing but an incoherent rhapsody”.

Meanwhile, back in Whaddon the body of Abraham Hogg was taken to St Mary’s parish church from where he was laid to rest in the churchyard on Wednesday the 11th of January.

On the 12th of March in Aylesbury, at 8 o’clock in the morning, the court convened under Mr Justice GASELEE and Charles Lynn was charged with the “Wilful murder on Whaddon Chase of Abraham Hogg”. Mr ROBINSON was the defending solicitor and Mr STORK was the prosecutor. Lynn was brought into the court dressed in a black suit and according to the reporter from the *Bucks, Beds and Herts Chronicle*, he had an “embarrassed air but was in good health, and was composed with no sign of bad temper.”

Various witnesses were called to describe the events leading up to and including the murder.

The guard of the Liverpool-bound coach made no mention of the mysterious sailor throwing bottles around. Mr Newman of the White Lion in Little Brickhill described Lynn booking a room for the night and then spending it away from the inn. Anthony Bradshaw related his experience with Lynn demanding accommodation for the night and Mr Weston the

guard of the “Eclipse” Birmingham-bound coach told of Lynn’s erratic behaviour and of the two men leaping out of the coach. The tale of the luggage left on the coach and handed into his inn was brought to the court’s attention by Joseph Clark of the White Horse at Shenley. William Read on Whaddon Common gave his version of the two men asking for food and drink at his cottage and George Meecham told of how he witnessed the murder from the location of his ditch. George Hogg, Abraham’s brother, said that he knew Lynn from his having been to school with his brother. They had both, he said, worked at Burnett and Son’s distillery and had been staunch friends for 6 or 7 years. Doctor John Cowley of Winslow, upon being examined, described to the court the injuries he found. He said “I discovered a contused lacerated wound on the forehead five inches in length and two in depth, and which had been effected by violent blows from a blunt instrument; also another contused wound upon the upper part of the face four inches in length and three inches in width: also another lacerated wound to the upper lip one inch in length and half an inch in depth: also another lacerated wound on the lower lip of about the same dimensions: also another contused wound on the inner part of the forearm three inches in length and half an inch in depth. All of these wounds appeared to have been inflicted with the same instrument. The blows to the forehead fractured the frontal bone and lacerated the brain. The blows to the upper part of the face fractured the temporal, cheek and nasal bones: and it is my opinion that the death was caused by the blow to the forehead which fractured the frontal bone and lacerated the brain.”

Mr Hayward, the surgeon of the gaol, had treated Lynn’s head injury when first admitted to the gaol. He testified that he was convinced that if Lynn could “Get hold of the instrument he would have committed suicide”. Lynn was, in Hayward’s opinion, insane, and he had advised putting him in a straight waistcoat.

Lynn’s sister Ellen Ann then described to the court her brother’s increasingly erratic behaviour, and went on to say that their father, who had died 6 months earlier, was subject to “attacks in his head of which he was ill two years before he died... He was frequently led home and forced to be put to bed. She continued, saying that their mother’s sister had been in

Bethnal Green madhouse for the last three years. She said that Lynn told her that he had committed the crime in self-defence for Hogg had “sold him to the resurrection men, for there was a gun fired in the place, and then another, and then another, and then there was a bugle horn played.”

When Lynn was called to give evidence in his own defence his account was somewhat incoherent and rambling. He claimed to have seen Hogg talking to the sailor who was encouraging him (Lynn) to drink gin while drinking very little himself. The sailor apparently said to Hogg “Leave him to me, he’ll never leave the country”. And Hogg said “we’ll do the job at the gravel pit”. Abraham had then said to the sailor “never mind, we shall have him boots and all”. Lynn said that he went to an unknown house and tried to write, but couldn’t. He then said “I met the man just by the house who said “If you had been up a little sooner you would have been on your road to London by this time”. Lynn said he asked the man if there was a trick between Hogg and him. They got on the coach and Lynn asked Hogg if it was the same man that had been on the other coach----. “They said we shall lose him, and I jumped off the coach and Abraham after me. We took the lane and I said I should have been murdered if I had gone on that coach. I made a surmise that everyone I met was looking out for something. A woman said to another ‘That’s him’. A man came out of the house and said ‘Mount’. I said to Abraham ‘What do you mean? If I am murdered you shall die with me. I struck him on the head. I did not know what I did afterwards’.” Lynn complained about his treatment while in custody, saying “They were at me all the time to write a letter. I told them not to murder me, and there were 600 people invited in to see me, and they drove me worse than I was”. He said that he heard gun shots and a bugle horn played, and he saw two hundred men in smocks.

At the end of Lynn’s rambling account, a Dr Francis WILLIS was called upon to give an assessment on Lynn. He told the court that he had made a study of insanity all his life. He first saw Charles Lynn on the 10th of January and again on the 12th. He had, he said, “Never seen so decided, so clear a case of derangement”, and nothing he had heard that day had altered his opinion.

At the end of the case, Mr Justice Gaselee, the judge summed up and then told the jury that in order to convict the prisoner, they must be satisfied

that he had committed the offence, and that when he did it, he knew what he was about. The jury retired for a short time, and taking into account all that they had heard, no doubt paying particular attention to the statements of Ellen Ann Lynn, Doctor Willis and Lynn's own mixed up and disjointed statement, they returned a verdict of "Not guilty being insane at the time the act was committed".

In pronouncing the sentence, Mr Gaselee ordered Lynn to remain in custody, but seemingly did not specify a time limit. The trial had lasted only twelve hours.

David Quennell

References:

Bucks, Beds and Herts Chronicle 8th January 1825 and 12th March 1825

Note: Conversations are as reported in the above referenced newspaper.

1. Resurrection men were body snatchers who exhumed the bodies of the newly dead and sold them to surgeons for dissection. The demand for up to 500 cadavers a year led to people being murdered. The most notorious resurrection men being William Burke and William Hare, two men who murdered people in Edinburgh and sold the bodies for up to 8 or 10 guineas. Burke was finally betrayed by Hare and hung in 1829 and, ironically, sold for dissection. His skeleton can still be seen in the Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh while his skin was tanned and made into wallets and cases for calling cards.
2. Now the Loundes Arms.



Horsenden, Ilmer and the Reverend Partridge

Tony Sargeant

These two parishes are only three miles apart, adjacent to Princes Risborough. They are two of the smaller parishes in the county. Horsenden is about 517 acres (209 hectares) while Ilmer is larger at 674 acres (273 hectares). Both were recorded in the Domesday Book although in separate hundreds, Ilmer being in Ashendon Hundred and Horsenden in Aylesbury Hundred. Both resided in Wycombe poor law union. The strongest link between Horsenden and Ilmer was their ownership by one man, the Reverend William Edwards PARTRIDGE.

William Edwards Partridge was born in Bristol, the second son of Charles Anthony Partridge Esq. He was 12 when he joined Rugby School in 1822.



St Michael and All Angels, Horsenden

Photo: Yvonne Parker



St Peter's, Ilmer

Photo: Yvonne Parker

From Rugby he went to Brasenose College, Oxford in 1827 aged 18. Partridge gained a BA in 1831 and was ordained deacon in 1832. The same year Partridge was appointed to St Margaret's Leicester. In 1833 he became priest and presented to the Vicarage of Ilmer by George Stanhope Lord Chesterfield. By 1837 Reverend William Partridge was a member of the Conservative establishment in Bucks and around the same time he became a Justice of the Peace and magistrate at Aylesbury.

In 1841 the 2nd Duke of Buckingham bought Horsenden as part of a lot including Princes Risborough and Abbots Risborough.

He went bankrupt and Richard, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, took over the estates including Horsenden. In 1848 Reverend William Partridge was given the Rectorship of Horsenden by the Duke of Buckingham and bought the Manor of Horsenden the same year. This was part of the long-term process of the 3rd Duke of Buckingham paying off the debts and borrowings of his father.

In the 1851 Horsenden census there were only six households including a farmer, three agricultural labourers, a gardener and the rector. The most common occupation was lace maker with 14 women and girls involved. All the lace makers were in the three families of the agricultural labourers.

In the 1851 Ilmer census the six households follow a similar pattern with two farms and four labourers. All the labourers and one farmer had lace makers to provide additional income and seven females were involved in the trade.

In the 1861 census all the lace makers had disappeared from Horsenden as all the families changed, while in 1871 there were two former lace makers now paupers. I assume they were receiving parish relief. In following census reports the number of lace makers disappeared as the enumerators were only showing male occupations.

Reverend William Edwards Partridge married Lucy Olivia Hobart ANDERDON at Swallowfield, Berkshire September 1842. They had three daughters; Mary Clara, Emma and Agnes Octavia. Lucy Olivia Partridge died 21st April 1870. Mary Clara married Leonard Robert JAKES, widower, on the 20th June 1885 at Horsenden. Reverend William Edwards Partridge held the livings of both Horsenden and Ilmer until his death on 13th May 1886.

In the 1887 Kelly's Directory Leonard Jakes was living at Horsenden and was a Justice of the Peace for the County.

Tony Sargeant

Howlett Family Research

Wilfred Newman

My main interest is to identify and chronicle those HOWLETTs at Long Crendon who are my ancestors and relatives. I started out last year with the hope and expectation of proving links back to the Rowland HOWLETT, whose will and inventory of 1604 was brought to my attention by the listing of 'Bucks Records at Lincolnshire Archives' on pages 31 and 32 of the Spring 2024 issue of *Origins* and which Tony Sargeant has so kindly helped me to interpret/transcribe.

What I am sure of is that some of the HOWLETTs of Long Crendon do link into my mother's long line of HOWLETT ancestors at Chinnor (C18th) and at Emmington (C16th and C17th). By a marriage settlement of 1687 William HOWLETT of Chinnor (one of my 7 x great-grandfathers) married Ann HOWLETT of Long Crendon, who was a daughter of a Thomas

HOWLETT and had another Thomas HOWLETT as a brother – and yet another Thomas HOWLETT as her eldest son. As though these were not enough, the parish registers and wills contain numerous references to other bearers of the name. I believe I will now have to get hold of copies of two more wills to help clarify my line of descent – those ‘yeomen’ who made their testaments in 1699 and 1739.

My prime aim is to trace and prove an ancestral link to Rowland and his son Peter, which has me looking through all the data I have assembled over the years on them and other HOWLETTs at Long Crendon.

The major part of my endeavour is marrying up the various register entries for Howletts over several generations when I cannot rely on a complete set of birth, marriage and death records – or indeed wills to help at all stages – and it would be all too easy to get the various Thomases confused!

My ongoing re-examination of all the facts currently available to me is emphasising the complications caused by the existence of so many references to a Thomas HOWLETT in every generation. As an illustration I attach a copy of my analysis of the most recent Howlett of Long Crendon, one Thomas HOWLETT for whom I have a copy of his will (made in October 1814, with a codicil added in December 1814). He was (apparently) buried on 23rd February 1815 at the age of 61. This suggests he was born in (or about) the year 1753, but I have not been able to find a baptism or birth at Long Crendon to fit with that. What is in the will itself suggests this may well be because members of his family were of the Baptist persuasion, so not likely to have had him baptised in the parish church.

Nevertheless he left a very interesting, if exceptionally long and involved, will (and codicil), which my analysis seeks to unscramble in 5 pages rather than 9 or 10. It may be that readers will be interested to read my summary/transcript, especially as the HOWLETT property dealings by the testator and his ancestors were exceedingly numerous and involved a large number of other people at Crendon (and Haddenham) in the preceding 140 years. From my point of view I would be hoping that other members with ancestors in Long Crendon or Haddenham will have family connections and be able to shed useful light.

Will of Thomas HOWLETT of Long Crendon, Yeoman: 22nd October 1814

As analysed and summarised by Wilfred Newman: January 2025

Executors (and residual legatees): Richard and Thomas BRANGWIN
(Testator's nephews)

Family Members/Relations mentioned, living and receiving bequests:

William HOWLETT** of Scotchgrove, Haddenham, "Kinsman" – landed property.

Children of this William (4 sons and a daughter)

John HOWLETT £100

Benjamin HOWLETT £40 plus £40 more by codicil* (December 1814)

William HOWLETT £20

Thomas HOWLETT £20

Daughter (unnamed), wife of James WELLS £20

Related through "deceased kinsman" Thomas HOWLETT, labourer:

His sister, Mary HARRIS of Reading** - £80 plus £20 by codicil to her and 4 below.

His children:

John HOWLETT** £80 plus half of the testator's "apparel"

Elizabeth**, the wife of John OLIVER of Haddenham £80

Sarah** HOWLETT (or children of marriage) £80

Ann **HOWLETT £80

(in case Ann dies unmarried/childless, her share to go to her siblings equally divided)

BRANGWIN nephews of the Testator (John, Thomas and Richard BRANGWIN) all receive bequests of landed property in one way or another.

NB: Thomas BRANGWIN was to pay additional amounts to the designated** HOWLETT family members.

Two ancestors are mentioned in respect of land acquired at earlier dates, but no longer living:

1. Testator's Great-Grandfather Thomas HOWLETT (on 25th September 1666) purchased land from Edward CLARK and Thomas THOMPSON by indenture.
2. Testator's Father Thomas HOWLETT (on 22nd/23rd March 1737) bought land from Thomas COX and trustees.

Other recipients of bequests in money:

Mariah WOODWARD, his Housekeeper £40

Benjamin COSTARD of Ford, carpenter £40 and other half of Testator's "apparel"

Hannah LUDLOW of Towersey, widow £40 (or to her children equally divided if deceased)

Mary KING's children by John KING of Towersey, carpenter £40 equally divided.

For Baptists in Long Crendon and elsewhere

"The building lately erected (by Thomas HOWLETT, the Testator) and licenced and used as a Chapel, Meeting House or place of divine worship for the congregation of Protestant Dissenters denominated Particular Baptists – and the ground whereon it stands" are given to nephew Richard BRANGWIN and his heirs on condition that he/they continue to permit it

to be used by a Minister or the like of the Particular Baptist Congregation for ever – or for so long as a Minister and Congregation shall continue to assemble there without an interval exceeding three months. In the event they cease to assemble (six persons at least) for more than three months, Richard BRANGWIN acquires full ownership rights without further obligation. This provision is accompanied by the bequests to Richard BRANGWIN of numerous “pieces and parcels” of land (arable and ley, meadow and pasture), including that acquired by the Testator’s father, amounting to at least 50 acres in all and apparently clear of any conditions, detailed as follows:

Arable and Ley ground (est. 4 Acres) purchased by Testator’s father from Thomas Cox & Trustees in 1737 by indenture; also a yard and two half yards of meadow in the common fields of Long Crendon;

Other Arable, Ley and Pasture in Long Crendon (est. 21 Acres);

2 Yard lands of Meadow called Hitchell bought from William HEARN;

Arable & Ley (est. 18 & half Acres) and meadow yardland at “the Gallows” bought from William HESTER;

Freehold Close (part) at Frogmore Lane in Long Crendon, occupied by William KING as a garden, bought from Richard FRANKLIN;

The Copyhold or Customary Messuage or Tenement in Long Crendon held (by the Testator) under the Lords of the Manor (Warden & Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford) with a yard of Arable, Meadow and Pasture;

Other pieces of Copyhold or Customary Arable or Meadow bought from Thomas COX;

Arable land (3 Acres) in the Common Fields of Easington, parish of Chilton;

“All other my freehold and copyhold estates whatsoever ... in Long Crendon or elsewhere”! (Richard BRANGWIN is also to have the testator’s books.)

In order to support a Baptist Minister or Preacher in Long Crendon, £200 is entrusted to Richard BRANGWIN and George MESHAM of Ickford (as joint trustees), to be invested as they think fit to provide interest or a regular income for this purpose; but their obligations expire if the assembly of

Baptists fails. There are also to be gifts from his estate of £100 each for the British Baptist Missionary Society in India and the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Other Land Acquisitions and Disposals

“Devised”	To: William Howlett of Scotchgrove Hill, Haddenham	
Bought from:	Descriptions and designations	Amounts
John Hester	Arable Land and Ley Ground	16 acres
	Meadow Ground in common fields of LC	1 yard
	Close of Pasture to be used by Thomas Brangwin during William’s life, but to pass thereafter to John Howlett and his heirs.	
“Devised” (directly)	To: John Brangwin, nephew, Yeoman of Long Crendon	
By Thomas Howlett	Several pieces & parcels of Arable, Ley and Pasture ground	13 acres
(Testator’s kinsman)	and Pasture ground known as the Moors in Long Crendon	----
John Carter	Other pieces of Arable and Ley in LC common fields	23 acres
Ditto -	Meadow land in Long Crendon Meadows	Rood and a half yard
(The above for life, with conditions as to inheritance by John BRANGWIN’s children or brothers and families after his death.)		
“Devised” (conditionally)	To: Thomas BRANGWIN, nephew.	
By Thomas Howlett	Arable & Ley, Pasture & Meadow in LC Common meadow, (Great Grandfather) purchased from Edward CLARK & Thomas THOMPSON in 1666	
(“Recovery” in 1813)	Arable and Ley ground in common fields of LC	7 acres & 3 Roods

John HESTER	Close of Pasture called Hester's Close	
Henry HICKMAN	Close of Pasture called Hickman's Close now 2 gardens	
Henry HICKMAN	Arable in Common Fields of Long Crendon	1 Acre and 1 Rood
William CANNON	Arable, Ley and Meadow (Ballards) in LC	5 Acres and 1 Yard
William BURT	Arable called Hodgman Hill and Balk in LC	
Richard CROOK	An enclosed piece of pasture called Sidelong Close in LC	
William SPENCER	Ley ground in Rowborough in LC	1 Acre
2 Cottages & grounds in LC occupied by John ACORNE & John STRATT		

The condition attached to inheriting the above list of properties with full and enduring rights is that Thomas BRANGWIN pays the following legacies assigned to "Kinsman" William HOWLETT (£60 within 12 months) and to the sister and children of "Kinsman" Thomas HOWLETT (£20 to Mary HARRIS of Reading and £20 to each of his four children within 2 years).

Will & Testament witnessed by John WILLIAMS, cordwainer, and John WYATT, labourer, both of Long Crendon, and John HOLLIER, Attorney, of Thame. The Codicil by John WILLIAMS and John WILSON, Carpenter, of Long Crendon and John HOLLIER.

I should be very pleased to hear from anyone who has research interests that connect with this Howlett family.

Wilfred Newman

wilfredcharlesnewman@gmail.com

Government consultation on the storage and retention of original will documents

The results of the Government consultation on storage and retention of wills and other documents submitted in applications for probate has been announced. This consultation ran from December 2023 to February 2024 and sought views on the proposal to digitise older wills and documents – and then destroy the originals. Only the wills of famous persons would be preserved.

The archived wills are important original records for many reasons and are valuable in a social and cultural historical context including family history research, as well as for legal purposes. The records date back to 1858 and are currently preserved indefinitely.

Over 1,600 responses from interested parties, including genealogists, highlighted many issues around destroying original documents and relying on digital records. These included cyberattacks, obsolescence of digital formats and digitisation errors, as well as the simple fact that this historical document archive should be preserved for its heritage and cultural value.

The Ministry of Justice report acknowledges these arguments and states:

“The Government accepts that original will documents do represent a historic record which has a value in excess of the formal requirements of the probate process.”

This is a welcome result, even though it still leaves the questions regarding storage and preservation of this enormous archive unresolved.

The full report is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storage-and-retention-of-original-will-documents>

A SINGULAR WILL CASE

From *Evening News (Sydney)* 30 May 1883

A curious will case has lately been decided in the probate division of the High Court of Justice.

An Australian gold-digger named James SHELTON, having made his 'pile,' amounting to £8,000, returned to England in 1865 and settled at Prince's Risborough, where he became such a victim to ennui that he took to drinking. He was at last turned out of the tavern at which he lodged, and finding shelter in another public house in the same town, married its mistress in 1880 when under the influence of liquor, and the following year made a will bequeathing her all his property for life, thus upsetting a previous will in which he divided his money among his brothers and sisters. A few months later he secretly altered his will, leaving his wife only £1 a week and again remembering the claims of his own family; but Mrs. Shelton hearing of this, contrived to obtain possession of the will, and, when examined in court, asserted that her husband voluntarily destroyed it. On the other hand, it was alleged that he had acted under the undue influence of his wife, and the draft of the will executed in 1881, by which the major part of Shelton's money went, not to his widow but to his nephew and nieces, was propounded. The court decided in favour of this will, being of opinion that Shelton had not really intended to revoke it.

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contains full details.

Buckinghamshire FHS SOCIETY SERVICES

What is available?

- Names indexes and databases.
- Libraries containing publications of local and general interest.
- Publications for sale.

How do I request a service?

- Individual service request procedures are detailed on the following pages. Information is also on our website at <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>
- Please send your order for publications or for searches to the address specified.
- The services are not run from a central office, but by individual volunteers.
- If you are writing to the Society address, to avoid delay please ensure the name of the service and volunteer you wish to contact is included in the address on the envelope.

How do I pay?

Please refer to the individual services notices on the following pages

- **Credit Card**

We are able to accept payment by credit card for all transactions though our shop at <https://www.parishchest.com>. For searches, please refer to the Research tab of the Society's website.

NOTE THAT WE NO LONGER ACCEPT CHEQUES.

How is postage charged?

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- Please note that fees for searches undertaken at fairs may vary.
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Society Publications

Bucks FHS Publications

Bucks FHS has published parish registers, 1851 census and miscellaneous records available for purchase variously on CD and printed formats. The Society's publications are available to buy securely alongside those of other societies on the website Parish Chest.

To purchase items online at Parish Chest

To land on the Society's page, point your browser to:

<https://www.parishchest.com/buckinghamshire-fhs-12284.php>

Alternatively, visit the Parish Chest website at: <https://www.parishchest.com> and navigate from the Bucks FHS Logo which can be found by scrolling down to the 'Societies' header.

If you have not used Parish Chest before, you will need to register before making a purchase. (Sorry, existing login credentials to the Society's shop cannot be transferred.)

Note: CDs are designed for Windows systems and are NOT compatible with Apple Mac systems. Microfiche (fiche) require a microfiche reader. Many libraries and Record Offices have microfiche readers.

Search Service

Bucks Archives Search (members only)

A search of a specific type of record will be undertaken for members by volunteers at the Buckinghamshire Archives in Aylesbury.

For each member, the time spent on searches will be limited to 2 hours per annum. Further time may be made available to a member with a donation to the Society's funds.

Requests should be sent by email to the Search Service with details of the type of record and the time period to be searched together with your Membership Number. Searches will normally be undertaken and the results reported back to the member within 21 days.

Contact

Bucks Archives Search, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

Email: cbsinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk

Database Searches

Baptisms and Burials

This searchable database is an ongoing transcription of baptism and burial entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers 1538 to 1908.

The following options apply to a baptism **OR** a burial search – please specify which you require:

- Option 1: Single Baptism OR Burial Search – first name and surname (£2.50)
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes per 100 years (£5.00)

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for baptism and burial searches can be sent by post (by postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

Contact: Madeleine Harvey, BFHS Baptisms, 1 Drove Cottages, Newhaven Road, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HD

Email: baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk

Marriages

This searchable database contains transcripts of marriage entries from deposited Buckinghamshire parish registers. It is fully transcribed from 1538 to 1837, with many parishes up to 1908.

- Option 1: Single Marriage Search – first name and surname (£2.50)
- Option 2: Single Surname Search – all available parishes per 100 years (£5.00)

Results sent by email, or by post as a print out (please include large sae and loose stamps for postal option). Visit <https://www.bucksfhs.org.uk>, email or send an sae for a list of parishes and dates in the database.

Payment for marriage searches can be sent by post (by postage stamps). Credit card payments can be made online; please email for details.

Contact: Marilyn Blake, BFHS Marriages, 5 Mandeville Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2BD

Email: marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk

Society Libraries

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We exchange digital versions of journals/magazines with many other UK and overseas Societies. These are available in the Members' section of our website:

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Log in before navigating to the Members Area / Exchange Journals. Not yet registered for the website? There is more you may be missing.

We will add more Societies' journals as they start exchanging with us electronically.

Contact

Exchange Journals Librarian, Bucks FHS, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU

Email: magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk

Take a look at our FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook group (which is separate to our Facebook page) is proving popular. There are many photos of Bucks churches and chapels. Members share research interests, and some have already found common ancestors and other links. It's also a good source of news about family history developments, and the various events and shows that BFHS will be attending during the year.



Useful Contacts

Buckinghamshire Archives

Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UU
archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

01296 382587

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism/archives

High Wycombe Library

5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP11 2DH

Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Milton Keynes Local Studies and Family History Library

555 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL

Tel: 01908 254050

Slough Library

The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY

Tel: 01753 875533

Email: library@slough.gov.uk

Chesham Library

Elgiva Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2JD

Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckingham Library

Verney Close, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1JP

Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Society of Genealogists

40 Wharf Road
London, N1 7GS

Tel: 020 7251 8799

www.sog.org.uk

The National Archives (TNA)

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond,
Surrey, TW9 4DU

Tel: 020 8876 3444

Email: enquiry@pro.gov.uk

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

General Register Office

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