

ORIGINS

SPRING 2026



Included in this Issue

- Aylesbury Inns •
- The Cunning Man •
- Henry Catling of Chesham •

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

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

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Email: society@bucksfhs.org.uk (General Enquiries)

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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 2026

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 2026 Vol. 50 No. 1

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From the Editor

Hopefully, by the time you read this the endless wet winter will be over and the beginnings of spring will be inspiring us all to take part in activities away from a computer screen. There are plenty of events listed in these pages, including our own group talks and archives workshops, and our AGM in May (admittedly online!) see page 7.

I personally find it is often too easy to focus on the wide variety of website-based options for family history research, which naturally are hugely useful, but it is interesting to consider other formats, including podcasts (page 37). It would be very interesting to have some input from our members as to whether you find these are useful, and if you have any recommendations. Likewise, are there any other resources to consider, such as videos on YouTube?

It can also be rewarding to develop your interest wider, by volunteering to help this Society. It is run by members for members, and there are numerous opportunities to give us a hand to expand our activities. You could join the Executive Committee, take up a role such as Membership Secretary, write a research article for the Alan Dell Award, or simply send in a contribution to this journal – articles, help wanted requests, local photographs, recommended research tips – all are so welcome and would help me to produce a journal that is as varied and interesting as possible.

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.

Notes from the Honorary Secretary

I'm writing this before the start of 2026, knowing it will not be read until spring. Thinking back on the closing year we can see a great success with the new website going live. Thanks to all those involved. Work will continue as the website evolves, and I encourage anybody to contribute to the website.

The website is not a substitute for our journal *Origins*, which has reached its 50th volume. This is, among other things, a place for longer research articles about both your family and local history.

Last year Bucks FHS was able to publish three more parish register transcriptions – another activity that supports the Society.

Bucks FHS is still looking for members who can support the Society by joining the Executive Committee. Its main role is to support the work Bucks FHS is doing and it needs to be larger for proper administration and so we can participate in more activities.

Towards that aim we are hoping to amend the constitution to make it easier to join the Executive. This will be put to the members (you) at the AGM in May. It is, however, possible to join at any time – there is no need to wait. So, in the meantime, if anybody is interested in seeing what the Executive does, please contact me and I can send an invite.

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

Origins Submissions Deadlines

July 2026 (Summer) issue – 5th May 2026
December 2026 (Winter) issue – 5th October 2026
March 2027 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2027

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.

NOTE:

Bucks Archives is closing for a period of time TBC in 2026. Please check www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Come to see us on:
March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd,
June 6th, July 4th
between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Positions vacant:

Chairman

Membership Secretary

Executive Committee members

We also need help with:

Publicity/social media officer

Online talks

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 FHS has a

VACANCY

FOR A

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

This role has a few requirements.

- Easy access to Aylesbury – for collection of post.
- Easy access to a Lloyds Bank – for paying in cheques.

The role involves:

- being on the Executive Committee
- managing membership queries
- using a dedicated computer program to manage the membership information. (Training with this will be given.)

Part of the role is providing the membership lists for the Editor of our journal and later providing the mailing list for our printers.

Training will be given in all aspects of the role.

If you are interested, please contact Tony Sargeant (secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk) or any other member of the Executive Committee. Thank you.

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 29th MAY 2026

AGENDA

To be held at 07.30 p.m. (UK Time)

(Via Zoom – to be arranged later)

1. Introduction and Apologies.
2. Minutes of meeting held on 30 May 2025.
3. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

Addition of the following paragraph to provide more ways for members to join the Executive Committee.

Addition of Section 12 (e) (iii)

(iii) If there are insufficient nominations received by the deadline in (i) above to fill all the vacancies, or if any position is vacant at the start of the AGM, further nominations may be accepted from the floor during the AGM. Any such nomination must be supported by a proposer and seconder who are members and the consent of the nominee must be obtained at the meeting.

4. Annual Report for 2025.
5. Annual Accounts for 2025.
6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the 2026 accounts.
7. Election of Principal Officers and members of the Executive Committee.
8. Any Other Business.

By Order of the Executive Committee.

Tony Sargeant, Honorary Secretary

January 2026

Buckinghamshire FHS Box 2 c/o, Unit 7 Broadfields, Aylesbury, HP19 8BU
E-Mail: Society@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 last Friday of each month, except in December. <i>We need a volunteer to book speakers for online talks in 2026. 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.

Talks Programme

Join us in person at our Northern Group or Southern Group meetings (details opposite), or online via Zoom.

Online (via Zoom)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

DIANNE SUTTON : WOLVERTON EVENTS FROM OVER THE BORDER
Friday 27th February 2026 from 19:45 UK / UTC



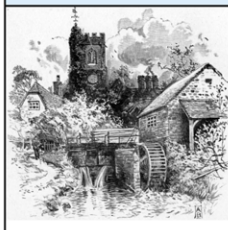
Dianne shows how Poor Law Union boundaries, registration districts and changing county boundaries can confuse when searching for life events, or a family in the census.

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

Wolvorton Cemetery Lodge, photo: Colin Kightley

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

JOHN SPICER : THE SPICER PAPERMAKING FAMILY
Friday 27th March 2026 from 19:45 UK / UTC



John's family are from Hedge Mill, Loudwater, going back to the early 1600s, but he'll also reference other Spicer families in the Wycombe area.

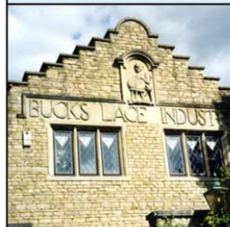
Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Public domain via Wikimedia Commons

Online (via Zoom)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

TOM JONES : OLNEY - A TIME TRAVELLER'S GUIDE
Friday 24th April 2026 from 19:45 UK / 18:45 UTC



Tom's talk links Olney with the wider history of England in the transformative period of the 18th century, of Industrial Revolution and Enlightenment and when the British Empire took shape.

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

Olney Lace School

Buckinghamshire Family History Society AGM AND ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

ADVANCE NOTICE : THE SOCIETY AGM
Friday 29th May 2026 join from 19:15 UK / 18:15 UTC



Help shape the future of your Society. The Annual General Meeting will precede an online talk for members on this date.

Details of the talk will follow. Please see the website.



Northern Group

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

**ANDY TENNET : MY FATHER'S JOURNEY THROUGH WORLD WAR II
Wednesday 4th March 2026 7:30pm**



Andy Tennet's father was a Northampton man who volunteered for service in February 1940. Andy explores his parents' relationship before, during and after the war and how his mother coped at home with a young family whilst his father was somewhere in Europe.

Crown Copyright expired IWM Non Commercial Licence via Wikimedia Commons

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

**PAUL FERGUSON MBE : WOOD CARVER
Wednesday 1st April 2026 7:30pm**



Liveryman Paul Ferguson, honoured for services to carving, gilding and conservation, has undertaken work for royal palaces, stately homes, government buildings and public museums and is proud to be part of the continuing European wood carving and gilding tradition.

Paul Ferguson MBE



Northern Group

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

**ANDY KING : THE STORY OF PHILIP WEBB
Wednesday 6th May 2026 7:30pm**



Andy King is currently researching his 4x great uncle Philip Lock. He appears in the 1841 and 1851 censuses as a hairdresser – 1841 in Bridgwater, Somerset and 1851 in London. But those intervening 10 years hide quite a story.

Bridgwater and Taunton Canal by DS Pugh, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

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

**DENISE BATES : BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE
Wednesday 3rd June 2026 7:30pm**

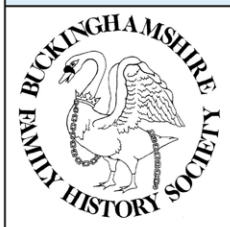


Denise Bates investigates the social and cultural history of broken engagements between 1780-1970 and why the law allowed the person who had been jilted to claim damages from the person who had broken the engagement.

Miss Havisham's wedding-cake by John McLenan, public domain via Wikimedia Commons

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

**SPEAKER AND SUBJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED
Wednesday 1st July 2026 7:30pm**



The subject of this meeting was still to be announced when Origins went to press. Please check the Society's website and local publicity.

Help Wanted



Send your request to the Editor.
Please include your Membership Number
and provide contact details.

Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

Research queries, mystery photos – all welcome.
Reach our members who don't use our online
platforms!

NORRIS Family

I've been looking into this side of my family history for some years. I'm a direct descendant of Thomas NORRIS who married Elizabeth BAYLEY at Ashendon in October 1750. The marriage and records of their children are all I have for this Thomas. A copy of his will at the county archive states that he was 'Thomas Norris of Ashendon..... farmer and dairyman.'

Any pointers will be gratefully received. I would be interested in hearing from those researching this Norris family in the hope that together we can widen our knowledge and break through brick walls.

Lynne Fromings

Email: l-f@outlook.com

Holt's Family History Research

Richard Holt
Professional Genealogist

Have you ever hit a **brick wall** and don't know how to **break it down**? Have you ever needed someone on the ground to **research in archives**? Looking for a **personalised gift** to give to a family member or friend?

CONTACT ME FOR A FREE ASSESSMENT

07983633023 holtsfamilyhistoryresearch@gmail.com



AGRA
Associate



SCAN ME

Diary Dates

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

Details are correct at the time of writing (February 2026), but are always subject to change. PLEASE CHECK with the event organisers or on the relevant websites before attending.

Family History & Heritage Events

Sat 18th April 10am to 4.30pm	FHF Really Useful Family History Show Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU See page 16 for details If you use Facebook, there is a dedicated show page for information and updates: facebook.com/groups/1840116103515100/
Sat 25th April 9am to 5pm	Register of Qualified Genealogists Conference The Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS Open to everyone, including non-members. See https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2026-conference
Sun 26th April 10am to 4pm	Heritage Fair Northants North Something for everyone with an interest in the county's history and heritage. Wicksteed Park, Barton Road, Kettering NN15 6NJ Free entry, although normal parking charges for Wicksteed Park will apply. https://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk/heritage-fair-northants-north-2026

Sat 9th May 9am to 5pm	Family and Community Historical Research Society (FACHRS) Annual Conference 2026 Theme: Sources and Methods in Family History A varied programme of speakers. Online and in person tickets available. Premier Inn, Trentham Gardens, Stoke on Trent 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



The FHF Really Useful Family History Show is coming to East Anglia!

**AGRA, Alde Valley Suffolk FH Group, Bedfordshire FHS,
Burwell Museum, Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS,
Cambridgeshire Archive Services, Cambridgeshire Collection,
Cromwell Museum, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker,
East of London FHS, Essex Society for FH,
Family History Federation, Fenland FHS, FIBIS,
Hertfordshire Archives, Hertfordshire FHS,
Lincolnshire FHS, London, Westminster & Middlesex FHS,
Northamptonshire FHS, Nuneaton & Warwickshire FHS,
Overdale Postcards, Orders & Medals Research Society,
Peterborough & District FHS, Pharos Tutors,
RA Longley Publications, Romany & Traveller FHS,
Suffolk FHS, This Way Books & Cassini Maps, WeAre.xyz**

10AM - 4.30PM

**Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives,
Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU**

What3words: ///rash.sharp.remaining

#RUFHSSstIves2026

LIVE IN ST IVES APRIL 18TH 2026



Meeting Reports

These are summaries of the talks delivered by our guest speakers at our Group meetings. If you attend meetings and can help by writing the occasional report, please do let us know!

NORTHERN GROUP MEETINGS

Talk summaries compiled by Rex and Anne Watson.



September 2025

Olney: A Time Traveller's Guide

Tom Jones

Using the history of Olney with supporting photographs of buildings and maps, Tom linked the history of England over the 'long' 18th Century, a time of Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution and expansion of the British Empire, with the lives of the people of Olney. An interesting journey made more difficult for Tom because his copy of PowerPoint with his notes was not compatible with our older version.

Though specifically linked to around the 18th century, Tom took us back as far as the Domesday Book, via the Little Ice Age of the 1400s, the Great Fire of London's impact on building design, and the foundation of The Cowper Museum in 1900. We had mention of eels classified as 'fish' so they could be eaten during Lent, of the introduction of vaccination, the increasing availability of coal and the coming of soap.



October 2025

Finding My Grandad's Global Family

Ben Nicholls

It was a change to welcome a young, enthusiastic family historian (young by comparison with the majority of the audience!)

When Ben discovered at the age of 24 that his grandad had four children with three different women over a period of 40 years, he felt he had to learn more.

Apart from his father he only knew about an Uncle Bob. His father was born when his grandfather was 67, 35 years older than his wife. His grandfather was born in 1880.

Starting with his grandfather's birth certificate and traditional sources, Ben visited places where his grandfather had lived. He spoke to neighbours, even a village postman, who provided names to follow up.

He travelled to Canada and Australia meeting distant relatives. Later on, he found two half sisters of his father who before WW2 had been professional dancers and he was able to show us film of them performing.

We all wished we had his industry!





November 2025

Church Courts and their Records

Colin Chapman

After last month's younger speaker we welcomed a venerable member of the family history fraternity. Colin has been researching his family history and wider social history for over 60 years.

He gave us a detailed explanation of the way the church was predominant in most aspects of the law from 1066 to well into the 19th century and beyond. He went on to show what records exist and where to find them.

There was so much detail we suggest you buy one or more of Colin's books if you wish to extend details of your family's life particularly before 1800.



December 2025

The Story of the Royal Bucks Hospital

John Flewin

Another professional presentation told the story from the foundation of The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital in 1860, based on plans drawn up by Florence Nightingale, to the start of the NHS in the 1940s.

John had discovered some old film which showed the advanced equipment and running of the hospital in the 1930s. This was shown around the county and beyond to advertise a 'contributory scheme', which families

were encouraged to join to ensure free health care. More film showed the opening of extensions by future Queen Elizabeth, wife of George VI, just before the abdication of her husband's brother, Edward VIII.

One of our members was able to contrast the 1930s with the 1980s when her daughter spent time in the modern baby unit. There must be other society members whose family tree would be poorer but for similar care.

Lillingstone Dayrell

Howard Lambert

LORDS OF THE MANOR FOR 700 YEARS

Earlier this year, I spotted some remarkable monuments in Lillingstone Dayrell Church.

The beautiful church of St Nicholas, Lillingstone Dayrell, four miles north of Buckingham, probably dates from the 12th century. Dominating the chancel is an exquisite tomb commemorating Paul DAYRELL, who died in 1556, together with his wife, Dorothy. At the side of the tomb are depicted their nine sons and six daughters. In the south-east corner of the chancel is a tablet which reads as follows:

In memory of Richard DAYRELL, Esq. Thirty-first heir-male of this family, all successively Lords of the Manor. Having passed his early life in the Army, and his later years in the meritorious discharge of his Public duties as a Magistrate, and his private duties to his Family and his Friends, he was released from the Affliction of a long and severe illness on the 17th day of April 1800 aged 56 years.

Richard DAYRELL Esq was High Sheriff for Buckinghamshire in 1787; he was also a Justice of the Peace, and Captain of the Bucks Militia. The DAYRELL family had resided in the parish since at least 1166. The family estate and lordship eventually passed out of the family in the 1860s.

Howard Lambert

Henry Catling of Chesham

Tony Sargeant

Henry CATLING's life started with humble beginnings as the son of George Catling and Ann his wife; George Catling worked as a brewer's labourer. Henry was born in 1843, the youngest of three with two older sisters.

By the time he was eighteen in 1861 he was working as a shoemaker. An occupation which, according to the census, he continued for over 20 years. The 1881 census shows Harry Catling a shoemaker aged 38 with a family. Annie his wife was the same age and their two sons and four daughters all lived in the High Street, Chesham.

Sometime before 1891 Henry Catling started work for The Chesham Co-operative Society and was listed as a grocer in the 1891 census. The Kelly's Directory for 1887 gives more information, saying that Henry Catling was the Manager. He does not appear in the 1883 Kelly's Directory, although there is an entry in the 1895 edition. Also in 1895 Henry Catling is mentioned as being a councillor for Chesham Urban District Council.

In April 1897 the following editorial piece appeared in the *Bucks Herald*.

Bucks Herald, Saturday 10 April 1897

Property Sale – The freehold property known as Cherry Trees Farm, situate at Ley Hill, Chesham, was sold by auction on Wednesday, at the Crown Hotel, by Messrs. W. R. Nicholas and Co., the vendor being Mr H. J. Nash, Messrs Francis and How acting as his solicitors. The house and homestead, together with about 11 acres of land, comprised of lot 1, and lot 2 consisted of 9a 1r 11p. of building land; these were offered in one lot and were sold to Mr H Catling for £1,225. Lots 3 to 7 (both inclusive) were also offered in one lot, and comprised about 26 acres of building land; the purchaser was Mr Martin, the price realised being £600.

What is strange about this is the information about the buyers and the prices. Normally in newspapers we see the adverts *before* the auction. The inference is that building land is cheap in Chesham and there are opportunities. Chesham was already expanding with many people flooding in after the Metropolitan Line station opened in 1889. Chesham was joining Metroland and the daily commute to London had started for many people who wanted to live in the Chilterns. We will come back to Metroland later.

The other, more serious question to ask is where did Henry Catling get £1,225? For context that is about £100,000 in today's money. This was at the time when mortgages as we know them today, lasting 25 to 30 years, did not exist. Any loans for property would be for about 2 to 3 years at the most. A humble shoe maker turned store manager with a family is unlikely to earn enough.

In January 1899 the Chesham Urban District Council agreed to alteration of a premises in the High Street for Mr H Catling. This was for a private house being converted into a grocery and provisions shop.

In April 1899 there was a special notice in *The Buckinghamshire Examiner*:

The Committee of the Chesham & Equitable Co-operative
Society Limited beg to inform the members and public
generally, that

Mr H Catling & Family

Having left their employ

**Have ceased to trade on behalf of
the Society and Co-operation,**

They also beg to state that the BUSINESS of the Society is
still being carried on in the old Stores in the Broadway, where
all interested in the principles of co-operation and
co-operative trading on a just and equitable basis will be
welcomed as members.

Immediately below the notice was another:

NOTICE

H. CATLING

Having resigned his position

**AS MANAGER TO THE CHESHAM
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY**

After 21 years service begs to THANK his fellow townspeople of their Generous Support in the past, and hopes for a continuance of that same support in his new Premises, 63 High Street, which he has opened as a

FIRST CLASS GROCERY

and

PROVISION STORES

Where he intends giving
A DIVIDEND of 2/6 in the £
on all purchases.

**Before making this week's purchases
elsewhere, come and judge for yourselves.**

On the 5th of May 1899 there is a long article about the opening of the new Chesham Co-operative Society store in the Broadway. There is a full description of the building and facilities.

Clearly there was something going on, with the preparation for a new shop in the January 1899 while Henry Catling was still manager at the Co-operative. Did he jump before he was sacked? The Co-operative Society notice mentions welcoming 'co-operative trading on a just and equitable basis'. Catling must have been making a lot of money doing something to pay for Cherry Trees Farm in 1897.

The 1901 census reports that Henry Catling, farmer, was living at Cherry Tree Farm, Ley Hill, while his adult children George, Annie, Emily and Isabel were running the grocery and provisions business at 63 High Street, Chesham.

The 1910 Finance Act records show the building of two cottages, semi-detached, on land at Cherry Tree Farm. One was named Cherry Tree Cottage, and the other Duckwari. Both were semi-detached and had four bedrooms.

Duckwari? Yes, Duckwari. Both the name and the cottage appear on modern large-scale mapping. Where does the name come from? The 1910 Finance Act also confirms Henry Catling's ownership of 63 High Street Chesham, the shop he set up before he left the Co-operative Society.

There are very few hits on any search engine of your choice, two of which mention a tea plantation in central Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. The company was first mentioned in the newspapers in 1890 but appears to be trading before 1885. There was also a listing in the London Stock Market about that time.

I believe there is a strong case that Henry Catling made his money by dealing in tea and other goods, with tea from the Duckwari Plantation being the most lucrative. How he had the skill is not known, but his older sisters were also running shops in Chesham.

Metroland did get to Ley Hill eventually. Transport was not the problem. Like in Gerrards Cross, there was a lack of water in the Botley and Ley Hill area, and this was solved by 1915. Cherry Tree Cottage and Duckwari each lost a bedroom when indoor bathroom and plumbing was installed. Water was not the only problem for builders and estate agents alike. The

new incomers wanted a better standard of housing that only came with electric light. The Chesham Electric Light & Power Company was promising new home comforts in their adverts in 1927. It needed enough people to make the cost of cable and equipment viable. That year 200 building plots were sold in Botley. Two years later in 1929, Latimer Parish Council was still writing to the Chesham Electric Light & Power Company about the proposed cable for Botley and Ley Hill. The Ley Hill seen today is mainly a product of expansion after World War Two.

Tony Sargeant

The Cunning Man

Martin K Thompson

The Ashridge Estate, a seat of the Dukes and Earls of Bridgewater, straddles the Buckinghamshire–Hertfordshire border and is today owned by the National Trust. It is popular for the Bridgewater Monument which is a 100 foot high Doric column erected in 1832 to commemorate the 3rd Duke, who is regarded as the father of the inland navigation network.

Aldbury is one of the villages on the Ashridge Estate, and it was here that my ancestor Joseph Swabey was baptised in 1805, married Mary Ann Perry in 1834 and died in 1893. Census returns and a sworn statement by Joseph show that he worked as an under-keeper and woodman on the estate and, in 1859, moved from The Old Dairy at Aldbury to Monument Lodge on Aldbury Common. By 1881 he had moved in to the village.

In 1949 the following was published in “Little Gaddesden, the story of an English parish” written by Vicars Bell, the local schoolmaster.

“Old Keeper Mayling who died, a very old man, sixty years ago was a great raconteur, and the little boys to whom he spun his yarns still remember his very words and gestures.

And did you ever hear tell the story of Joe Swaby and the Cunning Man of Wigginton? Joe was an under-keeper and he lived near the

Monument. One day he found that his savings had disappeared, so he decided to visit the Cunning Man of Wigginton.

It was late when he arrived at the white wizard's cottage, and it took a little time for the Cunning Man to diagnose the case. But at length he was able to tell Joe that his money had been stolen. He gave him the name of the thief and told him how to recover the money.

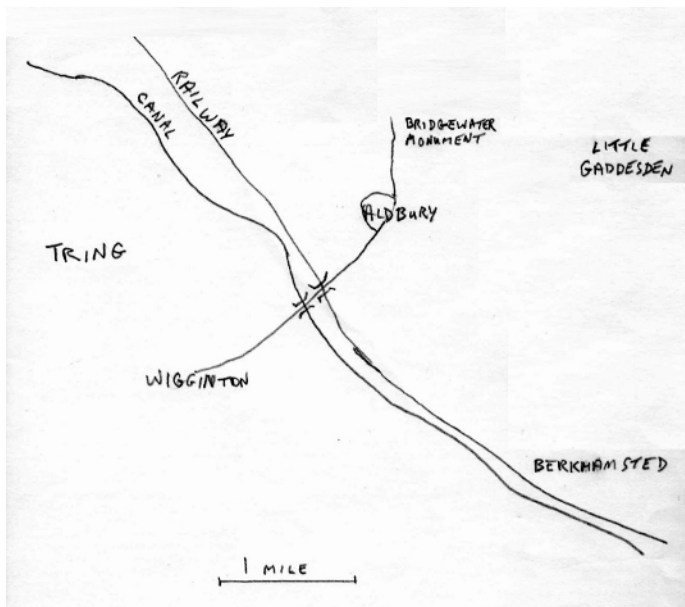
So it was long past bedtime when Joe stepped out into the night to begin his long walk home through the darkness.

'Now,' says the Cunning Man, 'how should you like to go home? High or Low?'

'High, if you please,' says Joe.

And at that there was a mighty puff and a roaring in Joe's ears. He raised his dizzy head to the sky, and saw that in a moment of time he had been whirled across the wide valley and landed at his doorstep.

And if you should think this story be slightly exaggerated you should bear in mind that it was told by a most respectable old lady who knew Joe Swaby and who lived well into the present century."



A ‘cunning man’, or white wizard, was a folk healer who was a practitioner of folk medicine, folk magic and divination from at least the 15th century into at least the early 20th century. Common people saw witches as being harmful, but cunning folk as useful.

The distance from Wigginton to Monument Lodge was some 2–3 miles south-west across a valley, through which both the Grand Junction Canal and the London–Birmingham line of the London & North Western Railway company traversed.

Martin K Thompson

Lynda Reid has kindly submitted the following snippet from the Australian newspapers. Maybe he is somebody’s missing ancestor!

JOSEPH ALDRIDGE

Death of an Old Colonist

There passed away quietly early this morning, after a very painful illness, an old colonist in the person of Mr. Joseph ALDRIDGE of No. 8 Boundary street, Spring-Hill. Mr. Aldridge was born in Amersham, England, in 1821, and came to Australia early in the fifties.

He was a very old resident of Spring Hill, having lived in Boundary street nearly 25 years. His familiar form will be much missed by the residents of Boundary street and Spring Hill, where he was much respected. He leaves a wife and three children, of whom one is Mrs. D. Hayes of Boundary street, to mourn their loss. He died at the ripe old age of 74 years.

The Week (Brisbane) 11 Jan 1895

Aylesbury Inns

Tony Sargeant

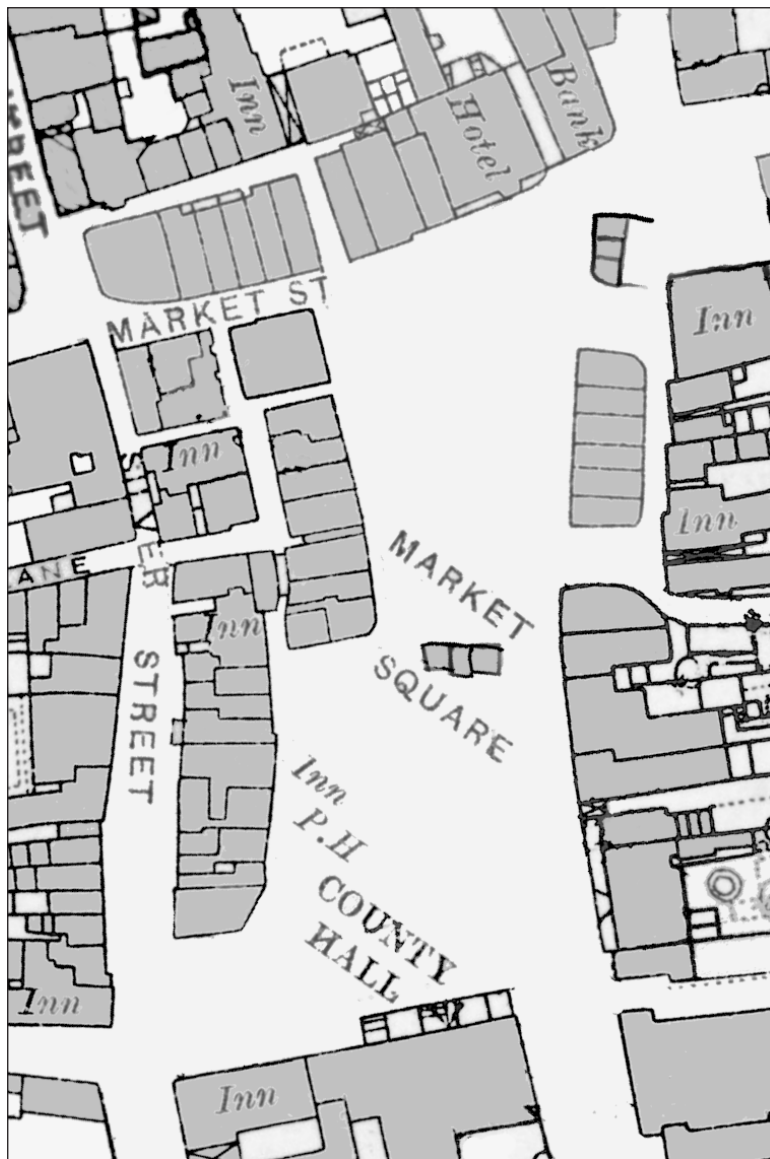
One of the aspects of family history is getting to understand your family in their place. Here I will take a look at Aylesbury, from some fairly obscure sources, and a few more recognised ones.

In 1802 there was a disputed election to elect two burgesses to Aylesbury Borough. These burgesses would represent the Borough in Parliament. Boroughs like Aylesbury were not democratic as the population was represented by a small group of voters who were not receiving relief. The subsequent enquiry in 1804 gives an interesting glimpse at Aylesbury life. Much of the activity takes place around Market Square and the inns in the area.

The Poll was created on an ad-hoc basis from the members of the Borough who are not receiving relief. The overseers would provide information to the friends of the candidates. The friends would know who to canvas for the Poll. In those days the Polls were not private. So the potential for making the Voter's life difficult existed. Previous to 1802, the elections, with two candidates, were uncontested, and this caused resentment among the Voters.

The Market Square was the centre of both commercial and legal activity in both town and county. While standing on the steps of County Hall, facing the market, the Bell Inn was to the left, and on the right the White Hart. The other major inns in Aylesbury were also centred around Market Square. The Bull's Head was on the right (lost when a shopping centre was built) and the Crown Inn was also on the right further along corner. Opposite the County Hall was The George with the King's Arms to the left and set back.

From the Parliamentary Committee Enquiry into the 1802 Election, George ING was landlord of the Crown and Thomas JENKINS was landlord of the Bull's Head. Both establishments would provide dinners for various groups within Aylesbury. Thomas IVETTS was the landlord of the Royal Oak.



Derived from a detail from OS Map Buckinghamshire XXVIII.16 OS 24 inch Surveyed 1877. Published 1879.
 This map is covered by re-use terms an conditions set by the National Library of Scotland.
 Map <https://maps.nls.uk/view/104182226>

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During the winters the sitting Aylesbury MPs would use the Inns to hand out money to the potential voters. This may have helped some of the poor continue without applying to the overseers for support. The benefit for the MPs was in expecting that a more grateful electorate will ensure more

votes. One option in place of a dinner was called a “rout”, a meal consisting of beer, bread and cheese, along with an entertainment.

This is not the only activity for the inns of Aylesbury. Coaches from London would be passing through on their way to Buckingham, Bicester and further afield. There was an Aylesbury to Reading that made the round trip twice a week, while the Oxford to Cambridge also passed through.

Four times a year many people would gather for the Quarter Sessions and Assize courts. Not only was the administration of the County carried out, court cases had to be tried. It was expected that all of the magistrates, Chief Constable and petty constables would attend as well as witnesses and those prosecuting cases. All these people would need a place to stay for a night or two as well as meals. The need for overnight accommodation changed as the railways arrived and travellers could get home in a few hours.

There is so much detail that can be discovered from secondary sources like these. Even just knowing the prosecution counsel, Mr S GASELEE was returning to Buckinghamshire as an assize judge in the 1820s or Robert GIBBS (who published one of the sources), is related to Robert Gibbs mentioned in the Select Committee report.

Sources

A History of Aylesbury in the County of Buckingham by Robert Gibbs, 1885. Printed by Robt Gibbs: Bucks Advertiser & Aylesbury News, Office.

Report from the Select Committee, who were appointed to try, and determine, the Merits of Petition Thomas Francis Fremantle Esq.; and also, of the Petition of the Rev. William Lloyd, Doctor of Divinity, Robert Brown, Acton Chaplin, John Barker, Edward Alston, Robert Smith, Francis Fleet, John Rawbone, William Payne and Luke Turner; on behalf of themselves and others, the Legal Electors of the Borough of Aylesbury; severally complaining of an undue Election and Returns for the said Borough: 29th Feb 1804

Tony Sargeant

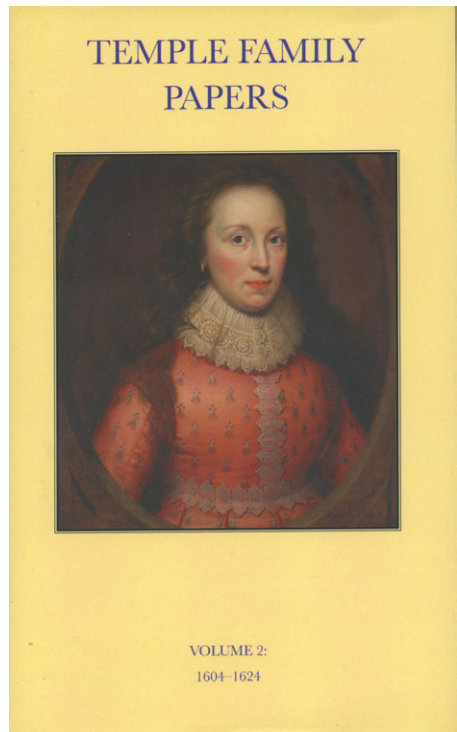
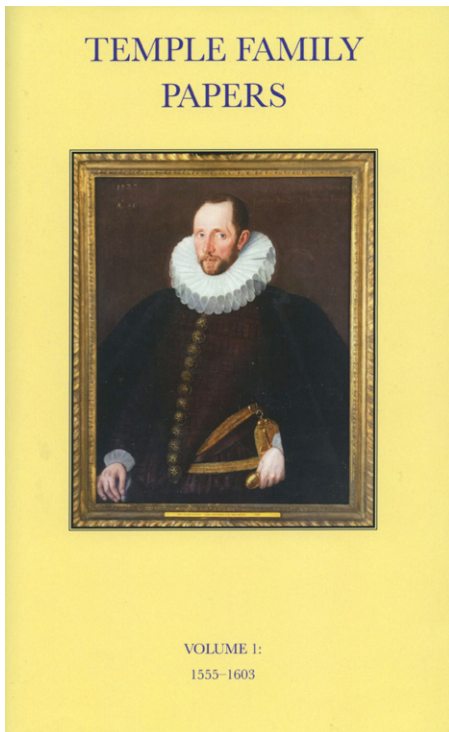
The Temple Papers

Tony Sargeant

This is not a book review!

This is really a brief description of two books published by Buckinghamshire Record Society.

- The Temple Family Papers Volume 1 1555-1603 Edited by Rosemary O'Day. Pub 2024
- The Temple Family Papers Volume 1 1604-1624 Edited by Rosemary O'Day. Pub 2025



Both books contain transcriptions of documents held at The Huntington Library, California, in the Stowe Papers, concentrating on one part of the 355,000 items held. Buckinghamshire Records Society is doing important work making the information more accessible.

Besides the transcriptions, Volume 1 contains short descriptions of the people, glossary and indexes. There are two essays covering Buckinghamshire politics and marriage matters.

Similarly, Volume 2 contains the transcription, short descriptions of the people, essays on Sir Thomas TEMPLE and his wife Hester SANDYS; and labourers, retainers and companions.

If you have an interest in the villages of Stow, Biddleston, Stantonbury and Wolverton and their people who worked for the Temple family, find a copy to help your research.

For more about Buckinghamshire Record Society, see their website at

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

Tony Sargeant

A Good Servant

Howard Lambert has submitted the poem opposite, 'A Good Servant', extracted from a pamphlet entitled *The Parish Magazine* that he purchased from a book fair.

Aimed at female servants and their duties towards their mistresses, it gives an interesting insight into the expectations of servants' behaviour and, by implication, that the opposite was often the case. The last line indicates that these standards were somewhat unrealistic!



A Good Servant.

WOULDST thou a household servant
be,
Three points of character I see
Needful for thriving,—these the three:

Be sober, honest, and discreet,
Or no good mistress wilt thou meet;
And be in person clean and neat.

Three things avoid with special care:
Tales from your master's house to bear,
For once out they fly everywhere;

Avoid strong drink, for none can know
How fast the love of it may grow,
And then disgrace will not be slow;

Scraps give not to your friends away
Unless your mistress says you may—
Their greed will grow till it betray.

Three things in household service too
'Twere well that thou shouldst ably do,
Though all may be well done by few:

Scrub well, cook well, and well attend,
Then will thy mistress be thy friend,
And make thee happy in the end.

Scrub well the floors and make them
white,
Polish the tables, shining bright,
Rub all the glasses clear as light.

With noiseless step and watchful eye,
Whate'er the guests may want supply,
Making no bustle needlessly.

Still three rules more must thou observe
If thou perfectly wouldst serve.
And praise and honour well deserve:

If you do wrong the error own,
Nothing hide that should be known,
Or conceal what should be shown.

Never let idle vanity
Tempt you your ladies' clothes to try,
Or in their drawers and cupboards pry.

Let all things in their places be,
That none need seek what all should see;
And aim at punctuality.

Such, then, as all these things can do
We reckon servants good and true;
Pity there should be so few!

Quakers in Wycombe

Rebecca Gurney

Some 150 to 160 people are buried in a burial plot established in 1663 on a piece of land to the north of Pann Mill (now adjacent to Wycombe Council offices). The information board in what is now a public garden lists the following names:

1846 Elizabeth LINE	1779 Mary STEEVENS
1838 Patty LEWINGTON	XXXX James STEEVENS
1818 Robert & Martha LEWINGTON	1829 Elizabeth STEEVENS
1830 Lucy WHEELER	1833 Sarah STEEVENS
1830 Elizabeth RACKLEY	1838 George Jepson ROBINSON
1842 Mary LEWINGTON	1840 Ann HAWGOOD
1841 Elizabeth STEEVENS	1793 Isaac HULLS
1864 Mary STEEVENS	1802 Elizabeth HULLS
1864 William STEEVENS	1800 Martha CRENDALL
1870 Anna HUNTLEY	1819 Mary STEEVENS
1845 Lydia THURLOW	1819 Rebekah STEEVENS
1787 Alicia SEYMOUR	1818 Ann STEEVENS
1790 Ann STEEVENS	1801 Joseph STEEVENS
1787 John STEEVENS	1799 Sarah STEEVENS
1776 Jeremiah STEEVENS	1809 James MILLBOROUGH
	1780 Mildred HOSKINS

1781 Mary STEEVENS	1859 Mary PAINE
1775 Joseph STEEVENS	1904 Marian Rebecca PAINE
1789 James STEEVENS	1845 Sarah Ann POLLEY
1788 Martha BROWN	1801 Judith BELLAMY
1778 Elizabeth ALLEN	1810 Adey BELLAMY
XXXX William ALLEN	1822 John LAMLEY
1837 William YOUNG	1826 Mary GREEN
1837 Charles KING	1844 Ann GREEN
1831 Molly Ann POLLEY	1835 Ann LINE
1797 Ann Maria COE	1838 Susanna GREEN
1795 Sarah RAKESTRAW	1842 William GREEN
1807 Ann RAKESTRAW	1823 Waring Lamley GREEN
XXXX John RAKESTRAW	1827 Sarah Lamley GREEN
1895 Ann RAKESTRAW	1831 Joseph GREEN
1913 Elizabeth STEEVENS	1839 Mary GREEN
1791 John ENDALL	1793 George ORGER
1803 Elizabeth ENDALL	1803 Sarah ORGER
1814 John YOUNG	1827 Lucy TRENDALL
1827 Elizabeth ENDALL	1838 Sarah TRENDALL
1837 Sarah ENDALL	1854 Elizabeth ROBINSON
1831 Jane Willis PAINE & Eleanor YOUNG	1825 Mary HARGRAVE
1858 Maria PAINE	1798 James HARGRAVE
	1842 George HARGRAVE

1803 Susanna PHELPS	1823 Sarah PATISSON
1805 James PHELPS	1797 James COOPER
1803 Sarah PHELPS	1802 John JEFFREYS
1813 James HARGRAVE	1815 Mary WRIGHT
1818 John HARGRAVE	1802 George WRIGHT
1822 William HARGRAVE	1798 George WRIGHT Jnr
1838 Caroline Jane HARGRAVE	1798 Sarah BROMLEY & Child
1849 John HARGRAVE	1797 Joseph WRIGHT
1861 Susanna HARGRAVE	1797 Mary WRIGHT
1823 Sarah ORGER	1788 Sarah PATISSON
1805 Richard HUNT	1802 Mary PATISSON
1815 Hannah JACKSON	1803 Elizabeth JOHNSON
1837 William Grover EDMONDS	1807 Elizabeth FRYER
1851 Thomas EDMONDS	1819 Richard SMITH
1829 Sarah WILKINSON	1820 John WALDUCK
1824 Priscilla BEVAN	1829 Sarah WALDUCK
1811 Edward FAGE	1836 Elizabeth EDMONDS
1821 Mehetabel FAGE	1817 Rachel EDMONDS
1805 Mehetabel FAGE Jnr	1812 John Kemp EDMONDS
1802 Hannah Lofty FAGE	1811 Mary Ann EDMONDS
1802 Edward FAGE Jnr	1811 Samuel EDMONDS Jnr
1790 Maria FAGE	1797 Joseph Wooster EDMONDS
1779 Katherine FAGE	1808 Joanna EDMONDS

1795 Thomas EDMONDS	1789 Jonathan HORWOOD
1874 Susanna WOSTER	1792 Hannah HORWOOD
1780 Joseph WOSTER	1794 Jonathan HORWOOD
1775 Ann Woster EDMONDS	1779 Susanna HOLLAND
1775 Joseph EDMONDS	1892 Mary ROCK
1763 Priscilla EDMONDS	1850 Mary ROCK
1763 Joseph EDMONDS	1869 Grizzell EDMONDS
1763 Mary EDMONDS	1847 Samuel EDMONDS
1874 Thomas WALDUCK	1769 Priscilla CLARKE
1783 Mary HORWOOD	1763 Mary WOSTER
1784 Mary HORWOOD	1755 Benjamin WOSTER
1785 John HORWOOD	1748 Elizabeth WOSTER

Family History Podcasts

Do you listen to podcasts as part of your family history research? We would be very interested to share any recommendations you may have, so do let us know if you have found a particularly useful series or individual episode.

The Family History Federation produces a series called *Really Useful Podcasts*, which is now in its 5th series.

All six episodes of series 5 are available on the Federation's website as well as through the major podcast providers.

www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/really-useful-podcastseries-5

Episodes are on a variety of topics:

- DNA: What to do with the matches
- Family History from a Gravestone
- Hampshire
- Heirlooms: postcards, photos and papers
- Cheshire
- Artificial Intelligence

Other podcasts to explore include:

- **Family Tree Magazine**

A bi-monthly online radio show. On the first of each month, you can tune in to the Family Tree Magazine Podcast, which features interviews with experts on how to use specific strategies and tools to access crucial genealogy records and resources. Later in the month, the Best Websites Podcast provides in-depth tutorials, behind-the-scenes looks, and notable updates on some of the most valuable websites and digital tools for research.

<https://familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast/>

- **Genealogy Gems Podcast with Lisa Louise Cooke**

Over 300 episodes bringing cutting-edge genealogy research tips, expert interviews and fun to the world of family history. The website has a search function.

<https://genealogygemspodcast.com/>

Let me know if you have any other recommendations!

editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

A South Bucks Village – The History of Hedgerley

John Lovelock



First published in 1980 and 1982 as paperbacks, the *The History of Hedgerley* was revised and consolidated into a hardback volume in 2007. Over the past two years the book has been revised by local historian and author Julian Hunt and edited by Michael Rice who will present an illustrated talk about how the original publication came into being and the path to the latest version.

The revised book is being launched at the Hedgerley Historical Society (HHS) annual Harry Kirby Memorial Lecture (named after our founder Harry Kirby who arranged the first meeting of the Society in Hedgerley Memorial Hall on the 24th February 1976) in March 2026. For the past 50 years the Society has met for monthly talks/special events, enjoyed outings and published books and maps including a Parish Map in 1999.

HHS Founder – Harry Kirby

The Society was founded by an amazing community-minded resident Harry KIRBY who was born in West Hartlepool, County Durham in 1917. In the mid 1930s Harry moved to Slough with his widowed mother and elder brother Arthur and they both found employment on the Slough Trading Estate. By 1939 they were living on the Manor Park Estate in Slough that was built to accommodate workers on Slough Estates.

In February 1940 Harry married Kathleen FURSLAND at St Paul's church in Slough and was called up 11 days later, serving in the Royal Engineers in Egypt after 18 months training at railway workshops in Hampshire and

London. After the war Harry and Kathleen bought a caravan and pitched it at Mr PUSEY's farm in East Burnham. This was their home for over six years before they moved in 1952 with their three young sons to Hedgerley. Eton Rural District Council allocated the family a new council house on Hedgerley Hill.



**Harry in Marlow,
1936**



**Harry's first marital home in
Burham Beeches**



Harry in 1942

Following 33 years working as a technical manager for Powell Duffryn Heating Ltd in Camberley, Harry worked as a consultant engineer teaching at Slough College. In his spare time Harry volunteered in many ways as a Cub and Scout Leader, for Bucks Civil Protection, and as Parish and District Councillor, Choir Master and founder of Hedgerley Football Club.



**Harry with Hedgerley
Historical Society**

Harry arranged an archaeological dig at the Knights Templar preceptory (an enclosed monastic precinct within a moat) site in Hedgerley Green and began to research and document the history of this South Bucks village. This work culminated in the publication of *The History of Hedgerley*.

Harry died in 1991 aged 73.



Book Review

The Men of Denham Lost in the Great War

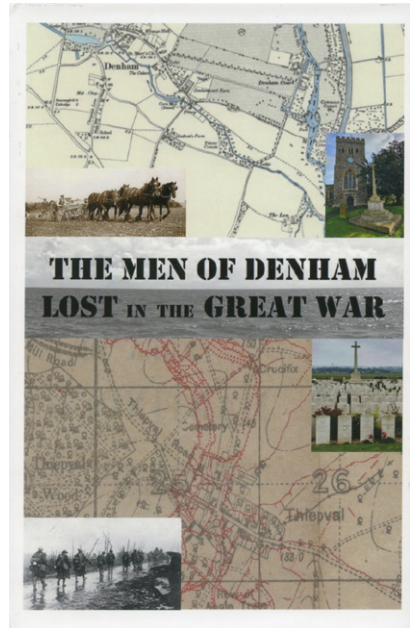
by Paul Graham

Remembering the First World War will always be part of village life with the presence of War Memorials in most churchyards. The war ended over one hundred years ago, but our need to research and understand the events and people will continue. In 290 pages Paul Graham has produced more than biographies of those on the War Memorial.

The 27 names on the War Memorial was just the starting point as Paul discovered a total of 67 men with links to Denham. The first section provides context by discussing the war followed by describing Denham during wartime. This work not only makes a great introduction to Denham, it provides the foundation for the biographies that follow. I thought the maps provided another useful way of considering the relationships of the men.

Each biography provides the family context and early work life, then goes on to the military career. Where the family has more than one loss, the biographies are placed together to provide the family story. The research is comprehensive and involved travel throughout the UK and Europe.

As a read, going from start to end is not the best approach. Choosing a section will be most informative and allow proper consideration of the



individuals and their lives. This book provides a fitting tribute to the men of Denham and made an informative and worthwhile read. This is an excellent book and will be consulted again and again.

Available from the author by email at pgrahamiver@gmail.com for £10.00.

Tony Sargeant

Extraordinary Families

Howard Lambert

PROGENY ON A BIBLICAL SCALE!

On the 7th ult. died at Philadelphia, Mr. Josiah CLARK, of Northampton, in the 92nd year of his age. He was the last of eleven children (six sons and five daughters), three of whom lived to be above 90, four above 80, and three above 70 years of age. The sons, without any exception, lived above fifty years with their wives, and survived them. The family was not more remarkable for their longevity than for their numerous offspring. From the six sons only have descended 1158 children, grand-children, and great grand-children, 825 of whom are now living.

Leeds Intelligencer, 29 September 1789

THIRTY CHILDREN BORN TO ONE MOTHER

We hear from Nottingham, that on Friday, the 11th instant, Mrs. Melvin of Bulwell, in that County, was safely delivered of a daughter, which is the 30th time of her being with child. It is very remarkable that this good woman is now in the 45th year of her age, and notwithstanding her having borne so many children, 17 of whom are living, she enjoys a good share of health and spirits.

Kentish Gazette, 26 August 1769

Howard adds: this must surely be a record, or does a member know different?

Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2026

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Membership

We welcome 18 new members since the previous list was produced including the following who agreed to have their details made available.

7757	Mr W HOLLYMAN	Queensland	whollyman50@gmail.com
7758	Mr J BEALE	Surrey	beale.jd@gmail.com
7772	S STRUTT	Bucks	mullion06@gmail.com
7775	D JOLLEY	Worcestershire	dawn.jolley@icloud.com
7776	P NAYLOR	Bucks	pinaylor@gmail.com
7777	A DAW	Queensland	alex daw25@gmail.com

The new or amended Members' Interests for the above people registered between 07/10/2025 and 03/01/2026.

Memb No.	Surname	Location/s	County	Years
7772	ALL	Turweston	Bucks	All
7758	BEAL(E)	Penn	Bucks	1800
7775	BODDY	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	All
7776	BRIGINSHAW	All Parishes	Bucks	All
7776	BRIGINSHAW	All Parishes	Berkshire	All
7758	GIBBS	Penn	Bucks	1800
7772	HAYNES/ HEYNES	Turweston	Bucks	All
7776	HOBBS	All Parishes	Bucks	All
7776	HOBBS	All Parishes	Berkshire	All
7757	HOLLYMAN	Aylesbury	Bucks	All
7757	HOLLYMAN	Bierton	Bucks	All
7757	HOLLYMAN	Cuddington	Bucks	All
7775	HUNT	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	ALL
7776	NAYLOR	All Parishes	Bucks	All
7775	PUSEY	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	1848
7775	SKIDMORE	Chalfont St Giles	Bucks	ALL
7775	SKIDMORE	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	ALL
7775	THOMPSON	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	1795
7775	WORLEY	Chalfont St Peter	Bucks	1805
7772	YATES + VARIATIONS	Turweston	Bucks	All

MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS: PLEASE NOTE

Bucks FHS uses a computer system to manage the membership records to provide services such as journals distribution by post and website security. The information is not passed on to other companies or persons.

Members' Interests on the website can be searched to find others working on similar ancestors. You will be able to send an email to that person but you will not know their details until they reply to your email.

Updating Your Member Interests

Updates to the Members' Interests should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Please contact the Membership Secretary by email:

membership@bucksfhs.org.uk

Members Interests on the Website

Members Interests is a database of the research interests that our members have registered with us. There are currently 3,231 names our members have provided, along with location (place or county) and optionally a start and/or end date.

This database is available for members to search on the website. You may find an unknown cousin researching the same family as you!

After searching for a surname you can filter by place or county or by start century, decade or year and by end century, decade. If you find a match for your research you can complete a contact form which will be sent directly to the researching member.

Visit the Members' area under the "Resources for members" of the website to start searching: <https://bucksfhs.org.uk>

**Do you have ancestors in
Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,
Essex, Hampshire, Gloucestershire,
Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire,
Warwickshire, Wiltshire or Worcestershire?**

The Eureka Partnership

transcribes and publishes historic data from these counties.
We transcribe unusual and lesser known records such as those
listed below.

Non Conformist Registers
Workhouse Records
Militia Lists
Pre 1841 Census Lists
Victuallers Licenses
Coroners Records
Quarter Sessions Records
Parish Records

Taxation Records
School Records
Charity Records
Canal Boat Registrations
Canal Boat Inspections
Marriage Notices
Probate Records
Asylum Records

**Our Website and Online Shop at
www.eurekapartnership.com**

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?

Stamped addressed envelopes must be supplied for a written reply, otherwise please give an email address. Please do NOT use the prices in the online shop when purchasing items by post, as this will delay your order. There is a separate price list available for download online.

How do I cancel my order?

Sales are covered by the Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013 & Consumer Rights Act 2015. Orders may be cancelled within 14 days. In the case of goods supplied (e.g. books) this is 14 days from the date of receipt by the consumer. In the case of services supplied (e.g. database searches) this is 14 days from the date of the contract which is the date on which Buckinghamshire Family History Society receives the request. Any cancellation must be in writing either by post or e-mail to the address to which the original order was sent. On the receipt of a cancellation notice and the returned goods the Society is required to refund the cost within 30 days. Cost of postage for the returned goods will be borne by the customer. Any orders for magazines or periodicals which the Society may from time to time sell are excluded from the right to cancel.

Other notes

- Please note that fees for searches undertaken at fairs may vary.
- Please provide full contact details including email address, as this will help us to process your order more efficiently.



Society Publications

Bucks FHS Publications

Bucks FHS has published parish registers, 1851 census and miscellaneous records available for purchase variously on CD, downloadable PDF and printed formats. Society 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 former 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 or later.

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.

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 or later.

- 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.

Email: marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk

Society Libraries

Exchange Journals Library

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

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

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

**** MOVING IN 2026 – CHECK THEIR WEBSITE ****

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

PO Box 2,

Southport PR8 2JD

Tel: 0300 123 1837

Email: certificate.services@gro.gsi.gov.uk

www.gro.gov.uk

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Contact: BFHS Editor, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields,

Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU

Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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See the website for more details

www.bucksfhs.org.uk



Please submit entries to the 2026 competition to:

editor@bucksfhs.org.uk