

ORIGINS

SUMMER 2026



Included in this Issue

- Origins at 50 •
- The Parslows of Princes Risborough •
- Mills and Millwrights •

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

Honorary President Julian Hunt

Website: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

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

Chairman	POSITION VACANT	
Vice Chairman	Dave Foster	
Treasurer	Colin Kightley	Email: treasurer@bucksfhs.org.uk
Honorary Secretary	Tony Sargeant	Email: secretary@bucksfhs.org.uk
Committee Members	Graham Gough	Fleur Creed (Australia)
Northern Group Chairman	Rex Watson	Email: northerngroup@bucksfhs.org.uk
Southern Group Chairman	Dave Foster	Email: southerngroup@bucksfhs.org.uk
Acting Membership & Members' Interests Secretary	Tony Sargeant	Email: membership@bucksfhs.org.uk
Editor	Rebecca Gurney	Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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

*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**

Summer 2026 Vol. 50 No. 2

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From the Editor

2026 marks the 50th year of Buckinghamshire Family History Society (and Origins), which is quite a milestone. On page 87 you will find a write-up of the early days of the Society by Graham Gough (followed by a quiz to test your knowledge!), which is a fascinating journey into the past in itself, showing what has, and has not, changed for the Society over 50 years.

The original editor of this journal, Tony Dolphin, stated in the very first Editor's Note that his aim was to 'produce a publication of balanced content to suit the broad range of members' knowledge and experience' and, crucially, 'to achieve this I need your help.' Neither the original aim, nor the request for help, has changed! Please keep your contributions coming in – there are some wonderful pieces from members in this edition.

In these pages you will find the winning article of the Alan Dell Award 2025 by Anita Waite – the story of finding a connection between her Bucks ancestors and a family of aristocrats with links to Tudor kings. It's a great example of the surprising journeys on which research can take you. Congratulations, Anita, and thank you to everyone who entered. It's inspiring to read your research stories, no matter what stage you are at in your family history journey, so please consider entering this year's competition.

Rebecca Gurney
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

Origins Submissions Deadlines

December 2026 (Winter) issue – 5th October 2026

March 2027 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2027

July 2027 (Summer) issue – 5th May 2027

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

Notes from the Honorary Secretary

A call for volunteers

Many of the activities required to keep Buckinghamshire FHS running need more support in the form of volunteers to take on roles in the Executive Committee. Currently, too many on the Executive have too many roles and the committee simply needs more people. It is a small team, which would be grateful for some new faces.

Representation of Bucks FHS at other Societies' events is something that also needs improving. Other activities members could help with include social media and advertising, and coverage for bank accounts. Other aspects of management, like Membership Secretary and organising speakers, need more volunteers. Many roles only require a few hours a month.

Even being on the Committee without another role is an important contribution.

See pages 58 and 59 for more information on some of the roles available. If you can help, please contact me.

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

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

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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 2026. Please check www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Come to see us on:

**July 4th, August 1st,
September 5th, October 3rd,
November 7th, December 5th**
between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Positions vacant:

Chairman

Do you have a vision of how the Society should look to the future?

Membership Secretary

Are you organised and good at detail, with a few hours to spare each month, especially during October to February?

Executive Committee members

**Do you ever think ‘if only the Society was able to...’ ?
Why not join us and help shape your Society’s future?**

Publicity/social media officer

**Do you enjoy social media?
Could you post our monthly meetings and other announcements to social media regularly?**

Online talks

**Do you ever feel ‘if only there was a talk about...’ ?
Can you spare a few hours each month to help research and book speakers?**

All Society activities are run by volunteers, without whom the Society would cease to function. No special knowledge is needed, and support is always available.

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

Buckinghamshire FHS has a VACANCY FOR A MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Could you help the Society in this administrative role? If you enjoy organising data and helping people with practical queries, this could be the role for you! Membership renewal time (Oct-Feb) is the busiest, and each January, May and October there is a straightforward task to provide data from the membership database to both the journal editor and the printer.

The role involves:

- being on the Executive Committee (see opposite)
- managing membership queries (mainly by email/post)
- using a dedicated computer program (database) to manage the membership information (training will be given)
- providing the membership lists to the journal editor and the mailing list to our journal printers, 3 times a year
- access to a Lloyds Bank – for paying in cheques (occasional)
- easy access to Aylesbury – for collection of post (if possible).

Training and guidance 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 FHS has VACANCIES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Would you like the opportunity to help shape the future of Bucks FHS? If you can spare a few hours a year to meet (online) with like-minded family history enthusiasts to support the running of the Society, please consider joining the Executive Committee.

The BFHS Executive Committee has some experienced members who would welcome some fresh ideas, input, and support. No prior experience of a similar role is required, just a commitment to attend meetings and engage with how the Society operates.

This role involves:

- being a Trustee of the Society, as part of a (currently!) small executive committee, helping to make decisions on how things are run
- attending committee meetings, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm. These are held online via Google Meet. Only a web browser is needed, there is nothing to install and no Google account is required.

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

WEBSITE NOTES

Website photos

An appeal – we need more photos to help fill those towns and villages where we are light. See the current library at:

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

CWGC headstones and memorials

Are any of your relatives commemorated on Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones or memorials? If so, could you fill in their information to share? Search for names in the Bucks Pictures section at:

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

Hopefully, by the next edition of Origins the Bucks CWGC headstones project should be completed.

Identifications and corrections

There have been numerous comments made via the website concerning mis-spellings and identifications of the pictures – please keep them coming, as we need them to be right.

If you have any suggestions for the website, please do let us know!

Email: website@bucksfhs.org.uk

Members' Interests

Have you had any success with making connections via the members' interests? Do you need any additions or amendments? Please let us know.

Log in to the Members' Area to check:

<https://bucksfhs.org.uk/category/members-area>

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. 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

Online (via Zoom)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

MIKE CORBETT : WOLVERTON WORKS AND THE ROYAL TRAIN
Friday 26th June 2026 from 19:45 UK / 18:45 UTC



With the Royal Train to be decommissioned in early 2027, this presentation celebrates 150 plus years of the Royal Train's association with Wolverton Works.

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

LNER Tornado hauling the Royal Train, Martin Jones via Wikimedia Commons CCA 2.0 G

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

TARA SHYMANSKI : GENEALOGY RESEARCH IN CANADA
Friday 31st July 2026 from 19:45 UK / 18:45 UTC

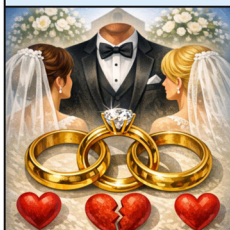


England could fit into Canada approximately 40 times. Tara's engaging presentation will primarily cover online resources for researchers, guiding you in navigating provincial and federal records.

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

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Professor REBECCA PROBERT : THE CRIME OF BIGAMY
Friday 28th August 2026 from 19:45 UK / 18:45 UTC



Now one of the rarest of crimes, at its peak there were approaching 1,000 cases of bigamy in a single year. What does the evidence tell us about marriage, separation and illicit relationships in past centuries?

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

Online (via Zoom)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

CALLUM WALKER : BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES
Friday 25th September 2026 from 19:45 UK / 18:45 UTC



Callum, Community Engagement Officer at Buckinghamshire Archives, will explain what an archive is and its work and how you can use the archives for your own research. He'll also share some highlights from the archives' collection.

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

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

CELIA HERITAGE : HOW FAR DID YOUR ANCESTOR TRAVEL?
Friday 30th October 2026 from 19:45 UK / UTC



How far did your ancestors migrate within the UK before the advent of the railways and what type of people were they?

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

SOUTHERN GROUP Community Centre Wakeman Road BOURNE END SL8 5SX

SPEAKERS AND SUBJECTS TO BE ANNOUNCED
The second Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm



Details were still to be announced when Origins went to press. Please look out for local notices, or check the Society's website:

<https://bucksfhs.org.uk/events/category/events>

Northern Group

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

NORTHERN GROUP : MEMBERS' NIGHT
Wednesday 1st July 2026 7:30pm

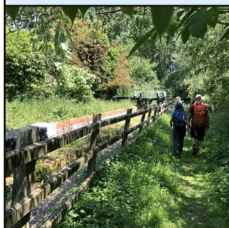


Tonight's meeting will be a members' evening, subject to be announced. Look out for local notices or check the website nearer the date:

<https://bucksfhs.org.uk/events/category/events>

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

ATHINA BECKETT : THE HISTORY OF THE BUCKINGHAM CANAL
Wednesday 5th August 2026 7:30pm

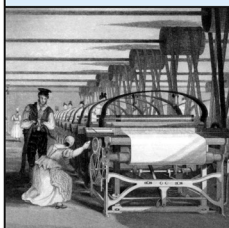


This talk is about the History and Restoration of the Buckingham Canal. The Buckingham Canal Society was founded in 1992 to protect the whole of the canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham until it can be restored to navigation and this work is being done by volunteers.

Looking along the Buckingham Canal, Lynn Jackson, Geograph CC BY-SA 2.0

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

Dr RICHARD MARKS : FROM COTTAGE TO FACTORY
Wednesday 2nd September 2026 7:30pm



The Industrial Revolution was not just a story of machines and inventions, but a profound transformation of everyday life. This talk traces the journey from cottage industries and rural handcrafts to the rise of factories, steam power, and bustling industrial towns.

Powerloom weaving 1835, T.Allom, engraved J.Tingle, public domain via Wikimedia Commons

Northern Group

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

**MARIA GREENHILL : THE GREAT EXHIBITION 1851
Wednesday 7th October 2026 7:30pm**



Maria will present her talk as a Victorian who has been to the exhibition. She will tell you about the experience - the crowds, the atmosphere and her favourite exhibits, so as to describe the 'Greatest wonder of the world' from a Victorian perspective.

From Dickinson's Comprehensive Pictures of the Great Exhibition of 1851 Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons

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

**GRAHAM HARRISON : ON YOUR DOORSTEP
Wednesday 4th November 2026 7:30pm**



We can learn a lot from the past and how our ancestors lived, loved, fought and died. That evidence is still visible, often in unlikely places. All we need is curiosity and to be observant. The talk is based on Aylesbury, where Graham, of Sun Jester, lives.

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

**KATE WILLS : CHRISTMAS IN KHAKI 1914-1918
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 7:30pm**



Kate presents messages and images from each Christmas of the Great War in turn, from the soldiers and nurses on active service. We'll hear of football matches, rescue, trench raids and truces, and exchange Christmas puddings and cards with the fighting forces.

Part of a silk embroidered card from the Great War, message I Carry Hope (Graham Gough)

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.



February 2026

Members' Meeting

Members shared their research stories with the group.

Tom Hart

Tom told us about his great-grandfather, Emery James CHURCHER, who lived most of his life in India, and how he and his family coped with the events of the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Emery lost two of his brothers, killed by the rebels, but he managed to move his parents to safety in the fort at Agra. He was then sent by the lieutenant-governor to remove the rebel rajah in Etah, a strategic city 45 miles away on the Grand Trunk Road. He recruited a scratch group of armed men and took over Etah and ran it as the sole European for many months, all this at the age of 25. Tom had some very early photographs of these relatives copied from glass plates.

Dianne Sutton

Dianne showed us an amusing letter from the Registrar General that she had found when searching Bedfordshire's online archives catalogue.

It caught her eye as it related to the marriage of a (presumably Roma) couple who were camped in Bedford and the vicar, as they weren't residing in houses, wanted to know what was to be put on the marriage certificate for the residence.

Dianne bought a copy of the certificate which showed that it was the Chaplain of Bedford prison rather than the vicar who had conducted the ceremony and on the certificate it was made very clear that their residence was not just a tent but "a tent on the Kimbolton Road in the parish of St Peter's Bedford".

It was noted that some members of travelling communities in 1889 could sign their name – the groom having done so while the bride made her mark.

Rex Watson

Back in 2003 Rex was showing a Canadian cousin round the area where his family originated. At the parish church they found his grandfather Arthur's grave had been recently cleaned and bore an additional tribute: 'Ethel Emma S..... Those who love you always Bob and Rene'. After having the tribute removed, Rex was later able to find the grave where Ethel Emma was buried. It was the grave of Arthur's uncle. Research at that time found that Ethel had married in 1903 but her husband had died in 1906. In 1910 Ethel had a son, Robert Hugh W..... . The child bore his father's name though the couple were unmarried at the time. They subsequently married in 1914. Hugo W.... was a German. Contact via the undertaker with the person who arranged the tribute provided the information that his father had changed his name from W.... to S.... in 1938.

Recent research revealed the following. Hugo W.... was interred in 1914 as an alien. Though visited and financed by Ethel Emma, home visits involved abuse and the marriage ended in divorce in 1919 with lurid details making the national press. By 1919 Ethel was living with Max S..., also a German, who she married soon after. Robert Hugh W.... was already known as Robert S... when in 1927 he was charged with assaulting a girl on a train

(result unknown). A year later he received an award as best student at the Pitman College. Robert married Irene L... in 1934 (the Bob and Rene of the tribute). Reference to the wills of Robert and Max allowed further family details. Ethel had had two children with her first husband. Max in his will left money to Robert and his wife's two earlier children also to their children, his wife's grandchildren, plus to Ethel Emma's sisters. The latter had helped with the children during her troubles. Robert and Irene had four children of which two survived. The elder was the contact mentioned above. He attended Cambridge University and represented the UK skiing at a postwar Winter Olympics. He married twice and had six children. One of his daughters is a world famous animal artist.

All references to this family show they were well off and moved in society circles. Robert and Irene's other surviving child, a daughter, had a world tour as a 21st birthday present. They had large business interests in Jamaica and other West Indian islands. Though all family use the name S... they have none of Max S... blood since he and Ethel Emma had no children.



March 2026

My Father's Journey Through WW2

Andy Tennant

Andy's father was a Northampton man and volunteered for service in February 1940, serving through till March 1946. Sent to France in early 1940, he was unable to get to Dunkirk and had to make his own way back to England, along with many others – a harrowing experience. Having boarded a ship sent to pick up troops from the French west coast he was back on shore as the ship was sunk. He eventually got home in a fishing boat.

Later, in the build-up to D-Day, Andy's father was assigned to Montgomery's staff and as such had access to any number of historical documents, the majority of which he kept. In fact, he collected documents from the day he joined till he was discharged and these made up the bulk of this presentation.

Many had historical significance and others, whilst appearing mundane, gave a real insight to the day-to-day life of the ordinary soldier. Andy's father also took a number of photos during his service, and all of these, along with his army service record and various other mementos, allowed Andy to build up an almost complete record of his service.

The presentation also explored Andy's 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.



April 2026

Legacy in Sugar and Gold

A Family's Story of Artistry

Paul Ferguson MBE

In April the North Bucks group welcomed Paul Ferguson, an internationally known carver and gilder. Paul had inherited a folio showing the work of his father— an acclaimed cake artist for films, premieres, and celebrities showing events illuminating the artistry behind some of the entertainment industry's events. Paul showed us some of the amazing creations in icing. Though many of our elder members recognised many of the famous faces, Paul was often unable to supply details of the events portrayed. (Like many of us, he had failed to ask the question when he could.) This was a captivating talk exploring the generational journey of craftsmanship in one British family.

The talk continued with the next generation, Paul, who has transformed the inherited passion for detail and beauty into a celebrated career of artisan wood carving and gilding. Paul showed us examples of his carvings and gilding, explaining materials and techniques used. He referenced some of the historic works he had been involved in, for example restoration work at Windsor Castle following the fire and maintenance work on the Cutty Sark.

This heartfelt presentation celebrated not only the skills passed from parent to child but also the enduring values of creativity, dedication, and excellence that define true artisanal legacy.



May 2026

“A Lot Can Happen In Ten Years”

Andy King

Andy King, one of our local members, related the story of his 4th great-uncle, Philip LOCK. Philip was a hairdresser in both the 1841 and 1851 censuses; however, those ten years hid quite a story. We learned how he was convicted at the Somerset Lent Assizes of 1843 sentenced to transportation for 15 years. He was sent to the Stirling Castle prison hulk in Plymouth Devonport along with 13 other men, though Philip was never sent overseas, remaining on the hulk for six years before being pardoned in 1849.

Illustrated by newspaper articles, pictures and other, slightly more unusual records, Andy covered how the hulks had come into being, how they grew to be the main form of imprisonment for serious crimes in Britain as well as colonies such as Gibraltar and Bermuda, and gave us a view of life on them. Andy covered the varied fates of several of the 13 other men – some who returned to Britain, some who made new lives for themselves in Australia, and those who sadly died in the harsh environment of the hulks.

On the way we learned a bit about hairdressing in the 1840s (a more common occupation than may have been thought), and Philip’s socialist views and chartism, before seeing how the growing opposition to the hulks and a drive for prison reform helped a petition by his family and friends secure Philip’s pardon and release. Sadly, although he enjoyed a brief family life, Philip’s story ends with him committed to a lunatic asylum where he spent the final 20 years of his life before dying there in 1890.

Although Philip was not from Buckinghamshire, Andy had found several Bucks men on the Stirling Castle hulk, and one of the names was recognised by someone in the audience.

Andy finished by encouraging us all not to dismiss consecutive census records showing someone doing the same job, in the same place, assuming that nothing much had happened, as those ten years could hide quite a lot. It would be lovely to hear from other members who have an interesting story to tell.

Summary submitted by the Speaker

Why Can't I Find 'My Parish'? *

Tony Sargeant

People ask the same question for each parish that has no register transcription published by Bucks FHS. I have been asked to write about the state of the Society's parish register transcription project, which is a long-running activity undertaken by Society volunteers.

The project has come a long way with the advent of computers – they have been a hindrance and a help in the work. At one time a baptism or burial record was confined to 80 characters. This was the original line length in early word processors. Now the baptisms and burials can be any length. Since 2020 the computer storage has changed to a more modern system, preserving the information in a useable form. With these changes the way of working has evolved to move away from an all-paper system to a mixed paper/computer system. Further evolution may happen if there is a gain for the project.

The numbers here are based on an estimate table that was originally created in 2010. If parishes are counted, the parishes completed is 48%, while the published records is 52.35%. So, the project is about half way in those terms. But the project is in fact much further ahead, as the remaining

47.65% records have been transcribed. So in reality we are close to three quarters of the way done.

We are in the process of picking up each parish that appears to be interesting and working through to fix problems. This has stages starting with checking each record for correctness, sometimes using Bishops' Transcripts to complete an entry or discovering missing records. Once the baptisms, burials and marriages are done, then the Banns of Marriage are entered. We only record those where there is no marriage in the parish.

Checking is also about consistency. Is what appears in the entry what appears in the register? Were names abbreviated? Working recently in a register, a transcriber wrote 'illegitimate' on the entries where only the mother is mentioned. But the register did not mention the word, so it was removed. The transcriber may have been right, but the transcription is more correct when it matches the original entry.

There is a group of parishes, managed by The Claydons and Swan Team, which has not deposited some old registers. Bucks have tried to contact them in the past and received no response. Recently there has been a change in the personnel, and this may lead to some old records being deposited. At Chenies there could be a missing baptism register. These items have not been followed up as there is enough to be getting on with.

What is in the future? There are three parishes outstanding, Chesham, Newport Pagnell and Great Marlow, each with over 40 thousand records. Personally, I am working on Datchet, while others are working on Bletchley, Castlethorpe, Marsh Gibbon, Swanbourne and Wavendon.

Checking is not for everyone, and the project is probably past the stage where useful work can be done from fiche at home. This is mainly due to the quality of the fiche produced in the 1990s. If you are interested in working through a parish (not necessarily your parish*), and can get to Bucks Archives, please get in touch.

Many thanks to everyone who has participated in this project over the years.

Tony Sargeant

*Insert parish name of your choice.

Diary Dates

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

Details are correct at the time of writing (May 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 27th June 10am to 3.30pm	Wiltshire Family History Day Bromham Community Hub, New Road, Bromham, Wiltshire SN15 3JB https://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/about-us/news/4576-2026-family-history-day-bromham
Sat 18th July 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm	Berkshire Heritage On-Line Fair Two sessions 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 via Zoom Free, but booking required https://berksfhs.org/berkshire-heritage-online-fair-2026/
Sat 3rd October 10am to 4pm	The Family History Show, London Local and national exhibitors, many family history societies, archives and companies. Free parking and accessible by local transport. Venue: Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd E, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 5AQ For tickets, visit: https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/

Sat 24th October 10am to 4pm	Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair The Cherwell School, North Site, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford OX2 7EE Free If travelling by car, it is suggested that you use the Banbury or Woodstock Roads from the north, as Oxfordshire County Council has introduced a congestion charge which affects several roads, including Marston Ferry Road (restriction point east of The Cherwell School), between 0700-0900, 1500-1800. https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/ofhs-family-history-fair-24th-october-2026
November 2026	Buckinghamshire History Festival A month of historical events celebrating all the fantastic heritage in Buckinghamshire. Visit the What's On web page for details of events https://histfestbucks.co.uk/whats-on/ See also Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and X (Twitter) for updates.
Sat 7th November 10am to 4.30pm	Surrey Family History Fair Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking Surrey GU22 9BA Family history societies, commercial companies and local history groups. Research area and specialist help desks. Free. Refreshments available. On-site parking (charges apply). https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php

Other events

Websites for family history events:

National Archives

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/>

Guild of One-Name Studies (GOONS)

<https://one-name.org/events/>

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

Priory Avenue, High Wycombe, HP13 6PX
<https://wycombemuseum.org.uk/visit>

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

The Parslows of Princes Risborough

Anita Waite

Alan Dell Award winner 2025

A long-forgotten link to Tudor kings

After 25 years of researching my family history I had never found aristocratic ancestors. And I hadn't expected to.

But to my surprise, in early 2025 I discovered that the PARSLOW (my mother's) family from Princes Risborough has a long-forgotten link to the aristocratic LESTRANGE family – including Sir Thomas LeStrange – Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII.

The Parslows are Buckinghamshire through and through. I've traced them back to the 1500s and they've always lived around Princes Risborough, Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Parslow's Hillock – in the Chiltern Hills. Until now the name 'Parslow's Hillock' has been our greatest claim to fame.

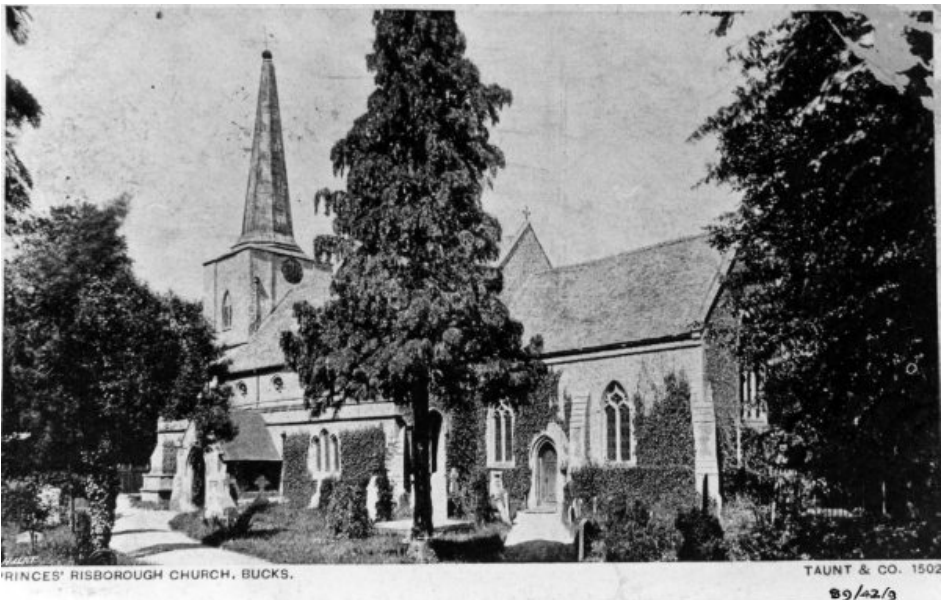
They were christened, married and buried at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough – a mixed bunch of farm labourers, timber merchants, chairturners, chairmakers, lacemakers and publicans.

So when a fellow member of the High Wycombe Now and Then Facebook group got in touch about a common ancestor, and a link to the LeStrange family of Hunstanton, Norfolk, I was sceptical.

The LeStranges were aristocrats – noblemen, politicians and part of the inner circle of Tudor kings, from Henry VIII, Henry VII and Henry IV, going back for generations as far as King John.



Parslow's Hillock, probably early 1900s
(Image courtesy of SWOP <https://swop.org.uk/>: MHW:46288)



St Mary's Parish Church, Princes Risborough
(Image courtesy of SWOP <https://swop.org.uk/>: RHW:12937)

But they are related to the Parslow family through an unassuming woman called Rose BROWNE (born 1560), (the granddaughter of Alice Chappell LeStrange) who married William Parslow in Princes Risborough in 1585.

A family link to Tudor kings through the female line

Many of us have concentrated on researching our male ancestors but, interestingly, my connection to this aristocratic family is through the female line, one until recently I'd overlooked.

Many female ancestors have been forgotten throughout history. Women are harder to trace and sometimes their surnames are lost, with records hard to find.

Rose Browne was the daughter of John BROWNE (born 1535) and Alice CHAPMAN (1538–1630).

In turn, Alice Chapman was the daughter of Thomas Chapman (a gentleman of Saxlingham, Norfolk) and Alice Chapell LeStrange (1505–1560) who were married in Ivinghoe, Bucks in 1530.

Alice Chapell LeStrange was born in Saxlingham, Norfolk in 1505, the daughter of Sir Thomas LeStrange (1494–1579) and Anne Vaux (1488–1569), who had 14 children including Sir Nicholas LeStrange, Sir Roger LeStrange and Sir Edmond le Vaux LeStrange. They had five daughters, including Alice – Rose's grandmother.

And this is how we are descended from Sir Thomas LeStrange of Hunstanton, Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII.

Sir Thomas LeStrange – Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII

Sir Thomas' role included dressing the King and he would have been a close confidant. He attended the King when he went to the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 and was knighted by Henry at Whitehall in 1529.



**Portrait of Sir Thomas
LeStrange – 1536 – by Hans
Holbein the Younger,**
*(Public domain, via Wikimedia
Commons)*

Sir Thomas was appointed High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1532 and was in attendance on Anne Boleyn at her coronation in 1533 – her father, Sir Thomas Boleyn, was a neighbour of his in Norfolk (at Blickling Hall) and a regular visitor to his Hunstanton property.

In 1536, Sir Thomas LeStrange was appointed to attend King Henry VIII during the Pilgrimage of Grace and in the same year was placed on the commission to inquire into the revenues of the Abbey of Walsingham, near his Norfolk estate. It is said that although Sir Thomas was a friend of King Henry, when he was employed on business connected with the Dissolution of the Monasteries, he did not appear to have used his influence at court to obtain any Church property for himself.

A family serving Tudor royalty

Going back still further, there are more LeStranges with fascinating stories.

Sir Thomas leStrange was the son of Sir Robert LeStrange of Elsing (1479–1512) and Margaret Ann Vaux Le Heydon (1469–1515) who married in Westbury, Northants in 1487. He is recorded as being an Esquire to Henry VIII.

Sir Robert's parents were Sir Henry LeStrange (1438–1485) and Katherine Drury (1450–1496). Sir Henry was Lord of Anmere Hall, Castell-Hall, Massingham Parva, Congham, Thorpe Morieux, Broke Hall, Maydenhall, Gorges, Hastings and Verdon.

Sir Henry's parents were Sir Roger LeStrange (1412–1452), knight of Hunstanton (and Esquire of the Body to King Henry VII), and Lady Alice de Beaumont, Baroness Strange.

Then we have John LeStrange of Hunstanton (1385–1426) and Alice Beaumont (1384–1436). John is said to have had three brothers fighting at Agincourt.

Before that came Sir John LeStrange, knight, of Hunstanton, MP for Suffolk and Justice of the Peace for Norfolk and Controller of King Henry IV's Household who was married to Eleanor Walkfare (1386–1418), heir to her uncle Sir Thomas Morieux, constable of the Tower of London and son-in-law to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Sir John was appointed to the Court of Henry IV and attended the great councils of 1401 and 1403, twice being appointed 'escheator' of Norfolk and Suffolk and later standing as Knight of the Shire for Suffolk in three consecutive parliaments. Much of his wealth came from sheep farming and cloth making. As Controller of King Henry IV's household he lived at Windsor Castle from 1405 to 1413.

From Sir John we go back to his father Hamon LeStrange of Hunstanton (1315–1368) and Catherine Camoys (1326–1355).

Then his father, also Hamon LeStrange, knight, of Hunstanton (1293–1317) who was born in Knockin, Oswestry, Shropshire and Margaret Vernon.

Hamon's father was Baron John LeStrange, 1st Lord Strange of Knockin (summoned to Parliament as 1st Baron Strange of Knockin in 1299) and Maud de Walton (1265–1320).

John's parents were John LeStrange (1232–1275) and Joan de Somery (1232–1276) who married in Ellesmere, Shropshire in 1250.

An aide to King John

John's parents were John LeStrange (Constable of Montgomeryshire, Wales) and Justice of Chester) and Lucy de Tregoz (1202–1294).

John was an administrator and soldier and an Anglo-Norman Marcher Lord defending England along its border with Wales. The family owned land in Shropshire, including Knockin Castle. In 1214 John took part in King John's failed campaign in Poitou and he served as Sheriff of Shropshire and Stafford, fighting the Welsh in the Welsh Marches. In 1231 King Henry III

granted him the fiefdom of Wrockwardine and between 1233 and 1240 he was constable of the royal castles at Montgomery, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth and Chester. In 1243 he served as the King's negotiator with Lord Dafydd ap Llywelyn, Prince of Gwynedd, supporting the king in the second Barons' War.

Negotiator with Llywelyn the Great Prince of North Wales

John's father was John LeStrange (1168–1234) and his mother was Amicia de la Pole (1172–1235). He was a negotiator of King John with Llywelyn the Great Prince of North Wales in 1204 and 1214. He was granted the manor of Kidderminster in 1216 and was Governor of the Castle of Carracove in Wales as well as Sheriff of Shropshire. He was given the lordships of Nesse and Cheswardine by King John and enjoyed the manor of Wrockwardine.

His father John LeStrange I (1140–1178) was married to Hawise de Warenne (1140–1178).

It is believed that the LeStrange family may have originated from Anjou.

A contrast with the agricultural labourers of Buckinghamshire

Uncovering this distinguished lineage was quite a surprise! I discovered the connection while researching my BURNHAM (maternal grandmother's) family who were firmly rooted in Buckinghamshire's farming community – labourers rather than landowners!

The Burnhams travelled from farm to farm to find work – from West Wycombe to Medmenham, Naphill, Princes Risborough, Hughenden, Downley and Radnage.

By the age of eight or nine, their children would often be working on nearby farms, no longer living with their parents – clearly a harsh life.

The contrast with the LeStranges couldn't be more dramatic.

Forgotten female lines

I have no idea how Rose Browne, a descendent of the illustrious LeStrange family, found herself married to a farmer in Princes Risborough. Perhaps the LeStranges found it difficult to find wealthy husbands for successive daughters. Or maybe the Parslow family was wealthier than I imagined in the 1500s.

But by looking more closely at the women in my family, I've discovered a fascinating new story opening up – and links to royalty and aristocracy that I had never imagined.

Anita Waite

Aylesbury in Verse

Peter Harding

I have acquired a small pocket book edition of 'Highways & Byways of Buckinghamshire', by Clement Shorter, published in 1928 based on the first edition of 1910. What has caught my attention is the history of Aylesbury Market Square and associated poetry.

The following describes Aylesbury Market Square some hundred years ago:

Standing in the centre of the large market square we face the
"George" Inn, while our back is to the Corn Exchange. A hundred
years ago we should have faced the "King's Head" Inn, now buried in
a side street,

The George Inn is not in existence any more but in its day was an inn favoured by Lord Beaconsfield, leader of the Opposition in 1874. Apparently, he found the Government of the day at fault over a treaty securing the freedom of the Malacca Straits for trade with China; and addressed the men of Buckinghamshire from one of the inn windows. Gladstone was credited with replying to Lord Beaconsfield with a rhyme, attributed to a Horace Lloyd:

The farmers of Aylesbury gathered to dine,
And they ate their prime beef, and drank their old wine,
With the wine there was beer, with the beer there was bacca,
The liquors went round and the banquet was crowned
With some thundering news from the Straits of Malacca!

Another interesting old inn of Aylesbury was the “White Hart”, which stood until 1864, when it was demolished to make way for the Corn Exchange and Market Hall. This inn is associated with the romance of a Grace Gilvey, who was the landlord’s daughter in Cromwell’s time, around 1651. She had two suitors, one a cavalier and the other a Puritan, but married the royalist after the Restoration of the monarchy. A description of the inn after the battle of Worcester follows:

A band of soldiers, with their merry din,
Filled the rude kitchen of the White Hart Inn.
Some round the spacious chimney, smoking, sat,
And whiled their time with battle-talk and chat;
Some at the snow-white table gamed and swore,
While pikes and matchlocks strewed the sanded floor.
Gilbert, the landlord, ‘mid the group was seen,
With full red face, bright eye, and honest mien;
He smoked in silence in old arm chair,
Nor joke nor jest disturbed his saddened air.

In chapter VI a description is made of the journey along Akeman Street and in particular of Quarrendon and Quainton. A description of the surrounding land is made:

We find ourselves in the rich pasture lands that doubtless inspired the lines in Drayton’s Poly-Olbion: -

Aylesbury vale that wallowed in her wealth
And (by her wholesome air continually in health)
Is lusty, firm and far; and holds her youthful strength!

From Aylesbury a mile or more of walking takes us to the ruined chapel of Quarrendon. It stands in a field and can be approached from the Bicester or from the Buckingham Road. The former being the better route, although there is only a cart track. By the Buckingham Road you are fully two miles from Aylesbury before you turn down a grassy track on your left, and passing through some gates across a field come to a meadow where you can see the ruin in front of you. You walk with much discomfort across this meadow, where there is no footpath, and then you come across the cart-track from the Bicester Road, and the ruin is here on your left.

Peter Harding

(First published in Aylesbury Vale U3A Newsletter in 2021)

Missing in Australia

Lynda Reid

A selection of missing family and friends ads from the Australian papers

Feb 1873 – Information is requested respecting John PAYNE of High Wycombe, Bucks, and Thame, Oxon, England, who arrived in New South Wales about the year 1856, and was last heard of in the Goulburn District, in the year 1869. Information to the Inspector General of Police.

May 1895 – ELTON, Charlie of Long Crendon, who left England for Sydney in 1884, and went to New Zealand in 1887, is sought by relatives.

Jan 1897 – LUCAS, James of Tingewick went to Queensland in 1865; last heard of at Stanhope in September 1873. Brother John seeks tidings.

Oct 1899 – STUCHBERRY, Ephraim, formerly of Hillesden, last wrote from the Croydon goldfields in Queensland.

Nov 1899 – EDMONDS, Richard, left Longwick, near Princes Risborough in 1857; last letter in April 1862, from Spring Creek, Burrongong goldfields, Australia.

May 1900 – CLARE, Charles, native of Clifton Reynes, Olney; last heard of at Woodlands post-office, Southlands, New Zealand, 12 years ago.

May 1900 – MANSELL, Mary Ann (nee MILLS), formerly of Charndon, now supposed to be in Australia, or of her daughter Emma.

Sep 1902 – BLACKMAN, William left Chalvey 34 years back for Tasmania or New Zealand.

Dec 1903 – HILL, John Latty alias Clem Hill, an auctioneer and accountant, and native of Aylesbury; arrived in Western Australia in May 1896 and was last heard of at Day Dawn in May 1903.

Mar 1907 – SMITH, Samuel and Eliza, left Chesham, in 1848, with their son Edward, to go to Sydney. Last heard of in 1854.

May 1910 – HOLMES, Fred, who left Newport Pagnell, about 22 years ago to join an uncle in Australia.

Jun 1912 – WESLEY, Thomas, left Aylesbury, for Brisbane, 1876; last heard of 21 years ago. Sister Jane asks.

April 1915 – DARVILL, Charles, late of Iver, was last heard of in Adelaide 1910. Mother asks.

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Professional Genealogist

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AGRA
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SCAN ME

Origins at 50

How it all Started

Graham Gough

The ultimate ancestor of the journal you hold in your hands or maybe have displayed on your computer monitor, has Winter 1976 printed prominently on the cover. A letter addressed to members from then Chair Betty Foster is dated December, and is followed by a report of the Society's inaugural meeting which had taken place on 9th October, but that is as near to a date of publication as I can get.

The journal started off, and remained for some time, as a relatively slim issue, typed, and printed by ink-stencil duplicator (the office technology of the era) onto sheets of uncoated A4 paper stock – so no rogues' gallery to show you, illustrations were possible only if a way could be found to type them – OK for family trees, but that's about all. Round a table, the printed sheets were gathered by hand with the simple black-only front and unprinted rear card covers and side-stitched with four wires along the left-hand edge. Reader, beware fingers and clothes.

I confess that looking through all those old issues has been a fascinating trip into a past which at that time had still to capture my imagination. It would be three or four years before the death of my paternal grandmother sparked my interest in her Barton Hartshorn antecedents towards the end of 1980, and several more before I joined the Society.

The Society had originated as the result of a letter expressing the need for such a one, written in October 1975 by Miss Barbara Thorpe to the editor of the magazine Buckinghamshire and Chiltern Life. As a result, Barbara received offers of help from Elizabeth Simpson of the recently established Federation of Family History Societies, Mrs Betty Foster and Mrs Margaret Beechey. The following summer they approached Assistant Honorary Secretary of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Mr Horace R.

Brackley, who helped them to form a working party from whose labours the inaugural meeting resulted. Betty Foster became Chair of the newly formed Society, Barbara Thorpe its Secretary and Margaret Beechey a member of the Executive Committee along with John Heygate-Browne, Edward Legg, Eve McLaughlin and John Shreeve.

The journal would be the principal means by which the Society communicated with its members on a formal level, and has recorded a regular snapshot of its doings ever since. Editorship of *Origins* was taken up by Tony Dolphin, who wrote: ‘...I do hope you approve of the choice of title, which I feel epitomizes the underlying quest of us all...’ In the course of fifty years no one seems to have disagreed with Tony’s statement, or of his aim ‘...to produce a publication of balanced content to suit the broad range of members’ knowledge and experience...’

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our first journal. Initial finances dictate a fairly modest effort, but big oak trees from little acorns grow - although in our case a more appropriate adage would be, large beech trees from small beech nuts grow (for those non-arboreally-minded readers: our cover is the beech tree synonymous with Bucks!). However, I do hope you approve of the choice of title, which I feel epitomizes the underlying quest of us all, and please write to me if you have any suggestions, contributions or helpful criticism. My aim is to produce a publication of balanced content to suit the broad range of members' knowledge and experience and to achieve this, I need your help.

Editor

Editor's Note, *Origins* Vol 1 No 1 page 1 1976

That first journal, and those which followed, listed the names, full addresses and telephone numbers of each and every new member (no concerns about privacy then) along with their research interests. Alan Dell, who would contribute so much to the Society over the following decades, was one of them, Jeremy Gibson another. Unfortunately, Tony Dolphin was an early casualty of that problem of balancing the commitments of a full time job with those of taking on any sort of volunteer work which has a regular schedule. John Heygate-Brown assumed the blue pencil for Volume 1 Number 3, and late in 1977 an editorial committee was formed, whose aim was to widen the range of interests the journal was to represent

in its pages. Contributed articles were being received in addition to what might be termed snippets, and notes and queries began to be submitted by members. Volume 1 Number 4 attained an extent of 28 pages. Possibly the formation of that committee had sought to build upon this naturally occurring phenomenon, but a comment in 1983 by outgoing chairman Christopher Lake suggests the fledgling Society was not then a settled and happy organisation, so other reasons may have played a part.

Origins Volume 2 Number 1, produced under the editorship of Terence McLaughlin for Spring 1978 lists Christopher as the newly elected Chair, under whom Eve McLaughlin had become Secretary, Alan Dell Treasurer, and Christina Jeffery Librarian. The Executive Committee was completed by Joyce Donald, Nora Little, Beryl Padgham and Joyce Skinner. Three area representatives were also listed. The issue admitted that the membership numbering scheme, and the published details of members' interests had both got into a muddle. The first had been resolved, with new membership numbers having been issued, and it was hoped that the second would be resolved by members' responses to an appeal for help. This number also marks the appearance of more substantial articles aimed at guiding members' research. It is perhaps hard for us in our almost instantaneous Ancestry–FindMyPast–Genealogist world to imagine just how comforting a guide to reading and interpreting census returns – available for 1841 to 1871 only – might have been before attempting to consult them at the Land Registry Buildings in Portugal Street, WC2.

Things seemed to be improving, though, from the perspective of research. Volume 3 Number 1 for Spring 1979 announced that the County Record Office had been prevailed upon to remain open until 7.45 during the evening of the first Wednesday of each month, albeit with 'fearsome' regulations attached. Membership had doubled to 264 during the preceding year, and would continue to grow. It was at this time that Gordon Honeycombe's series was being broadcast on BBC2, fuelling wider interest. The autumn edition brought a sort of (lack of) progress report. Despite the efforts of former County Archivist Mr E. J. Davis, who had been appointed by the Bishop to inspect those parish registers still held by incumbents, registers were being deposited with the Record Office more slowly in Buckinghamshire than in many other counties. The year went out on a high note: the run-up to Christmas brought with it a cause

UPS AND DOWNS OF GENEALOGY

Two of our members, Mr Alan Dell of Askett and Mr John Shreeve of Rickmansworth, have kindly contributed the following personal experiences which give a good start to the 'Ups and Downs of Genealogy' section. I hope to make this a regular feature, so please put pen to paper if you have any amusing or informative experiences to relate. - Editor.

WE WAS ROBBED !

.... by A J Dell

Have you noticed how, whenever you mention in quite a casual manner your interest in family matters, the subject always comes up of the estate which was inherited by the other side of the family and which was really our birthright. Had it not been for such and such an occurrence, we would have been sitting up there at the Manor House in great splendour.

You can imagine the excitement I felt when embarking upon my own family history to find that my grandfather, whose folks I had always thought to have been farm labourers, had, according to his Birth Certificate, been born at a place called Small Beer Hall in a rural part of Hertfordshire. Not a Cottage! Not a house! Not even a Manor House, but an actual Hall! What visions of magnificence flitted across my mind - Melbourne Hall, Long Melford Hall, Hardwick Hall, Haddon Hall, No! I would settle for Small Beer Hall.

Alas, it was as the name suggests - very small beer - a row of agricultural cottages set off the road in a field with earth and rush covered floors.

The 1861 Census showed the family in even greater magnificence. Their residence in that year was given as "The Pest House", a cottage owned by the authorities in which - when not being used for isolation purposes - the poorest family of the parish could live rent free. Is it surprising that my grandfather caught Small Pox and it is recorded that his father died of the disease in 1865? No doubt someone else's germs still lurked in "The Pest House".

TRACING THE SHREEVES

.... by J Shreeve

I first became interested in creating a 'Shreeve' family tree about 15 years ago on the death of my father. When tidying up his papers I came across the original draft of a tree which he had drawn up some 40 years previously. Unfortunately, my mother destroyed the final version so I had to start again almost from scratch.

Relations known to me at the time, apart from my mother who was not very forthcoming, consisted of one aunt who did give me a very vague set of clues.

Birth and marriage certificates from Somerset House, in the days when they were not so expensive, took me back some way. Information from the 1851 and 1861 census returns was helpful in confirming the whereabouts of some of the family and the church records at Ticknall (Derbyshire) have taken me back to 1777. Although the parish records go back a further hundred years, there is no previous mention of the Shreeve family.

Origins Vol 1 No 1

Alan Dell and John Shreeve make their first marks on the Society

for celebration above and beyond the festive one: no capital letter, asterisk or exclamation mark was spared in announcing the arrival of the Society's own microfiche copy of the IGI. The event was made all the more welcome by the acquisition, following a successful appeal to members for donations, of a magnificent fiche reader at greatly reduced price, courtesy of member Keith Neuhooffer.

Meetings with talks has always been the means by which the Society has communicated with its members and involved them on the social level. The subjects and dates were listed in each issue of *Origins* just as we try to do today, but back then speakers were unable to elect to remain in the comfort of their homes, emerging only virtually, a factor which plagues the efforts of our modern-day organisers in Bourne End and Bletchley. They gave their talks face to face or not at all. Members were warned that tea and coffee at meetings hung in the balance though, unless someone came forward to organise it. In the previous summer of 1978 Librarian Christina Jeffery had announced that future talks would be recorded to cassette tape, and the cassettes made available for loan in exchange for 30p (only 20p if you were able to collect the cassette and save Christina having to post it to you). The scheme suffered initially from poorly made recordings which were difficult to hear, and an appeal went out for someone with a reel to reel recorder who could effectively become engineer and producer. Len Gamston stepped in. He was succeeded by Martin Underwood, and by 1980 recorded talks were 20 in number and even included one on the subject of reading old handwriting...

It was with regret that for 1980 the Society was obliged to increase its annual subscription to £3.50. *Origins* Volume 4 Number 1 opened with a warning to those few who had failed to renew their subscriptions, but was accompanied by a six-page supplement carrying a full list of every resource the Society's library offered. The year's AGM was to take place at the Buckinghamshire Museum, Aylesbury, and would be followed by a talk entitled *The Confessions Of A Thrasher Driver's Mate*, delivered by Councillor Bill Rose; a family history class at Milton Keynes had been organised by Barbara Jevon-Knights; for 45p a head there would be a day trip to Pitstone and Ivinghoe hosted by resident farmer Jeffrey Hawkins, to which children were welcome at half price, although parents were encouraged to ensure none fed brothers or sisters into the chaff cutter;

a mini conference was to take place at Bassetsbury Manor mid July, organised jointly with the Oxfordshire and Windsor and Slough Family History Societies; and those interested children who had survived Pitstone were invited to a junior conference one afternoon in August, hosted by Eve McLaughlin.

Although more volunteers were needed to progress the transcribing of parish registers (sound familiar?) by 1980 enough was available and had been typed for limited searches to be undertaken. The Buckinghamshire Marriage Index was 'growing nicely' – over 80,000 card slips had been created – and under Angela Crabtree monumental inscriptions were being collected and typed, and for seven parishes the results were about to see publication, with a further three parishes following close behind. Again, volunteers were encouraged to further the project, either by turning up and joining a working party at a church, or by nominating a church in which they held an interest and getting on with it. Reading back through these reports it's hard not to feel the sense of enthusiasm that generated them.

The same year had dawned on a Society having exactly 400 members. Benefits included the aforementioned meetings, of which 16 had been announced during the preceding year; a rapidly expanding lending library of reference works; the mentioned cassette tapes of speakers' talks; exchange journals; the growing marriage index; a 'query' service; aid to those beginning genealogy; a directory of members' interests, although this was provided at an additional cost of £1; help with accommodation for visiting genealogists (!) and of course the journal, *Origins*.

In the late summer came a setback to the Society and a blow to Eve: the unexpected and early death of Terence McLaughlin. Members of the Executive Committee rallied round. Alan Dell penned an obituary and an appeal for volunteers to help take up the load. Eve acknowledged in Volume 4 Number 3 how it had been Alan who had helped her over the first shock, and that Christopher Lake had given up his time to help her arrange everything which needed to be arranged, and Christopher who had taken the funeral service. Somehow Eve managed to assume editorship of *Origins*, this in addition to most of the production work needed to publish it, while continuing to contribute many articles. This was on top of her secretarial role: early in January 1981 she had persuaded County Archivist Hugh Hanley to host an evening visit to the Record Office for beginners in

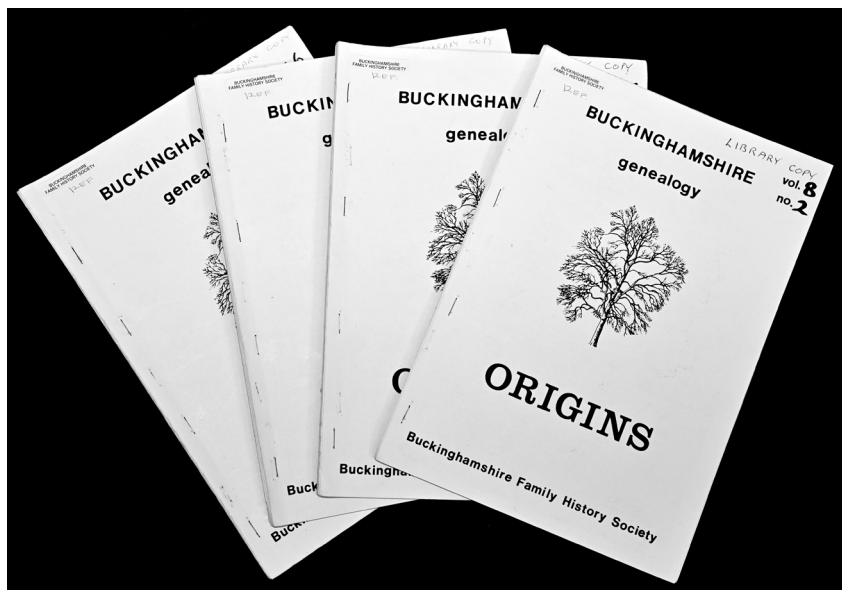
family history who wished to find out how it all worked. So popular was this, that a follow-up visit went ahead in May.

Origins Volume 5 Number 1 for Spring 1981 nearly didn't happen. These days we have trouble with projectors and computers. Back then it was the duplicator. Mechanical things wear out. Origins did appear eventually following much effort on the part of Ruth Clarke, with the help of Gordon Rodwell, and the Rev. Peter Laurence, vicar of North Marston. June Underwood, Pat Faulkner, Alan Dell and Sue Dennis rushed to gather the printed sheets and assemble them. The number contained a detailed article covering the holdings of the Guildhall Library, written by the Assistant Keeper of Printed Books Richard Harvey, who had previously delivered a talk on the subject. Membership had reached 497, of whom 54 lived overseas.

For 1981 there was a little competition: Describe the most unusual monumental inscription you have seen. A £3 voucher was on offer, but I couldn't find the announcement of the winner, nor any mention of a subsequent competition. Chairman Christopher Lake, whose speciality was royal and noble families, had become engaged – more or less by accident – to create a numbered fine edition entitled *European Rulers 1066-1981* to which he contributed 182 charts and his vast knowledge. Set to become a future collectors' item, the book was to be printed for publication on the day of the wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer, which occasion it was intended to commemorate. Fifteen copies bound in full leather would be offered at £660, with a standard edition in a half-leather binding at £230. Much frustration was vented about access to parish registers, the vicars of Amersham, Hambleden and Marlow being named and shamed in Volume 5 Number 2. (The vicar of Amersham was still unrepentant a year later.) That summer the second conference at Bassetsbury Manor attracted 'a whole flock' of Worstlers, and the day would have passed flawlessly but for the failure of a projector upon which Alan Dell had relied to illustrate his talk. His wasn't the main talk though. That was on the subject of *Keeping The King's Peace Down The Years*, delivered – and recorded – by Chief Inspector James Stephenson and reported at length in the following number of Origins.

1982 opened with an active Projects Campaign. 'Are you doing your bit to put back in what you are taking out?' asked the Editorial of Volume 6 Number 1. Nicholas Chorlton had, he'd been transcribing marriage

registers and had Akeley, Great and Little Horwood, Wingrave, Winslow and Princes Risborough to his credit. Sue Banks was busy on Hardwick, Doreen Willcocks, Vera Pether and Nobby Clarke were working on others. Roger Lord had taken over the recording of monumental inscriptions. A working party was scheduled to meet in April at Whaddon, and Nora Little was already working on Wolverton. One of Roger's first actions was to attempt to save from destruction those at the non-conformist burial ground in Castle Street, Aylesbury, which was under redevelopment. Alas, too late! The builders got there first and all that remained was a pile of rather good class hardcore. Doris Shelley and Nancy Dawkins were busy indexing the 1841 census for High Wycombe, whose originals were very poor and consequently whose microfilm was a brute of a job to read. And up in Milton Keynes, Myrtle Cooper was organising the transcription of the census returns held at the central library there. The Campaign Report ended with an appeal to those working on what we would describe as one-place studies to make known which parishes they were knowledgeable about. The number finished with a detailed article written by John Bailey A.R.P.S. on how to tackle the copying and repair of old photographs. The Society had exhibited at two shows during the year: the May Fair had been attended by icy rain, and Buckinghamshire County Show by a dust storm. Unfortunately there is no record of the number of visitors who attended.



In the autumn, Volume 6 Number 3 trumpeted the arrival on microfiche at Aylesbury Reference Library of the 1881 Census, fully indexed – that is, as to place, you still had to find your own ancestors – while despairing at the imposed closure of Buckinghamshire Archives on a Monday, due both to shortage of staff (read money) and the lack of space and facilities to carry out all of its work. For the Society this was having a knock-on effect, in particular slowing the progress of parish register transcription. On a positive note, the Society had been granted permission to hold its Aylesbury meetings in the Council Chamber. The year's Bassetsbury Conference had included a presentation by Pam and Mike Pitcher on the use of computers, and membership reached 610 by the close of the year, although subscription rates had crept up to £4 to cover increased costs.

The saga of parish registers took a new turn in 1983, by way of the vicar of Buckingham who was evidently determined to retain his. Only an old microfilm, and that a grim artefact which had originated in the 1940s, was available in the Record Office. Volume 7 Number 1 invited members to A Day Out In The Chalfonts in June. Efforts were being made to transcribe more of the census returns. Two exhibitions entitled 'How To Trace Your Ancestors' were held, one in Milton Keynes, one in Aylesbury, with the aim of extending the Society's reach. Welcome press publicity brought an early morning queue waiting to get in. At the AGM Christopher Lake relinquished the Chair to Frank (Nobby) Clarke. In his outgoing report, Christopher wrote: 'It was five years ago, when the Society was in a rather unhappy state, that I became Chairman temporarily. I have now occupied the Chairman's seat for five AGMs and although I feel I have contributed little to the daily running of the Society, owing to my many other commitments, I hope I have helped in some measure to making the Society the flourishing and happy group it is today.' Eve McLaughlin continued as Secretary and Editor of *Origins*, and Alan Dell as Treasurer. They were joined by Barbara Rodwell, Librarian, Laurence Beecher Journals Librarian and June Underwood who managed Journal Distribution. The Executive Committee was completed by Peter and Cynthia Britten, Laszlo Grof, Patrick Richards, Barry Sutcliffe, Roger Lord, and Vivien Lord who also took the minutes of meetings. *Origins* continued with little outward change, containing a regular mix of notices of forthcoming meetings and other events, members' queries, reports of interest to members, and items of data such as lists of

apprentices, or signatories to the Bledlow Petition of 1834. It had been the policy for a couple of years that summaries of speakers' talks should take preference over contributed articles, the latter having become noticeably fewer in number.

The Bassetsbury conference on 16th July would take the theme of migration and the poor. Dr. Edward Collins, Director of the Institute of Rural Life at Reading had been lined up to speak, alongside Mike Gandy, Alan Dell and Wally Prior, who had been collecting records of Buckinghamshire migrants who had moved to the north, principally to Cheshire and Lancashire. All this for £3. Then came an unexpected cause for panic: during a violent storm at the end of May, lightning struck and burnt part of Bassetsbury Manor. Wycombe Council rose to the occasion, though, putting repairs in place before the end of June. Meanwhile, the fiche reader and IGI would be made available at the meeting at Milton Keynes Library on 2nd of July, with places of interest around Milton Keynes being the object of a day trip in August. The call for volunteers to prepare card slips of the marriage index had met with such a response that there was a backlog of filing to do. It was reported that Doris Shelley and Nancy Dawkins had completed transcribing the 1841 census for Desborough Hundred. Anne Carstairs and Isabel Beckett had copied High Wycombe town for 1851, and a long list of volunteers were working on Marlow and the area between there and Wycombe, as well as elsewhere. Monumental Inscriptions, too, were coming on apace.

1983 ended with an exhibition at High Wycombe Guildhall which attracted in the region of 1,000 visitors, and a seasonal party at the Council Chamber, entertainment being provided by the Society's Thespians, who had already enlivened other meetings and talks. They performed a mummer's play written by Alan Dell entitled 'A Few Grave Thoughts', which covered the period from 'Time Immoral' to 1979. Attendees were encouraged to arrive wearing ancestral dress (whatever that may have been!).

1984 brought a revised Constitution to the AGM with the object of applying to the Charity Commission for charitable status. It was also thought fitting once again to acquire for the Society a President, a position which seems either to have lapsed or gone unmentioned since 1977. The Right

Honourable Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury, consented. At the same time Christopher Lake agreed to come back as Vice-President. Due to its popularity, the Bassetsbury conference had outgrown the venue, and the year's conference would take place at The Coachhouse, Green Park, Aston Clinton. The theme would be Battle, Murder and Sudden Death.

By the time Volume 8 Number 1 came out in the spring, Bob Goss had compiled and produced a 35-page index to the wills held by Hertfordshire Record Office for those Buckinghamshire parishes which were peculiars of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans. Origins expressed indignation at an increase in the price of birth, marriage and death certificates, to £5 if applied for in person, or £10 by post. The death of founding member Joyce Donald was reported. There had been another large increase in membership, 77 during the previous year, and because there were now many more members from the High Wycombe area and from the north of the county, local meetings had begun on an experimental basis, the Aylesbury meeting having been regularly drawing an attendance of ninety or more.

In an almost Orwellian nod towards things to come, 1984 drew to a close with two significant announcements. The Autumn edition of Origins proclaimed the desire to demonstrate to members what could be done with computer storage of records, a theme first aired at the Bassetsbury conference two years earlier. Keith Neuhofer would be the guide at an event being planned for the following March. In order to give a taste of the new technology to as many members present as possible, Keith appealed to all Sinclair owners to bring their equipment along. Secondly, Origins' A4 stencil-duplicated format would give way in the new year to a professionally printed journal. Illustrations would be possible, and the only wires looking to draw blood would be those hidden away in the centre.

Fifty years on from that first edition, we have long grown accustomed to digesting the journal in its more comfortable, reader-friendly A5 format, although if you continue to do so in physical form, its monochrome heritage continues to this day. Essentially, Origins hasn't changed in either the purpose or aim voiced by Tony Dolphin all those years ago.

Graham Gough

Origins at 50

A Fun Quiz

How is your Society, family history, and local knowledge?

Touching your Society...

1. How many were the members who founded Buckinghamshire Family History Society following its inaugural meeting in October 1976?
2. Name the Society's first Honorary President.
3. In 1977, what was the individual UK subscription rate for membership of the Society?
4. At what location were the Society's first meetings held?

Matters of research...

5. Under the burial in woollen Acts, when somebody was buried in linen, what fine was imposed, and who got the money?
6. In 1847 Seer Green became a parish. Which parish was the village part of before that date?
7. Name Buckinghamshire parishes having pre-1841 census records naming some or all people.

8. What is odd about the church at Little Hampden?
9. Name three monuments in Buckinghamshire not related to the First or Second World Wars.
10. In a burial register, what is usually meant by the phrase 'Put in the Ground'?
11. Before 1834, which parish document lists some of the parishioners?
12. When looking at a Kelly's Directory, what should be borne in mind about the entries?
13. What makes Overseer's Account Books a good source of historical information?
14. For Victorian court cases in Buckinghamshire what are the two main sources?
15. What can be discovered in Quarter Session Records about a court case?
16. What is Settlement?
17. What can the School Admission Records tell a researcher?
18. What is a Release?
19. What records in the Quarter Sessions give information about businesses in Bucks?
20. What types of records can still be with Buckinghamshire parish and town councils?

21. In 1723 lists of people were created by the Buckinghamshire Justices. Who is on them?
22. There was a Poll Tax in 1694 but only one Hundred is covered by the surviving records. Which?
23. In what year did publication of intent to marry appear in registers?
24. How much does it cost to download a Prerogative Court of Canterbury Will from the National Archives Website?
25. In a census record, what is the most under recorded item in many places?
26. Between 1865 and 1868 Winslow Hall was let to Dr Theodore Boisragon. Why might this be significant to family historians?
27. If one of your 17th-century ancestors was described as a scavenger, what was his occupation?
28. If your ancestor appears in the baptism register as 'Ones', what was the child's name?
29. The bestowing of more than one given name upon children is a commonplace to us, but when did multiple given names begin regularly to appear in parish baptism registers?
30. Between 1835 and 1907 where would a couple go to be married if the bride was the sister of the groom's deceased former wife?

The perils of government and state...

31. Who, from the Buckinghamshire Gentry, proposed to Florence Nightingale and married her sister when he was turned down?
32. Which MP for Aylesbury had to flee the country after a threat of action for libel?
33. In 1821, 1855 and 1882 three men with the surname Charsley were elected unopposed. To which Buckinghamshire role were they elected?
34. Who died at Thame on the 24th June 1643? Where was this person buried the following day?
35. On the 29th of March 1822 a new facility was used at the County Hall in Aylesbury. What was it?
36. What Buckinghamshire asset was purchased by the Corporation of London in 1879?
37. Who, of the King's army, died at the Battle of Edge Hill on 23 Oct 1643? His body was not identified after the battle.
38. What links Edward Mackenzie of Fawley Court, Elizabeth Countess Howe and Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher 8th Baronet?
39. Amongst other things, Kate Parry Frye was a noted suffragist. One of her family's homes was in Bourne End. Name the house.
40. When somebody was selected to serve in the Royal Bucks Militia after 1757, how was their family supported while they were serving for 5 years?

41. What do the Bucks County Licensing Committee records describe?

Of local import...

42. Who came to Wright's Meadow, Wycombe Marsh with his Grand Spectacular Entertainment in June 1904?
43. What was special about the Great Western Railway passing through Buckinghamshire between 1874 and 1892?
44. Of the branches on the Grand Junction Canal in Buckinghamshire, which is the odd one out and why?
45. Where is the largest Anglican church in the historic county of Buckinghamshire?
46. Name three houses in the northern part of Buckinghamshire which have churches in their grounds.
47. What was the manufacturer Styles & Mealing of High Wycombe producing in 1945?
48. A church stood here for 700 years, yet its 19th-century replacement stood for a mere 125 years. In which parish did they stand?
49. In 1760, five windmills in the vicinity of Winslow were burnt down in the course of one night. What was the cause?
50. Who is buried in St Laurence Church, Upton and has a street named after him?

[We'll publish the answers in the next edition of Origins.](#)

An Evil Doer

Order for the removal of Joseph TALBOYS, “a person of evill fame and behaviour,” from Amersham to such place as certain justices shall decide to be his place of settlement. The same justices are requested to summon before them William CLARKE and Sarah MASSON, who have “often entertained the said TALBOYS,” and to punish them according to the law.

Midsummer Session, 1681. Calendar of Bucks Sessions Records, Vol. 1 (1678-1694)

Submitted by Howard Lambert

The Court of Requests

Howard Lambert

A Genealogical Source

The Court of Requests was a minor equity court covering England and Wales, operating from about 1485 to 1642. The court originally followed the King on his travels across the country, but later met in the Palace of Westminster. Initially known as the ‘Court of Poor Men’s Cases’, it aimed to provide accessible and affordable justice. It quickly became popular, much to the disapproval of the common law judges, who saw their business being eroded.

The court dealt primarily with civil cases such as land ownership, inheritance, marriage settlements, apprenticeship and trade disputes. Occasionally criminal cases such as forgery and perjury were also heard.

These records are a rich genealogical source, often revealing personal information which is not available elsewhere. Most importantly, each deposition or witness statement usually provides the person’s name, occupation, abode and age. Detailed descriptions of property, family relationships and former parishes of abode are often recorded.

These records are mainly held at The National Archives, in class REQ 2. A brief summary of each case can be freely viewed on The National Archives Discovery website. In addition, there are some published indexes, such as those printed by the Harleian Society.

Here are three court cases which I spotted in collections held at Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Library.

HONOR v SEARE

Land in Mentmore and Tring. Depositions taken 25 October 1538.

Robert HUTTON of Chesham aged 68

Thomas INWOODE of Marsworth aged 50

William SUMNER of Tring aged 23

Nicholas SERE of Marsworth aged 40

Benet SMYTH of Northchurch aged 32

Henry HONOR of Mentmore aged 30

Richard CHAPMAN of Crofton [Crafton in Wing] aged 24

Nicholas BUCKMASTER of Wing aged 54

[No other information shown]

TNA reference: REQ 2 / Bundle 3 No.139 & Bundle XI No. 31 (recorded in A. Vere Woodman Collection, WOO/18)

BERWICK v BETTERTON

May 1549

Case concerning the glebe in Stone, William BERWICK, vicar of Stone, complained that Thomas BETTERTON who had the farm of the manor of Sinclairs in Stone from Sir Robert DORMER, had deprived him without any right of 6 acres or so of glebe, apparently with the connivance of Dormer. The following persons among others made depositions:

Robert HAILE of Stone, husbandman, aged 81, stating he had known the vicar seized of this glebe for 60 years and was himself farmer of the glebe 40 years ago, holding it of one Sir Eleze etc.

Thomas HAILE of Stone, husbandman, aged 72.

Robert JENNING of Stone, husbandman aged 60.

BETTERTON appears to have had no case, as the witnesses testified conclusively against him. (Footnote by F. Gurney)

TNA reference : REQ 2/ Bundle 16 No. 15

KING v PALMER

Depositions taken 24 January 1552

John BOSSE Esquire of the Inner Temple (he of Bierton) and Nicholas BETHAM of Dourton, gent, gave evidence in a case concerning a lease of the demesne of the manor of Pollicott [Ashendon parish] between William KING, son and heir of Thomas KING, late of East Claydon, deceased, & his administrator, and Sir Henry PALMER knt. Nicholas BETHAM stated that he was then 50 years old.

TNA reference : REQ 2/ Bundle 18 No. 46. (This case and the one above both recorded in Frederick Gurney Collection, Book XIX)

These cases reproduced courtesy of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Library.

Website resources:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/court-of-requests-records-1485-1642/>

<https://www.listandindexsociety.org.uk/PUB.html?PUB=366&MOD=this>

Howard Lambert

Mills and Millwrights

Tony Sargeant

Mills

Buckinghamshire, being mainly an agricultural county, did not have the resources for industrialisation. There were a few specialist centres, like needle making in Long Crendon and tile making in Penn, in the Medieval and Early Modern periods. One of the limiting factors for industry was energy – before the coming of canal and the ability to move coal in large quantities.

The one exception was use of water mills. Wind power was not strong or consistent enough for industry; water, however, was. The highest density of water mills was along the Wye valley, although the Colne valley in Middlesex could be a contender. The mills have a long history, being recorded in similar areas in the Domesday Book. Many other parishes in Bucks had water mills which appeared to be grinding corn. Limiting factors appear to be the strength of the water flow and the need for navigation. The situation for some mills changed with the coming of the Grand Junction Canal, and the need to have water to keep it full. The Wendover Arm was created to intercept streams and there were disputes over the loss of water to mills.

Millwrights

'A person who designs or builds mills or mill machinery'

[Oxford English Dictionary]

Millwrights can be seen as specialist carpenters, the same as, for example, wheelwrights are. There are families that described their occupation as 'millwrights' but had a carpentry apprenticeship. Others just describe themselves as 'carpenters'.

When parish records are studied, more detail can be added to the distribution of millwrights and mills. In Bow Brickhill, the three CLARK

families appear in the baptism registers from 1815 to 1837. There was an apprenticeship registered with a Wm Clark of Bow Brickhill who was the Master and Harrison HITCHOCK the apprentice in Jun 1796.

In High Wycombe there is Jno COLTMAN, millwright, who took on an apprentice Henry SANFORD in May 1790, although there was also Jno Coltman, wheelwright, who took on an apprentice Edwd SHEPHERD in Oct 1785. Is this the same person with skills and work enough to have apprentices in separate disciplines?

There are parts of Bucks with only a few mills. Did they rely on journeymen to maintain the equipment? An apparent exception to this is the DULEY family in Colnbrook, whose extended family reached Harlington in Middlesex. Their base only had one mill, although another ten existed in the vicinity, including Cowley, Stanwell and West Drayton in Middlesex, and Iver, Horton and Wraybury in Bucks.

On the basis of millwrights serving a group of parishes, could one millwright cover both Amersham and Chesham in Bucks and Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire? There were the RANDALL SHEPHERD and WARRELL families in Chenies, on the river Chess, from 1815 to 1860. Also, in the early 1700s, there is the Quaker family COOKE in Amersham, the father being a millwright. In Chesham there was one family who were millwrights from 1809, where their children all appear in Independent Nonconformist records.

There were single families of millwrights in Newport Pagnell, Olney, Stoke Hammond and Wolverton, but nothing like the numbers in the south of Buckinghamshire. This correlates with the number and power of the mills along the Wye and the Colne valleys.

Later in the Victorian period there was a change where some millwrights also said they were engineers, probably reflecting the use of iron and brick in mills, replacing wood for their construction. Also during this time stationary steam engines started to appear as coal could be delivered cheaply by the railways.

Tony Sargeant

Further Recollections of High Wycombe

Bob Lynch

My initial reflections on growing up in High Wycombe during the Second World War revealed that I spent most of my early years with my grandparents.

After this had been published in *Origins* in the winter 2025 edition, I was subsequently contacted by another member who, being 6 years older than me, coincidentally lived close by and went initially to the same primary schools. She, Pam Small (née Hale), had a more lucid memory of the teachers at the various schools.

Suffice to say we both took part in country dancing in the main hall, had the same teachers and 'enjoyed' the same school dinners.

She also corrected me over William Tomm's – a manufacturer of mattresses and beds and who operated from a factory up from the Morning Star pub and crossroads on Totteridge road – when I inadvertently referred to it as Tom Burt's hill – it's funny how your memory plays tricks on you. Tom Burt's hill is over near Marlow hill some 2 miles away! However, I have no idea how it got its name.

Anyway, we have now exchanged messages and it has brought into focus that immediately post war, cinemas were much used by the locals. At the time there were four in High Wycombe – Odeon, Palace, the Rex, and then the Grand up Desborough road. I used to go to Saturday morning pictures at the Odeon where we were expected to sing accompanying the organ, then a cartoon and a main action film – all for the princely sum of three old pence.

Frogmoor was near the centre of the town and that was where the Palace and Rex cinemas were situated. It had central pedestrian area and boasted

two telephone boxes; one white and one red. The Salvation Army would regularly play there on a Sunday afternoon.

Shops were plentiful and well used. Murrays was the first department store in the town and opened in 1948. McIlroys was next, on the corner of Oxford street and Priory road, and boasted a system of transporting your money to a cashier upstairs, and then your receipt and change via an overhead cannister system. Woolworths was popular for cheap goods and sold biscuits loose from cube-shaped tins weighed into paper bags. To me it was unusual in that it had two entrances and exits – one from Oxford street and the other from the edge of Frogmoor – or have I got that wrong too?

Bob Lynch

Serendipity

Margaret Lunn

Sometimes it is just a question of being in the right place at the right time. In my case it was my attendance at the old Bucks FHS open days in Aylesbury which brought me new information and allowed me to a flight of imagination.

My grandmother's 1873 birth certificate gave her place of birth as Gothic, Silverdale and I assumed this to be a village in Staffordshire but I had never got round to researching it. However, many years ago now, on a bookstall at the open day, I came across a book called *Silverdale and Chesterton in Old Photographs*. I was browsing through it and – lo and behold! – I found a photograph entitled 'Church Street 1958 The Gothics'. The caption informed me that the Gothics was a row of cottages erected between 1851 and 1853 but they were demolished in 1960. Their biggest claim to fame is that they were used for the exterior shots in the Paul Robeson film 'The Proud Valley'. I now have both a VHS and DVD of this 1940 film allegedly set in Wales.

On a second open day at another bookstall I discovered a well-illustrated book called *Holyhead's Royal Visit*. It celebrates Queen Victoria's last visit to Ireland in April 1900. My father was born in Holyhead, of English parents on the 28th April 1900. The Queen had arrived in Holyhead on the 26th April. The town celebrated in style with military parades etc. Was my grandfather, who worked for the railway, one of the hundreds that welcomed her to the train station? Did he hear shouts of 'Regina'? Is that why my father, born two days later, was named Reginald after generations of Josephs, Williams and Johns? I will never know but I like to think so.

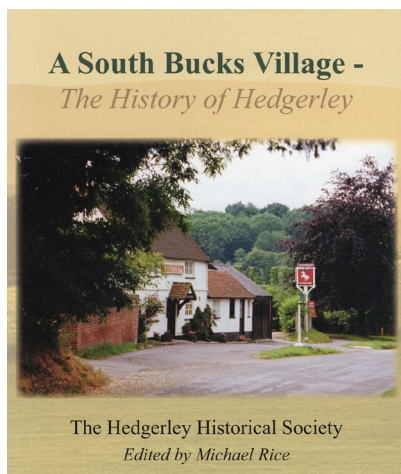
Margaret Lunn

Book Review

A South Bucks Village – The History of Hedgerley

Edited by Michael Rice

On a recent Wednesday I was able to attend the launch of a new book called *A South Bucks Village – The History of Hedgerley* edited by Michael Rice. In many ways this is a remarkable achievement as this is the fourth iteration of *The History of Hedgerley*, all under the guidance of Michael.



In a much expanded edition Michael Rice was able to recruit Julian Hunt and other authors to review, update and write new chapters for the book.

The new book contains 17 chapters covering most aspects of village history, including St Mary's Church, parish records and Lords of the Manor, all

the way to modern history like Memories of Hedgerley. Other major topics include Quakers, education, charity and Eton College. For those needing more information, the terrier of 1724 was transcribed, as well as Hedgerley field names among the appendices. This book has something for everyone. Each chapter provides a comprehensive view of the subject.

A book like this is an excellent example for your own research. With the sources, anybody can follow up a particular subject. Similar sources can be found for any place of interest and lead to further research. Even if Hedgerley is not 'your place' you will learn a lot from this book, therefore I highly recommend it.

To get a copy contact Hedgerley Historical Society via their website.

<https://hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Tony Sargeant

TRANSPORTATION OF FELONS

At the Assizes and Gaol Delivery held at Aylesbury 1st March 1724/5, contract was made by the justices with Jonathan FORWARD of London, merchant, for the transportation of John CHATTAWAY, William PEIRCE and John CHILCOTT, felons, to America.

At a Gaol Delivery held at Aylesbury 6th March 1726/7, four justices were nominated to contract for the transportation to America of the following felons: Richard SWAINE, Stephen WILSTON, Joseph MARTIN, Thomas BURROUGHS, Robert HOLDSWORTH, Thomas EYRE, Thomas MONFORD and Thomas TURPIN.

Reference: Calendar of Quarter Sessions Records, Volume vii 1724-1730.

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Membership

There have been 38 new members since the last list, those names below have added or amended Members' Interests between 04/01/2026 and 04/05/2026 and agreed to have their details published.

7777	A DAW	Chapel Hill, AUS	alexdaw25@gmail.com
7778	D MEACHEAM	Tasmania	david.meacham@gmail.com
7781	R CRANWELL	St Neots, Cambs	richard@cancroft.net
7783	J RIDGWAY	Milton Keynes, Bucks	Jar1947@live.co.uk
7788	J SILVESTER	Aylesbury, Bucks	jenny.silvester@sky.com
7791	T BROWN	Edinburgh, Lothians	tessabrown6myrtle@gmail.com
7792	C HILL	Oxfordshire	barnwellcottage@gmail.com
7793	A SMITH	Victoria, Australia	apsmith2@bigpond.com
7804	D AINSWORTH	Lancaster	duncan@think-forward.com

Many phone numbers are changing to digital systems and some people are only using mobile devices. Please keep Bucks FHS informed of any changes by dropping an email to membership@bucksfhs.org.uk

Members' Interests registered between 04/01/2026 and 04/05/2026.

Memb No.	Surname	Location/s	County	Years
7804	ANSTEE	Swanbourne		All
7777	ANSTEY	Branninch	Devon	1787 to 1868
7792	BRETT All	BKM - Bucks		1500 to 1750
7778	BAMBURY	Woughton on the Green	Bucks	All
7778	BATES	Drayton Parslow	Bucks	All
7788	BIGGS	Wing	BKM - Bucks	All
7788	BRANDON	Wing	BKM - Bucks	All
7781	CRANWELL		All	All

Memb No.	Surname	Location/s	County	Years
7781	CRANWELL	Thornborough	Bucks	All
7777	CUTHBERT		Stirling	1845 to 1865
7777	DAW	Bradninch	Devon	1821 to 1872
7788	DOLLIMORE	Wing	BKM - Bucks	All
7777	DUNCAN	Aberdeen		1772 to 1850
7791	FIGG	All	BKM - Bucks	All
7791	FRIER	Wycombe	BKM - Bucks	1650 to 1950
7791	FRYER	Wycombe	BKM - Bucks	1650 to 1950
7792	GOODWIN	ALL	BKM - Bucks	1500 to 1750
7792	GOODWINE	ALL	BKM - Bucks	1500 to 1750
7777	GORRIAN	Tandragee		1834 to 1854
7781	GRACE	Mursley	Bucks	All
7781	GRACE	Stewkley	Bucks	All
7777	GRIEVE	Provus	Cornwall	1770 to 1870
7778	GUESS	Soulbury	Bucks	All
7788	HAWKSFORD	Leighton Buzzard	BDF - Beds	All
7788	HEALEY	Wing	BKM - Bucks	All
7777	HINDE	Olney	Bucks	1848 to 1870
7778	JONES	Stoke Golden		All
7777	LEVERTON	Ladock	Cornwall	1760 to 1860
7777	LORD	Olney	Bucks	1830 to 1866
7788	MALLET	All	BKM - Bucks	All
7781	MATTHEWS	All		All
7778	MEACHAM	Drayton Parslow	Bucks	All
7778	MEACHEAM	Drayton Parslow	Bucks	All
7778	MEACHEM	Drayton Parslow	Bucks	All
7788	PRICE	Milton Bryan	BDF - Beds	All
7788	RICKARD	Wing	BKM - Bucks	All
7778	SARGENT	Bradwell	Bucks	All
7804	SEAMONS	Hardwick		All
7777	SILCOCK	Hanley	Staffordshire	1772 to 1865
7777	SMITH	Clerkenwell	London	1822 to 1850
7788	STONE	All	BDF - Beds	All
7777	TAIT	Dundee		1852 to 1895
7788	VERNEY	Great Horwood	BKM - Bucks	All
7804	WILMIN	Bradwell	All	
7788	WOOD	Wing	BKM - 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 over 3,000 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 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1439323096168810/>



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

Alan Dell Memorial Award

*2026 competition for best
Origins article*

OPEN FOR ENTRIES

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00

See the website for more details

www.bucksfhs.org.uk



Please submit entries to the 2026 competition to:

editor@bucksfhs.org.uk