

ORIGINS

WINTER 2025



Included in this Issue

- Preachers to Publicans •
- 1851 Religious Census •
- Captain Samuel Snook •

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 290335

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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES for the year commencing 1st January 2026

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

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

MAGAZINE OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Winter 2025 Vol. 49 No. 3

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From the Editor

Welcome to a bumper Winter edition of *Origins*, where I hope you will find plenty to inspire and inform your Buckinghamshire family history research.

Now is the time to **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**. Please see details of how to do so towards the back of this journal, on page 157.

We still need volunteers and one of our Executive Committee members has provided some convincing arguments for why you should make this your New Year's Resolution for 2026 on page 126.

Users of Buckinghamshire Archives are likely to be aware by now that the current site at Aylesbury is due to close, with the archives service being transferred to High Wycombe at some point in 2026. Please keep an eye on their website for further information.

Thank you to everyone who contributed – to this issue and throughout the year. Please keep the wonderful articles coming in! The excellent Alan Dell Award runner up article by Anita Waite is included in these pages. Thank you to everyone who entered this award. It's your last chance to enter the 2025 award and win a cash prize! Visit the website for how to enter. And finally, very best wishes to you all for the Christmas season.

Rebecca Gurney editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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

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

Notes from the Honorary Secretary

Since I last wrote this piece in the previous issue of *Origins* there have been some progress and a few setbacks.

Steve Powell had to step down as Membership Secretary, a role I am now covering. He was also heavily involved with the creation of the new website, which you all should have seen by now. The website is still a work in progress, and the work continues through the efforts of Colin Kightley and Dave Foster. Thank you Steve, Colin and Dave.

Bucks FHS has been able to publish a transcription of Little Brickhill parish registers, and by the time you read this Tingewick parish registers will also be complete. There are two other parish register transcriptions in the south of Bucks also nearing completion. Bucks FHS is also starting to phase out Windows CD format for parish registers.

I am pleased to announce that Julian Hunt, who is well known for speaking and writing about Buckinghamshire, has agreed to be our Honorary President. He is also deeply involved with Bucks Archaeological Society and Bucks Records Society as well as The Housman Society.

As you can see, this is a mixed collection of news. If you are interested in being the next Membership Secretary, please see the notice on page 109 of this journal. Also, more members on the Executive Committee are always welcome.

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

Origins Submissions Deadlines

March 2026 (Spring) issue – 4th January 2026

July 2026 (Summer) issue – 5th May 2026

December 2026 (Winter) issue – 5th October 2026

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

Society Notices

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS

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

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

NOTE:

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

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Come to see us on:
**December 6th, January 3rd (tbc),
February 7th, March 7th**
between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Positions vacant:

Chairman

Membership Secretary

Executive Committee members

We also need help with:

Publicity/social media officer

Online talks

All Society activities are run by volunteers

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

Cheque payments

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

Bucks FHS Website

Images

On the Bucks FHS website (<https://bucksfhs.org.uk/>) under the heading “County” then “Bucks pictures” somewhere around 3,500 pictures have been added. Many have been copied from the old website but there have been many that have been updated or added as new.

War Graves

Over the past few months we have concentrated on photographing the Commonwealth War Graves in Buckinghamshire, as found on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. With the help of Yvonne Parker, Michele Cousins, Terence Williams and I, we have done around 95% of the graves. In a few cases we have recorded memorials, where the war dead are mentioned on headstones, but are buried abroad.

Whilst we have been recording those who perished in both World Wars, we have also photographed the War Memorials, Rolls of Honour and the church/ cemetery. If the church has been open, we have recorded the inside.

Some comments have been submitted from members and these have been added to the website.

Your help is needed:

1. Photographs of War memorials, Rolls of Honour and church interiors which have been missed
2. Significant buildings etc from Towns and villages that have not been included.
3. Information on the War Dead pages that we have not yet entered – especially if they are relatives and you have photos.
4. War graves from abroad of relatives from Buckinghamshire that you have taken.

All photographs submitted will be attributed to the sender.

Please send any information to website@bucksfhs.org.uk

Online Zoom Talks

Until we can get a volunteer to take on the organisation of online Zoom talks, I have taken on the role.

The speakers booked for the next few months are:

- Friday 28th November – Andrew Redfern – Artificial Intelligence in Family History
- December – No online talk
- Friday 30th January – Colin Kightley – Braddle, Wolverton and Stony
- Friday 27th February – Dianne Sutton – Did she really live in Bucks and marry in Northants?

Topics that are being investigated:

Station X – Bletchley Park and its influence by Polish codebreakers

Over the last couple of months, I have tried to get more speakers on Bucks related topics. In August, Mike Corbett talked about Wolverton Carriage works and in September Roger Young talked about the Saunderton Bombing.

We are trying to get more local Buckinghamshire interest into our talks and also setting up local chat groups to discuss areas, jobs etc in Bucks. As you can see, I am attempting a presentation in January, my very first one!! Can anyone do a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation or just talk, on their Bucks ancestors or places. If we could get 3 we have an evening!! Hopefully, this would stimulate interest and may stimulate others. If you are too shy, but have the materials, maybe we can get another person to present!!

Colin Kightley

The Fabulous Virtual Family History Show

Plus special interest areas: Graham Bandy, DNA, maps

Saturday, 24 January 2026

Sessions: 10.00 to 12.00 | 14.00 to 16.00

Join us for a FREE fun day!

Go to our website to register for either or both sessions:

www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/fair

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing details about joining the fair.

Organisations confirmed as attending

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS | Association of Genealogists and
Researchers in Archives | Berkshire FHS | Buckinghamshire FHS |
The Family History Society of Cheshire | Chesterfield & District FHS |
The East of London FHS | East Surrey FHS | Essex Society for Family
History | Family and Community Historical Research Society | The Guild of
One-Name Studies | The Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS | Hampshire
Genealogical Society | Lincolnshire Genealogical Society | London
Westminster & Middlesex FHS | Quaker Family History Society | Romany
and Travellers FHS | Shropshire FHS | Surrey History Centre | Sussex
Family History Group | West Middlesex FHS

Keep checking our website for the latest information



EAST SURREY
Family History Society



www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Buckinghamshire FHS has a

VACANCY

FOR A

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

This role has a few requirements.

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

The role involves:

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

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

Training will be given in all aspects of the role.

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

Society Meetings

Come and Meet Us!

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

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

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

SOUTHERN GROUP	ONLINE	NORTHERN GROUP
Community Centre Wakeman Road BOURNE END Bucks SL8 5SX email: southernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk On the second Tuesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year). Doors open 7:30pm Meetings start 7:45pm	Held via Zoom. Members only. Log in to the Society's website for joining details, and information about the talk being given. On the last Friday of each month, except in December. <i>We need a volunteer to book speakers for online talks in 2026. email society@bucksfhs.org.uk</i>	Methodist Church Hall Queensway BLETCHLEY Milton Keynes MK2 2HB email: northernbranch@bucksfhs.org.uk On the first Wednesday of each month (there may be changes at Christmas and New Year). Doors open 7:15pm Meetings start 7:30pm

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

November/December

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

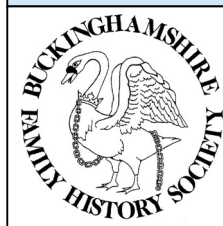
**JOHN FLEWIN : THE STORY OF THE ROYAL BUCKS HOSPITAL
Wednesday 3rd December 2025 7:30pm**



Film presentation. In the late 1930s families were enlisted to join the hospital's Contributory Scheme, which ensured free healthcare at the hospital. A film was commissioned, unseen since the end of the 30s, that tells the story of the hospital from its birth in the 1860s in line with plans drawn up by Florence Nightingale. John will show that film tonight.

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

**SPEAKER AND SUBJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED
Tuesday 9th December 2025 7:45pm**



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

**Buckinghamshire Family History Society
ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

**ANDREW REDFERN : ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FAMILY HISTORY
Friday 28 November 2025 from 19:45 UK / UTC**



Andrew will explore the exciting possibilities of AI, giving valuable insights and strategies for using AI to uncover your family's unique story.

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

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Online Talks (via Zoom)

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

COLIN KIGHTLEY : OLD AND NEW, JUST OLD AND NOT IN BUCKS
Friday 30th January 2026 from 19:45 UK / UTC



Colin describes three towns in north Bucks that form part of Milton Keynes - Braddle, Wolverton and Stony (Bradwell, Wolverton and Stony Stratford) - through a branch of his family tree.
Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Bradwell Abbey, photo by Colin Kightley

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

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



Dianne leads an evening of slides demonstrating Wolverton events registered in Northamptonshire and Woburn Sands in Bedfordshire. Time permitting members can join in or add some of their own research.
Members will find the link required to join the meeting by logging in to the Society's website.

Wolverton Cemetery Lodge, photo: Colin Kightley

Buckinghamshire Family History Society ONLINE TALK VIA ZOOM FOR MEMBERS ONLY

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



John's family are from Hedge Mill, Loudwater, his story going back to the early 1600s, just one line amongst many. He will also mention other Spicer families in the Wycombe area who as far as is known are not related.

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

Help Wanted



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

Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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

COCKER Family

I would be pleased to hear from anybody that has an interest in the COCKER family or associated families as I am collating a family history and any information they can provide would be greatly appreciated.

I am always happy to correspond with relatives, however distant, in a mutual understanding of the family history and how we have spread ourselves within Britain and across the globe.

Peter Cocker

Email: fmy098@gmail.com

Holt's Family History Research

Richard Holt
Professional Genealogist

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

CONTACT ME FOR A FREE ASSESSMENT

07983633023 holtsfamilyhistoryresearch@gmail.com



AGRA
Associate



SCAN ME

Diary Dates

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

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

Family History & Heritage Events

November 2025 All month	Buckinghamshire History Festival Various heritage events across the county – tours, talks, archives and more. See https://histfestbucks.co.uk/whats-on/
Sat 14th December 2.30pm	Not so well-known – the BAS buildings, museum collections, library and archives Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (BAS) Speaker: Sarah Gray (BAS Librarian) Find out about BAS research resources which cover the old county including modern-day Milton Keynes. Venue: Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP Visit: https://bas1.org.uk/lectures-and-talks/
Sat 24th January 10am – 12pm & 2pm – 4pm	East Surrey FHS Fabulous Virtual Family History Show For further details see page 108 or visit the website: https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/events

Sat 7th February 10am to 4pm	The Family History Show Online Featuring talks, experts and societies. Tickets on the day are £10.00 per person. Early bird offers available. For details and booking, see: https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/
Sat 14th March 10am to 4pm	The Family History Show – Midlands Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW (Free parking) Experts, talks, societies and archives To book tickets: https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/midlands/
Sat 18th April Times TBC	FHF Really Useful Family History Show Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU If you use Facebook, there is a dedicated show page for information and updates: facebook.com/groups/1840116103515100/
Sat 25th April 9am to 5pm	Register of Qualified Genealogists Conference The Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS Open to everyone, including non-members. See https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2026-conference

Meeting Reports

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

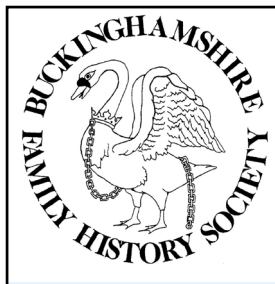


December 2024

Members' Meeting

Our speaker was unavailable at the last moment so the evening turned into a members' evening. One or two members made small contributions. However, Yvonne had provided some festive nibbles so then we broke up into small groups and some useful exchanges took place. A very pleasant event which we might repeat.





February 2025

An Emigration Story

John Flewin

A very professional presentation which followed family history research and told the story of the first families to settle on Vancouver Island off the west coast of Canada. Using entries from log books of the sailing ship that took them there and from the writings of some on board, it tracked their five-month journey in 1852 from their homes to sailing around Cape Horn through heat and cold, snow and winds, storm and tempest. The varied subsequent lives of some families in the first five years of the new colony and their legacy was interesting when we remember that the island and its capital Victoria is now a tourist destination.



March 2025

Gardening the Globe

Mike Chapman

Our speaker for the March meeting was Mike Chapman who returned to give our third talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Mike's subject this time was 'Gardening the Globe' which covers another aspect of the history, development and operation of the CWGC's work to commemorate the fallen from the First and Second World Wars.

We heard that the importance of the horticultural setting for the cemeteries and memorials was recognised while the First World War was still underway. The talk looked at examples of locations around the world where

the planting complements the visual impact of the Commission's structures, and told the story of the work of leading lights in the horticultural world such as Sir Arthur Hill and Gertrude Jekyll. We were given an insight into the different approaches taken in regions like North West Europe, North Africa and Asia, with the challenges of different climates and ground conditions.

In addition to the main talk, Mike gave us the story of the SHREEVE family who were CWGC gardeners in France from the end of the First World War right through to the 1970s. We also covered the development of St Michael and All Angels churchyard at Halton near Aylesbury, the last resting place for 104 service casualties from the two World Wars and more than 200 military personnel from the interwar and post-WW2 years.



April 2025

Internment in Norway

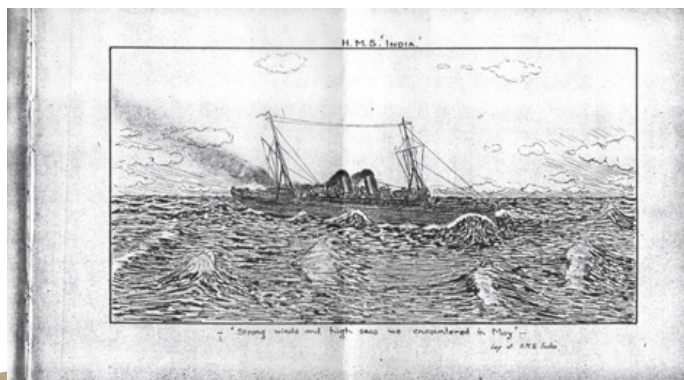
Rebecca Clarke

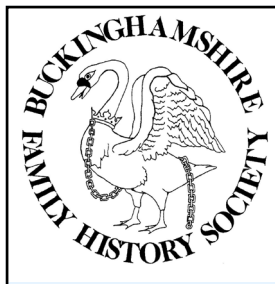
On 8th August 1915, HMS India was torpedoed in the Norwegian sea. Most of survivors of the shipwreck were interned in Norway for the remainder of the war, including R A Clarke, Rebecca Clarke's grandfather-in-law. Rebecca's talk introduced the letters written by her grandfather-in-law, both the ones from the family archives and the ones in the hands of collectors. This story in itself is fascinating as so few people are aware of this part of WW1 but the letters Arnold wrote bring a very personal insight into the incarceration of the men of HMS India.

Rebecca's talk provided history on HMS India, her torpedoing in the Norwegian sea and the subsequent internment of over 100 of her men but mainly focused on the letters written by R A Clarke and the journey Rebecca took and is still taking in tracking down missing letters from the family collection and the research she has undertaken both in the UK and

across the world. Rebecca spoke about how she has been in contact with over 30 descendants of men from HMS India and how researching their stories has added to Arnold's story and her understanding of the three years the men spent behind barbed wire.

Our members also learnt of the many research methods Rebecca has used and how the information keeps coming in! Rebecca brought along the original letters and envelopes for our members to look at in addition to the interesting PowerPoint presentation.





June 2025

Newspaper Research for Family Historians

Denise Bates

Tips for searching in local newspapers

As ever more newspapers become available online, effective search techniques make it easier to hone in on relevant material, without wasting time. The following tips may help.

Use suitable equipment. Newspaper pages are large, so the bigger the screen the better.

Read the provider's guidance.

Use wildcards. These are symbols, eg *, /, ? which replace a character or characters in a word. They remove the need to search for alternative spellings and are helpful with double letters, or vowels that were used interchangeably.

Providers usually have filters for setting the start and end date of a search, or limiting it to a specified place, or type of news item. When using filters, be prepared to repeat a search using different combinations, if an initial search is unproductive.

Some search pages allow a word or phrase to be filtered out. If an ancestor shares their name with a local footballer, then filter out football.

Time spent creating a good search term is not wasted. Making the effort to find a relevant detail is worthwhile. A search for reviews of the novel 'To Let' brings up a very long list of property to rent. Finding the author's name, John Galsworthy, and the publication date locates the material quickly.

If you are struggling for a search term, try browsing a few newspapers from the period you are interested in, as you may discover how a topic was described in the past.

When expected spelling fails, try spelling a name phonetically.

Some names have short forms. Elizabeth could be Liz, Lizzie, Betty, Bessie, etc. Mary and Polly were used interchangeably. Some male names have standard abbreviations such as Hy for Henry, Chas for Charles, Wm for William.

There are lists where people were included by initial, rather than their full name. People in a meeting may have been recorded by a title, eg Reverend, or an abbreviated title, such as Cllr or Dr.

Incidents passed down as oral history tend to drift in some details. Omitting names, dates and places and using few key words about the incident can sometimes work, especially if the names of the people involved have changed as the story is told or the date has slipped.



July 2025

Members' Meeting

Graham Youngman

An alternative option in presenting Family History

The lesson that we have all learned is, ask questions of the older generation before they move on. If only I had asked about great-aunt Mary, who was a nurse in WW1!

I was fortunate to have a number of photographs going back to the later part of the 1800s of great-grandparents and their siblings, along with family photographs from the 1900s. My family records are quite complete, thanks to the work undertaken by other family members, with some of it before the option of online searches.

I wanted a way of initially presenting family history to a younger generation, without it appearing as a long list of ancestors and a heap of photographs with names on the back of most. This was in the hope that it would whet their appetite for family history.

Microsoft PowerPoint provided the ideal tool for the job; easy to insert digital photographs and text without it appearing too overwhelming. I scanned additional photographs and text from related books and family documents. All I needed to do was to construct a timeline of both maternal and paternal family lines.

PowerPoint is easy to edit, adjust the size of photographs and drop in text boxes as needed. I have now put together separate Maternal and Paternal PowerPoint presentations and passed them on. They have been well received and the feedback has been very positive. Circulating the files to other family members creates the opportunity for gaining additional information. We are never quite sure what elements of family history stories and treasures other relatives have tucked away and might be encouraged to share. Have a play with PowerPoint and you may well be pleasantly surprised.

Youngman
Family History
Grandparents & Siblings



Vivian Youngman & Gertrude Potter
(Paddington-London)



Olive, Nina, Vivian

Tom Hart

While browsing in a dealer's shop, stamp collector Tom Hart came across an envelope addressed to Bernard PAUNCEFOTE, East Indies, via Madras. Bernard was Tom's cousin, five times removed. This unusual name had been taken by Abel SMITH, Bernard's great-great grandfather, after a previous change to BROMLEY, to inherit property from distant relatives.

Tom gave us details of the career of Bernard, born in Dublin in 1826, who after attending the East India Company College at Haileybury from 1843 arrived in Madras in 1847. He married that year to Eliza Louisa PHILIPS with whom he had five children: a son, also Bernard, and four daughters, two born in India and two later in England. Bernard held various posts in the Madras Presidency including Assistant Collector and Magistrate and later Sessions Judge before retiring from the service in 1865.

Bernard returned to England but in 1885 came out of retirement and was appointed British Consul in Madeira. Then in 1887 he was transferred to Nantes in France where he died in 1894 aged 68. His wife survived until 1929 when she died aged 100!

Though the various stamps on the envelope gave no date Tom deduced the date it was sent. A mark on the back came from Iford, a village near Christchurch, a cancellation had the mark 200, a number allocated to Christchurch. The fact that Iford post office opened in 1854 and the stamp used was replaced by a new issue in 1857 suggested a date of 1855.

Tom thought the letter came from Bernard's sister Clara, wife of Vice Admiral William POPHAM who lived at Southbourne near Bournemouth, where Iford would have been their local post office.

Amazing where a chance find can lead to discoveries in one's family history.

Maggie Breedon

Margaret Breedon gave a talk on her great-great uncle, Frederick EGGLETON (1875–1936), who was born in Leighton Buzzard. During her

research Margaret gleaned a lot of information on Frederick's illustrious army career from the Household Cavalry Museum at Windsor, various newspaper reports from the *Leighton Buzzard Observer*, and an obituary that appeared in the *British Legion Journal*. He rose to the rank of Corporal Major and became champion swordsman of the British Army, winning many trophies, including the gold medal for the best man at arms at the Prince of Wales World Tour in 1901. He gave many demonstrations of his skills before Leighton Buzzard audiences and other arenas, which included cutting a carcass in two with one blow of his sword and splitting an apple balanced on a boy's neck. He was buried with full military honours at Brompton Cemetery on 18 December 1936.

Mark King

When I was a student in Bournemouth aged 19, in 1991, I always had a shiver every time I walked over a bridge close to where I was staying. At the time I had no idea why.

In about 2003 an elderly relative gave me an old photograph of a coffin on a gun carriage with the words "Gunner KING, Bournemouth 31st January 1913". I had no idea who this person could be. My Grandad King had told me that his only brother died during the First World War, and this photograph was a year before the war started.

So I went to Bournemouth Library and found the local day papers for January 1913. Then I found the article in 28th January edition, titled 'A Terrible Accident'. The article said that a Gunner King, belonging to The K Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, stationed at Christchurch Barracks had a terrible accident that morning. He was out exercising a horse and he had got as far as King's Park, Pokesdown, Bournemouth, when the horse went out of control and galloped out of the park and down Clarence Park Road. When reaching the end, on the junction onto Christchurch Road, King tried so hard to turn the horse but they went straight across the road then crashed through a fence opposite and fell 30ft down a railway embankment. The horse died instantly and young Gunner King died in hospital 7 hours later. The deceased's full name was Ernest Thomas Adrian King. He was a native of Great Brickhill, Bucks. The 31st January edition tells of how his remains were taken to Bournemouth Railway Station to be sent back to Leighton Buzzard.

So now my photograph was fully explained. It was Grandad's brother, and he didn't die during the war. Also, that chill on the bridge I got when I was 19 – it was the same bridge that Ernest fell from and he was 19 when he died.

Mark King



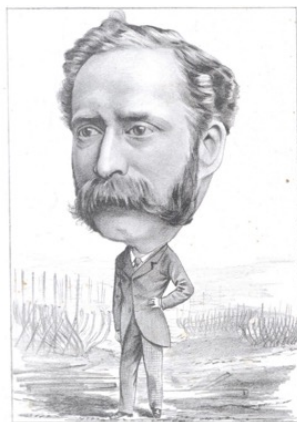
August 2025

Sir William Pearce

Rebecca Clarke

Groundbreaking Shipbuilder or Heartless Womanizer?

The North Bucks FHS were happy to welcome back Rebecca Clarke as a guest speaker after her talk on HMS India was so well received earlier this year. This time Rebecca introduced us to another family member, a distant uncle by the name of Sir William Pearce. Rebecca explained how her early research in Sir William, his wife and his son was originally undertaken with the aim of writing a biography on the successful Victorian shipbuilder but how this was quickly cast aside when Rebecca started unearthing



skeletons, in the form of young women, actresses and dancers, in the Pearce men's closets. The group was entertained with stories of adultery, illegitimacy and loitering at stage doors with Rebecca's research complemented by readings from texts by Dickens and Bram Stoker. Rebecca brought additional material with her to complement the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied her talk and spent time talking to members about her research methods and how she was able to piece together women's stories with little factual information.

Volunteering for Bucks FHS

Fleur Creed



Were you aware that volunteering is good for you? Volunteering has been shown to have a number of benefits for those who volunteer, so it is not just of help to the organisation you are assisting, like Bucks Family History Society, although your help is valued beyond measure in the smooth running of the Society.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Research shows that volunteering can help you sleep better, it can help you feel happier, less stressed and it can help you feel healthier. Not only might you feel healthier, but in research conducted by Dr Allan Luks, those who volunteer regularly were ten times more likely to be in good health than those who did not volunteer. Dr Luks noted that volunteering reduces the body's stress by releasing endorphins, the brain's natural painkillers. Older people, in particular, who volunteer are known to be healthier and to live longer.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Volunteering may expose you to a diverse group of people who you may not otherwise meet, who have similar interests. Having a role to perform can give meaning to life, and a purpose to the day, especially for those who are retired or otherwise unemployed. The greatest social benefit is, of course, making new friends.

SKILL BENEFITS

Many volunteers utilise skills they have learnt in previous roles, whereas others learn new skills while volunteering, which may be useful in their search for employment, or may enhance personal knowledge and techniques, especially relevant regarding family history.

PERSONAL BENEFITS

Those who volunteer often find a sense of belonging; they find that their confidence improves, and they find pleasure and a sense of achievement in their work.

Do you have an interest in helping, or do you have a skill to offer? Are you enthusiastic to add value to your Society? Bucks Family History Society is entirely dependent on volunteers to function at all levels. We need writers, researchers, speakers, committee members, social media gurus, techies, local people, and online ones too. Distance is not a barrier. If you have something to offer, please let us know!

Do yourself (and us) a favour, and volunteer!

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Roles available!

If Fleur has inspired you, see page 105 and the Membership Secretary advert on page 109, for some specific roles.

You can also help us to keep this journal useful and interesting to members by sending in contributions to the editor:
editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

Alan Dell Memorial Award

Best article competition

DEADLINE 31 DECEMBER 2025

First prize £50.00

Second prize £25.00



For entry requirements visit

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Preachers to Publicans

Anita Waite

Alan Dell Award runner up 2024

A TALE OF TWO (VERY DIFFERENT) FAMILIES

Who am I? Who were my family?

Clearly, our families are made up of many different people – from different places and different backgrounds. And different sides of a family don't always have much in common!

So the answers to these questions may not be straightforward – as I have found. And little discoveries along the family history road may reveal all sorts of entertaining anomalies.

One of my family stories brings together the MORLINGS (my father's and paternal grandmother's side of the family) with the PARSLOWS and SMITHs (my mother's side of the family).

In the 1800s and early 1900s the Morlings, Parslows and Smiths were living in and around High Wycombe, Downley, Naphill and Loosley Row. They didn't know each other and they led very different lives.

It wasn't until the early 1960s when my mother and father were married, that they would eventually meet. But if they had met back in the late 1800s there would probably have been fireworks!

Chalk and cheese

Josiah MORLING (my great-great grandfather) was a strict Methodist minister who preached in High Wycombe in the 1890s.



Joseph Morling and his wife Jane née Ingle

Photos: Author's own collection

The PARSLOWS and the SMITHs were old Bucks families (on my mother's side) from Loosley Row, Lacey Green, Naphill, Downley and Parslow's Hillock.

As you'd expect, many of the Parslows and Smiths were involved in the furniture trade – chairmakers, woodturners, chair caners, timber merchants and sawyers.

My own maternal grandmother Hilda Parslow (nee BURNHAM), from Downley, worked as a seamstress, sewing buttons onto upholstery at the factory of William Birch in Leigh Street, High Wycombe, before marrying Alf Parslow from Naphill who went on to set up his own furniture factory, Parslow Furniture, in High Wycombe in 1930.

But before that, the two sides of the family – the Morlings and the Parslows and Smiths – would not have been an ideal match!

This is because the Parslows and Smiths were heavily involved in the pub trade – and Josiah Morling would not have approved!

Fire and brimstone

So first, the Morlings. Josiah was actually born in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire in 1843 and started his working life as a butcher. He married Jane INGLE in 1865 at the Ebenezer Chapel in Cottenham and by 1891 had moved to High Wycombe, living in Bellfield Road and preaching at the nearby Zion Chapel in Bridge Street.

His photo shows a formidable looking man who would scare the living daylights out of most of us!

But it came as quite a surprise to pick up a copy of 'A Brief History of Wycombe Pubs' from Wycombe Museum and see Josiah's name mentioned, quoted from an article in the *Bucks Free Press* in 1898, condemning pubs and their beer drinking clientele.

Speaking of the Victorians and their opposition to drinking and the growth of the Temperance Movement, the article mentioned a 500-signature petition organised by the Westbourne Street Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1898 which persuaded magistrates to turn down (local brewery) Wheeler's application for a new licence in Desborough Road.

The article went on to say: 'That same year Josiah Morling thundered his protest to the *Bucks Free Press* against "Sabbath breakers standing at the doors of these places making lewd and rude remarks when respectable young ladies pass by ... at night time may be seen so frequently the poor fallen 'unfortunates' with painted and powdered faces, peeping in at the doors to see who is in and, if they think there is an opportunity for gaining their cursed earnings, boldly entering'"

So my great-great grandfather was quite the local mouthpiece, with very firm opinions about pubs and alcohol!

Providing vital ale to the chairmakers

Of course, many of Wycombe's pubs provided beer and ale to the town's chairmakers and those working in the timber industry. So they were an important part of the local economy.

But looking deeper into the Smiths and the Parslows, we don't just have chairmakers and woodturners in our family, we have our fair share of publicans too. And absolutely no preachers!

And the strict Methodist Josiah Morling would have definitely disapproved of the ale-swilling publicans!

Alf Parslow – The Black Lion, Naphill

First, I found Alf Parslow (my great-grandfather) – publican at The Black Lion in Naphill in the early 1900s, married to Alice Harvey. He was also the village's bacon butcher – at a time when many families kept and reared their own pig, he would slaughter the animals when their time came and butcher the meat for them.

I'm pleased to say that the Black Lion is still a thriving local pub – and only a few metres away from where I grew up, completely unaware of the connection.

Robert Smith – The Prince Albert Inn, High Wycombe

Next, we have Robert William Smith (born 1867), my great-great grandfather, who in 1901 was running (and living at) the Prince Albert Inn, along the Lane End Road, with his wife and family. This was a beer/ale house rather than a pub so even less salubrious. Sadly, it no longer exists.

Joseph Smith – The Black Boy Inn, High Wycombe

Robert's father was Joseph Smith (born 1821), my great-great-great grandfather, and a publican at The Black Boy Inn, in Church Street, High Wycombe. This was a well-known pub in the centre of Wycombe but again it's no longer in existence – it was demolished in 1930 when the road was widened.



The Black Boy Inn, Church Street, High Wycombe

Photo: Courtesy of SWOP (Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs: <https://swop.org.uk/>)

William Goring – The Windsor Castle, High Wycombe

Finally, so far, we have William GORING, also my great-great-great grandfather (on the Smith side of the family), a publican at The Windsor Castle Inn in Easton Street, High Wycombe in the 1860s. This too is a pub that no longer exists.



The Windsor Castle, Easton Street, High Wycombe

Photo: Courtesy of SWOP (Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs: <https://swop.org.uk/>)

So, I've found a curious mix of preachers and publicans – but mainly publicans – with almost nothing in common with each other. It's interesting to think that, had my parents lived decades earlier, marriage might not have been on the cards!

It's just one of the entertaining stories and curious coincidences that I've found in my family history search. From a 'butler' who actually turned out to be a labourer in an ironworks in North Yorkshire – to several young ladies from Bucks who 'got into trouble' and either married hastily or, in one case, was shipped off to Australia!

So it can come as quite a surprise to learn who our ancestors actually were – and perhaps find out a little bit more about ourselves in the process.

Anita Waite

1851 Religious Census

Tony Sargeant

What is the 1851 Buckinghamshire Religious Census?

On Sunday 30th March 1851 two censuses took place. As family historians, we are familiar with the standard 1851 census. The religious census is totally different and designed to answer another set of questions.

There were actually three sets of questions for use by three separate denominations, Anglican, Non-Conformist and Quakers. In general, all three forms ask for information about sittings in the church or chapel and whether they are free. Also, attendances on the 30th March 1851 should be supplied.

The information supplied was going to be a problem for the Anglican Church as incumbents realised a proportion of the population were not attending the established church. This was further enforced by the newly installed Bishop of Oxford who also took over the archdeaconry of Buckingham after being left leaderless for a few years by the diocese of Lincoln. The Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, spoke against the law enabling the census in the House of Lords, and this gave the incumbents permission to ignore the census forms or supply incomplete returns. Some were still being asked to give a reply a year after the census date.

For the non-conformist churches the census was seen as a way to validate their existence and work, which led to one or two congregations not making a return.

How does this help family historians?

One of the problems for any family historian is wondering what happened to that branch of the family who suddenly appear at an Anglican Church. Or another branch who only appear in recorded history at the start of civil registration in 1837.

Now we are going to take a look at Wendover Parish to show how the information can help. The population for the parish was 1937 people.

On the 30th March 1851 there are three returns.

Wendover Parish Church			
30th March Morning Congregation	218		
30th March Sunday Scholars	74	Total 292	
30th March Afternoon Congregation	190		
30th March Sunday Scholars	74	Total 264	Grand total 556
Wendover General Baptists London Road			
30th March Morning Congregation	300		
30th March Sunday Scholars	80	Total 380	
30th March Afternoon Congregation	200		
30th March Sunday Scholars	80	Total 280	Grand total 660
Wendover Independent Chapel			
30th March Morning Congregation	120		
30th March Sunday Scholars	104	Total 224	
30th March Afternoon Congregation	30		
30th March Sunday Scholars	102	Total 132	
30th March Evening Congregation	129		
30th March Sunday Scholars	40	Total 169	Grand total 525
		Parish total	1741 attendees

The first thing to point out are the suspiciously round numbers produced by the General Baptists. Although we cannot ignore the fact there were more Baptists attending a religious service than any other group.

As there is no way knowing how far people were travelling to attend church or chapel, or attending more than one service on the Sunday. Therefore it is hard to make further judgements about attendance. But the numbers would suggest ignoring the General Baptists or Independents could lead to incomplete research and frustration.

If you wish to check the situation in your parish of interest, go to Buckinghamshire Records Society website and download volume 29. The link is:

<https://www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk/VOL.html?ID=29&MOD=this>

Also consider some of their other volumes to help your research.

Tony Sargeant

Captain Samuel Snook

Paul Snook

Captain Samuel Snook R.N., Esq. 1771–1844

Captain Samuel SNOOK R.N., Esq. served with the Far East India Company, between 1795 and 1816; he achieved notoriety for his benevolence and willingness to help others less fortunate than himself. For his kindness the Company directors awarded him a magnificent sword which is now displayed at the British Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Samuel was baptised 12 October 1771 in Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire. He was the fifth and last-born son of Walter SNOOK and Mary CRISPIN. There were several persons who influenced his life. Walter was apprenticed as a mason or stone cutter; his grandfather Walter was the innkeeper at Sutton Mandeville.

Captain Snook's career

Early records inform us that Samuel SNOOKE served on the good ship "Experiment" on 1 December 1787, in the register of the East India Company. The next record shows Samuel Snooke was a Second Lieutenant on the good ship "Pantber" dated 9 November 1792 in the East India Company register of 1797. Then Samuel Snook (note the name change) held the commission of First Lieutenant, per the 1801 register of the Company.

Lieutenant Samuel Snook was made an affiliate member of “The Marine Board” under the presidency of Philip Dundas Esq; this detail was held in the register of the Company 1801.

Samuel’s further commissions were:

First Lieutenant 12 February 1798; he was serving on the good ship “Wasp”, in the register of the Company 1804.

Junior Captain. His date of commission 11 November 1807 and listed as “Boat Master at Goa”, as found in the register of the Honourable Company’s Marine 1810.

Senior Captain, commissioned 1 September 1811, found in the register of the Honourable Company’s Marine 1815.

Captain, 24 December 1816 in the register of the Company 1831.

The date of Captain Samuel Snook’s retirement from the Bombay Marine section of the East India Company was 24 December 1816, as recorded in the registers of the Company 1820, 1826, 1831 1841, and 1844.

During his service with the East India Company, Samuel was singled out for meritorious and exemplary service. Various articles have been written describing his selfless contribution to the common good.[1]

On 1 February 1790 the Good Ship Panther arrived at the island of Amallikala, Pelew from Madras. Lt. Samuel Snook was instructed to take charge of the plantations and gardens.

Captain Samuel Snook was a notable figure in British maritime history, particularly for his contributions to the East India Company and his humanitarian efforts. He gained prominence for his work surveying the Pelew Islands (now Palau) aboard the good ship Panther in 1802. This work was crucial for navigation and establishing the islands as strategic staging posts for Company ships in the region.

Lt. Samuel Snook was commissioned as 1st assistant to the Master-Intendant, 12 February 1798. During that year, Captain Snook undertook a remarkable mission to return a group of women stranded in India to their home in the Pelew Islands. When the party disembarked from the

good ship 'Warley' in July 1798; Snook reported the locals were very happy to see me and their friends again. This act of goodwill significantly improved relations with the local tribes and allowed for the use of the islands as staging posts for the company's ships. For his efforts, he was awarded a fine presentation sword by the East India Companies, Court of Directors. The handsome sword is now on display at the British Military Academy, Sandhurst

Another transcript reads: A group of Pelew women who were lost at sea and ended up in India were sent to Bombay, being without friends, were for many years charitably maintained by Lt Snook of the Good ship Endeavour, out of his slender resources, the Government being unable to send them back to their friends, as owing to war, they could not spare a ship of the Marine for the purpose. At Length in 1797 ...took them in his ship the Warley under charge of Lt Snook from Bombay to Macao, here that officer whose conduct throughout seems to be characterised by singular charity and forgetfulness of self, purchased a small vessel, at Government expense and having fitted her out and provisioned her, sailed on 4 March 1797 and after being forced to return though stress of weather, at length reached the islands in safety.



The Sword of Peace (left, gold)

Photo: Paul Snook

As a result the Company honoured and awarded Samuel with a magnificent sword, known as the "Sword of Peace". This sword is now in a position of high honour at the Sandhurst Military Academy, whose motto is "Serve to Lead". To date, the same sword, known as the Wilkinson Sword of Peace, has been presented on six occasions to members of the Royal Marines who have matched Samuel's selfless contribution whilst on duty.[2]

Retirement in Buckinghamshire

Age the age of 30 Samuel had married 25-year-old Esther Margaret Foster; the marriage took place 12 October 1801 in Bombay, India. [3] Their marriage produced no known children.

After retiring from service with the East India Company, Samuel and Esther retired to Buckinghamshire, where they bought a large property called the Elms, in Iver. In 1841 the census shows that Samuel Snook (age 70) was resident in a messuage called Elms, in the parish of Iver (in Eton registration district), Buckinghamshire, England.

Iver Elms, Iver, Eton, Buckinghamshire, England [4]

Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Birth Place
Samuel Snook	M	70		Sutton Mandeville, Wilts
Elizabeth Snook	F	70	<i>Her name should read Esther Margaret</i>	
Emma White	F	45	Servant	India
George Jennings	M	30		
Ann Broad	F	55		Buckinghamshire, England

In his will dated 1844 he wrote "I give and devise my freehold tenements, lands, habitants and peculiars situated in the said parish of Iver ...shall be received or profited at the time of my decease to the use of my wife Esther Margaret Snook her heirs and assigns forever". [5]

Over and above the mentioned real-estate Samuel must have amassed a considerable sum of £5,000 in capital, which he kept in the Bank of England and in various stock holdings.

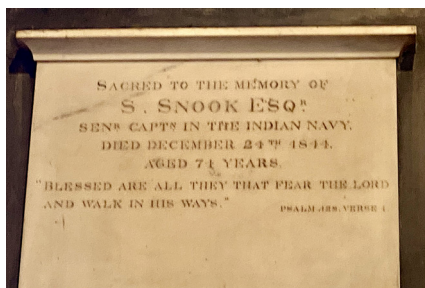
He also wrote that his collection or library of books shall be gifted equally to the two sons of Reverend Edward Ward, namely Reverend Edward Ward and Reverend William Sparrow Ward.

He nominated his wife as his executrix and bequeathed his old and faithful servant Emma (Sunat) White who he informs has lived with me for 34 years

(since 1810) a yearly sum of £73 and 10 shillings and a one-off payment of £200 immediately after his death. It appears Emma or Sunat was an Indian lady who accompanied Samuel and Esther as a servant. To date no additional information has been found about her presence in Iver.

Samuel continued to live a benevolent lifestyle, he became the treasurer of the Iver branch of the Sailors House Society of London and treasurer of the Uxbridge Auxiliary Bible Society. He bequeathed the sum of £400 to be set aside for 11 poor boys from the parish of Iver for them to attend the National School for boys for free. Likewise, he bequeathed £300 for a selection of girls for the same purpose. He gifted additional monies to

several charities, such as – House Mission Society, Church Mission Society, the Widows and B... Society.



**Memorial tablet in
St Peter & St Leonard Church, Iver**

Photo: Paul Snook

Samuel was buried in St Peter and St Leonard Churchyard, Iver. To honour him further there is a wall tablet in the church which reads “Sacred to the memory of S. Snook Esq., Senior Captain in the Indian Navy died 24 December 1844 age 74 years – Blessed are all they that fear the Lord and walk in his ways.”

I have plotted his profile on Wikitree see his profile id no. is [Snook-3826]

He has a profile on Family Search his id is MK1L-RQP but I have an issue with his parents.

Compiled by Paul Snook and his daughter Patricia

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[4] HO107; Piece number: 60; Page: 26; Schedule: 1471

[5] A transcription of his Will is at: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Will_of_Snook_-_Samuel%2C_1771_-_1844

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31 July 1838 - Captain Samuel Snook was Appointed Land Tax commissioner for Iver, Buckinghamshire. <https://archive.org/details/acollectionpubl19britgoog/page/415/mode/2up?q=Samuel+Snook>

1840 - Captain Samuel Snook was the Iver Branch treasurer for the Church Missionary Society for Africa and the East. <https://archive.org/details/proceedingschur01socigoog/page/n286/mode/2up?q=Samuel+Snook>

Mr Newens' Medicine

Howard Lambert

The following article appeared in the Northampton Mercury on 7 March 1807.

HYDROPHOBIA;

Or a Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog

PAUL NEWENS, of Wing, in the County of Bucks, is the sole Preparer of a Medicine that has never, in any Instance, failed to eradicate the dreadful Malady occasioned by the Bite of a Mad Dog, and which has been prepared with universal success for these last forty Years and upwards, by the said Paul NEWENS; and before that Time, by the late JEROME POLLARD, his Predecessor, for forty Years and upwards; and at this Time this dreadful Malady being so very prevalent in different Parts of the Country, it is considered the bounden Duty that one Fellow-Creature owes to another, to make known to the Public in general, that the said Medicine may be had of the said Paul NEWENS, of Wing aforesaid, in Bottles, sealed with his Seal, with printed Directions for using the same – The said Medicine has been used in the Neighbourhood of Wing aforesaid, and Leighton-Buzzard, Beds, with the greatest Success, and has been proved infallible; as for an Instance, see the Certificate hereunder, the Original of which is in the Custody of the Churchwardens of Wing. – Any Person considering themselves endangered may take the above Medicine with the greatest Safety; and the numerous Cures that have been made by the said Paul NEWENS, in the Vicinity of Leighton-Buzzard and Wing, are beyond Conception. – Dated at Wing, the 23d Day of February 1807.

“This is to certify, that ELIZABETH KEMPSTER, Servant to Mr. William STEVENS, of Marsworth, in the County of Bucks, Farmer, had every Appearance of an Hydrophobia, but on Paul NEWENS's Medicine being administered, was in the Course of four Hours entirely released and cured.” – Witness our Hands,

J.R. FAWCETT, Surgeon of Tring, Herts.
JOHN GRIFFIN, Minister of Marsworth.
WILLIAM STEVENS, of Marsworth.

Dated at Tring, the 1st Day of December, 1790.

Paul NEWENS (1731–1807) was a younger son of John NEWENS (b.1693) of Ivinghoe and Cheddington, and his wife Jane SEARE. Paul married Ann HONOUR, a widow, in 1756, and they had at least three children. This article is of particular interest, as NEWENS is one of my ancestral lines.

Howard Lambert

LAURENCE MORTYMER: TROUBLEMAKER

Commission of Oyer and Terminer to 7 men on complaint By Richard MACHON of Ravenston that Laurence MORTYMER and John his son, and 2 others, assembling several other evildoers, came armed to his dwelling at Ravenston, Co. Bucks, besieged it, broke his close and assaulted him and his servants.

Source: Calendar of Patent Rolls, 4 February 1392

Footnote: Trouble seemed to follow Laurence MORTYMER. On 6 July 1376 Simon MANLE, forester of Salcey Forest, died in the house of Laurence MORTYMER at Eakley. He had been struck in the chest by an arrow 4 days earlier, by John SEWARD, chaplain of Hanslope,

Source : "Inquests and Indictments from Late Fourteenth Century Buckinghamshire" (1994). Buckinghamshire Record Society Vol. 29

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Mary Hall

Under A Witch's Spell

Martin K Thompson

My 6x great-grandfather's brother, John GARRETT, lived at Hudnall, a hamlet then in the parish of Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire. In 1885 it was transferred to the parish of Little Gaddesden.

John GARRETT was a leading member of the Baptist community. He married Elizabeth HALL, who was also from a Baptist family, but I can't help wondering if he knew the story of Elizabeth's aunt Mary HALL before he decided to propose to Elizabeth.

The HALL family lived in the village of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, right on the border with Buckinghamshire and nestling in the beechwood Chilterns. Mary's father, Samuel, was the village blacksmith and locksmith, and had inherited the business from his elder brother Daniel. The strange events surrounding Mary attracted widespread attention and led to the publication of several pamphlets describing them. The following details are based on two eyewitness accounts, one by a person known only as D.M. who published his pamphlet in London, and the other by Doctor William DRAGE of Hitchin. Drage had arrived in that town in 1658, proclaiming himself an apothecary, though it took some time to establish himself with the local population.

He wrote: 'The Maid is very young, and seems bashful, and modest; her Parents and Kindred are held by all very conscientious and honest People, and wealthy'.

These contemporary accounts show that it was generally believed that Mrs HAROD, along with Mrs YOUNG, had tried to bewitch Samuel HALL, the blacksmith, following an argument. When this failed they sought their revenge by bewitching his daughter instead. It is interesting to note that an area of Little Gaddesden is known as Witchcraft Bottom.

It was in the autumn of 1663, soon after 'some difference between the maid's father and a certain woman who had an evil name', that Mary experienced a trembling, shaking and convulsive movement, first in one foot then in both. She would sit stamping, had convulsive fits and uttered 'strange ejaculations'. Mary was sent to Doctor WOODHOUSE at the neighbouring town of Berkhamsted and he confirmed the suspicions that she was bewitched. He 'prepared stinking Suffumigations, over which she held her head, and sometimes did strain to vomit, and her distemper for some weekes seemed abated'.

At the beginning of August 1664 'something would rise in her throat like two great bunches, about the bigness of an egg'.

'We heard in her strange noises, like mewing of Cats, barking of Dogs, roaring of Bears, etc. And at last a Voice spoke in her, "Pus Cat, What a Cat? Nothing but be mice" ... after this the evil Spirit spoke often, exercising the tricks and torments, convulsions, and elevations of the Maid'.

'He would answer and discourse with them [visitors]; and that with a voice as different from hers as any two voices, I verily believe, in the world: she having a clear, smooth, pleasant voice, and that being very rough, guttural, and coming, as it were, from the abdomen, or hollow of her belly, but yet intelligible'.

Drage wrote:

'If any said, Get thee out of her Satan, the spirit replied, We are two; and as oft as any said, Satan, or Devil, It would reply, We are two; and would say, "We are only two little Imps, Goodwife Harod's and Young's; sometimes we are in the shape of Serpents sometimes of Flyes, sometimes of Rats or Mice; and Goodwife Harod sent us to Choak this Maid Mary Hall; but we should have choaked Goodman Hall, but of him we had no power, and so possessed his daughter; we came down the chimney, riding on a stick, and went first to Mary's foot, whereupon her foot trembled first of all her distemper".' [Goodwife was a form of address for the mistress of a house, below the status of a gentlewoman; also used as a prefix to a surname].

DM's account is similar:

‘Those about her generally concluded she was really and exactly possessed with the Devil, and took occasion to ask him, How he came there? To which the evil spirit or voice answered, Here are two of us, and, that they were sent thither by two women. The voice further said, That they were sent first to the maid’s father, but when they came, they found him at prayer, and returned to those two women, and told them they could have no permission to enter into him: whereupon they sent them to his daughter, and that such a night, as she sat by the fire, they entered into her. Now, the family did remember that that very night she had, as she declared, a sudden pain that seized her, and, ever since, had continued in a bad condition, and, after a little time, the swellings and voice happen’d as aforesaid’.

‘The report thereof coming to my ears, I did not at first believe it, but, hearing it still confirmed, did, at last, go to see her myself, resolving to make my observations as warily and curiously as I could. There were, I believe, at that time, forty or fifty spectators present, and in strict observation two or three hours, I was, for my own part, fully satisfied that it was a possession, it being, as I conceive utterly impossible that those things should be acted by her or any other person living, either by the force of Nature or power of the most afflicting distemper’.

‘Sometimes they would bid her, Mary, choak your self, when she went to eat; and when she went nigh water, Mary, dround your self; and when she would not do it, and they wanted Power to make her, they would say, Ah Fool, Fool, Fool, Fool, what will you not drownd your self? When she was nigh the Fire, they would say, Mary, put your head in the Fire; or, Mary, put your head into the Pot, and sometimes of a suddain they would drop down her head, as is she should put it into the Scalding Pottage, but could not effect it.’

Many people came to see Mary so, in September 1664, Mary’s father sent her some 5-6 miles away to the houses of several friends where people met to pray. This was a period when nonconformists were persecuted, so Baptists met in private houses. It was not until 1689 that the Toleration Act abolished compulsory attendance at services of the Church of England. In 1703 the home of John and Elizabeth GARRETT was registered as a

Baptist meeting house. The first chapels in the area, at Berkhamsted and Chesham, were built during the first quarter of the 18th century.

‘Her father, being of the same opinion [Mary being possessed], and willing to use all lawful means for his only child’s recovery [this is erroneous – Mary had several siblings], having read that passage of our Saviour’s – That kind comes not out but by Prayer and Fasting: he resolves to use that means, and to that purpose, desired some ministers to keep a day with him on that occasion. Having sent for them, the Devil told him, he expected five men to come, but there should be only four come. This girl could not know of herself: yet so it happened: for one, by an unexpected accident, was prevented from coming. These four desired the assistance of several Godly ministers and Christians in the neighbourhood, who accordingly met, and kept several days in Fasting and Prayer, and, accordingly, to the best judgement that could be made, one of the evil spirits then departed, as was supposed from some accidents I shall relate by and by. I, myself, was present several of these days. First she had two great bunches rise up in her throat, and then a voice followed, uttering abominable blasphemies, upon which a Godly minister present, and since deceased, being stirred up with great zeal and indignation, going to prayer, did earnest beg of God that he would plague and torment Satan for such of his blasphemies: upon which the Spirit made a most dreadful crying, and, bemoaning his condition, and said, “I will do so no more”. To which the minister replied, “Satan that shalt not serve thy turn”, and continuing his prayer to God as before, the Devil again cried and roared most hideously, to the great amazement of all the people present: and, from that time it was observed that there was but one bunch rose up in her throat, from whence it was conjectured that one of the spirits was departed. However, one continued his possession still, and, after they had done prayer, and were about to refresh themselves, he showed strange tricks before them, tossing her up and down, and when she was going, took away the use of her legs, on a sudden. When she sate in a great wicker chair, he could cause the chair to fall down backwards, almost to the ground, then lift it up again. One of the company bid her read in the Bible; the Devil said aloud, “she shall not read”. It was answered, “she shall read, Satan, for all thee, and read thy condemnation, too”. Whereupon, he plaid more tricks by tossing her

about, and drawing her face to one side as if it had been placed to look over her shoulder, and drawn in a very deformed manner; but, at last she read part of the 20 Chapter of the Revelations, though not without much opposition’.

‘I was once in her company at a house, where I was wholly unacquainted, and for aught I know, so was she; the people of the house gave us drink, and I was drinking to her, she rising to make a curtsy, he took away the use of her legs, and said she should not drink. But when he found we were resolved to force a cup of beer on her, he said, “There is a well in the yard, go and drown thyself,” when none of us that were strangers, knew there was such a well’.

‘When she got upon the horse to go home, it was a great while before she was able to get upon him, and was flung sometimes backwards, otherwhiles turn’d with her face to the horse’s tail, and handles very sadly; yet, ‘tis observed that he hath not much power to hurt her, for she often declares, that, being now accustomed to his tricks, and consequently not so much affrighted, the temptations he injects into her minde, are far worse than all the mischief he does her body’.

‘Sometimes she would beat herself, sometimes with one, sometimes both hands, chiefly on the Breast. Sometimes her legs would go, fast and violently, kicking of the ground, and the spirits would say “Come, Mary, Dance”; and then they would make a tune, and make her feet to Dance it; sometimes they would say “Mary make a mouth” and they convulsed her mouth, so that her lips seemed gristles, and her Nose was sometimes drawn up; another time they should say, We will put out your Eyes; and they would so draw together her Eye-lids, that scarce any extuberance of the Eye could be perceived’. ‘Sometimes when the Spirits moved her Tongue, some of the House would catch hold of it, to stay it, and it was pulled from them’.

On 1st December 1664:

‘when I first went into the house the Maid was feeding, and looked well-bled, seemingly she was very well: I asked the Spirits some questions, and they answered me, but very foolishly ... Both in her reading and feeding, both her fits of speaking, and convulsive fits molested her:

always when she spoke, her voice was intelligible, plain, and modest; they spoke scarce to be understood: always afore they spake, her Throat swelled, her Face grew red, her head shook, and was wreathed about, until they had done; when I caused her tongue to be held out of her mouth, their voice was more obscure; it is sometimes hoarser, sometimes shriller; sometimes small, sometimes great; sometimes her Throat swells more, sometimes lesse; and her Breast is elevated; she went to read, they told her, she should not, yet she did; she then had a shaking of one Leg; I laid my hand upon her knee, and then the motion ceased there, and writhed her body; in her going, one Leg was took, as it were, with a cramp; but sometimes she goeth very well; nothing happens always, and each sometimes; sometimes one member, sometimes another ... sometimes almost all the members, and sometimes scarce any'.

'Not being satisfied with what I saw, I went over to Berkinsted to Doctor Woodhouse, who was her Physitian, and he told me he really thought she was possessed, and he told me two able Physitians, (whose names I have now forgotten) were with her, and told him she was Demoniacally possessed, and they they being very lately in France, saw there a whole Convent of Nunns so handled as Mary Hall was, with their Abbatesse'.

Modern medical opinion would probably attribute most of the symptoms that Mary was reported to exhibit to severe epilepsy and perhaps a psychotic disorder, such as schizophrenia or multiple personality disorder. However, it would make a much better story if a member of my ancestral family had fallen under a witch's spell.

Martin K Thompson

Recollections of High Wycombe

Bob Lynch

Recollections of my early life growing up in High Wycombe 1942–1953

I was part of a working class family living through the Second World War and the subsequent challenging post-war years as the country rebuilt itself. For the record I was born in Cambridge where my mother had gone as an unofficial land girl to be closer to my father who was stationed in the RAF before he went to Burma in late 1943. I have only one memory of living on a farm in Cambridgeshire – that of being high up on a horse drawn cart loaded with hay! So my early childhood memories mainly centre around living with my father's parents at the top of Totteridge Hill in High Wycombe. There I learnt a lot about self-sufficiency by being with my grandad.

My parents were Maud LYNCH (née SMITH) b 12.06.1915 and Harry Victor Lynch b 12.02.1916. I believe they met before WW2 while working in the Woolworths store in High Wycombe. They married at Wycombe parish church, shortly after I had been conceived.

Maud was the youngest of 12 children born at Crowell Hill near Chinnor to Joseph Herbert SMITH and Lucy Ethyl ATKINS. I never knew Lucy, as she died in 1935; while Joe subsequently lived with various members of the family until his death in 1963.

Harry was the eldest of two children born to George LYNCH (originally from Newbury) and Louisa Alice WELLS (from Reading). Stella, his sister, married Denis FOX from High Wycombe in 1943 before he was posted abroad. So at any one time there could be seven living in the semi in Totteridge. More about that later.

So as I have previously stated, my grandfather played a major part in my early childhood: he reared pigs and chickens on a long garden in the

semi-detached house in Totteridge. We collected food waste from the local schools and after boiling it up with bran fed the pigs. Most pigs were sent to market squealing, but one was usually kept back, slaughtered, gutted, then salted down, and finally stored in a dry wooden shed and obviously eaten. I was fully involved. By trade George was a fishmonger, working at Smith's fishmongers in Bull Lane, which I visited several times. Before that he ran a fish and chip shop on Totteridge Road opposite the Iron Duke pub.

You have already read a previous article written by your editor Rebecca Gurney about a walk through old Wycombe and perhaps I can add my own reminiscences. After the war my father went to work at Murrays, then the new department store close by to the fishmongers, and I remember just how spartan Newlands bus station was at that time, near the old gas works. All in the same area.

So, as I have previously stated, I lived in Totteridge at the top of one of the many steep hills out of High Wycombe. Initially I went to nursery down the hill and up Tom Burt's Hill. Opposite was Hypnos – the mattress manufacturer. Then on to Gordon Road school and then Spring Gardens. Both schools had bomb shelters. Mrs Onslow and Mr Fitch were two teachers I can bring to mind; country dancing and failing my 11+ exam; a mug and a bag of sugar when the queen came to the throne. I either walked to and from school or caught a bus. There were open fields down to both schools. After that I went to the new Hatters Lane secondary school for two years. The school was divided into boys and girls with each half a mirror image of the other.

Other things that I remember was the extremely hard winter of 1947. There was no transport, and you had to hang onto the railings to negotiate the hill.

After the war, when my dad and my uncle finally returned in early 1946, it became obvious that my grandparents' house was not convenient for us all. We went to live in a detached house further up into Totteridge. It might seem upmarket but we shared the house with another family who we did not know. One kitchen and one bathroom; one room upstairs and down for each family. We eventually moved round the crescent into a small newbuild.

Unfortunately my father started to suffer with deteriorating eyesight and severe headaches. This was eventually diagnosed as a brain tumour and he underwent surgery at John Radcliffe hospital at Oxford. While successful, it meant another two years before he was recovered. He and mum continued to work full time and I became a latchkey kid.

It is important that I tell you that during the late 40s early 50s there was considerable housing development in and around High Wycombe. The area between Totteridge Hill and Hatters Lane became built up. The same happened in Micklefield with housing being built right up to King's Wood from the original road off Wycombe Marsh. Likewise, estates around Bowerdean and Downley were created. So in 1953 the population of Wycombe rose to the dizzy heights of 50,000+ and now I understand it is 114,000.

Wycombe was an industrial town with the main industries being furniture manufacture, and along the river Wye – papermaking. Additionally there was Harrison & Sons stamp factory and Broom & Wade compressors along the Hughenden valley. Plus Earnest Turner electrical component manufacturer up off Gordon Road. The latter boasted its own sports ground up in Totteridge, at which I was frequently found, playing and enjoying their excellent sports day.

Now all gone.

I particularly remember the large factories of Gommers and Ercols straddling the railway line towards Beaconsfield. Both were on my route across the fields down to Spring Gardens School.

Touching on railways, the station at Wycombe had a busy shunting yard as well as commuter trains into Marylebone. There was also a single track branch line that took you down to Maidenhead. Additionally there was a named express called the Master Cutler that took you up to Sheffield.

I have failed to mention the Rye, which was a particular attraction to us young tearaways. A large open space – the playground, paddling pool, the Dyke, fishing and rowing, BUT no swimming pool. We used to cycle to Burnham Beeches or even Maidenhead to their pools.

I have also failed to tell you about the famous annual Wycombe show on the Rye, my grandfather George in latter life running the cafe from the wooden shed just inside the Rye near Pann Mill. And of course the famous sloping football ground at Loakes Park; scene of many cup and league matches when part of the amateur Isthmian league. Or the USAF base up on Keep Hill and the interaction with the community.

Finally I have not told the story of how I came to find I had a half-sister, a result of celebrations at the end of the war. No, my dad was not the father – he was still in Burma. It took 59 years for me to find out, some time after both my parents died. Happily we now have a good relationship. Perhaps a story for another time; together with my progress through adolescence to adulthood while still living in Totteridge.

Bob Lynch

Church Penance 1715

Howard Lambert

Parishioners who committed an offence such as failure to pay tithes, refusal to attend church service, or adultery, would be dealt with accordingly by the ecclesiastical authorities. Punishment for adultery or fornication, in particular, would often involve the culprits doing penance. This was a rather ritualistic display of remorse and repentance for their sins, which would take place during or after Sunday Service, in the presence of the entire congregation. For lesser offences, or for those of previous good character, a private penance, performed solely in front of the minister and churchwardens, might be permitted. However, if the parties refused to undergo penance, then the ultimate sanction of excommunication could be passed. Each time a penance was performed, the minister and churchwardens would certify that it had taken place, and the document would be submitted to the ecclesiastical registrar.

Last year whilst researching at Huntingdonshire Archives, I chanced upon this one, dated 1715:

A Forme of Pennance to be performed in the Parish Church of Eynesbury in the County of Huntingdon on Sunday 27 of March 1715 by Thomas GALE & Elizabeth his Wife of Eynesbury afores(ai)d

The said Thomas GALE & Elizabeth his Wife shall be present in the parish Church of Eynesbury the day & year above at Morning Prayers & then & there standing in some open place where the Min(iste)r shall appoint upon a joindy [sic] stool or high bass so that they may be seen & observed by the whole Congregation in a long White Sheet down from their shoulders to their Ankles, bare faced, bare footed & bare legged & with long white Rods in their hands shall between the first & second service make this Acknowledgm(en)t following - saying after the Min(iste)r with an audible voice & in a penitent & submissive Manner.

Good People whereas to the great displeasure of Almighty God the publick Scandall of our most holy Religion & the Office of all good Xtian People We have committed fornication with each other before our intermarriage & had a bastard child of our bodies & stand thereof convict by our own confession. We are therefore by the authority of the Church & in pursuance of its primitive and ancient usage & discipline come hither to make this publick open & solemn acknowledgm(en)t that others admonished by our example may be the more afraid to offend & to this We willingly & heartily submit looking upon this punishment as little in respect to the great offence We have committed. We do therefore in the presence of the great & dreadfull God & before this Congregation now present with all possible Humility Sincerity and conviction confess and acknowledge our said sin and the great Sinfulness thereof together with our hearty & unfeigned Sorrow for the same. And We do earnestly intreat you all that are now present as You regard Ye eternal Welfare & for the sake of a crucified Saviour deeply to consider the condition of a soul under the weight of this or any other notorious Sin that the sence of it & our just punishment may have a good effect upon You & keep you within the bound of Gods Duty And We humbly beseech Almighty God and all good Xtians to forgive us & all of you here present to joyne with us in prayers for the Assistance of his holy Spirit that We offend not in the like or any other wilful kind for the future.

Then shall the Penitents repeat the L(or)ds Prayer saying after the Min(iste)r ... Our Father etc.

We whoss [sic] names are underwritten do certify that Pennance was performed in ye Parish Church of Eynesbury in ye County of Huntingdon on ye 27th day of this Instant March by Elizabeth ye wife of Thomas GALE according to this Form in ye Presence of us John Hooper Minister (and) Simon Ch(ur)ch Warden

Reference : KAH/11/266/94 Huntingdonshire Archives

Howard Lambert

CONVICTIONS

Kelham HEBBES, convicted of stealing a bushel of wheat, value 10d., and William BATES, convicted of stealing a petticoat, value 6d., are ordered to “ be made fast to the breech of a Cart and stript naked from the wast [sic] upward this proximate fryday, about one of the Clock in the afternoone, and whipt from the Mercatt house in Chesham to the greate Elme att the upper end of the street, and soe downe to the Mercatt place againe, untill their bodys be bloody.”

Michaelmas Session at Chesham, 9 October 1679

Reference: Calendar of Bucks Session Records, Volume I (1678-1694)

Submitted by Howard Lambert

Grace's Guide To British Industrial History

A useful collection of historical information on industry and manufacturing in Britain – early companies, their products and the people who designed and built them.

Several Bucks towns are covered:

<https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Category:Buckinghamshire>

2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is the time to renew your membership.
The membership subscription year runs from
1 January to 31 December.

Our membership rates are:

- **£6 for Web membership**, with a PDF version of our journal from our website.
- **£12 for UK Individual membership**, with a printed and posted copy of our journal.
- **£15 for UK Family membership***, with a printed and posted copy of our journal.
- **£17 for Overseas membership**, with a printed and posted copy of our journal.

RENEWAL ONLINE

If you do not have a standing order with Bucks FHS, please help us to reduce our costs by considering payment via:

Family History Federation Parish Chest

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

Or via the Bucks FHS website [www.https://bucksfhs.org.uk/](https://bucksfhs.org.uk/) using the shop link at the top of the page.

Or by Standing Order or BACS transfer. Your initials, surname and membership number must be included as the reference. Payment should arrive on the 2nd of January each year.

Our bank details are:

Buckinghamshire Family History Society
Bank of Scotland
Sort Code: 80-11-00
Account No: 06059591

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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The membership subscription year runs from 1 Jan to 31 Dec.

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Second person (for Family membership):

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Do you wish to be kept informed by email of Society products and activities?
(see note on previous page): YES / NO (Please delete as required)

I agree to abide by the constitution of the Society.

Signed:

Date:

Please tick the category required:

Membership Type & Rate

UK Individual : £12.00

UK Family (same address) : £15.00

Web/Online : £6.00

Membership Type & Rate

UK Corporate : £14.00

Overseas : £17.00

**I enclose a cheque (Sterling cheque or bank draft only) made payable to:
Buckinghamshire Family History Society**

*** Note**

For those renewing or starting with Family Membership, a second email address is necessary for two accounts with separate login on the new Bucks FHS website. **Please email the Membership Secretary with the details of the second email address.**

RENEWAL BY POST (UK residents only)

If you are able, we would prefer that you renew your membership via one of the methods described above. If you wish to continue to pay by cheque, please complete the membership renewal form opposite, and post this together with a cheque made payable to Buckinghamshire Family History Society to:

Membership Secretary
Buckinghamshire FHS
Box 2, Unit 7 Broadfields
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP19 8BU

Please note that our bank will no longer accept cheques or money orders for small amounts from non-UK banks. If you live outside the UK and wish to take out membership, use a credit or debit card (through the Parish Chest website as mentioned above is the easiest method).

Thank you.

**IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR RENEWAL BY
25 JANUARY 2025
WE WILL REGARD YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS LAPSED**

Membership

We welcome 57 new members since the previous list was produced including the following who agreed to have their details made available.

7723	Ms M R SMITH	East Sussex	smithmgr17@hotmail.co.uk
7727	Ms C READ	Cornwall	readc_4249@outlook.com
7734	Ms J CHEESEMAN	Oxfordshire	jillcheeseman13@gmail.com
7737	Mr B CLEWLEY	Hertfordshire	Bobclewley@gmail.com
7744	Ms M WIDDOWSON	Kent	widdowsonmichele@gmail.com
7752	Ms J DANIELLS	Shropshire	jan@daniells.org.uk
7754	Mr J MASSEY	France	johnvmasseym@gmail.com

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

Memb No.	Surname	Location/s	County	Years From To	
7737	ALLCROFT	All	All		
7744	ANTHONY	All	All		
7744	ANTHONY	Chenies	BKM	All	
7744	BRIGGS	All	All		
7723	BROOKS	Bledlow Ridge	BKM - Bucks	1700	1770
7752	BRYANT	Flackwell Heath	BKM All	All	
7737	BUGGEY	All	All		
7737	CLEWLEY	All	All		
7744	DANDRIDGE	All	All		
7723	DASH	Bassnett	WIL - Wiltshire	1700	1780
7723	DASH	Wootton Rivers	WIL - Wiltshire	1700	1780
7723	DEWSBURY	Waddesdon	BKM - Bucks	1700	
7744	FLOYD	All	All		
7723	GINGER	Little Hampden	BKM - Bucks	1640	1700
7737	GOODRIDGE	All	All		
7723	GREEN	Marlow	BKM - Bucks	1700	1800
7744	GURNEY	All	All		
7723	HADAWAY	Princes Risborough	BKM - Bucks	1700	1770
7723	HATHERWAY	Princes Risborough	BKM - Bucks	1700	1770
7744	HIGGINS	All	All		
7734	LAWSON	Ashley Green	BKM - Bucks	1850	1940

Memb No.	Surname	Location/s	County	Years From	To
7744	MASON	All	All		
7754	MASSEY	Chalfont St Giles	Bucks	All	
7754	MASSEY	Whaddon	Bucks	All	
7754	MASSEY	Wooburn	Bucks	All	
7744	MILLS	All	All		
7737	MUNDAY	All	All		
7723	NEW	Burbage	WIL - Wiltshire	1810	1830
7754	PEARCE	Amersham	Bucks	All	
7754	PEARCE	Great Missenden	Bucks		
7737	POPPL	All	All		
7723	SCOTT	Kingsey	BKM - Bucks	1700	
7737	STRANKS	All	All		
7723	TUGWOOD	Cookham	BRK - Berks	1700	1800
7737	TURPIN	All	All		
7744	WINCHESTER	All	All		

Members who have passed away between 10/03/2025 and 28/09/2025.

3397 Mr B ATKINS of Northampton

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.

Members Interests on the Website

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

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

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

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

Your Members' Interests Stories

Have you made any contacts and progressed your research using the Members' Interests page on the website?

If you have, perhaps you could write an article for *Origins* about your successes?

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

**Do you have ancestors in
Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,
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Victuallers Licenses
Coroners Records
Quarter Sessions Records
Parish Records

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

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

contains full details.

Buckinghamshire FHS SOCIETY SERVICES

What is available?

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

How do I request a service?

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

How do I pay?

Please refer to the individual services notices on the following pages

- **Credit Card**

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

NOTE THAT WE NO LONGER ACCEPT CHEQUES.

How is postage charged?

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

How do I cancel my order?

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

Other notes

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



Society Publications

Bucks FHS Publications

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

To purchase items online at Parish Chest

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

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

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

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

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

Search Service

Bucks Archives Search (members only)

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

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

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

Contact

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

Email: cbsinfo@bucksfhs.org.uk

Database Searches

Baptisms and Burials

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

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

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

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

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

Email: baptisms@bucksfhs.org.uk

Marriages

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

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

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

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

Email: marriages@bucksfhs.org.uk

Society Libraries

Exchange Journals Library

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

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

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

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

Contact

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

Email: magexchange@bucksfhs.org.uk

Take a look at our FACEBOOK GROUP

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



Useful Contacts

Buckinghamshire Archives

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

Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UU
archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
01296 382587

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

High Wycombe Library

5 Eden Place, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP11 2DH
Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-hiw@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Milton Keynes Local Studies and Family History Library

555 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 3HL
Tel: 01908 254050

Slough Library

The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY
Tel: 01753 875533

Email: library@slough.gov.uk

Chesham Library

Elgiva Lane, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2JD
Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-che@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckingham Library

Verney Close, Buckingham,
Bucks, MK18 1JP
Tel: 01296 382415

Email: lib-buc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Society of Genealogists

40 Wharf Road
London, N1 7GS
Tel: 020 7251 8799
www.sog.org.uk

The National Archives (TNA)

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond,
Surrey, TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444

Email: enquiry@pro.gov.uk
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

General Register Office

PO Box 2,
Southport PR8 2JD
Tel: 0300 123 1837

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

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Contact: BFHS Editor, Box 2, c/o Unit 7 Broadfields,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8BU
Email: editor@bucksfhs.org.uk

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www.bucksfhs.org.uk



Please submit entries to the 2025 competition to:

editor@bucksfhs.org.uk