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Front cover: 'Look Up' - part of The Wakeman Trail outside Shropshire Archives ©Karen Hunter 2025

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Thoughts from the Chair

Talking Family History Live Spring Event

It was good to meet people at our event in May and there was a good 'buzz' about the place as people caught up with each other. It was great to have two of our own members give presentations. Graham Hollox gave an interesting talk on the Red Church project and introduced us to some of the people for whom the churchyard is their final resting place and it was fascinating to hear about some of their links with well-known figures from the past. Pauline Maguire shared her 'lateral research' in which she unravelled some family mysteries and discovered some hidden gems. This included a family link with the early days of the Corps of Commissionaires, an organisation established in 1859 to give employment to honourably discharged soldiers and which is still working to provide meaningful employment for veterans. It was definitely an example of how our family history research can take us down previously unknown rabbit holes and offer a new perspective on the lives of our ancestors.

I gave a brief run through of the new website (more about that later) and everyone took part in a lively quiz, with general knowledge, Shropshire based and genealogy questions to test the minds after lunch!

We have another live event booked for 11 October so please make sure it is in your diaries. We are looking for ideas for what to include in the programme for the day and also for a couple of people to join the planning group to make it all happen. Please get in touch if you can help or have any suggestions.

Website

I am pleased to announce that, depending on when you read this, our new website is about to go live, or is live. This gives us the opportunity to promote our Society more widely and to offer our members access to more of our resources. This has been a significant project for the Society which has taken up a lot of time and focus for the group working on it for which we must all be very grateful. More information about what you can find on the website can be found on pages 88-90. If you have registered an email address with us you will also receive an email at the time the site goes live explaining how you can log-in and explore all that the site offers, including the Members Only area.

Capturing memories

Like me I expect many of you watched the coverage of the VE Day 80th Anniversary commemorations on the television or were perhaps taking part yourselves. It was wonderful to 'meet' and to hear the memories of those who lived through those times, with a particular poignancy given that they are in the very twilight years of their lives.

As I was listening it highlighted how important it is that such memories are captured, saved and shared. And it isn't just the memories of such momentous events and moments, but those of our daily lives so that future generations are able to understand more about the lives of their ancestors. My parents had little memory of VE Day itself but have shared some other memories of wartime with me. These include Mum recalling watching the planes flying in and out of RAF Cosford when she was living in Albrighton and, among her belongings was a small perspex cross, as in the image here, made from the off-cuts of the plane 'windscreens' and, I had been told, one was hung in the cockpit of each plane before they flew.



Dad shared two memories particular wartime memories: the first was sitting overlooking the railway behind his home in Crowmere Road, watching and waving to the troop trains coming past. The second was prompted by me mentioning Michael and I had been following the WW2 walk at Attingham Park the other week and discovered traces of RAF Atcham (used mainly as the home of the 495th Fighter Training Group) which I had not known about previously. He told me that he often cycled out there to watch the planes!

Keeping our Society Alive

I am sure you all saw a 'Job Advert' for Editor in the last Journal! So far, no-one has indicated an interest/willingness to take up the post. It is the same for most of our recent requests for help to keep the Society running. I will be honest that I am not surprised. It is nothing new and is a problem for many other voluntary bodies. However, we must all recognise that we can't keep relying on the few - we need help in a number of areas and I ask all of you consider how you might help us to share the load and you do not need to live in Shropshire. Drop me a line if you think it might be you!

Karen Hunter, Chair chair@sfhs.org.uk

Grandad's Silver Spoons

Editor: In this article David shares some of his family history linked to two silver spoons he has which belonged to his grandfather. This is a good illustration of how some memorabilia can lead us to find out more about our ancestors.

I'm no expert on silverware, but the two silver spoons I have are in good condition considering their age and bear what I assume are hallmarks. The inscriptions are in florid italic script: '*Patshull Coy (Company) 1898 Pte E. Bentley*' and '*Cup Team Pte E. Bentley 1904*'. Edward BENTLEY (1871-1941) was my maternal grandfather. Patshull was the huge country estate of the Earls of Dartmouth, situated to the west of Wolverhampton between Albrighton and Pattingham. In the 1870s, Edward's father Luke, a bricklayer on the estate, was given the tenancy of Shropshire Lodge, which remained in the family until Edward's mother Sarah Jane died in 1934. Further discussion of Patshull and Shropshire Lodge can be found in my article '*Life on the Border*' in the March 2019 journal.

The county border runs between Shropshire Lodge and Patshull Hall: like most of the estate, the Georgian mansion is in Staffordshire. This situation caused confusion in 1861, when the residents of the Hall were included in the census returns for Shropshire. In this vivid picture of aristocratic life, twelve members of the Dartmouth family (surname LEGGE) are listed along with three governesses and 31 '*downstairs*' servants, including five laundry maids and three footmen. Remarkably, these servants are drawn from twenty counties across England, with only two each hailing from Shropshire and Staffordshire. Two temporary residents, '*Officer's servants*', accompanied the Earl's brothers, both officers in the Coldstream Guards, who were visiting – a reminder of the military tradition common to many aristocratic families.

This tradition was reflected in the fact that Patshull maintained its own company of the Staffordshire Yeomanry, a territorial regiment as we would now call it. The earlier of the two spoons was probably presented to the 17 year old Edward Bentley when he joined the Company in 1898. The 1904 spoon, inscribed '*Cup Team*' clearly commemorates victory or participation in a competition – shooting would seem a safe assumption. The huge expanse of the estate would have given ample opportunity for manoeuvres of all kinds, on horseback as well as on foot. Such activities continued as war approached in 1914, by which time Edward

had left the estate. A postcard of that year shows the Yeomanry encamped at Patshull in a location I recognise near Quarry Lodge on the southern fringe of the estate (this was the site of their annual camp). Tents are arranged with military precision and horses are tethered between them; another card shows men in full uniform parading with rifles. Clearly there was nothing amateurish about the Patshull Company and their comrades.

The lives of the Dartmouth family and their estate workers were in many ways worlds apart, but the Great War shattered many boundaries. In 1920 a service was held at the estate church of St Mary's to dedicate a roll of honour inside the building and a memorial to the fallen in the churchyard. The roll of honour lists 68 men who served, not just from the estate, but from surrounding settlements within the parish. Eleven men died, including Captain the Honourable Gerald Legge, son of the Earl of Dartmouth, killed at Gallipoli in 1915. I also followed the trail of Harry DIMBYLOW, a joiner from Stanlow on the western edge of the estate, who died in the Battle of Loos, also in 1915. There were odd connections here: in both cases, their brothers also served; in neither case was the body found (Gerald is listed on the Helles memorial. Harry, who was married with seven children, is listed in the Loos cemetery). War brought a sort of democracy of death to the men of Patshull.

Edward Bentley's younger brother, my great-uncle Harry, is also on the roll; he survived the war to become a painter and decorator in Albrighton. Edward also survived, his service being commemorated at St Chad's, Pattingham. His two silver spoons have survived more than a century after their presentation to remind us of a place that influenced many lives across the borders of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Note: The main source for this article is the indispensable 'Local History in Pattingham and Patshull' edited by Peter Leigh, with some additional memories from my late mother Edith and aunt Hetty, daughters of Edward Bentley.



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Image: St Mary's Church Patsull
cc-by-sa.2.0 St Mary's Church, Patsull (2) by Mike Searle <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3423568>

Curetons from Bridgnorth and the Mystery of Ethelind Nell Cureton

Ethelind Nell CURETON was always a bit of a mystery to the family. She was the elder sister and only sibling of my husband's late father Jack. Jack left behind his parents and sister Nell when he travelled from the UK to a new life in Australia in 1925 at the age of 18. According to Jack his sister never married, had no children and died quite young.

So, imagine my surprise when I found mentioned on Jack's Australian Air Force attestation papers: Mrs FAGG (sister) as person to be notified in case of casualty. I just had to investigate! It transpires that not only had Ethelind married, but she in fact was married three times!

Baker in Bridgnorth

Ethelind's paternal family roots were firmly planted in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Her three times Great grandfather was James CURETON who married Elizabeth MAUN at St Mary Magdalene Church in Bridgnorth on 13 February 1774. I have not been able to confirm his occupation but by a process of elimination I believe that he was quite likely a gardener. I also have a possible burial as follows: 9 December 1830, St Mary Magdalene Bridgnorth, James CURETON, age 80, Abode Castle Street.

James and Elizabeth had eleven children. Ethelind's two times Great Grandfather was Thomas CURETON born in 1784. On both the 1841 and 1851 census his occupation was Baker and he was living in the High Street, Bridgnorth. On the 1861 census Thomas is a widower, a retired Baker living with his daughter Mary and son-in-law Richard NICHOLAS. Richard was a 'Plumber/Painter' living at 13 East Castle Street at the time. Thomas CURETON died aged 86 on 18 April 1871.

Thomas had married Sarah EDGILL in 1812 in St Leonard's Church Bridgnorth. Their first son, one of seven children born, Benjamin James CURETON was Ethelind's Great Grandfather. He was born in 1814 and like all of the children was baptised at St Leonards Church.

Butcher in Bridgnorth

In the Pigot & Co Directory of 1842 Benjamin CURETON is listed under the heading of Butchers. He continued in this occupation for many years, as shown on both

the 1851 and 1861 census where Benjamin operated his business at number 46 High Street Bridgnorth. At the time of his death in 1868 he was still listed in the 1868 Slaters Directory of Gloucestershire and Shropshire. For quite some time Benjamin was also the Registrar of Births and Deaths. He married Sarah TOMKINS in 1842 at St Leonards Church. Benjamin and Sarah had eight children. On 13 January 1868, at the time of his death at age 53, Benjamin appears to have been a very well-respected member of the community as the following extract from the Bridgnorth Journal indicates:

DISTRESSING SUDDEN DEATH: From our midst this week lest one who was ever recognised as a fond husband, an affectionate father, and to have maintained a character of the highest integrity in all business transactions. Most sincerely do we regret that we have to record the sudden death of Benjamin CURETON of High Street who expired on Tuesday evening last...We understand that congestion of the brain was the cause of death. In recording this melancholy event, we feel that we may convey to the family of Mr CURETON expressions of the deepest regret and sympathy from every person to whom their lamented father was known, for the irreparable loss they have sustained.

Draper in the family – briefly

Ethelind's grandfather was Charles Tomkins CURETON the first born of Benjamin and Sarah. He was born in Bridgnorth in 1843. On the 1861 census at the age of 18 he was an Apprentice Draper with a Mr George PIDDUCK of 'PIDDUCK and LAY' [Stourport Directory - Littlebury's Directory & Gazetteer of 1879] described as linen and woollen drapers, silk mercers, milliners, hatters, hosiers, gloves and funeral furnishers whose address was corner of Bridge and York Streets Bewdley. It is not known why Charles did not continue in the drapery profession, but perhaps it was after his father's death in 1868 that Charles returned to Bridgnorth. On the 1871 census he is living at his father's business address, 46 High Street Bridgnorth, and his profession is now Butcher and Registrar of Births and Deaths. [Cassey & Co's Directory of Shropshire 1871] It seems he literally stepped into his father's shoes, being the eldest son, with both his parents deceased and having siblings still at home.

Later that year he married Helen Friday FARRINGTON in Harbury on 4 December 1871. It is quite possible that Charles met Helen through his connection to the town of Bewdley as this is where Helen was born. At the time of the 1851 census

Helen's parents, Amos and Hellen FARRINGTON had a grocery shop in Load Street Bewdley.

Inn Keeper in Bridgnorth

It now seems that Charles decided to branch out into a different career path and sometime after they married Charles and Helen moved into the Acton Arms in Morville as shown on the 1881 census. Charles's occupation is now Inn Keeper. He did however continue in his role as the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Bridgnorth area. On the 1891 census the family are still living at the Acton Arms with the occupation of 'Farmer' now being listed against Charles at that time. I do not know what farm this may refer to unless the Acton Arms at that time was part of a farm? Below is a postcard of the Acton Arms taken in 1898.



Charles and Helen had four children, first born Ben CURETON followed by Edith, Ernest and Dorothy all living at the Acton Arms in 1881 and 1891. Then not long after the census that year Charles died. As reported in the Bridgnorth Journal of 17 October 1891 under Deaths:

Charles Thompkins Cureton age 46 at his house, the Acton Arms, Morville. For many years the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

There is an error here with his age.

Ben CURETON was born on 1 October 1872 in his parent's dwelling which at that time was above his father's butcher shop in the High Street in Bridgnorth. His birth was registered by his father who was the Registrar and whose occupation was butcher at time. Ben was later christened at St Leonards on 2 February 1873.

Draper back in the picture

At the age of eighteen, Ben followed his father's original profession of Drapery, as on the 1891 census while living in Morville at the Acton Arms, Ben's occupation is Draper's apprentice. To this date I have not been able to find out to whom he may have been apprenticed, however unlike his father, Ben appears to have continued in this profession in one form or another the whole of his adult life. I also do not know if there were any other family members who were in the Drapery trade at that time and have yet to search for possible apprenticeship records for both Charles and Ben.

The move from Bridgnorth

After more than 120 years of living in the town of Bridgnorth our CURETONs then begin to reach out into the world via Ben, the father of Ethelind.

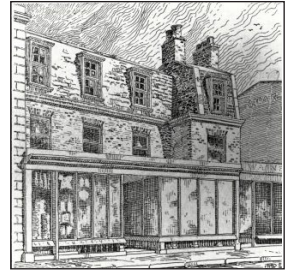
Sometime between the 1891 and 1901 census Ben left his family roots behind and moved into Middlesex as in 1901 he is living with his wife Ethelind Laura at 30 Windemere Avenue, Willesden. His occupation is Drapers Buyer. He did however return to his home town with his fiancée Ethelind Laura FRASER as they married in Morville on 27 December 1900 at the church of St Gregory the Great. It is reasonable to assume that Ben met Ethelind through the 'Drapery Industry' as she herself was an Apprentice Dressmaker on the 1891 census. At that time she was lodging in a building possibly owned by John Lewis Department Store in Weymouth Street, Portland Place, Marylebone, London. John Lewis Department Store was one of the largest shops in Oxford Street with a huge drapery department. In fact, I was fortunate enough to obtain confirmation from the John Lewis archive in London of Ethelind's (the mother) employment. Unfortunately, their records do not go back to 1901, but their files do show Ethelind working for John Lewis in 1919 and 1924. Not only that but on 3 November 1929 she was promoted from the position of Buyer in the fashion department to that of General Manager of the department. This is completely in line with family tales.

Ben and Ethelind Cureton had two children: Ethelind Nell CURETON born 25 October 1901 and my husband's father, Jack born in 1907, both in London.

Into the London Fashion Industry

Ethelind was born at the family home at 30 Windemere Avenue, Willesden. Ten years later, on the night of the 1911 census we see her living in her father's home town of Morville. Nell as she was known, aged nine years is living with her grandmother Helen Cureton who is now a widow and whose occupation is Inn Keeper at the Acton Arms. With the recent access to the 1921 census, I have Etherlind Nell age 19 living with her parents at 27 Craven Avenue, Ealing, Brentford, Middlesex. Her occupation is Draper Assistant with Peter Jones Ltd in Sloane Square. Her mother was also working there, and her occupation was Gown Buyer. At that time her father Ben was employed by Messrs Baldwin in Laurence Lane, London as a Textile Merchant.

A quick Google search shows me that Peter Jones was a large department store in central London established in 1877 and is still trading. [The image to the right is the Peter Jones building, 2-4 Kings Road, 1877 https://johnlewismemorystore.org.uk/content/branch_finder/branches_o-r/peter_jones/origins_of_peter_jones] It is now owned by the John Lewis Partnership. I have not found any information on Messrs Baldwin. Nell's parents



continued in the drapery/fashion trade for the duration of their working lives. It is very likely that Nell continued working in the industry up until at least the time she married. I am not likely to find out anything more of the day-to-day life of Nell until we have access to the 1931 census. *[Editor: Unfortunately Ann won't have any luck there as the individual returns for the 1931 census were destroyed in a fire in 1942, with only the published statistics available. Perhaps there are some details in the 1939 Register?]*

What I do know is that at the age of 25 Nell married Leslie Alfred QUICK on 11 December 1926, in the parish church of St John's in Ealing Dean, Middlesex. Leslie's occupation was shown as Merchant, living in Ealing and Nell gave her parent's address at the time as her address i.e. 27 Craven Avenue, Ealing.

This marriage did not last long as in 1928 Nell divorced Leslie. The records show: Type as "Wife's petition for divorce" with the Appellant, Ethelind Nell Quick and Respondent as Leslie Alfred QUICK. [National Archives Kew Public Records]

Wedding number two: Nell married Thomas Ackland FENNEMORE on the 24 December 1929 in the Register Office in the district of St George, Hanover Square

in London. Thomas was a bachelor aged 27. His occupation was General Manager of China Works. Bride's information states Ethelind Nell Quick formerly Cureton, age 28, and formerly the wife of Lesley Alfred Quick from whom she obtained a divorce. Both parties gave their address as 13 Cambridge Street.

I have looked into Thomas Ackland FENNEMORE and it appears from public records at The National Archives Kew that Thomas (1902–1959) was a Pottery, Textile and Wallpaper Designer of some note. In fact the Victoria and Albert Museum of Art and Design are the repository for some of his art works.

I have not found divorce records as yet for this marriage, however from the certificate of the third marriage ten years later I have the following information: 29 August 1939 at the Register Office in the district of Lewisham, Edwin Jack FAGG, age 38 a bachelor married Ethelind Nell FENNEMORE formerly CURETON age 38 years. The divorced wife of Thomas Ackland FENNEMORE. Edwin's occupation is Corporal, Royal Air Force. Both parties gave their address as 31b Leyland Road, Lee, Kent.

Mrs Ethelind Nell FAGG

And so then here we arrive at the name of Mrs FAGG which is the name specified on the WW2 attestation papers of her brother Jack. In addition to Jack's mother being named as his next of kin the following details are quoted as additional person to be notified in case of casualty: Mrs FAGG, (sister) of 9 Penenden Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent.

I must say that I am a little intrigued about the life of Nell. I imagine she will have had an interesting life living in London, and married to an artist. London after the 1st World War was from all accounts abuzz with women who had more confidence and a certain degree of independence. Many had been employed during the war in factories and then in 1918 women over the age of 30 had been given the vote as had all women over the age of 21 in 1928.

Also, from my research I understand that divorce became more prolific after 18 July 1923. The Matrimonial Causes Act established equal rights in divorce for men and women, making it possible for wives to divorce husbands for adultery.

Married to three different gentlemen over a period of 11 years. Starting her life in London, spending some of her childhood in her father's home town in Shropshire, ending up back in London, possibly working there in the fashion industry, and

then finally living in Maidstone, happily married? I have found no evidence of children from any of the marriages.

Information found on Ancestry show Edwin Jack FAGG was an RAF Corporal in 1939 and an RAF Sergeant in 1947. Later I found a death registration for an Edwin Jack, aged 84, in the December quarter of 1986 in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Sadly, Ethelind died at the young age of 45. She died of acute anterior polio myelitis on 13 July 1947 at the Borough Isolation Hospital in Maidstone. It states she is the wife of Edwin Jack FAGG, Royal Air Force Flight Sergeant 512027 of the Penenden Heath address quoted earlier.

According to a newspaper item on the Trove newspaper website about Polio dated 28 December 1949, I quote:

from a London correspondent - this year has not claimed so many victims as previous years. Total number of cases in the country will be lower than in 1947 when there were 7350 cases, by far the highest since the disease became notifiable in 1912. So far the 1949 total has reached 5694 cases. Few more are expected now.

An interesting character our Ethelind, with so much more to her story than understood by her living relatives. Very sad dying so young and no one knowing her story. Unfortunately, we do not even have a photo of her. Perhaps I might eventually find out more?

I'd love to hear from anyone who might have connections, suggestions or comments.

Ann Cureton, 6626 annmcureton@gmail.com

Picking Up a Famous Aviator

In response to the request in the March 2025 SFHS Journal for family photographs that might be of interest, the top right hand image is a picture of my great-uncle Cecil GREENHALGH (1887–1970) driving the renowned pioneer aviator James Valentine *'from the field'* in Shropshire in the family's Métallurgique. Valentine is seated in the front passenger seat, and other family members are in the rear. As far as I'm aware, my family didn't know Valentine personally, but perhaps it was

felt that a large, comfortable and modern vehicle was an appropriate conveyance for collecting the distinguished airman from the field in which he had landed!



This probably took place during the 1911 Daily Mail Circuit of Britain race, in which Valentine was one of four pilots to complete the course, flying a Déperdussin monoplane, which would have been very similar to the 1910 model shown in the photograph.

The other picture shows the Métallurgique, together with smartly attired chauffeur, outside the Greenhalgh family home, 'Spring Hill' in Dawley. The house still stands in Springhill Road, Telford, and is now divided into a number of separate dwellings. My great-great-grandfather, William GREENHALGH (1849–1923) had a provision business in Dawley and served as a Justice of the Peace.



James Valentine joined the RFC in the First World War, being awarded a DSO and a Russian Order of St George, and reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel within the space of just a few years. Sadly, he died of wounds in Kiev in 1917. Great-Uncle Cecil served in Mesopotamia in the First World War as a subaltern in the Leicestershire Regiment.

My great-uncle's Christian name, incidentally, is pronounced 'Sissl', after the fashion of the distinguished family of that name (although there is no family connection). The only historian who seems to know how to pronounce it correctly is David Starkey!

Richard Peaver, 1613

Some more thoughts on the surname 'Shropshire' and others

In the SFHS Journal for September 2024 (Vol.45, no.3, p133) mention was made of a request 40 years ago by a Mr Stivers of the USA, regarding an Oliver Shropshire (bn. 1623), whose son moved to Virginia c.1698. He was enquiring as to whether the surname Shropshire had originated in the county. This resulted in responses from Joan Gate and Val Mace, as published in the Journal in December 2024 (Vol. 45, pt 4, p.158).

The word 'Shropshire' was first recorded in 1006, derived from Old English Scrobbesbyrigscir (= Shrewsburyshire), possibly after Richard Scrob who built Ludlow Castle (Wikipedia). Joan Gate suggests that it was simply an itinerant 13th century settler who derived his surname from the county. Val Mace is actually descended from John Shropshire (1787-1871); a Shropshire lineage from 1787 can be seen on Ancestry Public Member trees.

In his book "*The Origin of English Place Names*", P.H.Reaney (pronounced 'Rainey', incidentally), writes:

The French [Norman] difficulty in pronouncing the English form of Shropshire, Scrobbesbyrigscir, has given us the modern (county of) Salop. The first step was to drop the -byrig- in the eleventh century Scropscir. In the Domesday Book the pronunciation of Shr was eased by the insertion of a vowel, Sciropescire. Then the initial sound was simplified to s and the first r dissimilated to l :Salopescira (1098). Salop was then used alone, although the fuller form was retained in Shropshire. Unlike Nottingham, the town kept its English form, though Norman forms were also used, Sciropesberie (1086), Salopesberia (1098). The development of the English name itself is not normal. We should have expected a modern Shropsbury, but the earlier Scrobbesbyrig seems to have become Shrovesbury and then Shrowsbury, a pronunciation still regarded as the correct one. But, on the analogy of words like shew and show, the spelling was altered to Shrewsbury.

(Reaney, 1987, 9th imp, p.200)

I believe I have read (somewhere) that Reaney's work is now seen as dated at best, and possibly incorrect at worst.

Having read Reaney's version, I wondered (when I should have been doing more useful things!), how many other English counties, might lend themselves to surnames. Listed below are some examples of people I could remember (without recourse to Google etc) who possessed county surnames.

Examples:

Group Captain Leonard **Cheshire**, war hero and founder of Cheshire homes

Alan **Devonshire** – former West Ham United footballer

Victoria **Derbyshire** – interviewer on BBC Newsnight

Susan **Hampshire** – actress

Sarah **Lancashire** – actress

David **Cornwall** – author

Judith **Durham** – former singer for the Seekers pop group

David **Essex** – singer

Dean **Westmorland** – boot and shoe repairer on BBC's Repair Shop programme)

There are undoubtedly other examples.

Out of interest, a search of Ancestry Census indexes, using just the surname SHROPSHIRE, brought up 1,477 results – perhaps smaller than I would have imagined (there are 15,091 with my surname). A further breakdown shows for 1841: 76, for 1851: 89, 1861: 110, 1871:132, 1881: 119, 1891: 164, 190 : 157, 1911:180, 1921 :204, 1939 :177 (plus, over the same period, 18 in Wales, 8 in the Isle of Man, 1 in Scotland). The number of entries in Ancestry Censuses for the surname SHEWSBURY is, incidentally, 2,630. FindMyPast has records of 1,484 people with the SHROPSHIRE surname.

This probably has very little direct relevance and is just a bit of 'whimsey', so make of it what you will.

Peter Tandy, 7709

Editor: I knew some doctors with the surname 'Shrewsbury' but haven't come across any Shropshires. And apropos of nothing I also knew a Dr Christmas!

Ways of Seeing



Left to right

Elizabeth Jane Banks nee Davis B: Circa 1869, Smethwick Warwickshire. D: June 1943, Ludlow Shropshire

Gwenyth Teale nee Devey B: Mar 1919, Ludlow Shropshire D: Mar 1967, Ludlow Shropshire.

Marjorie Devey nee Banks B: May 1892, Ludlow Shropshire. D: Sept 1966, Ludlow Shropshire.

Kathleen Roberts nee Teale B: Oct 1939, Ludlow Shropshire D: Nov 2019, Ludlow Shropshire.

I love this picture. It shows everything that I want to see with regard to Family History. It contains four generations, over one hundred and fifty years, of the extended DEVEY family in Ludlow and illustrates wonderfully well what I think family history is all about. You can almost reach out and touch them. The photograph was probably taken in early 1940. Baby KATHLEEN, born in October 1939 looks to be several months old. She sits on my paternal grandmother's proud knee, suitably dressed in baby finery. In fact all four of these lovely ladies look as if they have dressed for this, what in its own way is an attempt to take a formal photograph. It is posed and clearly the mat on the grass and the careful positioning of all four concerned, the chairs and their individual poses would suggest this too. Quite where it was taken is hard to say, for what we see is perhaps a little more than a garden.

Records tell us something about each of them. For ELIZABETH JANE, we know that she was born in Birmingham on 9 August 1869 from information we have. She was recorded on each Census from 1891 to 1923. In June 1889 she married JAMES BANKS in Ludlow Parish Church. She had seven children, four of whom survived her. Her husband died in 1935. ELIZABETH JANE's last appearance in the

records is the 1939 Register, shown as an old age pensioner. One final note about ELIZABETH JANE in the photograph. Get that hat!

MAJORIE DEVEY, my paternal grandmother, was one of ELIZABETH JANE's seven children. She was born in May 1892. She appeared on the Census from 1901 through to 1921 and the 1939 Register. She married ALFRED in April 1915 in Ludlow Parish Church. At the time the picture was taken, she was forty seven, by which time she had had seven children. The first two of these died in the early months of their lives. MAJORIE herself died in September 1966 in Ludlow. It is interesting to see the way in which MAJORIE and her mother dressed for the picture both in black with wide white collars. Maybe this was how they felt they should dress for a photograph such as this. It has always struck me how beautiful MAJORIE is in this and other photographs I have of her. In fact looking at all the three grown woman in the photograph, the BANKS/DEVEY girls all look like film stars!

Standing at the back of the photograph is my AUNTIE GWEN. GWENYTH TEALE neé DEVEY was born in Ludlow in March 1919. Her father was born in Wales and gave two of his daughters Welsh names, GWENYTH and her sister who was named IOLAU. GWENYTH appeared on the 1921 Census and the 1939 Register. In 1938 she married LEONARD TEALE in Ludlow Parish Church. She had two children, the first of which was KATHLEEN, the baby in the picture. Two years after KATHLEEN was born, GWEN gave birth to her son, JOHN who married in the late sixties and emigrated to Australia with his wife on the '*Ten Pound Pom*' scheme. Sadly GWEN was only forty eight when she died. In the photograph she certainly keeps up the family satorial elegance. She wears a dress with a pattered that could be mistaken for a textile design that might grace Laura Ashley wear today!

The picture is completed by baby KATHLEEN TEALE, KATH as she came to be known. She was born in October 1939. I suspect that although someone may have had the inspiration to take a photograph of four generations of females in the family, the photograph is all about KATH, showing her off to the wider family and the world. Lastly let's look at KATH's baby clothes. Dress, coat and booties - all beautifully knitted in the best Aran wool, probably by someone in the family. She is indeed a right Bobby Dazzler!

Bill Allison, 7760

From the Society's Journal - 40 Years On

The June 1985 journal began with the Secretary *'very relieved to tell you that a new volunteer, Mrs Vera Raxster, had offered to undertake the job of Editor of the Journal'*. (I hope that Karen is equally rewarded with an offer following our last journal's appeal?) [Editor: no offers forthcoming as yet!]

In the next breath, he asked members *'to check if they had paid their subs, as quite a few are outstanding'*.

Over 100 people had been regularly attending the monthly meeting and a new programme was enclosed. The March meeting was addressed by Col. N. St. John Williams from the Cheshire FHS. The talk was entitled *'Judy O'Grady and the Colonel's lady'*. The talk dealt with the role and status of army wives from the days of Charles II. I looked him up on the internet and discovered his book by the same title.

A further 36 members had enrolled in the previous three months (nos. 718-754). It really shows how Family History research was mushrooming in the 1980s.

The new members list is followed by six pages of pleas from members hoping to find someone with knowledge of their 'lost' ancestors.

Mrs. K. Trown (695) was trying to linkup ancestors where they had been spelt in several different ways (ie Troane, Troin, Troine, Tron, Trone, Tronne, Troon, Troun, Troune and even Trowan).

The Secretary reported that the March Journal *'mentioned the possibility of the Society purchasing the new IGI. However it seems that the Mormon Church has production problems resulting in the whole job being re-done'*...whoops!

Under the heading of *'Well, every family has one, don't they?'*, Janice Capewell tells the story of how George Capewell was encouraged to marry Mary Simms in 1804 by licence, as she was already pregnant. They had at least 12 children by 1830. A systematic search of local records showed the extent to which the family were supported by the Parish Overseer's accounts for over 30 years. The parish paid for clothes including shoes, coal, rent, potatoes, unemployment grants, apprenticeships, transport, and the constable's expenses which included collecting George Capewell from prison. Whilst some children gained apprenticeships,

one farmer refused to accept an order from the Parish to apprentice one of the daughters preferring to pay an enormous £10 fine instead!

Mrs. Pryer (member 87) was hoping to trace a Queen's South African Boer war medal presented to Lance-Sergeant H. Prinn. Apparently, the war office had no record to whom the medal was presented on his behalf.

Mrs. Hanmer (681) bravely wanted to trace the first family of her great grandfather, who walked out on his first family in Bishops Castle to marry again in London to her grandmother. I wonder how many of us would not be here if our ancestors had been faithful to the partner of their first marriage? (P.S. that includes my grandfather!!)

It seemed there was a problem for overseas members subscriptions and three quarters of a page was required to explain how best this might be done without costing the Society bank charges.

It was reported that the Post Office Archives had been re-opened at Freeling House, SE1 0BQ, whilst records of Police Officers prior to 1933 had been transferred to Kew.

Both of the above two items remind us that our ancestors records can be found in unusual places and not just in BMD registers and Census returns.

The Society advertised a book written by David Hawgood entitled *'Computers for Family History'...* *'The book tells you how computers can help in organising and storing information...It will answer all your questions about how computers work and what they can do for you'.*

What a time that was. Having started to learn to write in BASIC with a Sinclair Spectrum in 1983, by 1985 I was using a Sanyo Computer from which I could print off letters and articles and knew more about computers than my 14 year old son, who is now a program writer. I wonder how many of you remember the BBC computer which was being introduced into schools in place of the Spectrum at this time?

As David Hawgood was predicting...the revolution had begun.

Reg Wilford, 5564

Editor: We had one of the early BBC computers, which I named 'Wol', given its owl symbol!

Sin, Sex, and Probate: the work of the Church Courts

**Review of the talk by Dr Colin Chapman, MA, FSG
given on 18 February 2025**

The talk outlined the various courts and jurisdictions which the church had (and still has in parts) over the general population. Church courts dealt with aspects of sin (Civil courts with crime), which were offences against God and Religion (regarded as Ecclesiastical crimes). Bishops were responsible for people in a parish, including criminals or the disobedient, and they corrected or punished the criminous. Church courts judged deviation from Ecclesiastical Law in order to improve the nation's moral standards. Laws were derived from mixtures of Court Law, (the old Roman law of Justinian of 533), Canon Law, (old Roman Ecclesiastical law), Common Law, (the civil law), and Statute Law, (Acts of Parliament). Bishops administered control via Articles of Enquiry and Visitations, followed by a Visitation Court 'hearing' although it was often written. Visitation could be of a parish (parochial), or a general visitation of a diocese. But who was to be visited? From a kind of mailing list, Questmen asked questions of the clergy, churchwardens, schoolteachers etc. This led to 'Detecta' (replies from the Articles of Enquiry) which formed the basis of 'Presentments'.

Church courts date back to the 7th Century. In 1072 they were separated from Temporal Courts. There was little change before the Reformation (16th Century). Courts were closed down during the Civil War. In the 19th Century there was huge change when most courts were abolished. It is estimated that between 1300–1800, there were c.9 million cases heard which covered about 10% of the population. Thus, it is quite likely that SFHS members' ancestors would have been cited, not as rule breakers, but possibly as witnesses or church officers.

Archdeacon's Courts (the Court of First Instance), responsible for all parishes and deaneries in an area, were lowest. Above them was the Bishop's Court, responsible for all Archdeacons in the diocese. Disputes involving two parishes went to the Bishop's Court. Above this was the Archbishop's Court, handling things covering more than one diocese. Above them was the Appellate Court. In Canterbury this was known as the Court of Arches as hearings were held in the crypt of St Mary Le Bow which stood on arches; In York it was known as the Chancery Court. The highest Court was the Papal Court known as the Royal

Court after the Reformation, with the King as titular head. Of the Archbishop's Courts (the speaker listed nine), the best known are the Testamentary Courts of Canterbury and York.

Despite this structure, there were variations. The Peculiars and Donatives, where the Archbishop (or Bishop) had no responsibility for the parishes. Limited responsibility was known as Limited Jurisdiction, while if responsibility covered several courts it was Canonical Jurisdiction. Other variations were when courts were closed (Inhibition) or for a clerical vacancy when the chair or presiding officer had died.

Judges had to be at least 26 years old, subscribed to 39 articles, compliant in Civil (Roman) and Canon law. They had various titles. From the 12th Century onwards some Presiding Officers commissioned surrogates to act for them, while sometimes rural deans and chancellors also presided.

Using the courts wasn't cheap. In the time of Henry VIII, it cost 6s 8d for non-judicial business, 10s for a marriage licence, 5s for a preacher or surgeon's licence, 2s 6d for a curate, schoolmaster or midwife's licence; probate costs depended upon the value of the estate. Midwives had to be able to baptise children at birth including the stillborn (the speaker showed a rare example of a baptismal syringe used to baptise children in the womb).



Swiss baptismal syringe 18th or 19th century.
(Sir Henry Wellcome Collection, Science Museum, London)

He showed examples of Probate accounts, which can be very illuminating!

Possible misdemeanours included heresy, swearing, witchcraft, moral code violations, laying violent hands on a clergyman (until 1860), brawling in a consecrated precinct (until 1860), defaming a neighbour (to 1835), and perjury (to 1823). Most are irrelevant (to church authorities) today.

Church courts might be approached for sequestration or recovery of tithes, rates, offerings (to 1868), ejecting a clergyman, probate, licences to marry, or annul marriages (although this made any children immediately illegitimate). They had (and still have) powers over faculties meaning permission needs to be granted to make alternations within a church, including the movement of pews or even chairs in church. The clergy were not allowed to marry anyone related to the spouse closer than an 8th cousin!! If they did, children were illegitimate. Licences also had to be obtained for eating meat in Lent, holding benefices in plurality, and many others.

Testaments deal with goods and chattels, wills deal with real estate. He showed a will written on an eggshell, and reminded us that it is still a legal document.

After an illuminating talk, in which he listed many unknown courts for which there are records, there were a few questions:

- How did the punishment for striking a clergyman, differ from doing it to a member of the public?

Probably a penance of some kind, maybe financial. For fighting clergymen it was more severe with loss of income or being thrown from the church; excommunication meant a loss of benefits

- Are midwife baptisms recorded in parish registers?

They could be, but it's also possible they were not recorded at all.

- Where are these documents to be found?

Provincial court records can be found in Canterbury Cathedral or in The National Archives, while those for York are in the University of York. At diocesan level most are now in county record offices. A few have been digitised but are not seen as commercially viable. Some universities are interested in the historical content. Some FHSs have transcribed them.

Colin Chapman is the originator of the 3-letter English county codes.

Further information is in the speaker's book *Sin, Sex, and Probate - Ecclesiastical Court Officials and Records*, 2nd edn Pub: Dec.2009, Lochin Publishing ISBN: 9781873686164

Peter Tandy, 7709

Just a Job

Review of the talk by Dr Sophie Kay on 18 March 2025

Dr Kay started by suggesting we ask ourselves how our job(s) have influenced our lives, and showed jobs have links to wealth, health, status and place(s) of residence: occupations reach out into almost all aspects of a person's life. When researching, ask about the place, the era, any industry and the seasonality. A seasonal example would be the 'herring lassies'; women who followed the fleets as they moved south from the Northumberland coast to the south coast, over the fishing season. They became very efficient and are said to have been able to gut a herring every second! Also, be aware of the language/dialect of an area. For instance a mining day labourer (paid daily), may be called a 'dilker' in Lancashire. A 'fattler' in Yorkshire was a road repairer, and in London a foreman porter (e.g. in the Post Office) may be called a head porter. She recommended occupational dictionaries, like the Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations, by Colin Waters, or the Dictionary of Occupational Terms (DOOT) by Peter Christian. She also suggested using the University of Leicester Trade Directories (on-line).

Stated trades in the 1911 and 1921 Censuses are augmented by code numbers in green ink, corresponding to a list of occupational codes used by census clerks. The list for 1911 is reproduced in Christian (above). The 1921 Census used its own set of codes. Another web site of great use is TNA's Currency Converter, which calculates the current value of money sums from 1270-2017, and shows how many horses, cows, stones of wool, or wheat, it would buy, and how many days wages it represents (see <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>).

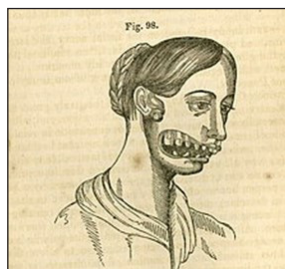
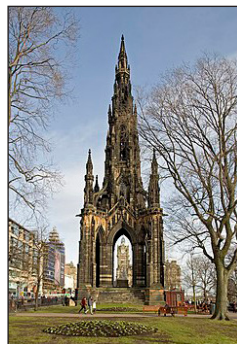
Dr Day also emphasised that looking at the wider community is helpful, and illustrated it with an example of a prison warder from Knutsford (Cheshire). Looking at others in the community showed many other warders living nearby. Other interesting examples centred on Port Sunlight (Merseyside) and Bourneville (Birmingham), both model villages set up by Quaker entrepreneurs to give workers a decent existence. The Lever family set up Port Sunlight where neat houses even had small gardens. Bourneville was set up by the Cadbury family, especially George, who bought the land with his own money, and with his Quaker beliefs stated no public houses or off-licences (still the case today). After George's death, it was transferred to a trust. These places had a significant effect on the

quality of life. Another example was for framework knitters (often abbreviated to FWK). The stocking frame knitter was invented in 1589, but the fine work needed good light, so buildings with many windows were built in the 18th century.

Travelling across the country was a problem without decent roads, but it is a surprise just how far people did move about. One useful website for measuring distances at various time periods, is the Cambridge Institute for the History of Population and Social Structure (CAMPOP) which has a calculator showing the distance between two points for different modes of travel.

The speaker also looked at work-related illness and death. As examples she mentioned stone hewers produced the stone, and masons fashioned it with no protection, and were inevitably susceptible to lung problems from the dust: stonecutter's throat/stonemason's rot. The Scott Monument in Edinburgh is said to have claimed the lives of 23 of the finest stone masons, mostly at ages under 43 yrs.

Scott Monument https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scott_Monument
(to the right)



Other work-related illnesses are 'phossy-jaw', prevalent in match workers due to the white phosphorus used; stunted growth among child glass blowers from carrying heavy weights; rheumatoid arthritis and wrist injuries among felt workers and laundresses; brassmaker's ague from copper compounds in the brass; and glass blowers emphysema.

Image above: An 1896 depiction of the effects of 'phossy jaw' https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phossy_jaw

For researchers who come across such deaths she recommended looking at J.T. Arlidge, *The Hygiene, Diseases and Mortality of Occupations* (1892), available on-line: see: <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/tcpgtkve>.

In summing up she advised people to go to industrial museums, ask local/regional archaeological societies, look at military or medical records as they may reveal previous employment, consult contemporary newspapers, local directories and occupational dictionaries, as well as the sources cited here.

Following the talk, there were some comments. A member mentioned an ancestor who had spent 70 years [*Editor: that is a phenomenal time!*] as an underground

miner, and suffered from problems with eyesight; there was no treatment other than not working underground.

Another spoke about an ancestor reputed to have been a Hackney Carriage driver, but there is no evidence. Dr Kay said that such a job might be seasonal or on/off. Or he may have had other jobs as well and only spoke about them, not carriage driving. A look at the wider family members might give a clue.

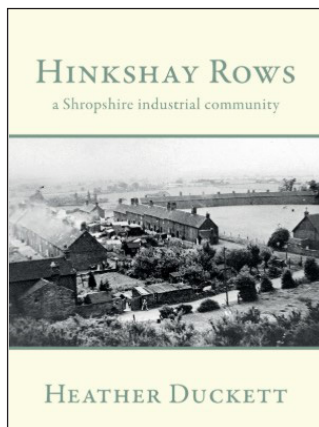
Another said his family had been plumbers or glaziers from the 1700s to the 1950s, but he could find no evidence. Dr Kay said there was a '3-handed man' (plumber, glazier and joiner), so they might be under that. She suggested looking at who might be employing him, perhaps in parish records, or even in church records, but it may be hit and miss.

Peter Tandy, 7709

A new book of interest to family historians

One of our members, Heather Duckett, has recently published a book '*HINKSHAY ROWS: a Shropshire industrial community*' which tells the life stories of many families who went to live in the Rows, those who left and those who stayed to the end of the settlement in 1968. If your ancestors worked in the iron industry, maybe as forgemen, puddlers, rollers, furnace men or pit girls this book will give an insight into their lives. A review will be included in the next Journal.

It is available from The Great British Bookshop www.thegreatbritishbookshop.co.uk and Waterstones and is priced at £15.00.



Editor: I have also received advance notice of a book entitled 'The Iron Men of Shropshire: How They Put the World to Work' which is to be published on 15 June, with the offer of a copy to review. If anyone is interested in finding out more and preparing a review for the Journal please get in touch editor@sfhs.org.uk

News from Shropshire Archives

Discovering Shropshire's History

Staff are making good progress on inventorying material at Shirehall and preparing it to be moved. Over 45,000 boxes have been checked. We are also making inroads into cataloguing and repackaging the historic Shropshire Council material. Our Thursday opening has been really busy, both in the search room and local studies library area. It's been a treat to see how the service is valued. The Shropshire Family History Society Help Desk is being well used and is now extended to a full day on the last Thursday of the month. Also on the last Thursday of the month, we have our free 10-minute talks on documents. Do check the blogs on our website www.shropshirearchives.org.uk for updates and the Plan Your Visit page for update advice. <https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit/>

We have begun an exciting partnership with Ancestry to digitise historic electoral registers and poll books. Our earliest electoral registers are from 1832, although property restrictions meant that most of the population was still not able to vote at that date. The Reform Acts of 1867 and 1884 eased the restrictions and in 1918 most men over 21 were allowed to vote. It was only in 1928 that women over 21 had equal voting rights.

Electoral registers typically provide a name and place of abode, and older registers may include a description of property and qualifications to vote. The absent voter lists during the war years can also give regiments, ships and service numbers. The original registers can be very time consuming to search. For some years voters are listed alphabetically within each ward; for other years they are arranged by street. Digitising and making the registers searchable will improve access to them and make it easier for name searches.

Before 1832, electoral qualifications varied; for example in the Boroughs the qualifications for voting depended on Charters and the custom of the Borough. At this time voting was also public. Returning officers were required to compile a record of voters and how they voted at elections. This record was to be made available on payment of a fee and gave rise to the publication of poll books for some elections. The earliest poll book held at Shropshire Archives was published in 1676. As well as the names of voters and how they voted, you may find residence, occupation and qualification for voting.

The digitisation of the registers has been completed although it will be a little while before they are searchable on the Ancestry site.

Sarah Davis, Archivist at Shropshire Archives

Support for Shropshire Archives

Following the sale of documents of our late member Mrs Sue Poulson it was decided by Brian, her husband, to give the proceeds to the Shropshire Archives. Boxes of negative envelopes were purchased from the money raised by the sale of Mrs Sue Poulson's books.

We were able to meet Mary Pointer, a volunteer at the Archives who told us that Photographic negatives need specialist packaging which is expensive, so the

donation is hugely appreciated. Mary is repacking a series of negatives from the Shropshire Star. These date from the 1960s and are a wonderful insight into the changing town and countryside landscapes.

In the picture, taken at the Archives, are Peter and Cheryl Everall with Mary Pointer on the right.



Cheryl Everall, 697

Friends of Shropshire Archives

The Friends of Shropshire Archives have a number of events planned over the next few months including:

- AGM on Wednesday 11 June to be held at The Mount, Shrewsbury;
- visit to Halston Hall on 1 July;
- visit to Longner Hall on 23 September;
- Annual Lecture on 15 November at Shropshire Archives.

If you are interested in any of these, details, including costs and how to book, are posted on their website. <https://friendsofshropshirearchives.org/events/>

The Shelmerdine Family

Many years ago when I first started researching my family history and I was collecting information about my mother's family, whose name is SUMNER, my mother and I used to visit Uncle John Sumner, mum's brother, who was very interested in the family history. Over the years, he gave me bits of information about the family, which I found intriguing and have been struggling to prove ever since. On one occasion, when I was visiting, he asked me if I had come across the surname SHELMEARDINE in the family, and proceeded to show me a marriage settlement document, dated 1840, which he had in his possession. The document concerned a marriage between a Shelmerdine and a JONES. This document, as I remember, listed all the possessions, including furniture, which the bride and groom were bringing to the marriage including a chiffonier and a rosewood tea caddy. The tea caddy, Uncle John revealed, had come down in the family to him, and he fetched it from the dining room for me to see.

This piece of information lay at the back of my mind, but as I went back in our branch of the Sumner family to the early 1800s, I could find no trace of any Shelmerdine marrying into the family.

A few years later, when I was looking at the broader history across the various generations, I discovered that my great grandfather, Frederick Ernest Sumner's brother, Charles Arthur Sumner, had married Mary Wilson Shelmerdine in 1877. Charles Arthur's family had '*adopted*' Uncle John in 1931, after his mother had died when he was nine years old. It was Mary Wilson, Uncle John's great Aunt, who was by then widowed, and her family, who brought him up. At last, I had found the Shelmerdine link. Now where was the link between the Shelmerdine and Jones family?

I discovered that Mary Wilson's parents were William Shelmerdine and a Mary Jones, so it was their marriage that was recorded on the marriage settlement document. Indeed, William and Mary were married on 9 July 1846 at the Collegiate Parish Church in Manchester. My Sumner family had been connected with Manchester since at least the beginning of the C19th.

William had been described as a gentleman on his marriage certificate and so was his father, also William. The description "gentleman" usually meant they had independent income. According to the marriage certificate and also to the

report of the marriage in the Manchester Courier and Lancashire Advertiser, William at the time of his marriage was living at Plymouth Grove, Chorlton-on-Medlock, a district of Manchester. Plymouth Grove was a middle-class residential street which bounded the two townships of Ardwick and Chorlton-on-Medlock. Plymouth Grove, originally Plymouth Street, was developed at the start of the C19th as a suburban retreat away from the smoke and grime of Manchester, and attracted some of the wealthiest people who wished to escape the town.

One of the celebrated residents of Plymouth Grove was the author, Elizabeth Gaskell, who moved there just at the time that the Shelmerdine family was moving out in 1850. Her house was number 84 and is now the only surviving house in Plymouth Grove, and has become the Elizabeth Gaskell Museum.

Mary Jones, according to the report in the Manchester Courier and Lancashire Advertiser was living in Greenheys, Manchester, at the time of her marriage. Interestingly, Greenheys, is featured in Elizabeth Gaskell's first novel *Mary Barton* published in 1848. The novel actually opens with a description of Greenheys, which was then a rural area on the outskirts of Manchester.

There are some fields near Manchester, well known to the inhabitants as 'Green Heys Fields', through which runs a public footpath to a little village about two miles distant...Here and there an old black and white farm-house, with its rambling outbuildings, speaks of other times...Here in their seasons may be seen the country business of hay-making, ploughing, etc

In the 1840s Greenheys had become an area of large houses, where wealthy families lived.

So, what were the origins of the Shelmerdine and Jones families, as they came to live in these affluent areas of Manchester?

William Shelmerdine Jnr was born in 1813 in Manchester, the second son of William Shelmerdine Snr and Mary CATON. On the 1841 census William Snr., who was living at 55 Plymouth Grove with his family is described as independent, he is 60 and his wife Mary is 55. With them are their adult children, Joseph (b 1811) an attorney, Richard (b 1816) a surgeon. William Jnr. and his other brother Edwin (b 1818) do not have an occupation recorded. Also at home is their sister, Emily (b 1821).

In 1851, William Snr. is described as a landed proprietor as also is his son, Edwin, who is still living at home.

On the 1861 census, William Jnr's occupation is proprietor of houses.

There is evidence in the Manchester Rate books that the Shelmerdine family had properties in Manchester including Plymouth Grove. Many of these properties were rented out, so presumably their wealth came from the income from these properties.

William Snr. died in 1852, his wife, Mary had died in 1850. Their son, Richard had also died in 1852, followed by their daughter, Emily in 1861; Margaret, Richard's wife, in 1864 and Edwin in 1863. Richard, Edwin and Emily were all in their 40s when they died – why? This is a subject for further investigation, and may well result in another article.

The only information I have about the status of Mary Jones' family is the fact that her father, John Wilson Jones, is described as a timber merchant on her marriage certificate, and one would imagine that his income would have been sufficient to be able to afford a house in an up-and-coming rural suburban area such as Greenheys.

It is sad that Uncle John died before all this information came to light, as I'm sure he would have been very interested in it. But I can share it with his daughter, my cousin, Patricia.

Margaret Sumnall, 956 margaretsumnall@btinternet.com

On the Record at The National Archives

1000 years of history, 1000 years of stories to uncover

The National Archives presents '*On the Record*', a podcast that unearths the real life stories found in our vast collections. Join our experts and special guests as we dig deep into the people behind the paper and bring fascinating stories from more than 11 million records to life. Discover tales of forbidden love, spies, protest, and the everyday people of the past.

<https://pod.link/1460242815>



Harry Lloyd Morris

My grandfather, Harry Lloyd Morris (1881–1949) was a Shrewsbury lad who grew up working at his father's plumbing business, William B. Morris Plumbing and Engineers on Pride Hill. There he developed an interest and aptitude for engineering that served him well in the Great War, when he became a Captain in the Royal Engineers and served in the Arabian desert campaign.



Engineering projects propelled him to Australia, Canada and the U.S. over the years. His travels included adventures along the way, one of which is the subject of this article which was published in *True Treasure* in 1968. It came about due to his long-time friendship with an engineer in South Africa, F.W. Duckham. Their partnership together wrote a strong chapter in the long history of the most famous treasure ship of Africa.

The following article, reprinted from *True Treasure*, Dec. 1968, which was published in *Ameria*, has not been updated, and appears as published, so it does not reflect today's economy or values. The valuations as written are worth nine times more in today's money.

Here Lies Grosvenor – and \$20 million! Part 1

One of the most intriguing tales of sunken treasure, and also one of the most famous, is that of the East Indiaman Grosvenor. The story of this ancient wreck, the harrowing escape and trek to civilization of the survivors, and the attempts to salvage the awesome treasure of about \$20 million over the past 185 years, is an amazing adventure story, and one to attract the interest of many a treasure hunter and historian.

It was June in the year 1782 that the fine East Indiaman Grosvenor of 749 tons sailed from Trincomalee in Ceylon, bound for England via the Cape of Good Hope. She was carrying some 165 passengers and crew, including some high officials of the East India company and their families. Also the ship carried to the court of directors in London a veritable treasure trove of riches. According to the Madras invoice which is still in the records office at Whitehall: *'the invoice by the*

Grosvenor accounts to star pagodas 162,378...and the register of diamonds to star pagodas 24,444...' The star pagoda was a coin of virgin gold, then worth 8½ shillings.

In addition, by many repeated accounts, the main treasure is described under the Grosvenor Manifest, reputed by some to have burnt with the Royal Exchange in 1836, is as follows: *'yhe stones (precious stones, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds), which are in 19 boxes, were valued at £517,000 sterling. The gold bars number 720 and value at £420,000 sterling. The silver bars number 1450 (not valued) and are stored amidships; and specie (coin) to the value of £717,000 sterling is stored in the lazarette as well as the savings of the passengers and crew'.*

This totals about £2,000,000 sterling, according to the values at the time of 1782. Today particularly in the item of gold, these prices would be much higher, about four times as great, and would come to at least £7 million sterling, or even at a conservative estimate, to approximately \$20 million.

But perhaps this was still not the complete treasure. For unconfirmed rumors that persist to this day speak of the fabled Peacock Throne of Delhi. This ancient throne of the Mogul empire of India rested in the Diwam-i-am, or 'Hall of Public Audiences' in the Red Fort of Delhi until 1739 when invaders plundered the city and it was carried off and disappeared. It has been put forth by some authorities that when the Grosvenor sailed, she carried in addition to the valuable cargo, a large package, the contents of which were kept highly secret. This package they believe contained no less than the two giant gem encrusted Peacocks which stood on either side of the throne of the Moguls.

The throne consisted of a four-foot square bed covered by a canopy and completely inlaid with precious stones. On either side and in the rear stood two magnificent Peacocks with tails outspread and they too were embedded with a great quantity of colorful gems. The total value of the throne was estimated in 1665 by Tavernier, the famous French jeweler, at £6 million.

As this small vessel laden with such immense value neared the coast of South Africa she encountered heavy seas and stormy weather which lasted for several days and prevented observations from being taken. On the afternoon of 4 August 1782 the ship struck upon the jagged rocks which guard that desolate coastline of Africa. The location was indeed quite treacherous because of the raging surf

of the Indian Ocean which could batter any boat to pieces in a matter of minutes. The Agulhas current caught the ship and broke it in two on the reef.

Due to an unfortunate stroke of fate the ship ran aground at a particularly unfavorable spot. It was at Lambasi, in what is today known as Pondoland, between Port Saint John and Port Shepstone, about 28 miles from Lusickisiki. Even on a calm day that coast would wreak havoc with any ship of that era, and with heavy seas running there seemed to be little hope for the safety of the Grosvenor. It began sinking 300 yards from land.

The poor souls on board were horror stricken at the inevitable tragedy that loomed before them, and Captain Coxon expended every effort not only in instigating several attempts to get a line ashore, but in trying to pacify the frantic passengers. The yawl and the jolly-boat were lowered, but were smashed to bits in a short time. After that, the crew began to build a raft which they secured with a 9-inch hawser. Once they got it into the boiling seas however it broke up and the hawser snapped. The raft was flung against the reef and three of the four men on it were drowned.

Meanwhile three brave crewmen, two Italians and a Lascar, were attempting to swim ashore with a lifeline to which was attached a heavy rope. One of the Italians perished in the gallant effort, but the others did make it successfully to shore. On the beach, they found a group of waiting natives who were watching the bitterly contested drama with interest. They were friendly, so much so that they helped the two sailors tie the line around the rocks. Finally there was an avenue of escape for the brave-hearted or the more desperate of the drowning castaways.

It was at this time that the ship broke in two from the terrific stresses and the bows, veering around, floated to a position just opposite the stern. Now there was serious danger that the offshore wind would carry the half sections of the ship out to sea where they would sink. The passengers and crew all occupied the stern half of the ship and now several of the crew began to climb down the rope and, climbing hand over hand, hang suspended over the water in order to reach the shore. It was an awfully difficult task in the violent wind and the splashing waves. While a few did reach safety, no less than 15 people fell into the raging waves and drowned.

The rest of the souls on board huddled together on the starboard quarter of the ship, frozen with fear at the thought of imminent death, or praying for a miracle. And amazingly enough the miracle did happen.

The wind which had up to now been blowing away from land, now shifted direction and carried the rapidly disintegrating hulk shore wards. It was washed into a cleft between two rocks and held fast despite the action of the waves and the current; while the starboard quarter broke away from the rest of the wreck and floated farther still towards shore, a fine natural raft, into calm shoal water. From here all the people reached land safely. So it was that the disaster that first seemed certain to take the lives of everyone on that crumbling starboard quarter actually took only one life. That one was the Cook's mate who was drunk and doomed himself to die in refusing to leave the ship.

Their only hope lay in the Dutch settlement at Cape Town which was about 500 miles distant. The captain had only a vague idea of where it was located, and had no idea of the difficulty in traversing that distance across the Wilds of Africa. He did not take into account the savage ferocity of the terrain and its inhabitants, and so mistakenly reckoned that the journey would take from 15 to 16 days.

Captain Coxon had no way of knowing that the natives, who were friendly enough at first, would be hostile once they realized how helpless the party was. They were content to gather bits and pieces of iron from the wreck, and when darkness descended they left their glowing fire to the huddled survivors.

The next morning the natives came down to the beach in large groups to watch the strange group of whites and to pick whatever they wished from the meagre stores that survived the wreck. It was then too that the captain called a general meeting of all the castaways in order to formulate some plan of survival. He outlined the route he had chosen that would have taken them to the Cape, and the group agreed to that course of action.

One man, surprisingly, chose to remain behind because of an injured knee which would have impaired the party's progress. He hoped to become friendly with the natives and live among them until he was able to leave. The first mate, Mr. Logie, was sick and needed to be carried in a hammock suspended from a pole by two of the men.

Scarcely had the band of travelers begun their ill-fated trek when the natives showed their true nature by following them and, about three miles out, began

stealing any and all possessions that caught their eye. They also threw an occasional stone.

A short time later they met up with a band of Kaffirs who were strange new people with unusual headdresses and red painted faces. These were not friendly to the English, and with them was a half-caste named Trout who spoke Dutch. Overjoyed to see one of their own kind, they were confident of a guide to civilization but, even though offered money, he refused, explaining that he was wanted by the authorities for committing several murders, and he would not be permitted to leave the natives in any case, because they found him too useful to let him go. He had a good knowledge of the country through which the captain intended taking the travelers, and he told them that what they were attempting to do was impossible because of a wide expanse of desert country crossed by large rivers and inhabited by numbers of wild beasts.

They continued on despite the warnings however, for they had no other place to go. Downhearted and discouraged, they trudged on and tried to ignore the constant pestilence of the natives. In one instance, there was a heated dispute between the tired English and the natives which ended in a truce only because of the great difference in odds. They even tried to placate the natives with gifts of trinkets and baubles, but this served only to increase the desire of the natives for more until they had made off with everything, including the only surviving tinder box and all means of producing fire. After that it was necessary to carry lighted firebrands day and night.

At length the discipline and spirit of the company began to lapse as the weaker members slowed on the march and more halts were required. The women, children and the sick were unable to keep up with the men. Ultimately all agreed that those who wanted could break off from the main group and fend for themselves. Thus it was that 43 of the crew including John Hynes, who told the tale of the shipwreck to the Dutch governor at the Cape, and later had it published, left the officers and passengers to follow behind them. After several more days both parties reached the krall where Trout lived. There he warned them to travel in smaller, less conspicuous groups to avoid attracting the notice of the natives.

From that time on, the two groups of survivors went their separate ways and made no contact with each other again. Those who comprised the rear party; the women passengers and officers were never seen again. Not a single one of those

ninety souls ever reached civilization. For decades their fate has been uncertain, and even to this day, remains one of the mysteries hidden deep within the dark continent. Of course some rumors have arisen around the Dutch settlements through the years, but nothing has been heard offering tangible proof either of their survival or fate. Although in recent years there have been traces of white ancestry found among the natives living on the banks of the Ibisi river. It is quite probable that these are descendants of the lost survivors.

In the tale told by one of the few survivors, John Hynes, we have a good idea of the horrors and hardships endured by the sailors party in their fight for civilization. They stayed close to the shore in order to pick up food as easily as possible in the form of shellfish and seafood. When their way was blocked by cliffs or river mouths, they were forced to turn inland to find a ford where they could cross. They were in constant peril for their lives from prowling beasts both night and day. The natives through whose territory they passed also took a critical toll on their strength, harassing them and robbing them.

As the days passed, they grew weaker and weaker from lack of food. It is fortunate that they did stay close to the shore, for there they obtained most of their substantial food, if indeed it could be called that. Upon two occasions they discovered carcasses of dead whales washed ashore; another time they found a dead shark which was in such an advanced state of decay as to force them to give up an otherwise healthful and welcome meal. The liver was the only edible part.

The wretched band continued on for weeks in their interminable march, braving the worst nature could offer. Some men began to break away from the main group when total exhaustion overtook them. Stragglers followed weakly after the group at their own limping pace and were left in the wilderness and never heard of again. In this manner the original party of 43 dwindled to three men – Hynes, Evans and Wormington.

The plight of these last three men became so desperate that at one time they considered drawing lots and resorting to cannibalism. This idea was rejected however. At length Wormington fell by the wayside, and then Evans and Hynes met up with four others of the party who were wandering aimlessly, half blind and delirious. Together these six made their way onward.

It was after four months of ceaseless struggle, on the 117th day after the shipwreck that these six reached civilization. They were found by a Portuguese and an Italian who took them to the Dutch colony where they lived.

They were received with much kindness and concern, and when the Dutch governor at the Cape learned of their arrival, he at once sent out a huge expedition of 400 Europeans and [*a racially offensive term*] to look for survivors. This rescue mission lasted 3 months in itself, and three white men, two black women, and seven Lascars were found and brought back.

NOTE: For a complete account of the survivors' story, see *The Caliban Shore*, by Stephen Taylor, Faber & Faber 2004.

Mark Morris, 7824

The Incentive to Start

It interested me to read in the March 2025 Journal about the 'Dear Nana' book. I was given the 'Dear Grandad' version in Summer 2022 by my eldest grandson.

I thought it would add to its heritage value if I could complete the hardback book in my own hand and after much consideration I bypassed the 'prompt questions' as they did not integrate well with my text. It took around six months to compose the 25k words needed to fill the book and involved writing a draft version first.

The book begins with early photos of myself and ends with a drop-line tree of generational photos, including a good portrait of my grandson's 9x great grandfather, Thomas Lyster. The proud Salopian's story was outlined in the March 2020 Journal, page 20.

I have to say that I would not have tackled the work without my grandson's present.

Thomas Lyster's many philosophical verses include:

*In rapid motion still the Sun
With time away is hasting,
It shows how fast our glass doth run
Any how our days are wasting,
Yet few of us have been so wise
As to regard how fast it flies.*

With that in mind I hope the article, as well as giving others gift ideas, will stimulate them to 'get started' on their own stories.

John H Davies, 2406

Meet Our Committee Members

Dawn Blundell, 4669

Hello my name is Dawn Blundell and I joined the committee in January 2024 however I have been a member of the society since 1999/2000. I spent my childhood living and growing up in North Cheshire and visiting my grandparents in Oakengates. So I have seen a lot of change in the area.

Three of my grandparents are Shropshire (Telford) born and bred dating back to the 1700s, my other grandparent is from Shropshire (Telford) born and bred but his family came from Staffordshire in 1872.



I attended a family history course at Warwick University for a number of years before a number of us set up our own group helping each other with our research and with our brick walls! I enjoy helping others with their brick walls, by looking outside the box.

I have done research at many county archives, including The National Archives and the FRC (before moving to Kew).

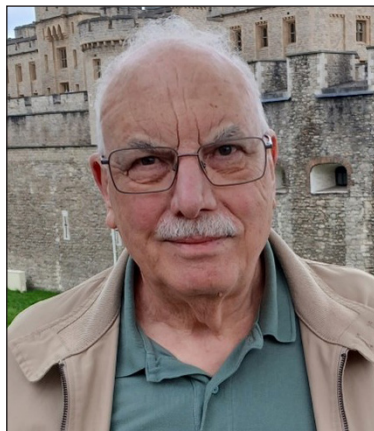
I have started a local family history group (held at the local library) and am using my knowledge to help others.

As well as attending our monthly talks and the in-person events at Cross Houses I am a member of both the Talking Family History Group and the DNA Special Interest Group.

Before retirement in July 2022, I worked as an early year's practitioner working in different settings for about 30 years and before that I worked in a bank for 10 years.

My interests are cooking, doing family history, doing craft and following Liverpool Football Club.

Graham Shenton, 5297



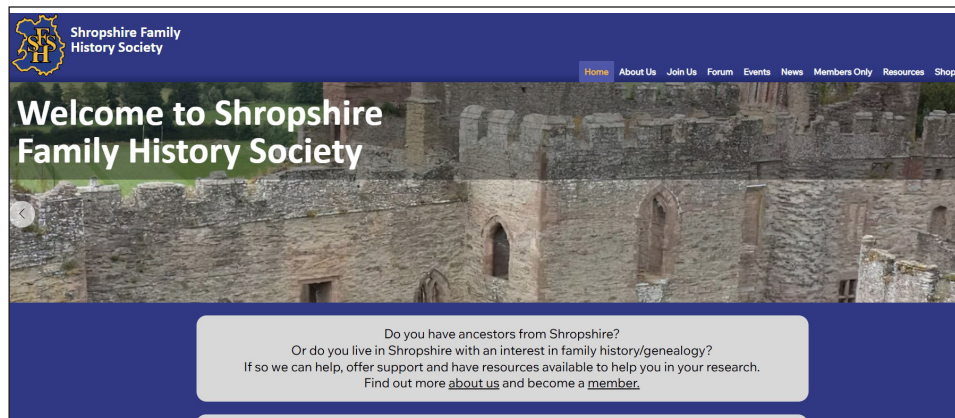
I was born in North Wales but was brought up in Wellington from an early age. Here I attended Barn Farm Infants, Princes Street Junior, and Wellington Grammar Schools; all long defunct although some of the buildings still exist. I studied Civil Engineering at Manchester University and after graduating moved to Kent where I worked in the water industry, later qualifying as a chartered engineer. As well as gaining extensive engineering and project management experience, I was significantly involved in capital management and audit. I

lived and worked in various locations in Kent and Sussex until retirement some years ago, and my wife and I have recently moved to Devon to be nearer our grandchildren.

As is the case for many people, my interest in family history did not really begin until after the death of my parents. I was encouraged to investigate by a work colleague, Brian Christmas, who was fairly well known at the time for his family history publications. This was also in the days before the internet, but it was reasonably convenient for me to make day trips to London to search the GRO registers and census records at the Public Records Office. What was more of a challenge was to make an occasional visit to the Shropshire Archives to view parish registers and other local records. Fortunately, the location of the archives close to the railway station made day trips possible. The Shropshire Family History Society were also able to provide printed copies of documents unavailable elsewhere such as the 1821 census of Wellington. At around this time I seem to recall SFHS organising coach trips in the opposite direction for members to search the GRO and PRO records.

My most notorious relative identified (so far) is a first cousin 5 times removed, who was hanged at York in 1805 having murdered his father. Another interesting snippet from my research is my adoptive grandfather being recorded twice in the 1911 census, thousands of miles apart, in India and Wellington.

Our New Website!



As members will be well aware, the wait for our new website has been long, and very frustrating. However, I am pleased to let you know we are working hard to 'go live' by the middle of June.

The website address will remain the same as it is now - <https://www.sfhs.org.uk> - but the site will offer much more than we have been able to previously.

When the site does go live all members who have an email address registered with us will receive an email invitation with a special link to set up their personal log-in, which will give access to the whole site, including the members only section. Please note that you **must use the link exactly as provided** and the email address you have registered with the Society otherwise the log-in will not work.

If you have not yet registered an email address with us you can do so by emailing Dave Morris at secretary@sfhs.org.uk with the details. He will then update your record and add you to our electronic mailing list. That means that as well as being able to use the whole of the new website you will receive our regular Newsletter, links to our online talks and other events and any other important news from the Society.

If you do not have an email address you will be able to view the public pages but will not have access to the Members Only section or be able to post to the Forum.

The following is a brief summary of what you can find on the site, but don't take my word for it, explore the pages and check out what is there.

Home

The Home page highlights the key news and coming events and encourages non-members to join!

About Us

This page explains who we are and what we do and promotes our Help Desk at Shropshire Archives.

Join Us

Through the new site anyone who would like to join the Society will be able to do so online and make their subscription payments electronically. If, as an existing member, you would like to change from your current method of payment to renewing your subscription online this will be an option at the time of renewal in October. More details about how to do this will be circulated in due course.

Events

You will be able to check out details of the forthcoming talks and events through this page.

News

We will be posting a variety of general news items here and there is also a link to the recent Newsletters so non-members can also see what we are up to!

Members Only section

To whet your appetite the following resources will be accessible through the Members Only section, and over time we hope to add to these resources.

- SFHS Journal Archive - there is already a good selection for you to browse and work still ongoing to get all the Journals online
- The chance to post, or add to your Members Interests and to search for others who may have similar interests
- You will be able to read the Exchange Journals which are shared with us electronically
- View our archive of talks where speakers have given permission for them to be recorded and retained
- View the archive of Newsletters

- Request to join the Talking Family History and/or DNA Special Interest Group
- View for free many of the resources which were previously only available on fiche or CD
- Check out details of those who do their best to keep the Society operating

Resources

The Resources page includes a substantial list of useful genealogy websites - suggestions for additions are welcome. There is also an opportunity for anyone to do a general search of the members' interests list.

Shop

This tab includes the Document Publication Catalogue so people can still order those resources from Ruth Wilford in the same way as now.

Other links

The site also provides links to our social media feeds and to our Privacy Policy, Constitution, the latest Annual Report and Accounts and a printable version of the membership subscription form if people would prefer to join that way.

Your details

When you are registered and signed in you will also be able to view your own subscription data and will be able to update the key details we hold for you.

Getting to this point!

A huge amount of work has gone into developing this new site over a long period of time. Special thanks are due to Paul Quartermaine, as without his project management skills, his previous experience with the old site, his ongoing commitment to driving this project forward including substantial testing of the systems we would not be in a position to launch the site.

Thanks must also go to our website developer Simon Prutton, and our committee members, especially Simon Davies, Dave Morris and Steve Jones, all of whom have devoted lots of time and effort in working on the site.

We hope you like what you see. If you have any questions or feedback on the site please let me know.

Karen Hunter, Chair chair@sfhs.org.uk

A Genealogical Quiz - The Answers

Editor: How did you do with the Quiz in the March Edition? For those who attempted it here are the answers.

1. On which day, month and year was the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths introduced in:

- a) England and Wales 1 July 1837
- b) Scotland 1 Jan 1855

2. Which was the premier ecclesiastical probate court in England and Wales prior to 1858?

- c) P.C.C.

3. What does the Latin term “suppositus” mean?

- b) supposed - the term often used in parish registers when written in Latin, to describe the fathers of illegitimate children

4. Who was Henry VIII's right-hand man who was primarily responsible for the introduction of parochial registration of baptisms, marriages and burials in 1538.

- d) Thomas Cromwell

5a. Prior to 1752, which was the day and month on which each new year began?

25 March

5b. What is this day also known as? (No marks for saying New Year's Day)

Lady Day

6. What are the English christian name forms of the following:

- a) Carolus - Charles b) Gulielmus - William
- c) Misericordia - Mercy d) Gualterus - Walter
- e) Umfridus - Humphrey

7. What is an “Inquisition Post Mortem”?

- b) an enquiry into the lands held by one of the King's chief tenants, after his death

8. Which was the main location in Great Britain where clandestine marriages took place in the first half of the 18th Century?

- a) The Fleet

9. If the following two boys christian names, Jabez and Ebenezer, appeared in your Family tree, what would this suggest to you?

d) The boys' parents were probably religious dissenters

10. What do the following initials stand for?

a) B.T.s. - Bishop's Transcripts b) P.C.Y. - Perogative Court of York

c) P.R.O. - Public Record Office d) M.I. - Monumental Inscription

e) C.R.O. - County Recrod Office

11. What does the term 'intestate' mean?

a) someone who dies without leaving a will

12. What was the date of the 'Rose's Act'?

d) 1812

13. What are 'gossips'?

c) God-parents

14 In which year was land tax first levied:

a) 1692

15. What is the name of the tax levied by the government between 1662-1689?

Hearth Tax

16. What was a 'lay subsidy'?

d) A tax on lay people

17. What is the significance of the wiggly line on the family tree?

It indicates illegitimacy

18. One sometimes finds reference in parish registers to the 'kings evil'. What is it?

a) scrofula

19. What was the proper title of the 19th century non-conformists sect known colloquially as the 'Ranters'

c) The Primitive Methodists

20. Which eight Shropshire parishes share a parish boundary with Ditton Priors?

Monkhopton, Upton Cressett, Chetton, Neenton, Cleobury North,
Abdon, Holdgate, Stanton Long

Forthcoming Talks Programme

17 June	Leave No Stone Unturned <i>This talk looks at the burial places of the famous and infamous and uses gravestones as a starting point to investigate their lives.</i>	<i>John Vigar</i>
16 September	Non-Conformist Ancestors <i>This talk will look at the legislation which affected how our nonconformist ancestors worshipped, how to spot an ancestor who worshipped away from the Established church, and what records can be found.</i>	<i>Elizabeth Yule</i>
21 October	Tracing your Irish ancestors <i>Many people in the UK have Irish ancestry but don't know how to go about tracing them. There are misconceptions about Irish genealogy being difficult and that all the records were lost in a fire (not true).</i> <i>This session starts with some geography and history to help you understand why records may not be available at the time your ancestors left Ireland. It will also discuss the basics of Irish research covering the major types of records and how you can incorporate DNA into the mix.</i>	<i>Claire Bradley</i>
18 November	Unlocking the hidden history in your photographs <i>Details will be included in the September edition and on the new Website.</i>	<i>Steve Gill</i>

We are still seeking a volunteer to manage our talks programme. If you are interested and want to know more about what is involved please contact Dave Morris in the first instance on secretary@sfhs.org.uk or give him a ring on the number in the front of the Journal.

Ideas for talks/speakers are also welcomed - please contact Dave with your ideas.

From the Editor

Thanks to all those who send in articles for the Journal. As we have said before, they are the life-blood of the publication and without them the Journal would not exist. Please keep them coming so we can make sure the Journal can continue.

Alongside a good and regular supply of articles, the other key requirement for the Journal is an Editor! Without someone to pull everything together and get the document ready for the printer none of your articles could appear in print.

I volunteered for the role during the COVID years after the sudden death of the previous editor, Nigel Strachan. I had had little previous experience of compiling anything quite like this. I had in a past life done a church newsletter and 10 page magazine (compiled in Word and printed on a Gestetner) but nothing to the scale of our Journal. I am computer literate and taught myself to use the software that Nigel had been using. It was not a specific requirement to keep using it but having tried it out I found it was a good tool for desktop publishing, so have continued with it over the years.

I believe I have a good grasp of English and an eye for checking and proofreading articles, although I also have someone to double check the whole thing once it is completed. I admit I have a touch of OCD which means I can spend some considerable time on the structure/layout of the Journal. Even then errors creep in, but I hope nothing of great significance. I did discover recently that I once managed to publish the same article in two consecutive editions and didn't update the footer details in another, but no-one commented on either!

The role comes with its particular challenges and frustrations but overall it is satisfying when you see the finished Journal in print.

So please consider if **YOU** could be our next Editor. Support and training are available if needed and you won't be thrown in at the deep end! I am more than happy to talk it through with you and answer any questions you might have.

Karen Hunter, Editor editor@sfhs.org.uk



Notes for Contributors

- All contributions should be sent to the Editor at editor@sfhs.org.uk, or by post using the address inside the front cover if you don't have email.
- Include your name, membership number, e-mail and other relevant contact details in the same file as the text of your article and indicate which of them can be included. Otherwise, only your name and SFHS number (if appropriate) will be printed.
- Please note that articles will not be published under a pseudonym or anonymously unless there are legitimate reasons for doing so, which need to be discussed with the Editor in the first instance.
- Send pictures as separate image files (eg e-mail attachments), and only include them within the item or article as well, to give the editor an idea for suitable positioning. The relevant place could just be clearly referred to in the main body of the text.
- List the filenames of any pictures you are sending in the e-mail with relevant acknowledgements.
- It is assumed that place names, surnames etc will be spelt correctly and they will be printed as submitted unless otherwise informed.
- If possible, please CAPITALISE all family surnames within your submitted articles.
- Any pictures or other images should have a file size as large as possible. Most digital cameras and those in mobile phones are more than adequate but the higher the resolution, and therefore quality, the better.
- Scanned photographs etc should be at a minimum of 300dpi if at all possible. JPG (or JPEG) is the preferred file format but in certain circumstances, others could be considered. Please contact the Editor for clarification if necessary.
- Original pictures, documents etc, can be submitted and scanned by the Editor but this should preferably be a 'last resort'.
- All items (articles, images, photographs) submitted must have permission to print granted with the correct acknowledgement included when submitting them.
- Please note that items which essentially consist of full or significant transcriptions from Wikipedia or other websites will not be published.
- Any submitted articles may be edited by the Editor.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined us in the past few months.

7984 Mr K HUMPHRIES; Prescot, Merseyside

7985 Ms L PHILPOTT; Oak Harbor WA, USA

7986 Mr P DAVIES; Shrewsbury, Shropshire

7987 Mrs B PAGGETT; New York, USA

7988 Major M F BARNEY; Richmond, North Yorkshire

7989 Ms C A DYOS; Caersws, Powys

7990 Mr M R TAYLOR; Morpeth, Northumberland

Payments by cheque to the Society

Please note that the Society is only able to receive payments by cheque if they are UK sterling. This is because our bank is applying some significant charges which make the transactions cost prohibitive. We can however accept payments via PayPal or bank transfer, and by credit card on the new website.

Copy Dates

Publication Date	Items to be submitted by
September 2025	1 July 2025
December 2025	1 October 2025
March 2026	1 January 2026
June 2026	1 April 2026

Advertisements

The Society welcomes adverts relevant to the interests of family historians. Prices are per issue.

Members	£20 full page	£10 half page
Non Members	£24 full page	£13 half page

Copy should be submitted to the Editor. The Society reserves the right to refuse any advert it considers inappropriate.

Other appointments

Membership

Gift Aid	Lorna Emms	treasurer@sfhs.org.uk
Subscription Renewals	David Burton	subs_renewals@sfhs.org.uk

Programme

Programme Secretary	Vacant	speakers@sfhs.org.uk
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Enquiries/Help

(Please note we do not undertake personal research but will assist if we can)

General Enquiries	to the Secretary	secretary@sfhs.org.uk
Research Queries (Members only)	Christine Abram	enquiries@sfhs.org.uk

Reference Material

For look-ups or loan see Website for details

Certificate Exchange	Christine Head	xchangecerts@sfhs.org.uk
Members' Interests	Dave Morris	members_interests@sfhs.org.uk
Library/Exchange Journals	Graham Moore	library@sfhs.org.uk
Parish Registers Books	Graham Moore	library@sfhs.org.uk

Sales

Microfiche	Ruth Wilford	fiche@sfhs.org.uk
Monumental inscriptions	Ruth Wilford	copies@sfhs.org.uk

Projects

Original P.R. and 1851 Census Microfiche (Shropshire)	Christine Abram	enquiries@sfhs.org.uk
Help Desk Volunteers at Shropshire Archives	Gill Lewis	archives_volunteers@sfhs.org.uk

Online Groups

DNA Special Interest Group	Jane Wilcox	dnasig@sfhs.org.uk
Talking Family History	Karen Hunter	tfh@sfhs.org.uk



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