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Post will be passed to the appropriate member of the Society team and a reply issued as soon as possible.

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Front cover: 'In Memory of the Fallen' the grave of 4042277 Private E Vaughan, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry died 19 January 1945. Buried in Bolsena War Cemetery, Italy

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Thoughts from the Chair

Our website is up and running!

At long last our new website is up and running! It has been live since the end of June and overall things have gone well. We did have a few small glitches initially but they were sorted out quickly and all seems to be going well at the moment. It is encouraging to see members logging-on so they can explore the full site. If you haven't yet taken a look please do so and if you have registered an email address with us you can easily set up your online access to get into the Members' Area.

It is wonderful to see a number of new members join us through the website. If you are one of them, welcome aboard! I am not sure when the Journal last included quite such a long list of new members but it is great to be able to welcome everyone.

We will be adding more content to the 'Members Only' page in the coming months. We are awaiting delivery of the digitised back copies of the Journal, a project that has been funded from a legacy given in memory of Wendy Purslow who had been an active member of our Talking Family History Group. We hope to have these uploaded to the site by the end of September, giving access to every Journal we have published from way back in 1979 through to now.

The task of digitising the Monumental Inscriptions is also just getting underway, with a group of volunteers from the Society working on them. The plan, once they are completed, is to make them available to members via the Members Only section of the site. We will keep you updated on progress and let you know when they are available online. In the meantime copies can be purchased from Ruth Wilford - see the Documents Publications Catalogue and ordering details on the Shop tab on the website.

If you have any feedback/observations on the website or ideas of what else you would like to see included please get in touch and we can consider it.

With the new website and linked database of members we are moving to a slightly different way of managing our subscription renewals. As we do this, I would like to acknowledge the work of Dr David Burton, one of our vice presidents, who for many years has diligently recorded and banked all the membership renewal cheques as they are received. Thank you David, it has been appreciated.

Why the interest in family history?

Over the summer holidays Edward, our eight year old grandson was staying, and the room he sleeps in is where I store all my family history documents, books and memorabilia. He surprised me one night by asking if we had any books about our family, and why was I so interested in family history anyway!!

I found the first question easy - the answer was yes! We have a privately published book, the contents of which were initially compiled in 1919, covering a branch of Michael's Scottish family, with information going back to around 1786. This is a real treasure trove, giving a sense of who these family members were, what they did and how they lived. The information was based on the author's own knowledge and with access to registers and other records it has been possible to confirm and, where required, update the details, while retaining the stories alongside them. It definitely illustrates how valuable writing our family stories can be, especially for those who will follow on.

However, I didn't have quite such a ready answer for his second question. I recall I said something about enjoying discovering who our ancestors were and how they lived their lives. I find it a bit like doing a jigsaw, but without knowing how many pieces there might be and having no real idea of what the picture is meant to look like! Sometimes I can find exactly the right 'piece' and other times I can spend forever searching for an elusive 'piece', which seems to have disappeared down the back of the settee and got completely lost. But I keep looking, in the hope that it might just wrest itself out and into the open again, so I can continue building up that picture of our family. He seemed happy with this at the time, although over dinner a couple of days later he started a conversation about DNA and how that worked! His knowledge of the subject astounded me and in a roundabout way it took us back to family history and how our ancestors can influence who we are. I wonder if we might have a budding family historian in our midst? I just need to build on this early interest and see if we can reel him in!

Our Committee needs you!

This is my annual 'plea' for you to think about whether you might be able to help the Society by joining our committee and becoming a Trustee. If you are interested please get in touch to find out what is involved and perhaps join one or two of our meetings to get an idea of what we get up to!

Karen Hunter, Chair chair@sfhs.org.uk

Just one photo!

Many times over the years I've thought about setting down the family tree and then immediately abandoned the idea because it seemed too daunting. My Dad would not be drawn into any discussion about his family history but my Mum often liked to recount stories from her childhood and especially about Cheswardine where my Granny was born and raised, and about her Shropshire family cousins.

In the March issue of the SFHS journal I read the plea from the Editor for contributions to the Journal. The line about *'Everyone will have one photo from their family history they really love'* resonated with me and despite never having previously written any article, inspired me to have a go!



I've always loved old family photos and when clearing my parent's house I discovered a batch of very old ones which I'd not seen before. I soon had a small pile of photos with no idea of who they were. Showing them around the family met with a dead end. One photo in particular took my attention, a group photo, possibly a wedding, and there was one person on there whom I definitely knew – my lovely Granny, Katharine Mary Shropshire, born 3 July 1895 at Cheswardine and always affectionately known as Kate (top row on photo, second from the left). Turning the photo over my Mum had thankfully written two names on the back – where I saw my Granny she'd written 'my Mum' and then the lady sitting directly below my Granny she'd written; my Granny Shropshire'. Wow I thought, this lady is my Great Grandmother and I didn't even know her name! This was intriguing

and I thought this must be a family event but who are the other people? From this moment on I was completely hooked!!

My brother had noticed that there was a free access weekend on the Ancestry website and suggested that we might find out some information from there. Straightaway a wealth of information opened up to us. Why had we not known any of this before? We discovered a name for our Great Grandmother – Jane Barker Simpson, born 1868 who had married Charles Shropshire (1862–1921). All from Cheswardine. The obsession was mounting now to discover who were these other people on the photo, what was the event etc? I suspect that a lot of you will no doubt recognise that feeling!!

My brother and I knew that the Shropshire family in Cheswardine had been a large family and so surely we must have some living relatives there still? It became my mission to track them down.

My cousins on Dad's side of the family live in Market Drayton and they confirmed that yes indeed there are a lot of Shropshire families in the Cheswardine area. They suggested that I try posting requests for information on two local Facebook groups – 'Drayton Crier' and 'Cheswardine Chat'. Turns out that this was the best thing I did. Almost immediately I received a couple of promising replies and one of these led me to a phone call with a lady who was actually my second cousin. She was the daughter of my Mum's cousin Mabel who I'd often heard her talk about. Our first phone call lasted an hour and a half and was followed by several daily emails of information and photos. Best of all, one of my Mum's second cousins was still alive: Beryl had just turned 85 and had a fantastic memory. Sadly we lost Beryl last year but she was the miracle link that joined all the dots together. My second cousin showed Beryl my photo and she promptly named all the people and described the event!

It was the wedding of one of my Granny's brothers, Charles Barker Shropshire to Lucy Hubbard on 5 June 1922. Granny's other two brothers were in the photo and, with a process of deduction, we identified a couple of the small children sitting at the front as being my Aunt and Uncle. Beryl put a name to everyone. In addition there was another photo I had (extremely poor quality, especially to print) on which my Mum had written 'my Dad and Uncles'. Beryl identified this as my Grandad, the Groom and the other two brothers sitting on a bench at the side of the Fox and Hounds pub in Cheswardine having a drink to steady the nerves just before the wedding in St Swithin's Church, Cheswardine. A real

tangible history was opening up before us with a feeling that was becoming very addictive and leaving us wanting to know more and more.

And as they say the rest is history...my own family history! Thanks to just one photo.

I finally met Beryl some time later, my second cousin had arranged a meet up without either myself or Beryl being aware of it. Wandering around the churchyard in Cheswardine a couple of people approached us. My cousin said 'look who's here'. It was Beryl. I was overcome and as I rushed over to meet her the first thing she said was 'oh you look just like Auntie Kate'. That was the nicest compliment ever.

Val Mace, 7955

1851 History, Gazetteer and Directory of Shropshire

In 1851 a History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Shropshire was published, comprising a general survey of the County. It included the situation, extent, and population of all the towns, parishes, chapelries, townships, villages, hamlets, and extraparochial liberties; their agricultural and mineral productions; the lords of the manors and owners of the soil; their public institutions, charities, antiquities, and historical events; with a list of magistrates, public officers, and corporate bodies; and the seats of the nobility and gentry. It is available on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/b24858821/page/n5/mode/2up> It also indicates there is a large coloured sheet map of the County but I couldn't find that.

In a quick search for what they might have about my one-place study of Eyton on the Weald Moors (recorded as Eyton-upon-the-Wild-Moors) I found the entry. It included details of the size of the parish, the number of inhabitants in 1801, 1831 and 1841, the number of houses and rateable value and some information on the great and good of the parish! And then, at the end of the section, tucked in among the Directory list was John Robinson, blacksmith, agricultural implement maker and parish clerk. To most people this is probably not a very significant entry but he is my great great grandfather and it was good to find him included. Perhaps a search through might reveal some of your ancestors.

Karen Hunter, Editor

'Though The News Was Rather Sad'

From time to time friends turn up at your house knowing that you 'do' Family History. Someone in their family has died recently and they arrive with a box of bits and pieces they ask you to look at. You open the box and carefully take out whatever it may contain. There are Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates. Then tucked between other documents, no bigger than pictorial postage stamps, are newspaper cuttings, more often than not with no dates or which newspaper they came from. They are headed by a name and contain some details of a life. These are, of course, obituaries from local newspapers. This article is about how supremely important these tiny scraps of paper can be. Indeed in some cases they could be amongst the important information a family historian can come across. My granny used to scour the local newspaper every week not only to see who had died but also to read the obituaries and what they had to say. Call it the need to stay abreast of the news, take note of those who had died or just nosiness. This was a weekly ritual.

Obituaries date back to Roman times when papyrus newspapers were published daily. The deaths mentioned in these publications were reserved for notable people. It is only more recently that things have happened to change that. Albeit the invention of printing, the advent of local newspapers, and the fact that more and more people could read, had the time to read the paper and indeed could afford them. Obituaries, by their very nature, are essentially pieces that are written and published. As family historians, the people we are researching may not be notable but their published obituaries are priceless to us.

Nigel Farndale, the Obituaries Editor of *The Times*, is on record as saying that they ought to be balanced accounts, written in a deadpan style, and should not make the person in question out to be a saint. Local newspapers publish obituaries supplied by the undertakers after consultation with the family. These are, in fact, extremely deadpan and don't attempt to be anything else. Little more than a list. After the obituary there is often a second list that details the mourners that attended the funeral or sent floral tributes. They are in a well established style that we would readily recognise. Nevertheless they are jammed packed with fruit, as the Hartley's jam advertisements used to say. The text may confirm what we might know about the person in question but may also reveal information we didn't know.

So reader beware - because, as with so much in Family History, things are not as straightforward as they may seem. What family is? Despite the idea that no obituary may be full, it is what is omitted in conjunction with what we already know that matters and casts light on other aspects of family life and manners of the time. Indeed it is said that any biography, and we could argue that obituaries are a kind of biography, are about the writer as well as the subject. For it is the writer who says what goes in and what stays out. Indeed, if we were to write our own obituary, what would we include and perhaps, just as importantly, what would we omit. We are editors-in-chief of our own lives. Nevertheless what is there is often more helpful than not and sends our research down additional avenues to those we already know about.

In this article I do not propose to say anything more about the history or style of obituaries but I am going to comment on three obituaries from my own family and what I have discovered from them. Each one offers a different take on the notion of obituaries. Clearly they are specific to my research, nevertheless, they may help others interrogate obituaries in their own family. Interrogate is perhaps the operative word because you can't afford to leave anything unturned. The first comes from *The Ludlow Advertiser*, the second from *The Times Recorder* Zanesville, Ohio USA. and the third from *The Kington Times*.

Annie Alice Allison (nee Felton) (May 1892- June 1966)

Found in a box of "Family Stuff". As I said at the beginning, no date, or newspaper title but we have first the obituary of Annie Alice Allison. However I can shed light on this obituary quite quickly as Annie Alice Allison was my paternal grandmother. She was Ludlow born and bred and the obituary comes from The Ludlow Advertiser. Her sad passing was in my lifetime. I was 16 at the time. Therefore many of the facts of her life were known to me. I remember her house was where I saw television for the first time - *The Adventures of Robin Hood*: the arrow flew from his bow as the theme music played.

The details of her life are brief, in the style I have outlined. However it is the list of mourners that offer rich pickings for my family history research. I can create a diagram from the names that shows close family members and relationships. It confirms some of what I know. It then reveals another group of people who I might describe as being on the perimeter of the family circle. It is this outer circle that has given me lines to chase and answer some questions that have suggested themselves

in other aspects of my research. Clearly these kinds of ideas will apply to your own research.

Then we have the list of people who sent floral tributes. I can eliminate from the list the family who were at the funeral. But below them are mourners who are there out of respect for my Nan, since she was, obviously, loved by many in her close community, in Ludlow

DEATH OF MRS. A. A. ALLISON, LUDLOW

The death occurred on Wednesday at Ludlow and District Hospital of Mrs. Alice Annie Allison, aged 74 years, of 10, Dodmore Estate, Ludlow. Born in Ludlow, she had lived in the town all her life. Mrs. Allison is survived by three daughters, two sons and 11 grandchildren.

The funeral was on Saturday at the New Cemetery, Ludlow, when the Rev. Baynton officiated.

The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Teale (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. K. Allison (son, rep. Mrs. Allison, Bolton, daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Badlan (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. Devey (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. Butterworth (brother-in-law and sister); Mr. and Mrs. N. Roberts (granddaughter, also rep. Mr. and Mrs. J. Teale, grandson); Mr. T. Allison (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Simon (niece), Mrs. W. Howard (niece), Mr. and Mrs. Didlick (niece), Mrs. Newman (niece), Mr. and Mrs. Felton (nephew), Miss Birch; Mr. C. Darlington, Mr. T. Fewtrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simkiss (nephew, also rep. Mrs. J. Simkiss and Mr. A. Simkiss).

Floral tributes were sent by: Sons, sons-in-law; daughters, daughters-in-law; grandchildren; Marjorie and Hugh Badlan Mr. and Mrs. Tolley and family; Mr. and Mrs. Devey and Barbara; Em. Wilt (Littleborough); Mr. and Mrs. Devey and Reg. Miss Birch; Kath, Norman and David Mr. and Mrs. Goodacre and staff at De Greys; Mrs. Lloyd, Miss Smout; Jean Ray and the girls; Esme, Bill and family Doll, Reg and children; Vashon and Ada; G. and J. Tipton; Mrs. E. J. Teale; Marion

and John; The Nash family; Mrs. Davies and Barry; Freda, Norman, Colin, Nigel; Mr. and Mrs. Seeborne and family; Ethel and Bob Glaze; Joan, Ron and family; Gwen, Bill Minton and family; Win, Geoff and the girls; Dot and family; Bill, Margaret and Mick; Jack, Lil and Lesley Price; John and Barry; Doris and Jim Teale; Mrs. Widdup and family (Bolton); Mr. and Mrs. Pound; Matron and Staff (Helena Lane House); friends and neighbours, Dodmore Estate and Dodmore Lane; Tom; all at Woodside, Oswestry; Mr. and Mrs. Darlington; Sylvie, Jean, Hazel and families; Harry, Stann Felton and Phyllis; Jack Nance and family; sister Win and all at Lutterworth; Dot, boys and Gwenda (Wales); Miss Cash.

more widely and in some cases beyond. This is fascinating, since it offers an even outer circle to plot out and investigate. If you want a metaphor, you see that these diagrams, perhaps, represent ripples on a lake that lead to her life.

There is, however, one apparent statement of fact in the obituary that is pertinent to me and rather surprising to say the least. The second mourner on the list is Mr. K. Allison (son, rep. Mrs. Allison, Bolton, daughter-in-law). My father and mother. My father and mother separated in 1958. There was no love lost between them after this time. My mum brought three of us up in Bolton. So it rather set me back when I found this obituary in a box of family papers some time ago. Why would it suggest that my dad was representing my mum, when they had split up in 1958 and Annie Alice's, my dad's mum, death was in 1966? Was this to save face? Would the wider family not have known they had split? Probably, but for the Ludlow public maybe the family wanted to cover this up? Who knows?

This is a rather wonderful example of what I suggested above. It seems that some editing has been done in order to offer a sanitised reality. No one would know this in 2025 except me, since the majority of the family and people listed have passed on. So we have to beware of the 'facts' that the obituary seems to offer. As time goes by, no one would question them unless they had some 'insider

knowledge' as in this case I have. Perhaps what we have is an example of social mores of the time. There is no need to tell others what you didn't want them to know, particularly in the newspaper of a small town, out of embarrassment or even shame. Of course, social mores, whatever they be, are specific to time and place. Some we may be aware of and others not and perhaps we need to bear this in mind as we research our own family.

Charles Phillips Jones (April 1872- August 1953)

The second obituary is that of Charles Phillips Jones (CPJ), born in April 1870, Hawarden, Flintshire, Wales. In 1897 he married my Great Grand Aunt, Harriet Louisa Allison. By 1921 they had emigrated to the United States with their two teenage sons and had become US citizens. He worked in the pottery trade in England, and from 1921 onwards in Zanesville, Muskingum, Ohio. He was a skilled ceramic artist and Zanesville was and still is a centre of excellence for the trade.

**Retired Potter
Taken By Death**

Charles P. Jones, 84, 1341½ Maple avenue, died at 9:45 p.m. Monday at Good Samaritan hospital where he had been a patient since July 28.

The deceased was born in Hawarden, Wales and came to the United States in 1913. He moved to Zanesville in 1921 as a modeler for the American Encaustic pottery and later was employed at the Hall pottery in Crooksville as a designer and modeler, until his retirement in 1950.

Mr. Jones was a member of St. James Episcopal church, Amity Lodge F & AM and sang in the church choir for over 25 years.

Surviving are two sons, Charles Arthur, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Walter A., Merchantsville, N.J.; two brothers, Herbert and Frank of England.

His wife, Harriet, died in November of 1945.

The body is at the Forest avenue chapel of Mader-Peoples funeral home where friends may call after 7 p.m. today. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the chapel with Fa. George McCallaum of St. James church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memorial Park.

I would consider myself to be a family historian rather than a genealogist. In researching people in my family I tend to go back as far as I can to work with secure evidence. This often means the 1841 Census. Once I have established their factual beginning, I work forward, gathering as much information as I can from every source available. This was going well until I hit a wall with regard to CPJ's mother, Elizabeth. She and her husband, Samuel Wynn Jones, had seven children from 1861 to 1870, CPJ being the last.

At this point for some strange reason, call it intuition I don't know, I wavered my working rule of thumb and looked forward in time to CPJ's obituary of August 1953, which I have a copy of. Again interrogating and drilling as deeply as I could into this information, weighting every word, I noticed that CPJ had two surviving brothers alive in England - Herbert and Frank. Consulting the names of CPJ's six siblings on the 1871 Census where CPJ himself was 11 months old, his brother Frank was two years old.

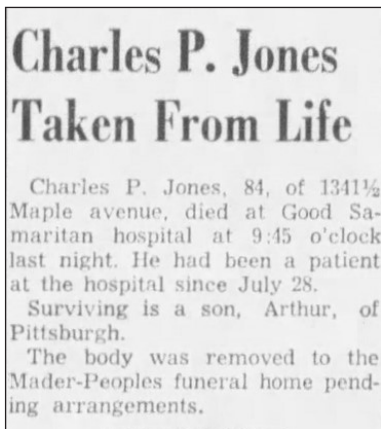
However to my surprise, to say the least, none of the others was called Herbert. I checked for a second and third time. I looked at middle names and anything else that might proffer an answer. Still no joy. O me miserum!

Then I searched on Ancestry and found to my amazement that CPJ's mother Elizabeth died sometime in 1873, which I know, because he remarried in December 1873. I have a marriage certificate to prove it beyond doubt. So Elizabeth must have died. However try as I might I couldn't - and still can't find - any record of her death. Nevertheless there it was in black and white. Samuel Wynn Jones married Hannah, his dead wife's sister which was a whole other story - see my article 'More than a Book Review' page 33 Journal 46 Part 1 March 2025 - Samuel and Hannah went on to have four children, including Herbert.

Back to CPJ's obituary appearing in a Zanesville newspaper. It details his life very clearly and shows what a successful gentleman he was. However if it had not been for the mention of surviving brother Herbert, I would have 'lost' a very, very important part of his upbringing.

I do have in my possession a second obituary of CPJ, I found online, Ancestry record U.S. Newspapers.com Obituary Index 1800s. This one comes from 'The Times Recorder' Zanesville, Ohio USA. It does suggest something of interest or omits it. As we can see from obituary one, this shows CPJ has two sons, Charles Arthur of Pittsburgh and Walter A. Jones. This is where I come in - Walter's second given name is Allison, his mother's maiden name, Harriet Louisa Allison, my Great Grand Aunt. The second obituary does not mention

Walter Allison Jones. It simply says that CPJ is survived by Arthur of Pittsburgh. From this we can, perhaps, ascertain that Charles Arthur was always called by his second given name. That information was new to me. This may well be to differentiate between him and his father. Nevertheless the second obituary omits Walter Allison. What I do know is that Walter Allison was not the black sheep of the family, quite the opposite. Walter Allison was abandoned in his early years after the Jones' arrival in the U.S. I know this to be accurate as I am in regular touch with Walter Allison Jones' granddaughter who lives in Washington State.

An obituary notice for Charles P. Jones. The title is "Charles P. Jones Taken From Life" in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title, in a smaller serif font, is the text: "Charles P. Jones, 84, of 1341 1/2 Maple avenue, died at Good Samaritan hospital at 9:45 o'clock last night. He had been a patient at the hospital since July 28. Surviving is a son, Arthur, of Pittsburgh. The body was removed to the Mader-Peoples funeral home pending arrangements." The notice is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**Charles P. Jones
Taken From Life**

Charles P. Jones, 84, of 1341½ Maple avenue, died at Good Samaritan hospital at 9:45 o'clock last night. He had been a patient at the hospital since July 28.

Surviving is a son, Arthur, of Pittsburgh.

The body was removed to the Mader-Peoples funeral home pending arrangements.

Arthur James Felton (1863 - 1935)

The late David Lloyd, the foremost historian of Ludlow, once told me that the Feltons were a well-established Ludlow family. With this in mind, I offer no apologies for my third and final obituary in this article being about Arthur James Felton, my Paternal Great Grandfather, the father of my grandmother Annie Alice Allison (nee Felton) whose obituary is the first one in this article, since all three obituaries in question are from my own family history. However as I have suggested my material and methods of working may offer you ways in which you can consider obituaries in your own collection of family history documents.

With apologies to A. E. Houseman, we can call Arthur James Felton, AJF, a Shropshire lad, born and bred. His obituary chronicles his long and rich life. The obituary appeared in 'The Kington Times' January 26th 1935. Indeed all the information I have for him comes from the "Newspapers" search section of Findmypast. This is a rich resource and I can recommend it highly to all members of the SFHS who are not familiar with it. The obituary follows the pattern I have established above. Details of his life, (one of particular interest is the fact that he lived in Ludford Alms Houses), are followed by names of those in attendance at his funeral.

AJF, as we can see, was a well-known goalkeeper for Ludlow Town F.C. The obituary lists many other members of the team he kept goal for. A word about language from previous times here. My cousin, Martin Felton, an erudite and rather fine gentleman in his own right, said that he didn't know that AJF had worked in a bank - '*He was a safe custodian*'. I had to point out that this was reference to AJF's goalkeeping skills. So perhaps we have to be aware that language patterns change over time and take on new meanings. Furthermore this is reflected in the rather stilted style of obituaries themselves. All this doesn't take away from AJF's goalkeeping prowess.

The Findmypast files contain 29 football reports mentioning AJF from 1884 to 1895. A report of the Herefordshire Challenge Cup Final, for example, takes up

LUDFORD FUNERAL.

THE LATE MR. ARTHUR FELTON.

Mr. Arthur Felton, who passed away on Thursday of last week, at the age of 71 years, was goalkeeper for the Ludlow Town Football Club as a young man. He kept goal behind the brothers Oakes, Chip, Hewitt, Green, Mattinson, Richie, Gould and Barret, well known in Shropshire football matches. He was a safe custodian. He joined the old "G" Ludlow Company of the Shropshire Rifle Volunteers and rose to the rank of Colour-Sergeant, from which position he resigned. He lived in Old Gate Fee for many years, but owing to old age and infirmity he and his wife were given a house in Ludford Almshouses. He had been in ill health for a long time and recently he lost the use of his one side through a stroke. He was attended by Dr. Hunter, who sent him to Shrewsbury Infirmary but he did not stop there and was brought back to Ludlow, where he died.

The funeral took place at Ludford Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. The mourners were Mrs. Felton (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Allison, Ludlow (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Butterworth, Littleborough (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Ludlow (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. Dean, Chester (sister), Miss A. Felton, Ludlow (sister), also a number of grandchildren, relatives and friends.

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Carver, Vicar of Ludford.

a full column in the 'Ludlow Advertiser'. AJF is mentioned in the report several times and one mention reads as follows;

Felton now gave us a treat in the line of goalkeeping for as shot after shot was put in, he put them all well down the field. But one awkward shot caused him to give a corner. This was dropped right into goal but Felton fisted over and the corner that resulted was kicked out.

Ludlow won the Cup 2-1. This report and all the other 28 speak of AJF in glowing terms displaying his goal keeping skills. He was indeed a fine custodian.

One part of his life the obituary doesn't mention is the fact that he was a Water Bailiff. We find a record of this on AJF's entry for the 1891 Census.

AJF was obviously a very successful Water Bailiff in apprehending illegal fishermen such to the point that between 1892 and 1903 there are 24 articles from *The Ludlow Advertiser*, with an example shown below from 1892.

At this point you may be wondering why I am revealing this information not in AJF's Obituary. Here's the rub. *The Leominster Times*, 26 June 1903 ran a two-column story with the headline. The opening paragraph reads:

IMPORTANT FISHERY PROSECUTION - A WATER BAILIFF PROSECUTED

Arthur Felton, Oldgate Fee, Ludlow, water bailiff, in the employ of the Severn Board of Conservators, stationed at Ludlow, was summoned by his employers for illegally fishing for trout without a license, in the River Teme at Steventon, in the parish of Ludford on the 23rd May.

After a long court hearing the last paragraph read;

It is illegal for a water bailiff to fish without a license. Felton said that he had a difference with the Board and resigned his post as water bailiff. The Bench after consultation considered the case proven as in respect to fishing for trout without a license and fined 10s and 9s 6d costs.

As a writer I can't resist saying - those that live by the line get caught by the line. Sorry. However this resignation does affect other aspects of his life. If we return to how AJF's life is chronicled in the Findmypast data base we discover there another aspect to his life. As his obituary states he was a member of Ludlow 'G' Company Shropshire Rifle Volunteers. Extracts from *The Ludlow Advertiser* mention him 30 times in dispatches about 'G' Company. These mainly show how AJF was involved in their activities. The Company published in the newspaper each

week which volunteer soldiers would be on duty at their Drill Hall. AJF's name appears regularly in these notices. However more of interest is that his name appears in reports of shooting competitions that were held both within the company itself and with other companies in Shropshire. Over the years AJF shows by results in these competitions that he was an excellent marksman. He appears for the first time in a shooting competition in August 1884. Rather fascinatingly he appears as Private Felton and it is possible to trace his promotion through the ranks by reading these notices from 1884 until August 1902 where by that point he is a Colour Sergeant and the last entry of his time in "G" company appears.

One wonders if there could be a connection between the fact that we have seen in the obituary that he resigned his position as Colour Sergeant and his court case for illegal fishing followed a short time afterwards. So if those that live by the line get caught by the line, so too we might add, did he jump or was he pushed. Did he, in that honourable, time immemorial, military manner, since he was a soldier, fall on his sword? Or was he just caught fish handed? We might never know because the obituary doesn't tell us.

Before I conclude one last point or, in fact, two. What of obituaries in the future when local newspapers are disappearing because they are not economically viable. When a cousin of mine died recently it cost £100 to place a notice in the Ludlow Advertiser. The notice ran to one hundred words. Something else to consider too. A former colleague died last year. His death was recorded on an alumni site of old students of the school that we had taught in. Within an hour there were over one hundred complimentary comments about him. It is safe to say that whatever happens, obituaries of ordinary people are perhaps likely to appear in one form or another online from now on.

So in conclusion I have mapped out what obituaries are, offered a little of their history and described the style in which they are written. I have used three quite separate ones from my own family to demonstrate what I have learnt, in what I labelled as interrogation, from them. Each taught me something different about the person in question. I used this information, placed alongside other information I have to build up a fuller picture of Annie Alice, Charles Phillips and Arthur James. I always write about things I have enjoyed doing. Hopefully you may enjoy revisiting obituaries you have, interrogating them and building up a fuller picture of the people from your family in question. So even though the news is rather sad, it has been illuminating.

Bill Allison 7760

Family Memorabilia

I was recently sorting through family memorabilia. My mother, Betty LEA, nee YOUNG (born in Shrewsbury in 1914), sent lots of newspaper articles and documents to me, after I moved to Canada. Thankfully I saved them, as I had forgotten that she was very involved in various organisations in Shrewsbury. I remember her involvement in the Shropshire Association of Women's Clubs where she served as the chair and secretary of the Harlescott group as well as the Shropshire group, for several years. I remember going with her to London to attend a meeting of the National Association of Women's Clubs. As a teenager, I was very excited to stay in a hotel for the first time! The women's clubs were not only about domestic matters but also involved presentations on various topics, as well as fundraising for local charities. She felt that it was important for women to socialise with other women and to discuss various topics other than cooking. (She wasn't the best cook!) She often said that women could do anything that a man could do and didn't believe that women should only be interested in the traditional role of wife and mother. These are all traits which I have inherited!

Mum was also very involved in the twinning of Shrewsbury with Zutphen in Holland. She helped to organise several trips between the two communities. Another organisation that she was involved with was the Shrewsbury Morris Association. I don't know anything about this group, but I'm pretty sure it didn't involve Morris dancing! I have a newspaper clipping showing the committee and officers at the inaugural meeting held at the Morris Hall. Unfortunately, there is no date on the clipping, but it would have been in the mid to late 1980s. (Note to self, write down dates on items that you save!) The committee members were Mr. Albert WATSON, Mrs. Winifred WARD, Mrs. Joan CLARKE, Mrs. Lavinia GEORGE, Mrs. Olive GILLIBRAND, Mrs. Gladys LEACH, Mrs. Gladys READ, Mr. Alf MORRIS, Mrs. Win NORTON, Mrs. Bertha BEVAN and my mum (who became the chairman). Another photo of the same Association shows Mr. Sam ROGERS, treasurer and Mrs. Vin ROGERS, vice-chairman. Mum would have been in her 70s and the members look to be about the same age. Some of the group members who were former members of the Lancastrian School, visited the school and met with some of the students.

I also have a photo of a group of ladies taken at one of the weekly meetings of the Focus Club held at the Gateway Arts and Education Centre. They were having

a talk and cheese tasting, which I find very amusing as my mother hated cheese! There is nothing on the photo to say what the Focus Group was about. The ladies who attended were Mrs. Stella ROBERTS, Mrs. Amy HERBERT, Miss Eileen JACKMAN, Miss Muriel HOWARD, Mrs. Mary WILKINSON, Mrs. Nan VAUGHAN, Mrs. Lucy CASTLE, Mrs. Kathleen DAVIES, Mrs. Beryl RICHARDSON, Mrs. Thelma JOLLY and my mum.

Another organisation she was involved with was the Mount Pleasant Medical Centre Patient Support Group. A photo of a Christmas fair for this group includes helpers Freda WOODVINE, Bob JONES, John LASHBROOK, Dorothy JONES, Lavinia ROGERS, Gwyneth FRANCIS and Charlie FRANCIS.

The following article written by Joan Hockin, Midlands Advisory Officer, in the Shropshire edition of Club News for the National Association of Women's Clubs, 1967. The Association ceased to exist in 2003, after 56 years.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

The women's clubs in this Association are part of the outcome of voluntary social service work, promoted in the pre-war years of unemployment by the Midland Office of the National Council of Social Service, and taken up actively by people in Shropshire.

The first grouping of men's clubs and women's clubs in the county was made in 1933-1934 as the East Shropshire Association of Mutual Service Clubs, and the title, Shropshire Association of Mutual Service Clubs was adopted in 1937. By 1935 the Association was reporting the first holiday scheme held jointly with the women's clubs from South Staffordshire, and the formation of a Women's Advisory Committee of the Association (16th September 1935) with Mrs. Winnington-Ingram as Chairman and Miss Simpson as Vice-Chairman. The quarterly committee meetings were held at each club in turn.

With the ending of unemployment and the coming of the war, the men's clubs practically ceased to exist, and on 22nd November 1945 the Association was formally dissolved. The balance of funds was, by agreement, handed over to the Women's Advisory Committee, to be administered by them, under the guidance of the N.C.S.S., for the use of the remaining women's clubs.

The title Shropshire Association of Women's Clubs was finally adopted in 1947, and the archives of the Regional Office contain a copy of the Report submitted

to the second annual meeting held on 17th March 1949 and addressed by Miss Lucy Butcher, then Secretary of the National Association of Women' Clubs.

There are now 23 clubs in the Association and it seems that they can claim a direct "line of descent" from those first clubs in 1933.

And also from the same edition, taken from a Recipe Book that is over 100 years old:

TO MAKE A JOINT LAST A WEEK

SUNDAY is a feast day boasted; I like a leg of mutton, roasted.

MONDAY I, my taste to tickle, eat it cold with Indian pickle.

TUESDAY, Hash it, and gravy made, then sippets round the dish are laid.

WEDNESDAY, Boil, and with due care, some mashed potatoes I prepare.

THURSDAY, Make a savoury pie, or else some slices neatly fry.

FRIDAY I proclaim a fast, in order for to make it last.

SATURDAY, When the cash runs narrow, I crack the bones and eat the marrow.

And then, that none is thrown away, the rest I give to my dog Tray.

I looked at Newspapers on Findmypast to see if they had any articles or mentions about the Association. There were 72,866! I only looked at a few but there were few photographs. One article was of special interest as it mentions the beginnings of the Shropshire Association. A letter was printed in the Shrewsbury Chronicle on 29 May 2003. The letter mentions that the Association was closing after 56 years due to the rising costs and lack of new members. The letter goes on to say that when the association was first created, the late Betty CADWALLADER and Betty LEA toured around the villages canvassing to start women's clubs. This was apparently very successful as there were eventually 25 clubs in the Shropshire Association. The reason this was interesting is because my mum was Betty LEA, and the letter was written by Gwen DUNNING, who is the mother of one of the SFHS members and a DNA match to me (although I haven't yet made the connection).

I have a newspaper photograph of representatives from some of the Shropshire groups at a fundraising event in aid of the Nightingale Nurses Fund. (Probably taken in the 1980s.) Ann READ (Baschurch), Liz BRETTELL (Hadnall) Lin FOLEY

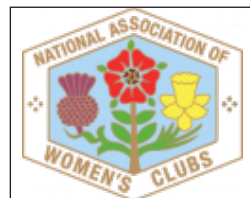
(Myddle), Mollie HARKER (St. George's), Kathleen ROGERS (Meole Brace), Stella CAMPBELL (Cophthorne), Gwen DUNNING (Bomere Heath Venture Club)

Other members of the Shropshire Women's Clubs included Mrs. Anne DUCKERS, Mrs. Nancy WILLIAMS (Pontesbury club), Mrs. Joan JONES, Mrs. Sybil PENFOLD, Mrs. Marie JONES, Mrs. Betty CADWALLADER, Mrs. Irene HUBBARD, (Harlescott club) Mrs. Helen NEUITT, Mrs. Ann ALLPORT, Mrs. Mary BENNETT.

I haven't checked to see if these photos are available on the internet, but if anyone would like to have a copy of the newspaper photos, you can send me an email.

Maggie Littlejohn, 4913, mlea350@gmail.com

Editor: I wonder if anyone else has come across the Association of Women's Club, or perhaps has similar memorabilia in among their ancestors papers. Perhaps you know, or are related to one of the women mentioned in this article.



The National Association of Women's Clubs is still in existence and details of it can be found at <https://nawc.org.uk/> although there are no local groups in the Shropshire area.

For Evermore - CWGC 'App'

Have you ever wanted to visit the last resting place of a war veteran ancestor but not been able to get there. Well, there is now an opportunity to get a sense of where they are buried.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have developed a new 'app' offering guided tours of over 75 global sites - from the trenches of the Western Front to the jungles of the Far East. It is possible to visit virtually and it can help you discover their stories. The app is available on both iOS and Android and puts some of the most iconic cemeteries and memorials in the palm of your hand.

Their website also holds many stories of some of those who fell in the service of their country which have been submitted by their relatives/decendants and it is also possible to submit your own stories of your ancestors. For more details see <https://www.cwgc.org/stories/home/>

Talking Family History LIVE

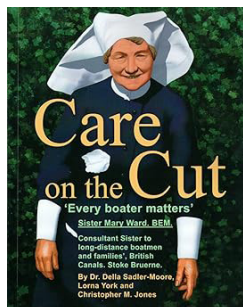
Saturday 11 October

Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury SY5 6JH

10.30-3.30

10.30	Arrival and refreshments	
11.00	Welcome	Karen Hunter, Chair
11.05	A Few Forgotten Women: Searching under the covers of coverture	Ann Simcock
11.50	'Care on the Cut' – Every Boater Matters The healthcare provided by Sister Mary Ward BEM to canal boaters and their families	Dr Della Sadler-Moore
12.50	Lunch - bring your picnic with you	
13.45	Quiz	Lorna Emms
14.15	'Don't throw it away' The story of a portrait found in the attic	Dawn Blundell
15.00	SFHS Website - what next?	Simon Davies Karen Hunter
15.25	Close	Karen Hunter, Chair

We look forward to seeing you at this event. This is open to members and non-members and entry is free, so do invite your friends/relations who are interested in family history.



Please bring your own picnic for lunch and, if possible, a mug to reduce the washing up!

If you can give us a hand with setting up the rooms, or sorting out the refreshments please let us know.



The Shrewsbury ‘Loggerheads’

The year 2025 marks the 600th anniversary of the heraldic arms of Shrewsbury – the three leopards’ faces. Over the years, they have got their own specifically-local nickname, becoming known in the town as ‘the loggerheads’.

In 1425, the heraldic arms of Shrewsbury first come to light, appearing on the town’s Common Seal, the original of which can still be seen today in a special case in Shrewsbury Museum.

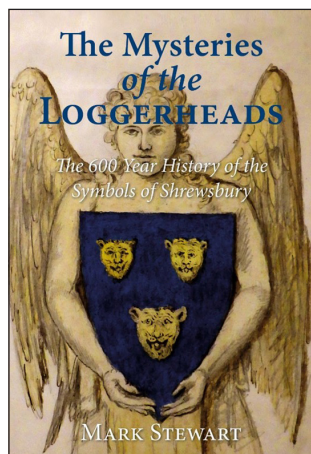
It is not quite realised how popular they still are. Today, within Shrewsbury Old Town alone, over 100 instances still appear on the sides of buildings, on monuments, in stained glass, on signs, and even in the logos of local businesses.

Now, a new book by local historian Mark Stewart looks at their story, the first-ever to do so. ‘*The Mysteries of The Loggerheads*’ tries to unravel the myths but also explain their huge importance over the years.

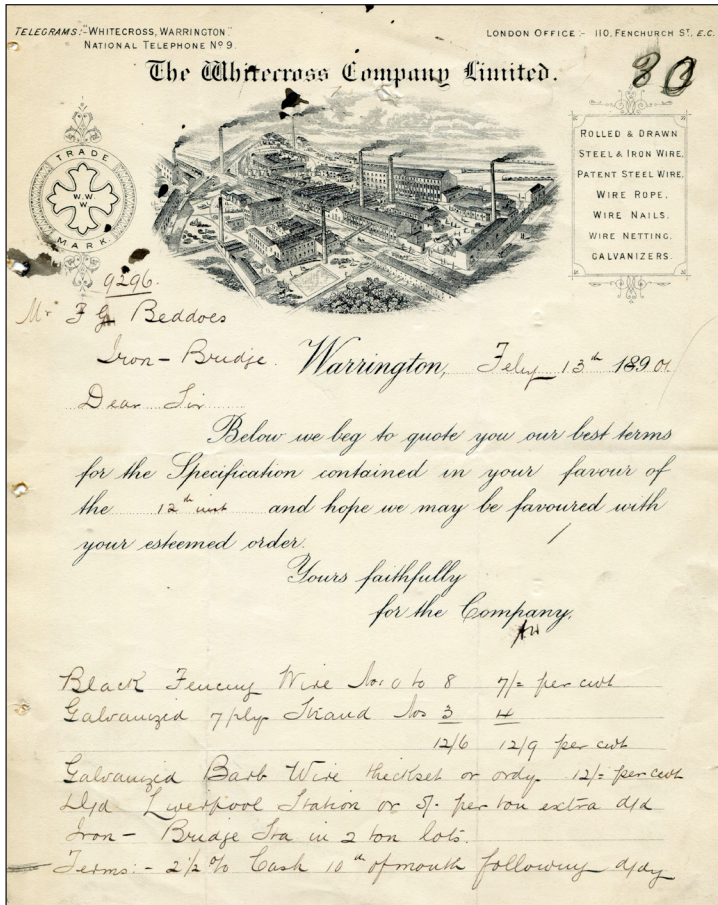
Each chapter deals with an aspect of the loggerheads’ story. Why are they leopards? Are they indeed leopards? Why are they called loggerheads? Why are they always in gold and blue? Why are they the cause of arguments between local councils? Why did football fans hold large demonstrations about them? What have they got to do with the Welsh...and with turtles? Why did some leading figures ‘adopt’ them? What is the story of the mysterious ‘Golden Loggerheads’? When is Loggerheads Day? When did the Great Seal go missing – and how was it found again? ... and much more.

A book for both the Shrewsbury lover and the historian, it is on sale for £7.99 at selected bookshops in Shrewsbury, and online. For details, see website: <https://salop-loggerheads.blogspot.com/p/new-book-new-trail-2025-loggerheads.html>

Contact Email: SalopLoggerheads@gmail.com



How things have changed!



I love these old decorative letterheadings – an email isn't quite the same! Business correspondence style – “hope we may be favoured with your esteemed order” – has changed somewhat since 1901 as well (the firm was adapting the date on the print run for the change of century). Note that Beddoes could pay extra to have materials delivered direct to Ironbridge Station. Requesting a quote for fencing and barbed wire, they seem to have been looking to the security of their premises.

Linda Gowans, 7120, l.gowans@btinternet.com

From the Society's Journal - 40 Years On

In the September 1985 Journal, Gina Lewis heaped praise on Vera Raxster for the production of her first Journal. Gina also heaped praise on two other people who had come forward to help run the Society, reflecting that without volunteers the Society would not exist. (nudge..nudge!)

Vera's letter indicated how she had always looked forward to the Journal and hoped plenty of people would submit articles. (It was ever thus!)

Vera's letter also referred to her love of old pictures and postcards of places in which her ancestors lived. She especially liked to rummage around at antique fairs where old postcards were often on display.

What a shame we don't have BT telephone directories anymore. Privacy seems to have gone to secret extremes! An article by Denis Gorge shared how the telephone directory gave him the links he needed to create his family tree and identify long lost cousins. Without the directory he would never have made the connection!

As I looked through the 12 pages of new members in the Sept '85 Journal, together with their interests, it reminded me of more innocent times when no-one expected their personal information to be mis-used! and everyone happily put their contact details in the Journal.

The talk at the May meeting that year by Pauline Saul was a moving story about her mother who had been brought up in an orphanage and separated from her siblings. Following a lot of investigation Pauline was able to trace the grave of her mother's brother and subsequently to take her to visit his grave in France.

I wonder if Michael Hulme remembers the talk and subsequent article he wrote 40 years ago for those interested in using a computer to store their family history. He explained that

'buying the right computer was the first major problem. Having never used a computer meant that buying one was like buying a car when you could not drive...Having looked at the BBC, Sinclair Spectrum and the Commodore, I chose the Commodore 64 with a disc drive and later a printer.'

Am I bringing back any memories?

Michael continued

'Anyone buying a computer must understand that to use it you must enter all the information through the keyboard...so the ability to type is essential. Having entered the information, it is necessary to have somewhere to store the information. With the Commodore Disk it is possible to store 170,000 characters on a single disc.'

Do you remember those floppy discs?

Michael went on to show how it was possible to grow a family tree on a spread sheet and

'how I am using my computer to type up Monumental Inscriptions, which can easily be kept up to date by inserting new information at any point'.

Mr. S. C. Clifford's talk on the 'Origin of Surnames' was printed in full covering over six pages. He suggested that surnames were introduced as a secondary way of identifying people. He offered four alternatives as to their origins: Appearance, Occupation, Relationship or Location.

Janice Cox offered a quiz (*answers next time!*), challenging members to translate Latin into English. She suggested that we shouldn't be put off by old registers since most entries could be understood with patience.

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies was given two pages in which to celebrate that it was now twenty-five years old and outlined how students of Family History would benefit from their resources. Interestingly, the Institute was the brainchild of the Ven. K. Bickersteth.

'He had the idea of a school for family history as a means of investigating the causes of stability and breakdown in families', so it was in 1957 Cecil Humphrey Smith set up a school of family history and strove to place the subject on an academic level with other historical studies'.

Reg Wilford, 5564

Editor: As often happens there are references to topics in Reg's article which are as relevant today as they were 40 years ago! Volunteers coming forward to help run the Society are always needed, as are articles for the Journal, so if anyone can help us or write something please get in touch. And don't forget to add in your Members Interests on the website - you never know who else might be researching the same people and perhaps be able to help in your research.

Bread, Gruel and Suet Dumplings – Workhouse Life

**Review of the talk by Ian Waller FSG
given on 15 April 2025**

The name 'workhouse' conjures up images of grimy Dickensian institutions: Dickens supposedly visited the Wapping workhouse. But their purpose was to help the poor. Originating in 1597 with the 'Act for the Relief of the Poore', it set the children and poor to work to relieve their 'impotence'. Various later Acts built on it – the 1662 Settlement Act sent people back to their parishes; the 1723 Workhouse Test Act (promoted by Lord Knatchbull and known as Knatchbull's Act) allowed workhouses to be set up by separate or groups of parishes. Relief was provided only to those willing to enter the workhouse. In 1782, Gilbert's Act allowed common workhouses to be set up under a Board of Guardians. The New Poor Law of 1834, like the Act of 1723, gave relief only to those who entered the workhouse. Workhouses became overcrowded, and relief was given by Parish Relieving Officers. The National Health Service in 1948, closed many workhouses, many becoming, general hospitals, maternity homes or asylums.



Southwell Workhouse (now owned by National Trust (CC BY-NC))

Every area of the country had a Poor Law Union (PLU), to which one or more parishes sent representatives to a Board of Guardians. Unions were derived from administrative hundreds from the manorial system, then increased under Gilbert's Act of 1782. PLUs were set up in 1834, with Registration Districts (RDs), whose boundaries followed those of the Poor Law Unions established under Civil Registration in 1837.

Typically workhouses held 300 inmates, plus staff of 30-50, usually with the main building in the centre, surrounded by workshops, exercise yards, accommodation,

and sometimes allotments and even burial grounds. Most were built in a grand Gothic style: survivors are often Grade 1 or 2 listed, so their appearance can't be changed and were built in prominent locations at the centre of the PLU – another deterrent against entering them.

Administration was under the Poor Law (later Board) Commissioners, below which was the Board of Guardians, the work house Master and Matron, then medical staff, porters, nurses and school masters.

Boards of Guardians were local vicars or lawyers - people with skills. There were also Visiting Committees, mostly women, who came to see all was well. Staff would include, apart from a master and matron, a superintendent, a fireman, porters, cooks, chaplains, school masters/mistresses and attendants.

Workhouses were for people unable to survive outside. Inmates went to a 'receiving ward' to get an 'order of admission' – their ticket to be there. As inmate numbers constantly changed (often daily) it is important to look at every page of Admissions and Discharge Registers. Full registers often don't survive, but clerks wrote shortened forms known as a Creed Registers, which listed inmate religions. 'Casuals' were admitted after 5.00pm if a bed was available; they would usually work a few hours the next day before discharge. An inmate's only possession inside was a bed – personal clothing etc was boxed up for discharge. Beds were of variable construction and often tapered so that they could be fitted 'nose to tail' to get more in.

Inside, inmates got a bath, medical examination and workhouse clothing (a serge suit in grey or brown for men, a fashionable striped smock dress for women). All clothing was the same, as there was no social class distinction. Classification was by age and physical condition.

Strict workhouse rules were read out each Sunday before lunch, and were enforced. Inmates earned their keep, perhaps learning a trade so they could survive outside. Inside, work varied little from outside, some were put on outside working parties. Children might be apprenticed without parental consent, but there was an option to migrate to another area, or even emigrate. Work was mundane, chopping wood, or breaking stone, but some tasks were linked to the local economy. Women often unpicked tarred rope ('oakum', using a small steel pick), which was used to make ships waterproof (caulking). Families were usually segregated by gender.

Alternatives to workhouses included apprentice schemes for children. 'Training ships' taught boys seamanship, and many joined the merchant navy or Royal Navy from age 16. Some workhouses had industrial schools attached to give boys a chance to learn a trade. Children did one hours work, then three hours education, then four hours industrial training. Cottage homes with 12-30 children, living with a master/matron, were an alternative, some even having a swimming pool and graveyard! Migration to industrial areas was encouraged for better wages, but mortality, disease, living expenses, poorer housing, and exploitation were drawbacks.

Behaviour was enforced even via the courts, for being drunk and disorderly, wilful damage to bedding or clothing, desertion in workhouse clothing, theft, assaulting staff and missing chapel on the Sabbath. Holding in solitary confinement could be done. Punishment books offer records. As there were no divorce laws, desertion to avoid a wife was common; offenders' details were published in the Poor Law Union Gazette (on-line in FMP under newspapers).

Each workhouse had a dietary chart, with food being adequate but 'stodgy' and of poor quality. Food not eaten or refused was punished, and the infirm were expected to eat more! No-one starved but the malnourished often died after entering the workhouse. Food was eaten in mass halls, in total silence.

Workhouses had an infirmary, some acting as epidemic hospitals. Births were mostly illegitimate, but many were baptised in the chapel. Many places had fictitious addresses to hide a birth in a workhouse (see www.workhouses.org.uk for lists).

Workhouses slowly disappeared in the early 20th century especially after WW1. The 1908 Children's Act kept children out of them, while old age pensions from 1909 and National Insurance from 1911 gave different forms of welfare. By 1918 most had different uses, and in 1929 Boards of Guardians were abolished. Any remaining became general hospitals with the start of the NHS in 1948.

Records

Records of PLUs can be found at TNA (Kew) under MH12, and may include records of staff appointments, CVs and correspondence. Lists of officers and salary ranges in each Union can be found at TNA under MH9

Documents for workhouses and Poor Law Records include admission/discharge registers, creed registers, emigration books, punishment books, masters' journals,

guardian minute books, apprenticeship books. Most are in County Record Offices, though many were destroyed. Poor Law Commission records are at TNA (Kew). Record survival rates vary with each Union. Masters kept a daily journal to give statistics (male and female separately) to the Commissioners.

Following a comprehensive talk there were some comments and questions:

Q. An ancestor who was a conscientious objector in WW1, was dismissed as Master of a workhouse in 1918 and not allowed to return until 1921. How did it function without a master?

A. Probably controlled by the Red Cross during the war, or run by deputy master etc (see MH9 at TNA for staff lists)

Q. Were inmates free to come and go outside of work hours?

A. No, they stayed for the duration until discharged. Deserters were not allowed back in.

Q: Were visitors allowed?

A: No. Lone inmates stayed alone, but there was some mixing for families.

Q: What about casuals?

A: They queued up for admission if space allowed. Casuals often used workhouses in rotation.

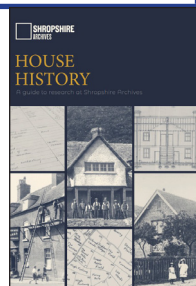
Q: What provision was made for mothers and babies?

A: Mothers stayed with babies to start with. If they went back in, they were separated, with the child going into a nursery.

Peter Tandy, 7709

House History Guide

Have you ever thought about undertaking some research into your house, or perhaps the home of one of your ancestors? If so the recent publication by Shropshire Archives of their House History Guide might be of some help. With this you can start an extensive research of your much loved home. Who was there? Did they have a dog? Available to buy for £4.99 in person from Shropshire Archives.



Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy

Review of the talk by Dr Penny Walters on 20 May 2025

Genealogy appears a benign subject to pursue, but as the speaker showed, there are many ethical dilemmas, and when there are choices, choosing the right path isn't always easy. An ethical dilemma might be stated as "a situation where there are genuine reasons for choosing one of two courses of action".

Genealogy was once done to prove entitlement to land or titles. Now it is more for fun. Few amateurs have any training in ethics; ethical issues can mean more than just knowing right from wrong. We find information on-line, about people whom we will never meet.

Building a tree is only making a historical narrative – what's the problem? Well, it may involve revealing people's secrets or lies, but what if, in time they reveal ours? We are dealing with privacy and confidentiality issues, and confidentiality goes against transparency. Would you be happy if someone told you that they could very quickly find your birthday and other facts from GRO records?

The speaker listed nine ethical complaints, from a forum ('Ethics in Genealogy') ranging from stealing information, using photos as their own, to using terms from the past ('insane', 'idiot') now considered offensive.

She asked what a 'relative' might be. How many you have in your tree and how many have you asked if it's alright to include them? If asked, would you be prepared to remove people from your tree? And how much information should you put in on-line trees?

How many people are we connecting with in a pedigree? We all have two parents and four grandparents. The numbers rise in powers of two until after 10 generations we are connected to 1024 8x grandparents. After six generations you only share about 1% of your biology and only 0.1% with your 8x grandparents. We need to remember that those far off relatives of ours are someone else's close relative.

DNA Testing

Many potential problems arise from much greater use of genetic testing (DNA). Finding that relatives are not biologically related, or have unexpected ethnicity, or differences between DNA results and paper results, all pose dilemmas.

Companies that give DNA tests use a 'hook' to get people interested, e.g. it can support a paper trail, offer excitement, and give connections down to 1% accuracy.

DNA testing has advantages, especially statistical evidence with genetic overlaps, and names, allowing you to communicate and make friends – for adoptees it is gold dust. But there are disadvantages. The speaker's DNA revealed information about her parents and her children, and many people have found that their father is not their biological father, while others have found unexpected ethnicities. For the speaker it showed she had a Jamaican grandfather, and Irish connections. She explained how this fitted with herself and her children.

The information is held in databases, but which ones? Who controls it? Who can access your information? Should there be a National DNA database? DNA is changing the face of genealogy.

And what about the police use of the information to track criminals? An example is a man arrested in California in 2018 following a DNA match on a GED website. This was though a 3rd cousin match (same gt-gt-g-parents). She listed other non-genealogical uses of DNA; most would not mind its use for sorting out unidentified bodies, dead soldiers, Holocaust victims, trafficked (stolen) children or finding serial killers 'hiding' in prisons.

Ancestry's position on complaints is that YOU have control of your DNA data, and you can manage or delete it according to their privacy statement. But once information is shown, you can't undo it. She asked who had done a DNA test, and uploaded it to a GEDmatch site, and whether you would now leave or retract your DNA (those who wanted to say).

She said that trees are effectively writing social histories. DNA testing has now been done by c.40m people. Ancestry has 20 billion records, 100 m family trees – who really wants it and why? Pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, law enforcement may all get involved. But what can we do?

Data sharing for living persons is an increasing problem, as not everyone will be happy to share that data. Much is inaccurate, and there is a responsibility to try and ensure it is corrected, if possible. Increasingly, companies which conduct DNA testing are accumulating personal data which may be used it for purposes for which individuals don't agree. A genetic heritage may condemn someone to be determined by their genetic make- up, instead of heritage alone. Some groups

will be under-represented and thus may be marginalised. And there is always the possibility that genealogists may uncover crimes committed or odd family relationships. What is the course of action then?

Should people be persuaded (coerced even) to share DNA information, especially if it is done via social media? But no-one has to collaborate. Those who have given their DNA probably never realised or thought about wider uses. For some people having relatives from another nation or group will be a romantic idea, while others would want to keep that to themselves

Does looking into other people's lives constitute 'snooping'? Knowing that an ancestor was a bigamist, a criminal or a prostitute, was a problem for many at the time. Is adding ancestors' historical records to our trees better than ignoring the historical past? The dilemmas, in these cases, are, should we even be 'sleuthing' and should we expose our findings?

Another area of some concern is that of illegitimacy and adoption. Should older terms for illegitimate children, now considered offensive, ('baseborn' or 'bastard') still be used? She even posed the question of whether adopted people should look for biological ancestors or not. The speaker gave examples based on her own adoption and reminded that not all biological parents want to find their children. Your discoveries put on-line it might cause difficulties.

For other examples, she looked at suicide and unsavoury information. Regarding suicide, for centuries the Catholic Church would not bury Catholic suicide victims in its graveyards; this was lifted in the 1980s. She showed a GRO death certificate, freely available, for a person who killed herself with barbiturates, and explained the problems with putting it into a family tree. She moved on to unsavoury information, with an example from a standard WW1 Australian war record. The record itself was like many others, but there was also a health record which showed he was treated for VD several times after visiting prostitutes. Should this information be put on-line? Would you put it there?

If you are delivering news to people, especially following DNA tests, then you have to be aware of how you do it as few are trained as counsellors. If you have to discuss bad news with someone they should be prepared beforehand for the possibility (not forgetting to explain your own limits in it). Oral history recordings should be done with previous agreements as to how they will be used.

She concluded by saying there are no clear cut rights and wrongs. She asked members to say what ethical issues are emerging and developing, what issues do the examples raise for you, what would you do differently if you were a key player, and what lessons have you learnt about how to promote ethical practice?

For more information you are referred to Dr Walters' two books: *Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy* and *The Psychology of Searching*, both of which are available on Amazon in paperback or on Kindle.

Or you can contact her at: penny-walters@talk21.com

Peter Tandy, 7709

Leave no stone unturned

Review of the talk by John Vigar on 17 June 2025

John Vigar labels himself an 'ecclesiologist' having visited around 80% of Anglican churches in England. In this talk he was looking at gravestones, memorials, and biographies of the people they represent.

The speaker said he was once asked who he'd like to meet from the past, and that started him looking at lives of people. For this talk he chose Jerome K. Jerome, Florence Nightingale, Bess of Hardwick and Joseph Paxton, Benjamin Disraeli, William Beckford, William Harvey, Sir Francis Dashwood, Barbara Villiers, and an effigy in a Norfolk church.

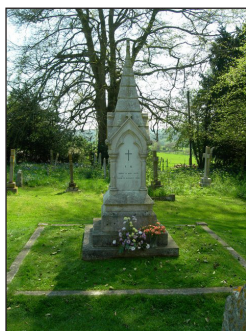
Jerome K. Jerome

Born in Welshpool in 1856, he started work in a railway ticket office, but wanted to go on stage, so joined an amateur group. Long periods out of work led him to start writing at the rate of 1d/line (known as a 'penny liner'). When spotted by a newspaper owner, he became an agony aunt ('Aunt Fanny'), supplying answers given by women friends. Then he started writing books, the most famous being 'Three Men in a Boat', based on his own adventures on the River Thames, which he knew well. He was buried at the collegiate church at Ewelme, Oxfordshire. For those who don't know, his middle name was Klapka.

Florence Nightingale

Born in Florence (Italy), she and her sister Parthenope (born in Naples, once Parthenope) were daughters of a diplomat. Florence wanted to be a nurse, but

her father objected. Answering a newspaper advert for nurses in the Crimea, she applied and her class upbringing and friends got her the job. Although likeable, she wasn't a very good nurse! A close friend (Angela Burdett-Coutts of the banking family) paid for a large wooden clothes dryer to be shipped to Crimea. Upon her return she was unwell, and spent much of the rest of her life in solitude. She was awarded the prestigious Order of Merit (OM) in 1907. She died in 1910 and is buried in the churchyard at East Wellow, Hampshire, under a tall monument which has no details apart from her initials and dates. A windowsill inside the church is dedicated to her.



Florence Nightingale OM RRC DStJ Grave in churchyard of
St Margaret's Church, East Wellow, Hampshire, By Jim Goldsmith, CC BY-SA 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9261894>

Bess of Hardwicke and Joseph Paxton

One of the wealthiest women in 17th Century England, she's best remembered for Hardwicke Hall (Derbyshire), which she didn't start building until she was 70!! At death she chose to be buried inside Derby church (now Derby Cathedral). Although she had four husbands she was buried alone. She left 1/6d for a plaque to be installed above her burial monument, on which would be her birth and death dates.

She's also associated with Chatsworth House, famous for the tallest fountain in England, and other water features, all the idea of Joseph Paxton. Paxton was a junior gardener at the RHS who spoke to a visitor who happened to be the 6th Duke of Devonshire; he asked Paxton to go and work at Chatsworth. Paxton solved the problem of the non-flowering giant water lily with his elegant glass house and it flowered! (It was demolished in the 19th century.) With the 1851 Great Exhibition looming, Paxton had an idea for a glass house, and whilst on a train, sketched it on a scrap of paper; his submission was accepted. The exhibition was only open for six months but one in three of the population visited it. After the exhibition Paxton bought the structure and assembled it on a hill near Croydon (now known as Crystal Palace). Paxton is buried at Ensor, Derbyshire.

A long glasshouse of Paxton's design survives at Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk. Somerleyton Hall was purchased by Sir [Samuel] Morton Peto (bn.1809), who was involved in civil engineering projects and railway development. His many projects, railways and building the Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster),

made him very wealthy. Somerleyton Hall was sold to carpet manufacturer Francis Crossley of Halifax. Peto went to Tunbridge Wells (Kent) and died there in 1889.

Benjamin Disraeli

Coming from a poor background and despite being a poor manager of money, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer THREE times!! His father was imprisoned for debt, but Disraeli saw MPs were immune to the punishment, so chose to become one. He became MP for Maidstone (Kent), then leader of the Conservative Party, then Prime Minister. Previous PMs were from the landed gentry and had country retreats but Benjamin had to live at 10 Downing St. Lent £60k by Lord George Cavendish-Bentinck, he bought a manor house (Hughenden Manor) near High Wycombe; Disraeli adored it. Cavendish-Bentinck fell on hard times and called in debts – including Disraeli's. He was rescued by a Mrs Bridges Williams from Torquay, who gave him the money on the proviso that she could be buried with him. They are both buried in the grounds of Hughenden Manor.

Cavendish-Bentinck, (b. 1802) from Welbeck, Nottinghamshire, was the brother of the Duke of Portland and was very wealthy. A total recluse, he built a railway tunnel 1¼ miles long to take him to the railway station (his trains were pulled by horses) so no-one should see him. He died in 1848.

William Beckford

William Beckford was a polymath and very wealthy, mainly from West Indian sugar and from laying out most of Soho (London). An avid art collector, he had nowhere to display his collection, so built the palatial Fonthill Abbey (Wiltshire) with twin towers to 300' tall. He had just finished it when a sex scandal broke and he went to Portugal. Just as he was returning, one tower collapsed. He went to live in Bath and built another tower for his art. He died in 1845 and wanted to be buried in the Abbey garden but it wasn't allowed; he was buried in Bath City cemetery. His daughter inherited the property and decided to give it to the church. Under church ownership, burial could not be refused, and he was buried (with his dog). His monument is on a raised area as dogs were considered unlucky.

William Harvey

He studied medicine in Rome, became a top European doctor and physician to James I, Charles I and II and James II. He had two pet parrots, one male, one female. The male could 'speak' better than the female and he theorised that males (including humans) were better speakers. A postmortem on the male

parrot after it died showed it was really female! But he also discovered that blood was pumped around the body by the heart – his most famous discovery. He died in 1657 and is buried in Hempstead (Essex) churchyard. The church tower was later also dedicated as a monument to him.

Sir Francis Dashwood

Sir Francis Dashwood was a wealthy landowner. During the Grand Tour he was intrigued by parties of Catholics and he wanted to create a party of like-minded people. He established the Hellfire Club, notorious for orgies and black magic. He lived at West Wycombe (Bucks) and re-built the church with a large golden ball atop the tower in which he entertained friends with coffee, and also a mausoleum with niches for funerary urns. A friend, Paul Whitehead, bequeathed his heart to Dashwood, who put it into a niche. But it was stolen...and eaten

Barbara Villiers

Nonsuch Palace (Surrey) was built by Henry VIII. It was so ornate and palatial that 'none such' was like it (hence the name). 100 years later it needed repairs and his heirs gave it to Barbara Villiers (bn.1640), who wanted it demolished. She took a house in Chiswick Mall – but needed a husband so advertised in newspapers, but it was seen by the applicant's wife. The 'husband' was after Barbara's money! She died in 1709 at Walpole House, Chiswick Mall.

Hare family (and Sarah)

Finally, the speaker told about a visit to the Stow estate in Norfolk, owned by the Hare family for over 500 years. With keys from the Churchwardens and a call "*don't forget to see Sarah*". he looked around. With no obvious reference to 'Sarah' he opened a vertical mahogany case, and there behind the door was a wax effigy of 'Sarah' in her original clothes!

Image: Wax effigy of Sarah Hare, in Holy Trinity Church (Wikipedia)



Peter Tandy, 7709

Editor: Don't forget that, now we have our new website running, it is possible to revisit some of the talks, assuming the speaker gave us permission to record and keep it. You will find them listed and accessible on the Members' Only page - a good reason to get logged into the site!

Queries at the Shropshire Archives Helpdesk

Barry has shared some of the queries that visitors to our Helpdesk at Shropshire Archives have presented with over the last few months.

Looking for all the records for the name LAWLEY in 1600 and 1800 in Kinlet! Showed him FMP records and the green book on Kinlet.

One lady looking for a Jemima ORE in 1830 assizes whose partner had been transported to Australia and she was in jail where she had a child – didn't manage to find anything more than she already had. All we could find was the assizes information that she had but nothing else surprisingly.

Two ladies from Australia, looking for anything on ELIJAH BAGOTT CORBET who married MARY ANNE DAVIES in 1863. Born in Darlaston, Staffs about 1838; by 1871 he was a curate with four girls at Trinity Church Oswestry and by 1891 he was living in Thame Oxford with eight children.

We had a customer looking for Merchant Navy WWI and WW2 records - WILLIAM J LAWRENCE b 8/9/1899 in Hampshire. His ship SS Kumsang (143627) a British ship originally built 1920 in Deptford and purchased by Indo China, en route from Colombo Freetown on way to Luanda. It was sunk by a torpedo on 30/9/1942 by Uboat U125. Four crew were lost from 14. 60% of WW1 records were lost in 1940 in bombing. What he needed was his service record. He was a master of the ship at that time. We had to go to National Archives and his possible service number was 38643 or 5 (last digit mostly obscured). Unfortunately, it looked like he would have to go to London for information. He believed William went into the Royal Navy after but we could not find information on this.

Worked request about a lady, (B 1911 M 1984 in Wales) - was she alive or buried? Did try to find, but to no avail either way. Next person just wanted us to confirm what she already had, which we did!

We had a couple in looking for divorce papers going back to the 1940s. They had done comprehensive work already – suggested they try the Registrar in Shrewsbury or a visit to Kew which would prove expensive for the visit and the forms.

Gentleman from Wales asking about a Colonel ROSTON (born in 1860s) who had a Rolls Royce in 1904 and had picture to prove it but no information of connection

to it and the Colonel except for picture. No information found in newspapers, our catalogue, or army career, although did keep finding a lieutenant. Eventually identified as Reginald Roston, born in North Witchford Cambridgeshire in June 1867. Father was Alfred S Roston b 1824, a farmer with 550 acres and 25 workers. Reginald Seward RUSTON was married to Eveline Mary NUTT in Plymouth 14 March 1896. In 1939 register, Reginald was in Plymouth, a retired army colonel.

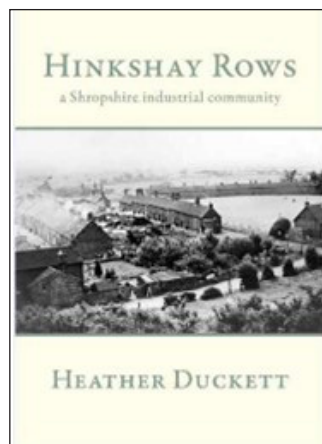
A lady was looking for an Alfred TYLER, b 1881 but we could not find more than she already had!

Lastly, a man looking for an Isabella MEDLICOTT baptised in 1686, parents may have been Edward and Catherine. The Wentnor papers had an index with the names included but no book to refer too!

Barry Deakin, 4412

Editor: There is room for more volunteers on the rota if anyone is interested in helping out. We are only covering Thursdays at the moment but it is hoped that will be expanded again in 2026. For more information or to volunteer please contact Gill Lewis on archives_volunteers@sfhs.org.uk

Book Review: Hinkshay Rows a Shropshire Industrial community



This book is a scholarly study by Heather Duckett of the 78 houses which formed the 4 Hinkshay Rows, built on the former Botfield Estate lands, along with their inhabitant families from the 1820s until 1968 when the last dwellings were demolished, and related to their occupations in the local coalmining and ironworking industries as well as to allied and village trades during those times. Heather has researched the whole community using all the usual tools available to family historians, both forwards and backwards throughout, backed up with knowledge taken from other literary and academic sources.

If you have ancestors who hailed from Dawley and its environs, including especially Hinkshay and Stirchley where the adjacent iron works were situated,

their history is laid out before you. Many of the inhabitants intermarried several times into the various families which made this a very cohesive, if not inbred (my own perception), community, complete with its own inn and mission church. The book is divided into sections such as 'Origins', 'The Early Years', 'Building the Community', 'Skilled Ironworkers', and so on, whilst charting the peaks and troughs of the iron industry. Here pig iron was made into malleable wrought iron. When demand slumped it caused migration to other works either within the locality or as far as Glasgow, Motherwell, Middlesbrough, South Wales and other burgeoning areas where both iron and now steel was being made. Heather shows too that wherever these families moved and settled they re-formed their communities, some remaining there and others eventually returning to Hinkshay. During these times other families would move into the Rows and yet there were some who never left them from the beginning to the end. The gradual decline of the of the industry in this East Shropshire area and the ongoing demolishing of the tenements is also treated in depth.

We learn about who lived in which row – defined largely by their occupational standing within the community, as two of the terraced rows had better housing than 'the back to backs'. The number of rooms is described and the sanitation arrangements.

I myself have no family in this particular area, but do have several connections to the iron industry in North Shropshire and Denbighshire. This book has confirmed and embellished my understanding, especially in terms of migration as my ancestors also followed the same paths to Scotland and the North East. This is a well-written book interspersed with many statistical tables and some (but not enough) illustrations in the middle - I felt it needed a few more within the lengthy blocks of text. The many names and citations are fully indexed. My only other (small) regret is that there is no mention of wages, but maybe this was the author's intention.

Jane Hussey, 1773

Editor: Many thanks to Jane for writing this review for us. If you are interested in reading the book it is available from The Great British Bookshop www.thegreatbritishbookshop.co.uk and Waterstones and is priced at £15.00.

A Few Forgotten Women: Amelia Jenkins

In the July/August edition of the SFHS newsletter, there was an appeal for volunteers to help with a forthcoming research project for A Few Forgotten Women (AFFW). They were going to be doing research on women born in 1819 and one of the towns they had selected was Wem.

Having ancestry in Wem, and with more free time since I finished work, I decided to offer my help and contacted them. They were quick to respond, were really helpful and friendly, and took up my offer of help and advised that on the day this particular research was to be done, they would send me the name of the women they wanted me to work on.

AFFW sent through everything I needed to complete the story – templates to enter all the details I had found (or not) plus a template for the story of the women, which would go up on the website. They encourage you to do this as soon as you can but they are also happy if it takes you to the August deadline to send everything back. If you can't find anything on the name you have been given, you can request another as it's possible that the name you are looking for could be that of a child that died in infancy and so does not have a story to tell.

On Friday 11th July I was sent the name of my lady from Wem, born in 1819 (this year was chosen as it was the year Queen Victoria was born). She was Amelia Jenkins and I found her to be relatively straight forward to research. I typed up my findings onto their report templates and wrote up her story, adding in one or two images to help tell the reader about her life.

I really enjoyed doing this – it was a bit different, I didn't know who I would be researching, I didn't know what I would find and if I had needed it, I could have contacted AFFW via Zoom which was available all Friday for anyone who wanted to chat or ask a question or two.

AFFW have some ongoing research projects that volunteers can help with, <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com/fwfeveryday> and I believe their next Friday project will be in October.

The website for AFFW is <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com/> and they will be adding all the stories of these women to their website as they come in.

Clare Brown, Member 7718, clarebrownfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Certificate Exchange Scheme

The following death certificates have all been advertised before but not for many years:

Surname	Forename	Date	Age	Location
DAVIES	David	17 Apr 1932	76	Cross Houses
DAVIES	Susannah	15 Oct 1915	49	Shrewsbury
DAVIES	Thomas	30 May 1938	7 days	Oswestry
EDWARDS	Joseph	24 Mar 1843	56	Shrewsbury St Chad's
EDWARDS	Joseph	12 Feb 1857	67	Shrewsbury St Mary
HARPER	Thomas	24 Jun 1891	68	Bridgnorth
HUGHES	Ann	9 Feb 1909	68	Oswestry
JONES	Evan	13 May 1867	59	Alberbury
MENLOVE	John	5 Jan 1867	74	Alberbury
OAKLEY	Ann	17 Nov 1852	90	Loppington

'New' death certificates received

Surname	Forename	Date	Age	Location
HUGHES	John	14 May 1838	2 months	Ludlow
MILLICHAMP	Sarah	11 Nov 1860	8 months	Ludlow
PITCHFORD	John	2 Jan 1846	85	Gnosall
TONGUE	Thomas	10 Mar 1873	85	Ludlow

There is also one 'new' marriage certificate received, as follows

BOWDLER, Thomas, 3 May 1899, LEE Mary Ann, Cardiston

There is no charge for a certificate but please send a stamped addressed envelope to Shropshire FHS, c/o 48 Oakley Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 7JY, UK. Unwanted certificates can be sent to the same address.

A full list of certificates is on the Members' Only section of our website.

Christine Head, 5373 xchangeperts@sfhs.org.uk

Meet Our Committee Members

Dave Morris

Born in Shrewsbury, in my Gran and Grandad's bedroom: the house backed onto the railway line, and I had great delight growing up watching from the bedroom window waiting for my dad to go past; he was an engine driver and always gave a blast of the whistle as he went past in those glorious steam engines.

My working career was spent as a Team Leader in a firm of Chartered Accountants. I specialised in agriculture which led me to meet some great characters. Farmers are unique in their ways, and it made for an interesting working life and creating friendships.

I am a lover of all sports (excluding horses) and played football and cricket for local teams. I also represented Shropshire at cricket at junior level. Nowadays I play Crown Green Bowls for a local club, and I am also their Secretary and Treasurer. (Finding volunteers, as with the Society, is hard.) I also enjoy my time as a guide at Attingham Park, a National Trust Property.

I have been a season ticket holder and lifelong supporter of Manchester United. During my early research I found my maternal Grandmother was born in Toxteth, Liverpool! Maybe having known that my allegiances would be totally different! One brick wall I was pleased not to solve until later!

My interest in genealogy has been gathering pace over the years and only since retirement have I been able to devote enough time to it. My grandfather on my maternal side was and still is my hero. We had him for lunch most Sundays, he would sit down and recall all his stories, anecdotes etc which fascinated Rosie and myself, Rosie recorded it, essential for exploring family history before it is too late.

I joined the Society just before retirement and was pleased to be asked to join the committee. Chris Abram was looking to retire as our secretary, and I took on the role. Chris was invaluable in supporting me through the handover and along with Paul Quartermaine gave me great assistance as I learned the ropes.



For those of you that attend our monthly zoom talks, I hope I don't annoy you when I press the wrong button at the wrong time! And to everyone, thank you for making my role in the Society so enjoyable.

Simon Davies



Simon is an obsessed genealogist and more generally a lover of anything relating to history and nostalgia.

His background is in digital product design and tech entrepreneurship, having started a business called Snaptu which is now a part of Facebook. Today, he concentrates on developing and operating WeAre.xyz (www.weare.xyz), a collaborative archiving platform for family and local historians.

Simon presents widely and is a faculty member of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy.

He is a keen cyclist, naturalist and ex paraglider pilot with vertigo. He lives in Ladbroke Grove, London with his wife and two teenage children.

The Gazette: Resources for VJ Day and WW2



To mark the 80th anniversary of Victory Over Japan Day The Gazette has collated their resources from VJ Day and WWII in one place, including the despatches during World War II, as submitted by commanders-in-chief and published in the Gazette from 1941-1951, such as from the Battle of Okinawa and the Japanese Surrender. There is also a range of resources, including 'The British Army, Burma, and the 'ragged' end of World War II'; the story of Indian soldiers in WWII and Heroines of the war and details of how to search for your ancestors in their extensive WWII archive. All can be found at <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/vjday80>

Obituary

Dorothy Hills: SFHS Secretary 1995 - 2009

Dorothy Hills passed away peacefully on 10 April at the age of 93 in Church Stretton, the Shropshire town that had been her home since she first came to live in Shropshire with her husband and young family in the 1970s. Born on the border of Cheshire and Lancashire she had settled with her husband Ray in Hertfordshire and hadn't wanted to move from there. So, when Ray was offered a senior position with Shropshire Education Authority she took a great deal of persuasion to visit the county to view the house he had chosen to buy – but when she saw it and its location she was immediately won over, fell in love with it and Shropshire, and never looked back.

Dorothy landed a teaching job in the Sports Department of the local secondary school before later joining the team that were introducing computers into Shropshire schools. As her family grew she found time to delve into her family history. On her own admission she had always hated history and her first visit to a Record Office did nothing to change her mind! But she persevered, undertook a course at the Local Studies Library in Shrewsbury (then in St. Mary's Court) and finding the folk she met there so friendly and welcoming was easily persuaded to join SFHS in 1989. From then on, despite having no Shropshire ancestry, she became hooked! She joined the team who were transcribing the 1881 Census records for the Mormon Project, became the Society's Education Officer and joined the Committee in 1994. Her service in that particular role was to be short lived for in less than 12 months the then Secretary resigned to take up a post abroad and Dorothy, who had been helping him with a backlog of mail, suddenly found herself acting Secretary too! In 1995 we had over 1,500 members, the internet was in its infancy, and there was no such thing as email or on-line databases to refer to. Dorothy found herself constantly inundated with postal enquiries and I can see her now staggering into Committee meetings with a pile of mail all needing to be answered. She would do this singlehandedly where she could, writing 2 or 3 letters a day often after visiting the archives to check her facts – in her own words 'it was a steep learning curve for someone with no secretarial experience' - but one she undertook with great enthusiasm.

Dorothy immersed herself in all aspects of the Society's work representing the Society at countless events, organising our first Open Days, joining trips to London

to visit St. Catherine's House, the PRO in Chancery Lane and Somerset House before everything was transferred to Kew, recording monumental inscriptions – you name it she'd had a go at it during the 15 years she served as our Secretary. Over time the role gradually became easier – the internet developed and on-line search facilities like FindMyPast and Ancestry enabled members to do much more for themselves.

Dorothy's membership was a truly active one from the very beginning until her retirement in 2009 when she was content to step back from the limelight while others picked up the reins - that was Dorothy's way!

We are indebted to Dorothy for the many hours she devoted to the work of our Society during a period of great change, for her immense contribution to its continued success, her sense of humour and above all her kindness and unflappability. Dorothy remained a good friend who I could always call on for advice until her illness prevented her from doing so.

Dorothy had clearly enjoyed her association with SFHS, it was a huge part of her life – that was evident from the words spoken by her family at her funeral which was attended by a number of former committee members who had worked alongside her. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family.

Christine Abram, 809, Secretary 2010-2020

Online Membership Renewal

It is now possible to renew your membership by credit card, via the website, assuming you have set up a log-in.

Log-in to the site, and go to the Join Us page: click on the 'Join Now' button and follow the instructions in the pop-up window. If you are overseas the system will automatically calculate the conversion rate. Please note your membership will renew from the day you make payment so we suggest you do this as close as possible to 1 October. It will then auto-renew each year.

If you currently pay by standing order but wish to renew your membership online please make sure you cancel your existing standing order instruction with the bank a few days before it is due otherwise you may find you pay twice!

If you have any queries about this please contact Lorna, our treasurer at treasurer@sfhs.org.uk

Talks Programme 2025

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>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>Steve will help to unlock the hidden history in photographs and connect with the past in a whole new way. The talk will include how to date, restore, and research vintage photos, bringing forgotten faces and their stories back to life and will also explore AI's role in restoring old photos.</i>	<i>Steve Gill</i>
16 December	Artificial Intelligence and Family History <i>Discover how AI is transforming the way genealogists research, document, preserve and share family histories. and how this technology can revolutionize the way we understand and appreciate our family heritage.</i>	<i>Andrew Redfern</i>

All these talks are online via Zoom, and the link for each will be sent out by email about two weeks before each talk. You do not need to register but please make sure you are logged-in before the talk starts at 7.30pm and keep your microphone off (and your video as well if possible) during the talk itself.

New Members

Welcome to all our new members who have joined us in the past few months. It is wonderful to see the number of people have joined us through the website. We hope you all enjoy your membership and are able to join us at some of our talks, discussion groups and events.

If you have any queries please get in touch with our Secretary, Dave Morris, in the first instance at secretary@sfhs.org.uk

7991	Jan	EVANS	Stourbridge, Worcestershire
10000	Simon	PRUTTON	Winchester, Hampshire
10001	Helen	PAYNE	Oswestry , Shropshire
10003	Dawn	LALEK	Hawarden, Flintshire
10004	David	RICHARDS	Bolton, Greater Manchester
10005	Sally-Jane	JAUNDRELL	Northwich, Cheshire
10006	Nick	CLAY	Banbury, Oxon
10008	Anne	SOUTHON	Gympie, Queensland, Australia
10010	Isobel	HOY	Oswestry, Shropshire
10011	David	BROMLEY	New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada
10012	Richard	DOWNES	Telford, Shropshire
10013	Matthew	MORRIS	Ringgold, Georgia, USA
10014	Clair	FOULKES	Newtown, Powys
10015	Ian	JONES	Ledbury, Herefordshire
10016	John	SHAW	Bristol, Avon
10017	Ruth	HOWELL	Crofton Park, London
10020	Lyn	BAILEY	Forster, Australia
10021	Margaret	HAYON	Sakhnin, Israel
10022	Anne	LEWIS	Abergavenny, Monmouthshire
10023	Karen	LLOYD	Stafford, Australia
10024	S	URCH	Newent, Gloucestershire

10025	Michelle	WHEELOCK-VOS	Burlington, United States
10026	Jan	DANIELLS	Wem, Shropshire
10027	Phil	DANIELLS	Wem, Shropshire
10029	Katie	SHANAHAN-JONES	Bodicote, Oxon
10030	Lydia	LEDBURY	Stourport On Severn, Worcestershire
10031	Graham	SALT	Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire
10032	Michelle	ROCKE-WHARIN	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10033	Carl	HOLLAND	Oswestry, Shropshire
10034	Jane	HOLLAND	Oswestry, Shropshire
10035	Peter	NORRIS	Leeds, West Yorkshire
10036	Gill	WHITTALL	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10037	Clive	WHITTALL	Shrewsbury, Shropshire

From the Editor

Many thanks to all those who sent items in for this edition of the Journal. It is was particularly good to receive, and be able to publish, articles prompted by the *'Onwards to Fifty': the SFHS Journal as we move forward* item in the March Journal, with Val telling the story of her Shropshire family photograph and Maggie sharing some memories linked to her family memorabilia. I feel sure others of you will have similar or different stories to share so don't be shy about sending them in.

I am pleased to say I have already received a couple of articles for the December Journal, but not enough to fill all the pages! So please do let me have your stories, bits of information, snippets, news and/or images for me to include.

We are still looking for someone to help with or take on the editing of our Journal - if you would like to know more about what is involved please get in touch.

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 when they first occur.
- 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.

Ways of Seeing - correction

In the article, 'Ways of Seeing' in the June Journal (No 46, Part 2, page 64) a few errors crept in, for which the author apologises. The details of the people in the image should read:

Sarah Jane FELTON nee EDWARDS B: Circa 1869 Smethwick Warwickshire D: June 1943 Ludlow Shropshire.

Gwenyth Jean TEALE nee ALLISON B: Mar 1919 Ludlow Shropshire D: Mar 1967 Ludlow Shropshire.

Annie Alice ALLISON nee FELTON B: 20 May 1892 Ludlow Shropshire D: Sept 1966 Ludlow Shropshire.

Kathleen ROBERTS nee TEALE B: Oct 1939 Ludlow Shropshire D: Nov 2019 Ludlow Shropshire.

There are then resulting errors in the text, but there is insufficient space in the Journal to reprint the full article. If anyone would like to read the corrected version please contact Karen Hunter by email for a copy. editor@sfhs.org.uk

Copy Dates

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

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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.

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Gift Aid	Lorna Emms	treasurer@sfhs.org.uk
Subscription Renewals	Dave Morris	secretary@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	research.queries@sfhs.org.uk

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For look-ups or loan see Website for details

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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
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Talking Family History	Karen Hunter	tfh@sfhs.org.uk
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Back cover: 'The Shropshire Family' - for more information see the article 'Just One Photo' on page 100



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