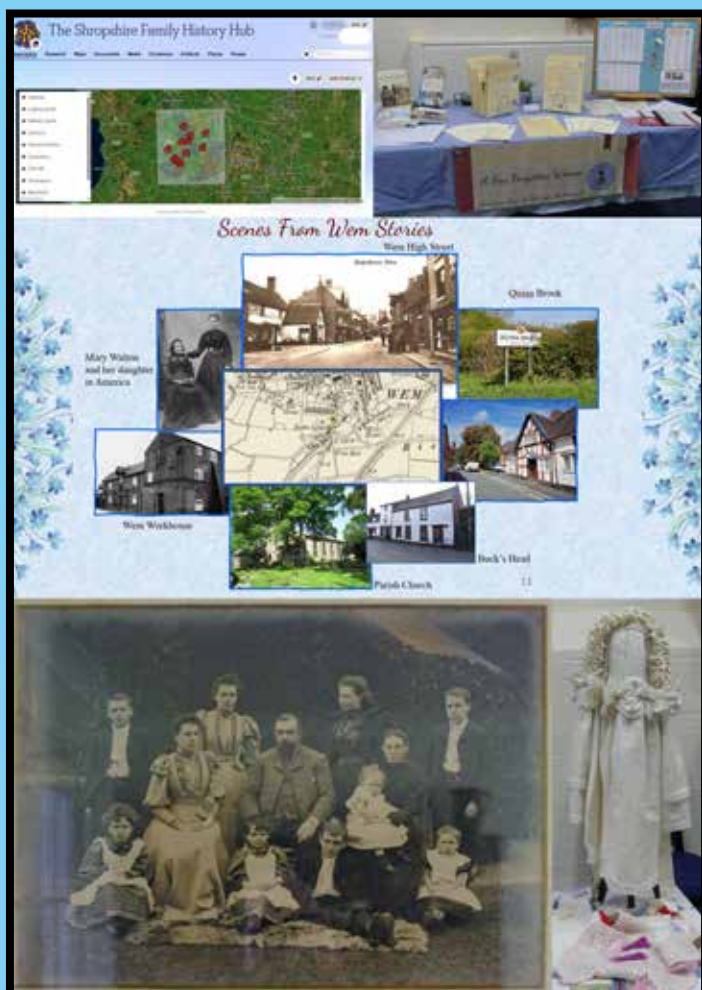




Shropshire Family History Society



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There are four vacancies on the Executive Committee

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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: Some images from our Talking Family History LIVE event in October

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Thoughts from the Chair

Shropshire Family History Hub

Following the successful launch of our Society's new website we are now working to create an online 'Shropshire Family History Hub' which will be linked to our main site. The project, which is in its early stages, aims to bring together and make accessible, information, images and resources relating to people and places across the county.

Initially we plan to incorporate resources held by the Society, including the rich collection of church images and monumental inscriptions created by our members over the years, linking them to places on an interactive map. Over time, with the support of our members we hope to expand and enhance the site and explore the potential to link in, among other things, Shropshire-based One Place Studies, House Histories, create a visual record of our War Memorials and potentially research some of the history of those commemorated there, where this has not been done already.

After sharing the concept with the Committee Simon Davies and I introduced the project at the Talking Family History LIVE event in October and it has also been shared with the Talking Family History group who meet online. We are now looking for a few people to join a small project group to take the work forward and help turn the initial ideas into a great resource for our members. If you are interested in finding out more and/or would like to join this group I know that Simon would love to hear from you - please email him at hub@sfhs.org.uk

Family History Adventures

When I took on the role of Chair three years ago, I was encouraged by Oxfordshire FHS to lead the Society on 'some significant family history adventures' and looking back I have been thinking of what we have achieved. Without doubt it has been a busy three years and, alongside our usual programme of activities, has seen us launch our new website, re-introduce some face to face events at Cross Houses (after the COVID induced shutdown); establish our TFH and DNA online groups; create a digital archive of all our past Journals and some Exchange Journals; and launch a project to create digital copies of our monumental inscription documents

We are now looking forward and have some ideas for new ‘adventures’, including the Shropshire Family History Hub as mentioned above and some shared opportunities with the Family History Society of Cheshire (more of this soon), but what would **YOU** like to see **your Society** offering as we go forward? We would like to hear your ideas, so in the New Year there will be an opportunity to share your thoughts to help shape our ‘adventures’ in the next few years and I hope you will contribute.

But remember, for any ideas to work we need people to step forward to help turn the ideas into reality. So, might you be able to offer some support to make things happen? It doesn’t have to be a big commitment - if more people could do a little bit, it would make a huge difference to what we can achieve.

As you will read elsewhere, we are still looking for an editor for the Journal and we are also looking for someone to step forward to take on managing our Social Media accounts, with the potential to enhance our presence and promote ourselves to a wider audience.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is just around the corner and will precede the talk on Tuesday 20 January 2026. The main papers for this meeting are included later in the Journal. Our secretary Dave Morris, our Treasurer Lorna Emms and myself as Chair have all offered to stand again and the other Trustees are all standing again. However it is still possible for any member to apply for any of these roles. We have four vacancies for ordinary members and if someone comes forward for any of the officer roles we will hold an election. If you are interested in putting your name forward or would like to nominate someone (with their permission) please let Dave Morris know by 24 December. If you would like to know more about what is involved please get in touch with me or one of the other trustees. Please note that our committee have made the decision to reduce the number of meetings in a year, so from January we will be meeting on the second Tuesday evening of every other month.

With thanks to all our volunteers for the support, commitment and help throughout the year.

With good wishes to all our members for a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Karen Hunter, Chair chair@sfhs.org.uk

Two Shropshire Soldiers and the Hong Kong Plague of 1894

The outbreak of bubonic plague in the spring of 1894, in Hong Kong, followed a similar outbreak in Canton in January that year. The disease had rapidly spread down-river as a result of unrestricted movement of thousands of workers and river traffic, which formed an essential part of Hong Kong's trade.

It first appeared in the Tai Ping Shan district of Hong Kong, a squalid settlement of Chinese workers, lacking any water supply or sanitation.

By May 1894, Hong Kong was declared an infected port and the authorities were faced with an epidemic of huge proportions. Hospitals were established on land at Kennedy Town and on board the naval ship, *Hygeia*, but it was difficult to persuade the Chinese doctors to report cases of sickness due to their prejudice against western medical men.

No-one knew how the plague was transmitted so the Government dealt severely with the crisis – people were evicted from their homes, houses were condemned and sealed off and many patients were sent to Canton.

The army were tasked to cleanse and disinfect the filthy slums and to gather up the dead and dying and, at this time, the 1st Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) were stationed there. Volunteers were sought and many men did so, the work was extremely unpleasant – searching backstreets and overcrowded houses for victims to be carried away and buried in mass graves, tending the sick in makeshift isolation hospitals, disinfecting houses and streets with whitewash and lime chloride.

The KSLI volunteers were housed in tented quarantine camps and received extra rations for their efforts.

However, the efforts of the KSLI volunteers were fiercely resisted by the local Chinese; violent mobs tried to prevent the removal of patients to special plague hospitals (civilian hospitals only used traditional Chinese medicine), doctors had to carry arms for protection and placards were posted accusing the English doctors of violating their patients.

Eventually, in the autumn of 1894, the plague subsided and things returned in normal, although, for several years, the plague made an almost annual

occurrence, with almost 9000 people dying from the disease between 1894 and 1901

Surprisingly only one officer and nine men, from the KSLI, died from the plague and the volunteers were presented with a special medal by the Hong Kong government for their work. About 40 medals in gold were issued to officers, nursing sisters and a few civilians; the remainder being in silver. It is thought that a total of just over 800 medals were issued, although no official list of recipients has been found and. of these, approximately 300 silver medals were given to the volunteers from the KSLI. Each medal is impressed with the recipient's name, along the edge, and has the inscription "Presented by the Hong King community for services rendered during the plague of 1894". The obverse shows a man and woman tending a plague victim, the man fending off a figure of death.



The following two Shropshire soldiers served as volunteers and were awarded the plague medal.

3751 Private Richard Oliver

Richard was born in about 1870 at Wombridge, near Oakengates, in Shropshire, the son of Richard and Elizabeth Oliver.

Aged 22, he enlisted in the Militia (3rd KSLI), as Private 2720, on 20 July 1892 at Wellington.

On enlistment he gave his trade as a Collier, and was described as height 5' 4¾", a fresh complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair and his religion as Methodist.

His next-of-kin was recorded as, his mother, Elizabeth Guy.

Although Richard Oliver was the son of Richard and Elizabeth Oliver. Richard Oliver, his father, died, aged 55, being buried on 15 December 1875 at Wrockwardine Wood. Subsequently, Elizabeth Oliver married Enos Guy, at Wrockwardine Wood, on 5 February 1883. Enos Guy died in 1906 (Q4)

Subsequently, Richard attested for Short Service, as Private 3751, into the 1st KSLI and served as follows:

Home	2/9/1892 to 14/12/1993
Hong Kong	15/12/1893 to 21/12/1894
India	22/12/1894 to 24/11/1904
Home	25/11/1904 to 26/11/1904

His total service was 12 years and 86 days.

The Census records Richard, as follows:

1871 : living at Queen's Head, Wrockwardine Wood

1881 : a Scholar living at Nabb, Wombridge

1891 : a General Labourer living at The Nabb, Wombridge

1911 : a Fitter's Labourer living at Coppices Old Park, Dawley.

1921 : a General Labourer (out of work), living at 15, Forge Row, Old Park, Dawley.

Richard Oliver died, aged 61, in Wellington District, in 1930 (Q1).

3018 Lance Sergeant Edwin Chetta

Edwin Chetta was born in 1870 at Duddleston Heath, near Ellesmere, the son of Thomas and Frances Chetta.

The Census records Edwin, as follows:

1871 : aged 1, living with his parents at Tumpsey Toll Gate, Duddleston Heath, Ellesmere.

1881 : aged 10, a Scholar, living at Bryn Y Cockin, Ellesmere.

His name appears inscribed on a silver shield presented by the Community of Hong Kong to the Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of the 1st Battalion KSLI for services during the plague. He is known to have been in the regimental football team while in Hong Kong as his name appears on a football trophy won by the regiment, while on duty there.

Unfortunately, Edwin died, aged 25, on 20 August 1895, of Enteric Fever, at Dum Dum, in Bengal, India and was buried next day. He was un-married.

David Rogers, 7468

Is Oswestry a quiet Shropshire Town?

Maybe not!

I was always captivated by my father's stories of his Shropshire roots. I recalled that the town of Oswestry was of special significance in the family history and when I retired I did visit the town and had a stroll round the town centre. I was aware that Welsh Walls and Beatrice Street were areas of interest.

The true significance of Oswestry in my family history came to the fore when I found that my 2x Paternal Gt. Grandmother Ann Richards (Nee Vaughan) was a member of a large family of Vaughans who were well established in Oswestry being Builders, Joiners and Cabinetmakers.

My story concerns my 2x Gt. Grandmother's brother James Vaughan and a report found in The Reading Mercury dated 7 April 1858. (Why it should be in this publication I have no idea!)

Inquest into the death of Mrs Bramwell wife of Captain Bramwell

Captain Bramwell was in a state of 'spirituous of liquors' as a result of his wife's sudden death during childbirth. He put the whole neighbourhood in a state of alarm by the breaking of his own windows and the firing off of pistols loaded with ball. He fired at the house of Mr. James Vaughan (Builder) in Union Street and the ball passed through the bedroom window and the curtains where two children were sleeping and through a door against the wall of an adjoining room where the ball fell flat to the floor. At this point Captain Bramwell was seized after a great struggle. His pistol and sword were taken from him and he was conveyed to prison. After serving his jail term Captain Bramwell consented to not to return to Oswestry.

Footnote: Mr Vaughan was well capable of carrying out his own house repairs he employed 25 tradesmen and actually built the old Oswestry school.

David Richards, 10004

Editor: This provides a reminder that we can often find newspaper articles related to our ancestors in places we wouldn't expect to find them! So, when searching it is worth keeping some of the parameters quite wide in the first instance to see what might show up.

Harry Lloyd Morris - Here Lies Grosvenor - Part 2

The story of the survivors' trek is only half the story of this fabled wreck however, for the vast, unclaimed treasure lying beneath the raging waves of the Pondoland coast was not to be forgotten that easily.

The first serious attempt to raise the treasure from its watery grave was made in 1787. The expedition did not meet with success, the equipment at its disposal being completely inadequate for the purpose.

Then in 1842 the British Admiralty sent a ship under Captain Bowden which was supplied with Malay divers. They were there for 10 months and made more than 13 trips down to the wreck, succeeding in locating it and clearing the deck, but were unable to raise the hatches. Captain Bowden believed that he could salvage part of the treasure as evidenced by the amount of time spent trying to force an entrance into the sunken hulk. In his letters to the Admiralty too we find his attitude hopeful; "Since my last letter none of the valuables have been recovered from the Grosvenor, which is now settling rapidly...I shall continue for the next month here, and make every possible attempt."

In 1880 a treasure hunter and early settler in Pondoland named Sidney Turner recovered silver coins from the area of the wreck. [The image to the right is of a cup made of silver coins recovered from the wreck by Sidney Turner in 1880.]



In 1905 the Grosvenor Recovery Syndicate began operations. The first problem was to find the exact location of the wreck which they did by means of divers. After several weeks hunting, they discovered the whereabouts of the hull by a lucky stroke of fate and at once got hold of the dredger Duiker to clear away the sand. It seemed as though the work would bring quick results, but the weather which had up to now been favorable was running out; the violence of the coast brought great masses of sand and covered the wreck, effacing any work the syndicate had accomplished, and nearly destroying the dredger. Later a diver, whose air hose got cut on the rocks was killed. These unlucky blows coupled with lack of funds forced the

abandonment of the venture. The finds included 250 coins, assorted silver buckles, a quantity of broken china, and about 13 of the ship's guns.

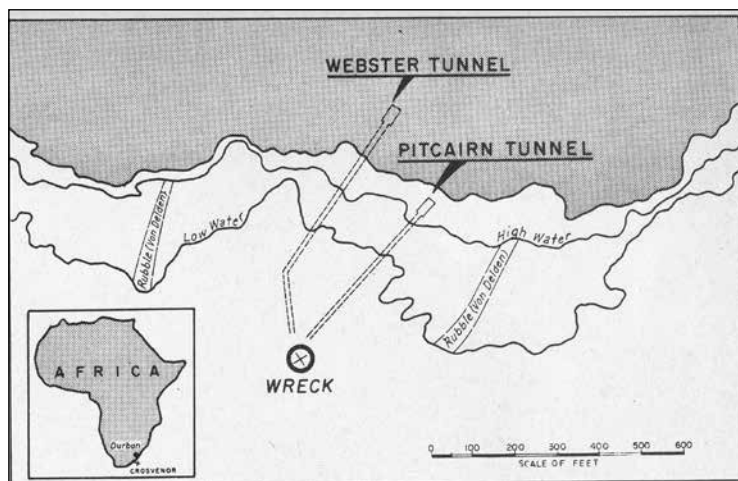
The next attempt at salvage was after World War One in 1921. Named the Grosvenor Bullion Syndicate, its head was M.L. Webster, consulting engineer of Johannesburg who conceived the revolutionary idea of drilling a tunnel underneath the ocean floor and avoiding the turbulent waves which had caused so much difficulty in previous attempts. [According to published sources, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was an investor in this syndicate.] It began as an inclined shaft 6 feet high and five feet wide extending 127 feet until it was below the seabed. Then through solid sandstone which prevented leakage it was taken straight out for a total of 690 feet which brought it up to within 30 feet of the wreck. It was accomplished by means of blasting, which gained three or four feet at a time. It was during this time that the tunnel flooded and, as the funds were rapidly diminishing, the tunnel was abandoned, but not before borings of teak and lead had been taken with a drill, showing positive evidence that the wreck was still there.



Image above: The site where Grosvenor sank off the coast of Pondoland. The wreck lies within the white circle. The Webster and Pitcairn tunnels are indicated by the broken lines heading out from shore. The two arms of the Van Delden dam are indicated on shore, and were intended for complete enclosure along the dotted line. The total ocean area involved is less than one acre.

Immediately after Webster's tunnel was shut down, an American millionaire, Pitcairn, invested a large sum to begin another tunnel. But this too met with disaster; it flooded in the middle of operations in 1926. By this time however, Pitcairn had lost interest in it and was off to Zululand on another venture.

The biggest attempt at salvage was begun in 1938 by the Van Delden brothers. These two Hollanders had a plan which was different from any other yet undertaken. They proposed to construct a dam to completely encircle the gully where the wreck was and then to pump out the water, leaving a dry, sandy cove wherein they could leisurely and thoroughly dig around the wreck with no interference from the sea. Their plan, basically a good one, was begun by building two rock arms from different points on the shore to meet midway in the ocean, forming a semicircle. They built their "loose" rubble dam was much less expensive than a regular concrete enclosure, but it was also much weaker. The surging might of the breakers tore the dam apart after the Hollanders had invested a great deal of money in the project. After this blow, they decided to discontinue their work.



Map of the wreck site shown in the aerial photograph

Immediately after the Van Delden syndicate had retired from the area, an Englishman, F.W. Duckham, who had been interested in the Grosvenor since 1938, applied for government lease of the site, and in 1940 obtained sole rights. His plan was perhaps the most intelligently conceived and extensively researched of any to date. It consisted of four parts or stages, each successive stage of operation being performed if the preceding stage warranted it.

The first stage was merely exploratory and confirmatory. In his own words, "it should cost very little to try some explosive charges into the sand on the far side of the gully and obtain evidences, in old timber and possibly coin as should fully justify the next stage." The next step would be to obtain protection from

the waves by scuttling two old steel hulks to serve as a breakwater, and thus eliminate the strong currents. The next step would be to hire a motor centrifugal pump with a six inch pipe extending into the sea which would be used to bring additional sand and contents ashore from which could be gained information concerning the amount and nature of the treasure. Then a fixed tubular steel staging would be built to support a large crane, or else a walking stage would be built, with extensible legs for increasing depths, to support a portable crane which would walk out to the wreck. Either of these cranes could be used to grab through the hull at the treasure. If sufficient capital was on hand and enough treasure was obtained by the above methods, in order to ensure getting all the treasure, the breakwater would be supplanted by a dam of bag concrete.

Mr. Duckham, an engineer of repute, having spent a lifetime on heaviest harbor construction, was in collaboration with Sir Robert Bristow, consultant engineer, and Captain Harry Lloyd Morris, also a consulting engineer and longtime friend of F.W. Duckham. Morris was organizing an American syndicate to raise the needed capital, and at the same time making extensive researches into historical records and documents concerning the treasure, its nature, amount and probability. The author has his grandfather's detailed correspondence with the Admiralty, researching bills of lading and ship manifests.

Morris had no misgivings about the chance of success of salvage operations, but instead was of a doubtful opinion as to what there was to be salvaged. For example concerning the coin, by mathematical calculations he came to the conclusion that; "... Allowing every latitude to desire, the most favorable permutation and combination requires a storage space for the given specie of some 60,000 cubic feet." an exceedingly large storage area for a ship of that size. Added to that, official sources of documents could supply him with nothing to verify the many published accounts of the last 150 years.

Morris' research unearthed several such contradictions in the Grosvenor story, which tended to make him dubious as to whether or not the entire treasure said to have been on board was really there. And, indeed, there are so many tales and rumors in existence concerning the huge wealth of Africa's most famous treasure ship that it is sometimes difficult to separate fact from fiction. But to one who assiduously familiarized himself with the Grosvenor story as Morris did, the circumstantial evidence for the presence of the magnificent treasure is overwhelming. For instance, why did the British admiralty send a warship to the remote East African coast to attempt salvage if there was not something of great

value on board. Duckham himself believed that he might salvage up to US\$25 million.

The actual salvage operations could not be commenced right away because of World War Two. War emergency control over export of British funds prevented the enterprise from getting underway causing a delay of years.



This is one of the tunnels that attempted to reach the ship from the sea floor. Only borings of teak from the hull were obtained before the tunnel flooded and was abandoned.

It was in May 1950 that the first sign of real success rewarded the long delayed but persistent Dukham. His Dutch contractor at Lambasi reported, "I feel sure that I have now touched the Grosvenor and... will now get really going." This was more than anything which had been done since 1926 in webster's tunnel.

But, tragically, this progress came a year too late. My grandfather died in 1949, a few months before I was born, succumbing to the after-effects of wounds received in the War.

This good news was not the final story though, because just like all the other treasure expeditions before his, Dukham's failed. Ill health and depletion of available funds forced him to quit.

After nearly two centuries of submerged solitude and dozens of anxious treasure seekers whose plans have been fruitless and whose hopes have been dashed, the elusive fortune remains in that forsaken cove. In all, there have been 15 attempts to salvage the treasure. Evidently one needs a little something more than money, ambition, and clever planning to rest this treasure from the watery deep, and most probably that's something is – LUCK!

So the treasure stays for the time being at least, beckoning to anyone with an adventurous spirit to try their hand at resurrecting it. The invitation is a most attractive one indeed. Consider \$20 million lying only 40 yards from land and in something like three fathoms of water. But, in the words of old natives who live in Pondoland and who have witnessed more than one fruitless treasure expedition: "Beware! The Wild Coast keeps its secrets well!"

Postscript

In 1999 certain artifacts were brought to the surface by divers which are now in the East London Museum, such as some gold and silver coins and personal effects.

In 2000, a Hungarian dive team successfully dived the site and confirmed the identity of the wreck, and that there was no treasure to be found.

Mark Morris, 7824

Editor: Part 1 of this article can be found in the June 2025 edition of the Journal.

From Workhouse to Care Home

When my mother was 62 (that was in 1976), she needed a hip operation. The problem was that she was looking after her own elderly mother who was 90, and incapable of self-care.

The talk by Ian Waller (Workhouse Life) in April and subsequent article by Peter Tandy reminded me that my grandmother had always threatened us that she would haunt us to our dying day if we were ever to '*put her away*', such was her fear of the workhouse.

So what should we do? We decided to take her out to tea. We took her to our selected care home, where she was given a royal welcome and a lovely tea. That was followed by an invitation to stay a little longer for a holiday. She was shown a lovely bedroom and then introduced to other holiday makers.

Two weeks later, she was loving every minute of her new home and was treating other people as her guests and promising them that her servants would look after them. The question of if, and when, she would return to live with my mother never arose. She was already quite at home where she was!

Reg Wilford, 5564

Friends or Family?

FRIENDS OR FAMILY? was the heading on one of the first pages I ever wrote when I began researching my family history in 1981. Underneath this were a number of relevant census records laboriously culled from the depths of Portugal Street - even now I shudder at the memory of those days!

At that time the only surnames I knew to be family for certain were CAMPBELL, HENDERSON and FRAZER. The Frazers being more distant, because they were descended from Margaret (née Longshaw) my Henderson great x 2 grandmother's first marriage to James Frazer in 1819, but he had died in 1822 leaving her with two small children, William born 1820 and Margaret born 1822, and in 1826 she married my great x 2 grandfather James Henderson, he bringing up her children as if they were his own.

How do I know that? I am the owner of some fifty original family letters (including copies I had made of some of the originals which were lent to me), most of which had been written to the young Margaret Frazer in the 1840s, when she was in her late teens and early twenties, the writers always referring to James Henderson as 'your father' never step-father, and the children of the second marriage as 'your brothers and sisters'. She herself, in the only letter I have that is written by her, to her brother William, refers to James Henderson as 'my father' and indeed she had never known her real father.

So who were these CARRUTHERS, McLEANS, ALEXANDERS and McGHIES mentioned in the letters and were they friends or family? I was going to have to research them as if I was convinced that they were family, which in the case of William McLean I was.

Carruthers

It all began one day while visiting a cousin. I glimpsed a framed sampler embroidered by Helen Henderson: closer examination showed it to be an 'In Memoriam' sampler dedicated to a George Carruthers who had 'Died on the 3rd of July 1837, Aged 33 Years'. Surely, a child of 11 would not have gone to all this trouble for an adult who was just a friend of the family? My sister-in-law embroidered a beautiful copy of the sampler for me and it was she who noticed that the first letters of the lines in the poem spelt the name Mary DAWSON but,

as there were no Dawsons in the family, we concluded that the poem had been taken from a sampler pattern book, as many of them were.

On my next visit to London and St Catherine's House, I looked for George's death certificate which was the first under 'C' and, as it was followed by 'Grace Frazer Carruthers', I purchased that as well, expecting her to be George's wife and, if not related to us, then at least related to the Frazers, which would be a step in the right direction.

The certificates revealed that Grace was George's baby daughter and both had died from phthisis [tuberculosis] within a few days of each other and that George's wife Hannah had been the 'Informant to the Registrar'. But there was no marriage of a George Carruthers to a Hannah in Lancashire, and I concluded that they had married in Scotland prior to their arrival in Bury. The 'Informant' on little Grace's certificate was her uncle Thomas Carruthers and in 1851 he is a 'Draper' living in Garden Street, Bury, with his wife Elizabeth née WALKER. His brother James, also a 'Draper', and sister Margaret, who was his 'Housekeeper' live in Union Square and their brother John, now a 'Grocer' but had been a 'Draper' in 1847, lives in Market Street with his wife Elizabeth née McKAY, whom he had married in Lancashire in 1844. All of them were or had been 'Drapers' on their arrival in Bury, as had George.

On 7 June 1860 James married Charlotte née WALSH in Pemberton, Lancashire, and to my surprise he was a widower, though I have been unable to discover his first marriage. His sister Margaret, who would have been aged 50, had either died or perhaps returned to Scotland. However, living with James and Charlotte is a nephew John F Carruthers (George's son) who is aged 24 and working with his uncle as a 'Linen and Woollen Draper'.

Thomas and Elizabeth have moved to Bradford Terrace with their three children, William Henry 13, Thomas 11 and Jessie 9 and George's daughter Mary aged 17 is living with her uncle Thomas and aunt Elizabeth. Mary's schooldays had been spent firstly at Brookfield House School with the Henderson girls, but when three of the teachers ('The Misses Bird') who were sisters, set up a rival school at Allen House, Mary went with them, leaving her possessions with the Hendersons. Her 'thank-you' letter from Allen House to 'Mr & Mrs Henderson' says, "I am much obliged to you for taking care of my things" and since she had so many relations living in Bury, who could have looked after them for her, I felt even more certain that somehow we were related. It is only recently that I have

discovered the Carruthers had come from Urr in Kirkcudbrightshire, the children of William Caruthers (spelt this way in the Scottish records) and Grizel née Fraser, so that is where their 'Fraser' name had come from and was nothing to do with 'our' Frazers. William and Grizel having had at least eight children, Margaret 1801, George (of the sampler) 1804, William 1809, Sarah 1811, Alexander 1813, Thomas 1816, John 1818 and James 1823/24. In 1841 Sarah was in Bury acting as 'Housekeeper' for her brothers John and Thomas, but I have not found a marriage or burial date for her and it is possible that she also returned to her family in Scotland.

I am not superstitious, but sometimes I can't help feeling that the ancestors have a guiding hand in my research and so it was when I thought to see if 'Sampler' George and Hannah had married in Cheshire. I had no reason to do that, especially as I have never found Cheshire records easy to negotiate, but almost immediately they came up with George Carruthers to Hannah Dawson 18 June 1832. When couples marry away from their home town, in my experience it is usually because the wife-to-be is pregnant but that was not the case here as their first child was not born until May 1833. Sadly, my sister-in-law had died before I could tell her I had found the name Dawson at last, even though it was Hannah and not Mary. It was a long time before I found the right Dawson family and that Mary was Hannah's sister who had died from 'phthisis'. She also had a niece Mary and she too had died from the same disease, so perhaps the sampler is meant to commemorate both of them as well as George. It seems that Hannah had also died in 1840 from phthisis before the sampler was completed, which would account for how it came to remain in our family, and it was the final irony that Helen Henderson herself died from this awful disease at the age of 18 in June 1846.

McLean

William McLean is the only member of the Scots fraternity in Bury, who would seem to be on his own. He was born in Moffat, Dumfriesshire, to Thomas McLean and Janet Annan on 16 Jan 1803 and as he called his first (and only) son Thomas and his daughter Jessie, which is a diminutive of Janet, having named his eldest daughter Mary, after his wife and her mother, in the Scottish tradition. However, Moffat is a very long way from Toull, so I do not think he and Mary met until both were in Bury, where they married on 7 March 1837. I had no doubt in my own mind that we were related to him, partly because my great grandmother

Grace Henderson was given McLean as her middle name, but not only that, when James and Margaret Henderson's little daughter Sarah died aged 2, William was the 'Informant to the Registrar' and when Grace Mclean Henderson married John Campbell in 1860, William was a 'Witness'.

It seems to me that William was a father figure to all the Scots living in Bury and it is my opinion that he gave them all employment in his drapers shop (at least until they had found their feet and branched out on their own) since I cannot think that there would have been so many individual drapers' shops in one small town, as Bury would have been in the 1840s. However, while I may be wrong about that, William was the only one who seems to have made a real success of the drapery business because by 1851 he was employing '3 men and 3 boys' and had two female 'House Servants' and by 1861 he was a 'Draper and Insurance Agent' employing eight 'Draper's Assistants', a 'Cook', a 'Lady's Maid', a 'House Servant', a 'Servant Maid', and an 'Errand Boy'. My only slight reservation about this is that amongst the Draper's Assistants is 'Robert Henderson 16'. Robert had indeed been working for William in 1851, aged 16, but had he still been in Bury in 1861 he would have been 26. As he had gone to sea in 1851, a month after the census had been taken, he could not have been working for William in 1861, since he had not only served his apprenticeship on board ship, but had been looking for gold in Australia, and was by then in New Zealand still searching for gold (letter from Robert Henderson in NZ to his sister Mary).

More recently, I have discovered that William retired in September of that year which seems strange when he was being so successful and I do wonder if perhaps he was in the early stages of dementia? He and Mary retired to live in Stand a few miles from Bury, where his daughter Mary married Rudolph CRUDELIUS in All Saints Church, and went to live in Leith, Scotland. It was only when I typed Crudelius into Google that I discovered Mary was a well-known philanthropist for women's education and supporter of the suffragette movement, though not the more militant side of it. Although Rudolph's work as a 'Merchant' frequently took him abroad, they were very much in love and she wrote long letters to him, which have been made into a book.

The Crudelius Grave, Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh: By
Stephencdickson - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, [https://commons.
wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69168929](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69168929)



The thing that interested me most of all was that she had been educated in Scotland thus proving that the emigrant Scots in Bury did, for the most part, keep in touch with their families north of the border. It was while she was staying with friends in Scotland that she had first met Rudolph. Even though Rudolph married again after Mary died, he was buried in his parents' grave where his first wife had been interred.

In 1851 and 1861 a Thomas McGhie is living with William and Mary and, since he says he is William's brother-in-law in two censuses, I had assumed that Mary's maiden name would be McGhie and was somewhat taken aback when I ordered their marriage certificate to find it was Alexander.

Gillian Posner, 5130

Editor: The Alexander and McGhie connections will be revealed in the next edition of the Journal.

Talking Family History LIVE

October 2025

Thanks to all those who joined us at the Talking Family History LIVE event at Cross Houses on 11 October. It is always good to get together with others who have a shared interest in all things family history. There was a full programme of talks, each providing very different perspectives and fascinating information on approaches to family history.



Ann Simcock brought us up-to-date on the *A Few Forgotten Women* project, which was started by a few friends during COVID and has gone on to be a wonderful way to recognise '*some there be that have no memorial*'. We heard about the recent '1819' project which shone a spotlight on those girls born/baptised in Wem and Wells next the Sea (in Norfolk) in the year of birth of Queen Victoria, with stories researched and written by

volunteers as part of their A Few Forgotten Women Friday events. One of these stories from Wem is featured on page 174 of this Journal, written by Clare, one of our own members. Ann was joined by Margaret Roberts, the Chair of the Family History Society of Cheshire and one of those leading the AFFW project, and there was an interesting display for people to learn more about the project and even more can be found on their website at <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com/>.



Dr Della Sadler-Moore then shared the amazing history of ‘Sister’ Mary Ward B.E.M., who, during the first half of the 20th century, provided nursing care and treatment to the men and their families working the canals around Stoke Bruerne in Northamptonshire, although she was never qualified as a nurse. This history was based on research that Della had undertaken as part of her PhD studies and illustrated how social, local and family history can combine to shine a light on the past.

After lunch Lorna hosted a fiendish quiz which definitely had the brain cells working hard, and this was followed by a great talk entitled ‘*Don’t throw it away*’, by Dawn Blundell. Dawn told us of her introduction to family history, her Shropshire roots and her quest to explore more about three portraits/ photographs that had been hiding in the loft of her maternal grandfather, and latterly her parents, for many years. Her research and perseverance eventually



led her to being able to identify each of the people in a large family photograph taken about 1894/5 and which now has pride of place in her dining room. However, for the event, Dawn had brought the portraits with her, along with a number of family related artefacts which helped to bring the story to life.

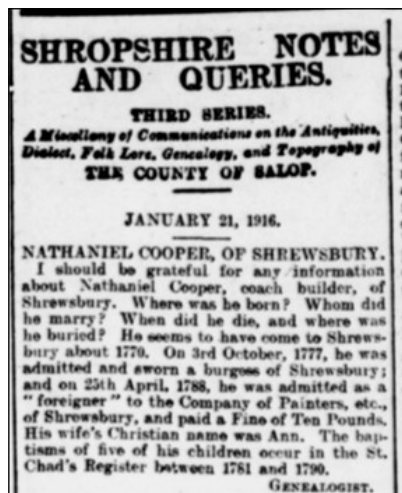
To round off the day Simon Davies revealed our new project, *The Shropshire Family History Hub*, as mentioned on page 146, highlighting how we hope this will enable us to move from our past to the future, incorporating our existing resources and creating more so we can share with others our family history of those linked to Shropshire. He then went on to share a story of one of his long-lost ancestors, Henry Davies, who he had found mentioned in the Monumental Inscriptions booklet for St Michael and All Angels, Lydbury North. After much research, he discovered Henry had been killed by a shark in Australia, and there was quite a story to tell!



Many thanks must go to all those who helped to make the event a success and especially to Jane Wilcox, Dawn Blundell and Pauline Maguire who organised the day, and who have already volunteered to organise the next one! If you have ideas for what you’d like to see or hear about at the next event please let us know.

Nathaniel Cooper of Shrewsbury

While searching through the local newspapers for Shrewsbury that are available



Shrewsbury Chronicle 21 January 1916

online at FindMyPast, I came across this appeal for help. It was printed in the Shrewsbury Chronicle in January 1916 and had been submitted by a Genealogist who was looking for information on Nathaniel Cooper of Shrewsbury. Intrigued by the questions the Genealogist was asking, I decided to try and see what I could find and try to discover more about Nathaniel Cooper.

There are a few clues to Nathaniel in the printed request, such as the fact that he had five of his children baptised at St Chad's between 1781 and 1790 – this seemed like a good starting point.

The first child I found was Elizabeth Cooper who was baptised on 15 November 1783 at St Chad's church. Her parents are recorded as Nathaniel and Ann: the letter in the newspaper gave Nathaniel's wife name as Ann – this must be one of his children. A further search found that Nathaniel and Ann had a total of ten children (including Elizabeth in 1783). They are (in order of birth)

1. Ann Cooper baptised 7 September 1777
2. Thomas Cooper baptised 13 September 1778
3. Joseph Cooper baptised 24 October 1779
4. Nathaniel Cooper baptised 27 May 1781
5. Ann Cooper baptised 17 November 1782
6. Elizabeth Cooper baptised 8 December 1784
7. Harriet Cooper baptised 27 January 1787
8. William Cooper baptised 6 April 1788
9. Nathaniel Munslow baptised 13 June 1790

All the children were baptised in St Chad's church, which was the parish church for the family, as Nathaniel had his business in Swan Hill, and possibly lived in

the same place. The advert mentioned that his wife's name was Ann/Cross Hill, and all these children have Nathaniel and Ann as their parents. It's possible not all these children survived into adulthood, the repetition of the first names suggesting that some sadly died as babies or infants.

A search for a marriage brought up a marriage entry for Ann Munslow in Westbury on 4 December 1776. Their last child was given the first name of Munslow – this is probably Ann's maiden name which was handed down to one of their sons. Both Nathaniel and Ann sign the marriage entry.



1776 Marriage Nathaniel & Ann Munslow gbprs_shrop_p297-a-3-1_237476

The advert placed by the Genealogist asked a few questions and one of these was 'where was Nathaniel born'. From an advert placed over a hundred years before the Genealogist's appeal, the answer is that Nathaniel is from London, so quite possibly it is London that is his birth place.

The opening line explains that Nathaniel is a Coach and Harness Maker from London, and he is advising the reader that he has his business in Cross Hill not far from the Talbot coach yard.

In an advert in the local press in 1777, Samuel Cooper states that he is from London, he is a Coach Builder and Harness Maker and also on the same site as his business is a Wheelwright who is Nathaniel Cooper. It's possible that Nathaniel moved to Shrewsbury at the same time as Samuel Cooper, and that Samuel is probably related to Nathaniel?

Shrewsbury, 12th Dec. 1778.

NATHANIEL COOPER, Coach and
Harness-Maker, from London: Returns his most
 grateful Thanks, to the Ladies, Gentlemen and others, who
 have heretofore favor'd him with their Commands; and
 humbly solicits their future Favours.

He begs Leave to inform them and the Public, that he
 hath erected commodious Buildings, (on the Cross-Hill,
 opposite to the Talbot Coach-Yard), to carry on the said
 Business in their various Branches, where no Pains or Ex-
 pence shall be spared to Please and give Satisfaction to his
 Employers: by their much obliged, and most obedient hum-
 ble Servant,
NATHANIEL COOPER.

N. B. A good Modern Post Chaise with Harness for 4
 Horses to be sold, and his late Workshops and Yard to
 be Let.

The 1916 letter from the Genealogist also states that Nathaniel Cooper was a Burgess of the town – this is correct as his name is in the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll and he was sworn in in 1777. In May 1787, Nathaniel took on an apprentice coach builder; and the last advert that I can find for his business is placed in the local press in the mid 1780s.

I haven't found a definite death or burial entry for Nathaniel, or found anything to suggest that he moved away. Of course, what is also unknown is whether the Genealogist ever found out the answers to his questions, or why he was looking for Nathaniel Cooper.

Clare Brown, 7718

Buildwas Church Restoration



Image of Buildwas Church from our own collection of Church photographs ©SFHS

We have been contacted by the Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project to ask if we have any volunteers who might be interested in supporting their project. The focus is on restoring the church building and churchyard for future generations and sharing its history. As part of the project, they are aiming to record, store and share the history of the people buried at the church, including some (such as Rev. John Bartlett, the vicar for nearly 40 years) who had close connections with the Ironbridge Gorge and ironmakers such as the Darby family. More details about the project can be found at www.buildwaschurchrestoration.org.

They have joined the Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) 'Our Digital Ancestors' Project: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/our-digital-ancestors/. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England, the project aims to record details of

all visible monuments in a churchyard - including a photo, details of names and dates of those memorialised, the wording of the inscription; and the monument shape, stone type and condition. Where available they also plan to add scans of birth, death and marriage registers, photos, articles from old newspapers or extracts of written material. Once complete these churchyard plans will be openly available for anyone to look at and explore online, shared on their Restoration Project website. This will support local historians and those tracing their family history.

Some examples of searches that will be possible using the map they produce will include:

- Find everyone with a particular surname to trace a family or all those who were born and died in a specific year or decade to look at life expectancy or population.
- Look at general trends like life expectancy and see how that changes with advancements in medicine and public health.
- Discover the human stories of catastrophic events such as the Ironbridge ferry disaster: <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/telford/ironbridge/2019/10/23/remembering-the-ironbridge-ferry-disaster-that-killed-28-workers/>
- Investigate migration, e.g. discover engineers who moved from elsewhere in the UK to work in the Ironbridge Gorge at the start of the Industrial Revolution.

There will be free online training available covering topics such as:

- Burial Ground Health and Safety
- Memorial Photography skills
- Memorial recording skills
- Researching people from a burial ground

If anyone is interested in supporting this project in any way please get in touch with Nigel Bowen, Chair of The Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project at nigelbowen@outlook.com.

Editor: We have made contact with this project to offer access to the information we hold for this parish. Who knows, this project may, in due course, be able to link into our Shropshire FH Hub which you will have read about in the Chair's article and which we will share more about in further editions of the Journal.

From the Society's Journal - 40 Years On

For 6¾ years, the Journal's cover was printed with a Latin transcript. However, volume 6, part 4, broke with tradition and was printed with a picture of St.Bartholomew's Church at Tong, printed in black on the usual blue cover.

The inside article referred to Tong Church... as *the Westminster Abbey of the Midlands, was known to Charles Dickens, and was said to be the church mentioned in the 'Old Curiosity Shop'*.

The AGM of the Society had taken place in October with people coming from as far afield as Bristol and Cardiff. As always, all of the Committee Members were elected and re-elected unopposed!

New members 739 to 821 were listed in full whilst there were 10 pages setting out Member Interests. I was fascinated that new member, 821, Mr. Benbow, lived in Admirals Road in Canada. Surely, a great address to celebrate the famous Admiral Benbow born in Shrewsbury!

Headed '*Have you a Bobby in the Family?*', Douglas Elliot provided a long list of the names of the Shropshire Constabulary between 1840-1909.

The BBC were about to produce a documentary programme to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of the Doomsday Book produced in 1086. They were keen to hear from anyone who could trace their family tree back to medieval times.

The Family History Federation reported that the '*Death Indexes have been moved back to St. Catherine's House, which has been refurbished and extended*'.

They also reported that '*as from November 1985, the second-class letter price is to be reduced from 13p to 12p*'. Wow!

A letter from the Irish World Citizenship Organisation, a 'non-political' group, wished to hear from people with Irish heritage throughout the world, though stressing they do not undertake Genealogical Research.

With research records mostly still in London, the Society was planning three coach trips in 1986. Organiser, David Yeadell reminded members that the coaches would be quickly booked up!

Pikers Pad was encouraging those who had completed their family history, *but had not yet tackled writing it up, to use one of two useful books. viz 'the Old Lady*

in Room Two' or 'Halfway to Writing Family History'.... I looked them up and they are only available second hand. However, whether or not those particular books are available, the article is a reminder to us today to 'put our knowledge into print', just in case our descendants suddenly wished they'd 'asked us about granny' when we've gone!

Ann Kirby wished our death certificates were as comprehensive as those produced in Australia, which included 13 sections comprehensively detailing a person's life and near relatives.

A new batch of 24 Monumental Inscriptions Booklets available for purchase ranging from Battlefield to Weston under Redcastle were completed in conjunction, once again, with the Women's Institute. When I looked in our publications catalogue I note that the cost to researchers requiring a copy is the same as 40 years ago. Ruth (that's my wife!) tells me that some orders are now costing more in postage than the charge for the booklet! However, the bigger question is whether there are members willing to update the booklets to include graves added in the last 40 years.

Jean Millington (698) wrote an article about how membership of the SFHS led her to places she never imagined possible. She was thrilled with the contacts she made. It led her to follow suggestions she was given by speakers and other members, thus helping her to discover a whole range of ancestors, including an MP, a Mayor of Shrewsbury, a secretary to the Bank of England and two who were employed by Charles Dickens.

Henry Dorell (member 20) reported on a garden party organised for the Dorrell Association. The event brought together people interested in the Dorrell surname. It made me wonder how many of our members belong to 'One Name Studies or Groups'. Does anyone know?

May I wish everyone a Joyful Christmas

Reg Wilford, 5564

Editor: If there are any members willing to get involved in updating our Memorial Inscriptions please do let us know as it would be good to be able to do this. Likewise it would be wonderful to be able to 'complete' the list of those commemorated on the War Memorials across the county. We have some, which have been published on the website, but it only covers a small number of the memorials in Shropshire.

Tracing your Irish Ancestors

Review of the talk given by Claire Bradley, M.A. on 21 October 2025

The speaker, in a lively and well-delivered talk, started by looking at Irish history. Probably all most of us can say about Ireland concerns the great famine and the more recent ‘troubles’. Ireland had been linked to the UK for over 100 years, and much history was determined by the draconian Penal Laws imposed by England. Catholics were barred from holding high office, owning land, bearing arms, voting, having an education, or openly practising religion. This applied to Catholics in England as well, but with a higher proportion in Ireland, hit them much harder. During these times there are few records available. Records start when the laws were relaxed in the 17th Century. In the 1820s Daniel O’Connell started to help Catholics. Many English folk were taken to Ireland and given land – which was universally disliked.

Image: Daniel O’Connell. Poster published in Pennsylvania 1847
(Wikipedia_Public Domain)



In 1798 the death of a dissident led to a land rebellion, but it failed. The Act of Union (1801) brought Ireland into the United Kingdom, but it lost its own Parliament. Irish MPs became the Irish Parliamentary Party (like the SNP today). But Union allowed more uniform record keeping.

In 1915 there was a proclamation on independence, which led in 1916 to the Easter Rising. Many who took part were executed, which angered the population. In 1918 there was a General Election, where the vote for the Irish Party collapsed, and allowed the Sinn Fein party (not the same one as today) to get in.

In 1921, an Anglo-Irish treaty agreed to partition Ireland into the six northern counties (Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone), with 26 counties forming the Irish Free State (later Republic of Ireland). Records of the north are mainly in Belfast, while those of the south are in Dublin.

Map Resources

Maps of Ireland can be found under www.johngreenham.com, www.swilson.info, and www.townland.ie. Other information is in *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, by Brian Marshall.

Check all records

To look for Irish ancestors you need to check all records available including census records (1841-1921 and the 1939 Register), BMD records, church records, obituaries and any family memorabilia. As England and Ireland were united, there are no records of migration from Ireland to England. Also, look at original records as transcripts may not give all the information. Be aware that people were less aware of ages, which may be rounded up or down, sometimes by as much as 10 years and any name spelling variations as literacy levels were low in the past. For instance, in the past 'Sullivan' and O'Sullivan was the same name (though not now), and names with the prefixes O, Mc and Mac may be listed as if the prefixes were absent. For Catholic families, look at church records as these often show the mother's name. Many small churches will answer questions or do searches, but you should always give a small donation. From 1856, Catholic registers show all parents names, though entries may be in Latin. Newspapers may carry adverts, marriage announcements, crime and death records, and obituaries, but many local ones might not be digitised, so a visit is necessary. Poor Law Relief registers often show origins. Finally, families often sent marriage cards to people unable to get to weddings, and these are often kept as memorabilia.

Records in Ireland

Census records for 1901-1911 exist, plus fragments for 1821-1851. Records for 1861 were destroyed, but there is an attempt to reconstruct them under the *Virtual Treasures* project, from surviving scraps (see: <https://virtualtreasury.ie/>). Records for 1861 and 1891 were pulped for paper during shortages! Censuses from 1901-1891 are fully extant; the next release is the 1926 census (due in April 1926), but covers Republic counties only. From 1946, Irish censuses occurred every 5 years – these records are available on the National Archives (Dublin) website <https://nationalarchives.ie/>.

Between 1922-23, Ireland suffered a civil war, in which various buildings in Dublin were attacked and set on fire. Sadly, census records for 1821-1851, wills and testamentary records, court records, and church of Ireland records were all destroyed.

Tithe Applotment Books – cover the period 1823-1837 and show taxes paid to the Church of Ireland (Col) on agricultural land. Only heads of households were enumerated, plus sizes and descriptions of plots, and valuations

Civil Registration covers 1845 onwards for non-Catholic marriages and 1864 for all Catholic marriages, births and deaths. They are available on-line with data protection of 100 yrs for births, 75 for marriages, 50 for deaths. New records are added every year (see groresearchroom@welfare.ie). Indexes to all up to 1958 are available on Ancestry, Family Search, and FMP. Catholic records may be in Latin but in pre-printed books which makes it obvious what is being written.

Primary Valuation of Ireland

Primary Valuation of Ireland (also called Griffiths Valuation) was a comparative land survey from 1847-1864 and can be searched by townland (a townland is the smallest unit of land in Ireland) or name, though only Heads of households were enumerated. Records also show the size and description of plots, and the valuation. It is better for rural areas than urban. Preparatory work for it is also extant, and there have been periodic revaluations.

Religious records

Availability of these is limited by most people being Catholic. Most parish records start in 1820s/30s, with some limited 18th century records. Records may be written in Latin, but the pre-printed books, make it easy to understand what is recorded. Many Col records were destroyed in 1922, and many are not digitised. You need to know which religion, usually either Catholic or Protestant. Many Protestant records are in Belfast even if ancestors lived in the Republic.

DNA

The speaker finally moved to DNA. There has been a high uptake in Ireland. She said that you need to check all avenues: Ancestry, 23and Me, MyHeritage, FTDNA, Living DNA, Gedmatch. There are many good videos on-line, but you need to look at how old they are as techniques have changed.

Questions

Q. Are there any sources for emigration to USA?

A. Passenger lists are available but people often travelled via the UK.

Q. A member asked about the surname WYNPS from 1804. (possibly spelt WINPS, WIMPS or WIMMPS)

A. The speaker said she had never heard of that name, it wasn't in the Irish index, and 1804 is very early for Ireland.

Q. If one did DNA a long time ago, is it necessary to update it?

A. No. They update references.

Reviewer's postscript

Anyone searching for Irish ancestors might be interested in two newly reproduced newspapers at the British Newspaper Archive. They are the magnificently named "The Illustrograph" (from 1894) which relied on photographs but covered many wide ranging off-beat topics, and "The Irish Golfer" (from 1899) which gave a weekly record of the Royal Game.

Peter Tandy 7709

Editor: A full list of useful references is given in the speaker's handout, which can be found in the Talks section of the Members Only section of the website. Please note the recording of the talk is no longer available as we were only given permission to retain it for one month.

'Read all about it'

At the start of September The British Newspaper Archive released what they describe as 'a smorgasbord of historical Shropshire newspapers for you to enjoy' with the addition of 288,672 new pages from historical Shropshire newspapers. They have updated eight of their existing Shropshire titles and added eight more. This includes a significant increase in the number of copies of the Shropshire Star and Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser that are already included in the archive, as well as the addition of new titles:

- Bishop's Castle Advertiser and Clun News, 1901–1918
- Bishop's Castle Chronicle & Clun Valley Times, 1911
- Bridgnorth Beacon and South Shropshire Advertiser, 1852–1854
- Bridgnorth Weekly News, 1856
- Ironbridge Weekly Journal and Borough of Wenlock Advertiser, 1869–1875, 1877–1882
- Oswestry Herald, 1820, 1822
- Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Times, 1863–1864
- Shropshire Mercury, 1840

The digitised newspapers are available to view for a subscription fee via the British Newspaper Archive (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>) or Findmypast (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>) or they can be accessed free of charge by visitors to Shropshire Archives, any of the 21 Shropshire Libraries or other libraries across the country who provide access to FMP.

Amelia Jenkins's Story

In the September edition of the Journal we included an article from Clare Brown about participating in the 'A Few Forgotten Women' 1819 project to discover the stories of girls born/baptised in Wem in 1819. This is the story of Amelia Jenkins which Clare discovered and wrote up. It can also be found alongside many others, on the AFFW website at <https://www.fewforgottenwomen.com/1819stories>

Amelia Jenkins

In the small town of Wem in north Shropshire, a baby girl was baptised on the 26th September 1819. Her name was Amelia Jenkins and her parents were Richard and Mary. She had an older brother Richard who arrived in 1818, and six years later she would be joined by a younger brother who would be named Thomas. Their father Richard was a shoemaker.

Richard and Mary had sadly lost three children by the time they had Richard in 1818. Amelia and Richard were born within a year of each other; however, they were to lose their father Richard in the same year that Thomas was born. Richard died in 1826 and was buried in Wem on the 27th August 1826, he was just 47 years of age. A baptism entry for Thomas has not been found so it's unclear if he was born before or after the death of his father. The loss of the main bread winner in the family would have been hard, Mary was left widowed with two young children and a baby to care for.

When the 1841 census was taken, the family were living on High Street in Wem. Richard the eldest child is working as a Hairdresser, and living with him is his mother Mary and his two siblings Amelia and Thomas. Later that year in December, his younger brother Thomas got married to Ann Ashley. Thomas and Ann are both very young and on the marriage certificate they are both shown as minors.

Ten years later and the 1851 census is recorded and Richard, his mother Mary and sister Amelia are still living in the High Street in Wem and Richard is again recorded as a Hairdresser. Amelia is working as a servant and their mother is described as a housekeeper. The family are still together in 1861 and still living in High Street, Wem. However now they have been joined by a niece. Sophia is 14 years old and was born in Whixall, which is just about 5 miles north of Wem. She is the daughter of Thomas Jenkins – the younger brother of Richard and

Amelia. It's not known why she is with Richard and Amelia. However, ten years later and she has been joined in Wem by her brother Samuel, and they are living with their aunt and uncle Richard and Amelia. Samuel is shown on the 1871 as a Hairdresser's assistant, so must be working in the business with his uncle.

Richard and Amelia lost their mother in 1858. She died in Wem in January 1858 and was buried on the 8th January. She had been a widow for over 30 years, and had brought up her three children on her own. 1881 finds Richard and his sister Amelia still living in High Street. Richard's occupation is entered on the census record as Hairdresser (Master) and living here is Amelia and their niece Sophia. Also living here is Samuel Farlow aged 27, who is also a Hairdresser. [Sophia and Samuel got married in Aberystwyth on the 5th September 1881, and on the 1891 and 1901 census are living in their aunt and uncle's house which is now numbered as 44 High Street, Wem. Samuel is working as a Hairdresser.]

In 1883 life changes for Sophia as she loses not just her uncle Richard but her aunt Amelia as well. Richard died on the 30th April 1883 and was buried in Wem. Amelia died on the 17th December that same year and her burial took place two days later on the 19th December. Her death was announced in the local press.

It would appear from the notice placed in the Wellington Journal that Sophia had inherited the house from her uncle, and that her aunt lived here until her death in 1883.

Amelia seemed to live a quiet life, she never married, nor did her brother Richard, but they must have been close to live all their life together, and later taking care of their mother and then welcoming into their home their niece and nephew. They saw Sophia get married and saw the birth of her son Ernest on the 22nd April 1883, just a week or so before his great uncle Richard died. He was baptised a day after his birth, was this to allow a poorly uncle Richard and maybe an unwell aunt Amelia, the chance to see a new baby be welcomed into what seems to be a close and caring family?

Sources: FindMyPast, Ancestry, The Genealogist

Clare Brown, Member 7718, clarebrownfamilyhistory@gmail.co

Shropshire Family History Society Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Family History Society will be held online via Zoom on **Tuesday 20 January 2026** at 7.30pm. The link will be sent in January by email to all members with a registered email address.

Agenda

- 1 Members attending
- 2 Apologies
- 3 To approve the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21 January 2025
- 4 Matters Arising from these Minutes
- 5 To receive the Annual Report presented by the Chair, Karen Hunter
- 6 To receive the Certified Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025 presented by the Treasurer, Lorna Emms
- 7 Election of a Competent Person to Examine the Accounts of the Society
- 8 Election of Officers: To confirm the appointment of the Officers in accordance with applications received by 24 December 2025
- 9 Election of Ordinary Committee Members: To confirm or elect the Ordinary Committee Members in accordance with applications received by 24 December 2025
- 11 Any Other business (Accepted at the discretion of the Chair - to be submitted in advance to the Secretary by 24 December 2025)

Minutes of the Forty Fifth Annual General Meeting of Shropshire Family History Society held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 via the Zoom platform

The Chair, Karen Hunter, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited our Patron Mrs Anna Turner JP, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire to conduct the business of the AGM.

1. Members attending

77 members attended the meeting. Their names are available from the Secretary.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Miss J Lyon (5458), Mrs P Reveley (7897), Mr C Portman (7826), Miss L Gowans (7120), Ms L Hunt (7407), Mrs D Blundell (4669), Mr S Davies (7860).

3. To approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 17th January 2024

The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by our Patron.

4. Matters arising from these minutes

There were none.

5. To receive the Annual Report

Karen Hunter, Society Chairman, presented the report which had been published in the December 2024 journal and summarised the main activities in the year. Karen finished by thanking all members, committee members and volunteers for their support during the year. Special thanks were made to those retiring, Treasurer Paul Quartermaine; Programme Secretary, Joan Gate; and Minutes Secretary, Cathy Mathews. The report was approved by the meeting.

6. To receive the certified accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024

Paul Quartermaine, Society Treasurer, presented and explained the certified accounts which had been published in the December 2024 journal, and thanked Andrew Fairchild, Independent Reviewer, for examining the accounts. Paul explained the fluctuations in the accounts in relation to certain items. The accounts were accepted as a true record of the Society's activities during the year and approved by the meeting.

Paul thanked all those who had assisted him during his time as Treasurer.

7. Appointment of a competent person to examine the accounts of the Society

Paul Quartermaine, having ascertained his willingness to continue in the role, recommended that Andrew Fairchild be officially appointed as the Society's independent assessor of the accounts for the year to September 2025. The appointment was approved by all present.

8. Election of officers

The appointment of officers in accordance with applications received by 19 December 2024 was approved by the meeting:

CHAIRMAN: Karen Hunter

SECRETARY: Dave Morris

TREASURER: Lorna Emms

9. Election of ordinary committee members

The appointment of ordinary committee members in accordance with nominations was approved by the meeting:

Dawn Blundell

Simon Davies

Lorraine Hunt

Graham Shenton

Steve Jones

10. Any other business

Our Patron formally closed the meeting at 19:48 and handed over to Karen Hunter, who introduced the speaker for the evening.

Dave Morris, Secretary

Shropshire Family History Society

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 30th September 2025

Legal And Administrative Information

Charity Number 514014

Trustees and Executive Committee

Patron

Anna Turner JP HM Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire

Vice Presidents

Ann Kirby

Michael J Hulme

Dr David R Burton

Trustees

Chair: Karen Hunter

Secretary: David Morris

Treasurer: Lorna Emms

Dawn Blundell

Simon Davies

Lorraine Hunt

Steve Jones

Graham Shenton

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC

Business Banking, BX1 1LT

Hampshire Trust Bank

55 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 3AS

United Trust Bank

1 Ropemaker St, London, EC2Y 9AW

Contact details

c/o SFHS Secretary

48 Oakley St

Shrewsbury

SY3 7JY

e-mail – secretary@sfhs.org.uk

Website

www.sfhs.org.uk

Independent Examiner

Andrew Fairchild BA FCMA CGMA

Chartered Management Accountant

Chair's Report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025

Structure, governance, and management

Shropshire Family History Society (SFHS) is registered with the Charity Commission (number 514014) and governed by a Constitution initially drawn up in 1979 and last amended in 2023. Registered charities are required to comply with statutory and Charity Commission Public Benefit requirements and we believe that our activities as outlined below meet this guidance.

The Executive Committee members are Trustees of the Charity with the responsibility to administer the affairs and funds of the Society. The Executive Committee members for the last year are as listed on the facing page.

Objectives

The objects of the Society as contained within the Constitution are:

to promote the study of genealogy and history especially of Shropshire families and places;

to educate the public therein through advice and instruction and for the public benefit;

to encourage the preservation and transcription of relevant documents and records especially for the County of Shropshire.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Membership of the Society stood at 955 as of 30 September 2025, with members from across the world.

The largest achievement for this year has been the successful launch of our new website at the end of June. This has been a major project which required significant time and effort over a couple of years from the small team who worked on its development and huge thanks are due to them. The new site has enabled us to make a wider range of resources available to our members, including the full back catalogue of our Journals, access to a number of data sets and the recordings of previous talks, where the speaker has given permission. It is now possible for people to join our Society via the website and we are delighted to report that this has resulted in 55 new members joining us since the launch.

We have held two Talking Family History LIVE events during the year, in October and May, each offering a programme of talks and an opportunity for people to come together to share their common interest in all things family history related.

Our Journal continues to be published on a quarterly basis with copies being distributed to all members. Members continue to provide articles (although we could always do with more), sharing their stories of people and places with links to Shropshire, to help create an interesting and informative publication. We also provide a monthly Newsletter, issued via email, to keep our members up-to-date with news and events.

The topics offered via our programme of online talks have been wide ranging, informative, and stimulating, including Mourning Brooches, Apprenticeship Records, Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy and Non-conformist Ancestors. We regularly have an attendance of above 70 people, with members joining us from across the world. Where permission is given we record these sessions and make them available to members via the website.

The Talking Family History and DNA Special Interest Group sessions have continued through the year, giving members the opportunity to share their interests and knowledge and make connections with each other.

We are pleased to have continued to operate our help desk at Shropshire Archives, staffed by volunteers from the Society although because of restricted opening of the Archives during 2025 we have only been able to do this one day a week. This help is available to all who visit the Archives and offers access to a wide range of paper-based and microfiche records, Internet resources and other computer-based records.

All our events and activities are made possible through the commitment of volunteers. To all who give of their time, skills and enthusiasm in many ways throughout the year to help the Society thrive – thank you.

Karen Hunter, Chair

Financial Review

The Society continued to use spreadsheets as opposed to an accounting package given the limited transactions.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees believe it necessary to maintain unrestricted funds for the following purposes:

- a) to cover obligations to pay future hire and storage fees of the Cross Houses Community Centre in the event of a fall in normal revenue income.
- b) to buy research material which may become available from time to time.
- c) to renew and to buy further equipment to assist research and education.
- d) to invest in website improvements and other technology to enable greater engagement with members.

The Trustees believe that the current level of funds is adequate for these purposes.

The Society's General Fund shows an excess for the year of £802 which, when carried to reserves leaves a balance to carry forward of £96,319.

The Society will keep the level of reserves retained to ensure it is sufficient to fulfill our future obligations. Although the Society's funds are healthy, membership of family history societies continues to fall. The Society will continue to look at investing its reserves to build up capital to replace any anticipated fall in membership income. The Committee and Trustees will continue to keep payments and receipts under review during the coming year.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Karen Hunter

Chair

Date: 4 November 2025

David Morris

Secretary

Date: 4 November 2025

Independent Examiner's report on the unaudited financial statements of Shropshire Family History Society

Our accounts are currently being examined by our Independent Examiner and this report will be published, along with the Annual Report and Accounts in our January Newsletter.

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30 September 2025

	30/09/2024	30/09/2025	Notes
Receipts	£	£	
Subscriptions	8,163	8,145	
Gift Aid	1,059	1,763	Gift Aid in period is for two claims (covering prior year and part of current one)
Interest on Bank and Investment Account	3,348	3,734	
FHF Quarter sessions	568	542	
Profit on Sales - see below	231	148	
Donations	842	178	
Miscellaneous	123	90	
Total receipts	14,334	14,600	
Payments			
Journal Creation, Printing and Postage	6,474	4,146	Change of provider during period who now does both print and distribution for SFHS which reduced costs.
Depreciation	518	412	See assets sheet
Room Hire	45	95	
Zoom fees	171	330	Changed to annual subscription with payment in advance.
Mailchimp Fees	238	251	
Storage hire	550	600	
Subscriptions	458	386	
Website expenses	2,874	5,029	Includes WIX fees subscription with payment for 3 years in advance and cost of new website.
Postage, Printing and Stationery	76	94	
Lecture Fees & Expenses	800	827	
Insurance	238	238	
Travelling expenses	10	417	
Archive Costs	717	333	Only a few claim travel expenses for visiting the archives.
Equipment	0	40	
Miscellaneous	19	0	
Project funding	0	600	Contribution to Friends of the Red Church signage.
Total payments	13,188	13,798	
Surplus for year	1,146	802	

Shropshire Family History Society

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2025

	30/09/2024	30/09/2025
Fixed Assets	£	£
Per Schedule below	1,734	1,322
Current Assets		
Stock of Publications at Cost	255	255
Current account & cash	6,453	3,933
Bank Deposit Accounts		
Hampshire Trust Bank	15,630	16,438
Lloyds Deposit Account	16,772	16,922
United Trust Bank	54,673	57,449
	95,517	96,319
Less Current Liabilities		
Sundry creditors	0	0
	<u>95,517</u>	<u>96,319</u>
Funding		
Opening Balance	94,371	95,517
Change in year	1,146	802
	<u>95,517</u>	<u>96,319</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>95,517</u></u>	<u><u>96,319</u></u>

Fixed assets movement

2023/24	Additions	Depreciation	Loss on sale	2023/24
1,734	0	412	0	1,322
<u>1,734</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>412</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,322</u>

Lorna Emms (Treasurer)

On behalf of Committee

Date: 4 November 2025

Independent examiner's report on the unaudited financial statements of Shropshire Family History Society

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Shropshire Family History Society ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general instructions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts as set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Fairchild BA FCMA CGMA Chartered Management Accountant

Date: 16 November 2025

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 30 September 2025

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on a Payments and Receipts basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance.

b. Tax reclaims on donations, gifts and subscriptions

Gift Aid is claimed when there is a valid declaration from the donor and is included in receipts when the claim is settled by HMRC. Any Gift Aid amount recovered is considered to be part of that donation, gift or subscription.

c. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

d. Trustee expenses

During the year expenses totaling £1,773 (2023/24 £1,204) were paid to Trustees to reimburse them for administration costs e.g. postage, travel expenses, Zoom fees etc. incurred on behalf of the Charity.

e. Depreciation policy

Provision for depreciation of fixed assets held by the Society is made at rates calculated to spread the cost less residual value of each asset evenly over its expected useful life. The rates applied are as follows:

Current year purchase	10% if purchased between 01/10 & 31/03, 0% if purchased after 01/04.
General depreciation	20% of previous year's closing Net Book Value

A Mystery Symbol

This is a query from Barry Deakin who was asked, when working on the Archive Helpdesk, if he knew what this symbol was. It was found in Longden Road Cemetery, Shrewsbury by a volunteer who cleans graves.

Does anyone know anything about it? If so please email editor@sffhs.org.uk and I will let Barry know and also provide the answer in the next edition.



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

10037	Clive	Whittall	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10038	Peter	Ramsden	Macclesfield, Cheshire
10039	Colin	Hall	Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada
10040	Linda	Harrison	Leeds, West Yorkshire
10042	Amanda	Plimmer	Wellington, New Zealand
10043	Camille	Plimmer	Wellington New Zealand
10044	Louisa	Sankey	Church Stretton, Shropshire
10045	Paul	Hancock	Swansea, Wales
10046	Cheryl	Hancock	Swansea, Wales
10047	Nigel	Hinton	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10048	Robin	Benn	Edinburgh, Scotland
10049	Juliet	Erridge	Edinburgh, Scotland
10050	Samantha	Ede	Horsham, West Sussex
10051	Carol	Mladinich	Jefferson, USA
10052	David	Floyd	Witney, Oxfordshire
10053	Marilyn	Floyd	Witney, Oxfordshire
10054	Peter	Robinson	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10055	Kerrie	Beard	Brighton, Queensland, Australia
10056	Scott	Walton	Parkwood, WA, Australia
10057	Kevin	Hawkins	Birmingham, West Midlands
10058	Michael	Edwards	Caldicot, Monmouthshire
10060	Gayle	Atkinson	Queensland, Australia
10061	Andrew	Hall	Preston, Lancashire
10062	Deidre	Collins	Devizes, Wiltshire

10063	Saeed	Purcell	Irving, TX, USA
10064	Jacqueline	Bartrum	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire
10065	Martin	Ridgway	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
10066	Jennifer	Semmence	West Milton, Dorset
10067	Suzie	Ball	Atlanta, Georgia, USA
10068	Tim	Avery	Rugby, Warwickshire
10069	Martin	Davies	Birmingham, West Midlands
10070	Adele	Recklies	Brooklyn, New York, USA
10072	Andrew	Blockley	Tonbridge, Kent
10073	Victoria	Storey	Brookland, Kent
10074	Emma	Perry	Banbury, Oxfordshire
10075	Ann	Roden	Wellington, Shropshire

Deaths

We have been notified of the death of the following member and we offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Pugh Mrs S E, (5311); Shrewsbury, Shropshire, a previous Committee member for the Society.

From the Editor

Our call for a volunteer to take on the role of Editor for our Journal has sadly not yet seen anyone step forward. In discussion with the Committee, and with their support, I have agreed to continue in the role for now, in the hope that someone will think about taking it on in the coming months. If you are interested please do get in touch.

In the meantime, please keep sending in your articles and any suitable images you may have. It really does make my task so much easier if there are lots of items to include and makes for interesting and varied content for our members to read.

Karen Hunter, Editor, editor@sfhs.org.uk

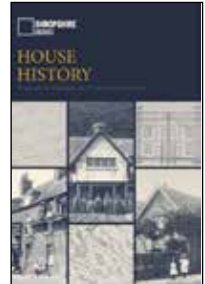
House History Guide

Books for Sale

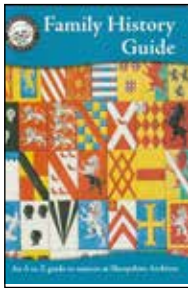
House History Guide

In our September Journal we mentioned this guide, which can be purchased from Shropshire Archives. It is an essential and practical guide to tracing your house history using sources at Shropshire Archives and has been updated for 2025.

We now have some copies which can be purchased and delivered by post, at a cost of £7, including postage and packing (within the UK).



Family History Guide: An A-Z of sources at Shropshire Archives



We also have some copies of this guide. While the guide is a little old and doesn't include the many useful sources now available online, it is still immensely useful. It gives information about all sorts of records from apprenticeship and assize records to wills and the window tax. Great for adding information to your family tree. This is available by post for £5.50 including postage and packing (within the UK).

If you would like a copy of either of these publications please email sales@sfhs.org.uk with your name, address details and which books you would like to purchase. We will then contact you with details of how to make payment, which will need to be via bank transfer.

Although both guides focus on resources available at Shropshire Archives they still offer suggestions for resources you could check out with other local Archives if you are researching at places outside Shropshire.

Editor: I know that Reg and Ruth Wilford have researched the history of their house and gave us a fascinating talk some time ago about their findings. I wonder if any of our other members have done so? Perhaps if you have you might be willing to share your findings or your methods so others who are interested can learn from it.

Talks Programme 2025/2026

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>
20 January 2026	SFHS AGM followed by A-Z of Genealogy: an alphabetical journey through some less well-known sources <i>In this presentation, the author of the classic handbook 'Family Historian's Enquire Within' introduces a variety of less well-known sources, that can be used to enhance and extend a pedigree or provide valuable context for the lives the family.</i>	<i>Janet Few</i>
17 February	What Can My DNA Do For Me? <i>Suitable for genetics newcomers and intermediate DNA researchers alike, this session provides a bigger-picture overview of how DNA can help your family history flourish and focuses on three key benefits it can bring to your research: validation, extension and connection. Embrace the double helix now and you'll never look back!</i>	<i>Dr Sophie Kay</i>
17 March	Railway Ancestors <i>Railways were one of the largest employers and many companies left a legacy of staff records. This talk examines how those records help piece together the career of a railway worker using a variety of records up to nationalisation in 1948.</i>	<i>Ian Waller</i>

All these talks are online via Zoom, and the link for each will be sent out by email to our members about two weeks before each talk.

Letter to the Editor

Barry Deakin's regular reports from the helpdesk give members a good idea of the tremendous variety of work the volunteers do at the Archives. But do they keep enquirer's contact details so that Journal readers who read the reports and who have information or ideas which might assist the researchers are able to have an input?

Reference is made in the September 2025 Journal to two Australian ladies seeking information about the Rev. E. B. Corbet.

Mr Askew Roberts retired as editor of the Oswestry Advertiser in 1868 (for detail see *Victorian Text Messaging in Journal* 37, Part 2, page 69) and in that year published his 'Red Book'. This turned out to be a 'one-off' comprehensive directory of the Oswestry area, including much information also for the Ellesmere and Welshpool districts.

Askew Roberts' 'Red Book' (which must have been compiled in 1867) shows that the incumbent at the New Church (Holy Trinity, Oswestry) was the Rev. Frederick Cashell who lived at nearby Trinity Parsonage, Salop Road, Oswestry and that his curate was the Rev. Corbett. No forename or address is given for Rev. Corbett, so maybe he was newly arrived and possibly had rooms in the Parsonage?

Information from the 1881 census would no doubt help with this. Kelly's directory 1885 shows that the Rev Corbett had left Oswestry before then.

Isaac Watkin's excellent book 'Oswestry' has several interesting pages about the construction of Holy Trinity Church and about the Rev Cashell M.A. who was vicar there for 35 years prior to his death on 1 January 1887, aged 67 years.

If the Australian ladies are contactable I'm sure that the volunteers who help researchers at Oswestry Library would be willing to search the Oswestry paper for information about Rev. Corbett.

John H Davies, 2406

Editor: I don't often get letters sent to me for items which can be included in the Journal but I was delighted to hear from John in September. I wonder if our helpdesk volunteers do offer to seek further information or perhaps suggest visitors register and post their query on our website Forum.

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.

Rabbit hot, rabbit cold!

The verse in Maggie Littlejohn's article in the September 2025 Journal about using meat to the best advantage reminded me of a verse concerning rabbit meat.

Older members will well recall the gruesome suffering caused by myxomatosis in the 1950s which devastated the population of British wild rabbits. but prior to that time the diet of a large proportion of the poor and middle classes had relied on rabbit meat as the following verse indicates:

*Rabbit hot and rabbit cold,
Rabbit young and rabbit old,
Rabbit tender, rabbit tough,
Thank the Lord I've had enough!*

Maggie's article is full of information and clues and it is to be hoped that members with knowledge of the areas she refers to may be able to help with her research.

John D Davies, 2406

Copy Dates

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

Advertisements

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

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

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

Other appointments

Membership

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

Reference Material

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

Sales

Monumental inscriptions and Microfiche	Ruth Wilford	copies@sfhs.org.uk
House History Books		sales@sfhs.org.uk

Projects

Original P.R. and 1851 Census Microfiche (Shropshire)	Christine Abram	research.queries@sfhs.org.uk
Help Desk Volunteers at Shropshire Archives	Gill Lewis	archives_volunteers@sfhs.org.uk
Shropshire Family History Hub	Simon Davies	hub@sfhs.org.uk

Online Groups

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

Back cover: St.Bartholomew's Church at Tong, taken from the front cover of our Journal back in December 1985



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