

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists

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Volume 35 Number 1 Mar 2025

VACANCIES

Society of Genealogists

The Society is seeking new Trustees and a new Chair

This is an exciting time for the Society of Genealogists. With membership income rising and funds available for development, it now seeks to shape its future through a new strategic plan.



Core to that plan is the Society's desire to continue to play a central role in the development of genealogy in the UK, for professionals and amateurs alike.

The Society is always interested in hearing from individuals who would like to join as trustees. All we ask of trustees is that they bring their knowledge and passion to the challenge. In return, we can offer an opportunity to help shape the future of the Society.



'The Society is always interested in hearing from individuals who would like to join as trustees'

The Society welcomes applications from anyone who has relevant skills and experience but the Society has a particular need to strengthen its collective knowledge in the areas of archive management, law and governance. The full list of desired skills and experience can be found on the website: www.sog.org.uk/vacancies

As well as seeking to fill a small number of trustee spaces, we are also looking for a trustee who is interested in, and ideally has experience of, chairing. The Chair of the Trustees may serve a maximum of three terms of two years before being required to step down. Following the successful tenure of the present Chair, Graham Walter, the Society is seeking to recruit the next Chair commencing from the AGM in July 2025.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to recruitment@sog.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the positions before applying, please contact Philip Spedding, CEO, at philip.spedding@sog.org.uk

www.sog.org.uk/vacancies



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it be woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?” March Tullius Cicero, from *Orator* (46 BC)

Records of history, and the information they contain, are obviously the lifeblood of genealogy. Put simply, its pursuit requires only two things; that records exist and there is access to them.

Fortunately we live in a country where the existence of important original records is generally lauded. When they are not, as in the recent case of the Ministry of Justice’s proposal to destroy original probate records, voices are suitably raised in protest, with no voice louder or clearer than that of the Society’s. I am delighted to report that on the issue of the probate records, it worked and the Ministry backed down.

One of the core arguments given in that protest was that digital records can never be thought as permanent replacements for originals. As Cliff Webb highlights in his article in this magazine exploring Freedom admissions in the Chamberlain’s court, errors of interpretation, as well as errors of processing, do arise when records are digitised, damaging their value to those seeking to use them.

Although, to be fair, as Sally Dean Hamblen’s article also underlines, errors can also come from humans, when those writing the original records simply get it wrong!

Once the future of a record has been secured, the next challenge is to ensure that genealogists have access to it. The nature of access has obviously experienced a seismic shift since the introduction of the internet and subsequent digitisation and in so many ways, the practice of genealogical research today is dramatically different from what it was 27 years ago when Ancestry.com was being formed. And more change will undoubtedly come, pre-eminently through the growing use of AI. Balancing this is the fact that there is no grand digitisation project on the horizon to drive things forward, as in the past. The next English and Welsh census, for example, is not due to be released until 2051.

All of which poses an interesting question for the Society as it looks to shape what its future direction of travel needs to be. Central to that must be a clear-eyed understanding of what information people will want to find in the years to come, how will they want to access it and what role should the Society play in delivering that?

This will be the subject of much discussion in the Society over the next few months, as part of our broader strategic review, and if you have any thoughts, ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch (philip.spedding@sog.org.uk).

Philip Spedding
CEO



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Cover picture: *Dividend Day at the Bank of England*, by George Elgar Hicks, 1859. Many owners of government stock went to the Bank of England in person to collect their dividends - the interest - which were paid twice a year. © Bank of England.

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THE BANK OF ENGLAND ARCHIVE

AN INTRODUCTION FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

Malcolm Smart

Introduction

Many family historians will have pondered financial questions of their ancestors. As with any questions, it makes sense to explore what the main relevant archives have to offer. A key one for financial records is the Bank of England's.

The fact that the Bank of England was privately owned from its formation in 1694 until its nationalisation in 1946 means that the records it holds are far more varied, and thus of wider interest to family historians, than might be expected for a central bank.

The Archive operates an 84-year rule on opening records and so this guide focuses on those up to the end of the 1930s. References to 'the Bank' refer to the Bank of England.

Background to the Bank of England and its records

The Bank was established in 1694 when, in return for giving a large loan to help the Government pay for its war with France, it became the Government's preferred bank. One of its main roles since 1715 has been in helping manage the national debt and, as part of this, in keeping the registers of who owned this debt (i.e. who had lent the government money) and paying the dividends due (the interest, typically paid twice a year).

We largely take it for granted that the UK has a national debt guaranteed by Parliament. However, its introduction after the 1688 Glorious Revolution was a radical innovation and a break from previous practice whereby State borrowing and repayment was under the sovereign's control. The experience of some sovereigns defaulting on their debts led lenders to demand high rates of interest. In

contrast, much of the national debt was from its outset 'funded', meaning that new debt could only be issued where an accompanying source of tax revenue was identified to pay the interest on the loan¹. As lenders' confidence that they would be repaid grew over the 18th century, Government was able to borrow at successively lower interest rates despite the national debt growing from about £18 million in 1700 to £893 million by 1815.

This increase in the national debt, though necessitated by the need to pay for successive wars, was enabled by the growing wealth of the middling class. The limited range of 'safe' options open to savers (many commercial banks did not pay interest on deposits until the early 19th century) meant there was a growing demand from the public to hold government debt (stock). More specifically, there was a growing demand for types of stock which could both be readily bought and sold and which paid a predictable dividend.

By the mid-18th century there was a narrowing of the types of government stock most commonly issued. Various existing annuities were combined into 'consolidated' stock and, as the government's credit rating improved, the interest paid was 'reduced'. From the 1750s most debt was issued in the form of '3 per cent "Consols" and the '3 per cent Reduced' consols. Although both were perpetuities - neither specifying a date when the amount borrowed would be repaid - this did not matter to their buyers who could easily sell their stock to someone else. Indeed, until the early Victorian period, Consols and other forms of government debt comprised most of the stock traded on the London Stock Exchange.

Although the risk of government defaulting on its debts was low, changes in the market price of government stock meant holding it was not without risk. When governments needed to borrow more -

usually to fund wars - they had to encourage more lenders by paying them more. Because the interest rate on many types of debt was fixed, government sold newly issued debt at a lower price, which reduced the price of all existing debt. While this fall in the market price increased the return - or 'yield' - to those who bought stock at that price³, it meant that those who had bought stock at the previous, higher market price, could end up having to sell it at a loss.

Some buyers of government stock held it for many years and lived in part off the dividends paid twice a year. Because different stock paid their dividends in different months, people who wanted a more even income would often hold more than one type of stock. For example, a holder of 3% Consols may also own 3% Reduced consols.

Whereas the Bank issued new debt on behalf of the Treasury, it also managed stock issued by a body set up in 1786 to reduce the national debt: the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. To reduce the amount of perpetual debt in circulation, from 1808 the Commissioners periodically offered attractive annuities to the owners of perpetual debt, which could only be paid for with at least £100 of face value of those perpetuities (that is, the annuity was received in exchange for e.g. 3% Consol stock). These annuities paid out either for 'one or more lives' or for a fixed number of years - 'term of years' - often between 20 to 30. The life annuities

are of more interest to genealogists. When purchasers nominated more than one life, the annuity paid out until the longer-lived nominee died⁴.

Although in principle there was no minimum amount of government stock that could be owned, in practice there was. This was because of the transaction costs associated with registering the newly purchased stock, which could only be done in person at the Bank. These costs could be higher for those who lived outside London because, in addition to paying the broker's fees to make the purchase, the Bank required new owners of government stock who could not register it in person formally to appoint a nominee to complete this task. Thus, in addition to any fees a nominee may have charged, they also had to have a power of attorney, adding an additional cost to the stock purchaser. The 3% Consol stock registers for the 1790s suggest that, at that time, this minimum transaction was around £10 to £25. Although smaller holdings appear in the ledgers, these may either just be reinvested dividends or denote where a stockholder had died and their stock has been split among multiple beneficiaries. Transaction costs necessarily put government stock ownership out of the reach of many and tended to skew ownership among smaller investors towards those resident in or close to London.

As noted earlier, the Bank was privately owned. Although the Government was a key customer, until the late 19th century, it was not the Bank's only one.

DE-MYSTIFYING THE JARGON

The Bank's Archives use terms which may be unfamiliar to some readers.

The term '*stock*' is used by the Bank for two different financial assets:

- the shares, known as Bank Stock, that before 1946 belonged to the Bank's owners; and
- the debt that individuals had bought (or - put differently - what they had lent the government² or other organisations).

One of the attractions of investing in debt stock was that it could be easily bought and sold. To signify changes in the supply and demand for stock, it had a *market price*. This usually differed from the stock's *face value*.

Where the market price equalled the face value it was said to be *at par*. All the values given in the Bank's government stock registers are for face value because that is what the interest or *dividend* was calculated on.

Annuities were stock that paid annual dividends but did not repay the initial sum borrowed (the principal) at maturity. They could be terminable (finite) annuities, either lasting for one or more lives or for a fixed number of years, or paid indefinitely (*perpetual debt*).

The Bank not only recorded changes in the ownership of central government and its own stock but also acted as a *registrar* for other organisations who borrowed on the London financial market.

Like other commercial banks, the Bank allowed private firms and individuals to open accounts with it (known as *drawing accounts*). This would largely have been restricted to London residents (or frequent visitors) until the Bank opened its network of regional branches from the late 1820s. Many of these regional customers were companies. Private individuals living outside London also kept drawing accounts in the branches, at least some of which appear to have been used in conjunction with their ownership of government stock, providing accounts into which the Bank could pay the twice-yearly dividends.

In addition to those who sought to invest their savings in government stock, there are other, less obvious, reasons an ancestor may have had a government stock account at the Bank:

- the government may itself have made payments to individuals in the form of readily sellable stock. This, for example, was how some of the slavery ‘compensation’ payments were made⁵. Or, conversely:
- the government may have required a person who owed it money, including taxes, to pay it by purchasing debt.

The Records

The individual records are described in some detail within the Bank Archive’s online catalogue. The Archive staff are extremely helpful and, whereas they cannot undertake work on behalf of family historians, if you cannot find what you are looking for, you are welcome to contact them with a brief summary of your research and they will advise. Contact details are available on the Archive’s website.

The Bank’s Owners - its stockholders

A list of the Bank’s first 1,520 owners - those individuals who provided the Bank’s original 1694 loan to the government - is available for download from the Archive’s website⁶. The Bank Archive’s items M5/48-65 list the subsequent owners of Bank stock who were qualified to vote from 1701 to 1938⁷. However, to be eligible to vote Bank stockholders needed to own at least £500 of stock (a value which did not change from 1694 to 1946), meaning that these lists exclude the owners of smaller amounts.

More comprehensive therefore are the ledgers of Bank Stock, which also tell you how much stock a holder (or holders - there were also joint accounts) owned and when they bought and sold that stock. These are in M1/1 for 1694 and M1/6-9 for 1697 (indexed in M1/10), and contain the subscribers’ signed name, address, social status/occupation and amounts. Unusually, these ledgers were filled in by the subscribers themselves (or their attorney for those not able to attend in person) meaning they can be harder to read than the Stock Ledgers compiled by a Bank clerk. Perhaps because of this problem of legibility, the Bank compiled separate lists of stock owners for 1694 and 1697 which are in AC27/382. All subsequent Bank Stock holdings, including those recording dividends paid, are in items AC27/383-615.

Bank of England personnel records

The Archive holds comprehensive records on the Bank’s staff, its Governors and Directors from its earliest days. As with any UK archive, there are time limits on how soon the most recent personnel records can be viewed. What follows focuses on staff employed up to the late 1930s. Personnel records tend to be quite dispersed because, until the Bank created a central human resources department (the Establishment Department) in 1932, individual departments were responsible for keeping their own staff records⁸.

The Bank website has a list of all its Governors (and their Deputies) and its Chief Cashiers from 1694⁹. It also has digital copies of the contemporary lists from 1694-1935 of its Directors (who had to own at least £2000 of Bank Stock and were elected to oversee and manage the Bank’s business)¹⁰.

The catalogue has numerous references to staff files, but the main name-rich staff records are:

- Annual House Lists, giving the names of Bank officials and their offices, in 6A26/1-4 for 1716-1725, then in series E20 for the period 1743 to 1938, but with some gaps.
- A booklet listing the clerks and other staff 1695-1836 in M6/114.
- Salary ledgers for HQ staff from 1718 to about 1900, but with some records to 1936, containing

details of individuals' pay and positions throughout their careers in the Bank, in series E41.

- Salary ledgers for Branch staff up to 1906 in series E47.
- Staff receiving pensions from 1735-1871 in E46/1 and from 1877-1908 in E44.
- Staff Notices in series E30 are more detailed from about 1920 and, among other things, cover appointments, promotions and awards, retirements and deaths.

Recruitment records may include some unsuccessful as well as the successful applicants:

- Potential Bank clerks included those nominated by Directors. Candidates were then examined before a Specialist Committee (whose minutes appear in series M2 and M5). Those candidates nominated by Directors between 1756 and 1851 are listed in M5/686-690, which give each candidate's name, date of application, their examination and the name of the Director who nominated them. For the brief period 1799-1800, where the sons of clerks applied for the Governor's recommendation, the books also give their fathers' names.
- The reports from the clerks' recruitment examinations for the period 1799 to 1872 are contained in a series of (indexed) memorandum books in M5/406-415. E45 contains memoranda books for staff who applied to join the Bank from 1870 to the 1930s.

Items which list contacts or relatives of Bank staff and staff members' wider interests are:

- Annuitytants (staffs' widows) benefiting from the Directors' Charitable Fund for 1881- 1920 in E25.
- The ledgers listing the Clerks' Securities for 1745 to 1844 in M5/700-701. To deter fraud, from 1700 each clerk had to provide one or more guarantors to put up a £1000 bond on behalf of that clerk. Clerks had to notify the Bank of deaths or other changes in their guarantors. Although these ledgers do not name all the clerks employed during this 100-year period, for those included it gives the names and address of their guarantors and amounts of the bonds put up, and changes in guarantors. These ledgers may give insights into a clerk's wider social circle. As may:

- A ledger detailing the outside business interests of Bank staff from 1809-41 in M5/691. The interests listed were wide-ranging, for example: a tobacconist, wax chandlers, a glover, a collector of parish rates, and numerous wine and other merchants.
- Staff magazines provide information on staff in the 20th century, including obituaries, retirements, wedding notices, sporting interests etc. The Old Lady (in series E8) was published from 1921 to 2007 while The Britannia Quarterly (in series PW1), published from 1919 to 1993, was a sporting and social diary for the Bank of England Printing Works at St Luke's in Old Street.

Private customer drawing accounts at the Bank

Drawing accounts were opened at the Bank in London in the Cashier's Department's Private Drawing Office. As already noted, whereas up to the mid-1820s many of these will largely have been for individuals and companies based in London and the home counties, from 1826 drawing accounts were opened in the Bank's network of 14 branches in select commercial and manufacturing towns.

Drawing account holders could deposit and withdraw money from these accounts. These transactions "can shed light on previously unknown relatives, associates and contacts, such as patronage of a particular artist or craftsman"¹¹.

Although the indexes go up to 1938, the account ledgers have only been retained up to 1900.

- C98/1-2511 comprise customer drawing account indexes;
- C98/2512-4795 customer drawing account ledgers (including some company accounts);
- C98/4796-6422 drawing accounts for named companies.

Customer drawing account ledgers also exist for the branches, namely: Birmingham (in series C102, from 1827), Bristol (C104, from 1827), Exeter (C107, 1827-1834), Gloucester (C108, from 1826), Hull (C106, from 1834), Leeds (C125, from 1827), Leicester (C133, 1844-1872), Liverpool (C128, from 1828), Manchester (C143, from 1826), Newcastle-upon-Tyne (C111, from 1828), Norwich

(C113, 1829-1852), Plymouth (C114, from 1834), Portsmouth (C115, from 1834), and Swansea (C122, 1826-1859). Two additional branches were opened in London: the Law Courts Branch at Temple Bar (C109, from 1881) and the Western Branch in Waterloo Place (C124, from 1855).

The Bank also made short-term loans to some small private companies and even individuals. Records of these loans are contained in the Bank's general ledgers (series ADM7) up to 1844 and in series C62 from 1844 to 1914. Series F11 has the legal papers for these. When lenders - banks and companies, rather than individuals - subsequently went bankrupt while owing the Bank money, the paperwork is in series F12 for the period 1824 to 1905.

UK Government stock ledgers

The bulk of the ledgers recording the ownership of government stock are in the series AC27. The ledgers are divided into alphabetical indexes (originally known as 'alphabets') and the stock ledgers themselves.

There are a great many types of stock, ranging from the lottery and numerous types of annuities of the early Georgian period, through the various Consols from the 1750s onwards, the 'Navy 5s' of the Napoleonic wars¹² to the recently opened ledgers for debt sold to help fund the First World War.

Each stock has its own ledgers, comprising both alphabet and stock ledgers. For some types of stock there may only be a couple of ledgers (e.g. the *3% Annuities 1745*, in AC27/160-162). However, for the most common (the *3% Consols*, from June 1752 to July 1889) there are over 1,400 ledgers (AC27/1379-2801) and 2,665 ledgers in series 20A29 for the First World War loans.

The information in the indexes tends to get more precise over time, notably as addresses became more specific. Ledgers up to the mid-19th century typically only record the place of abode for those living outside London and the street name for those living in London. Normally they also give an occupation or, for women, marital status. In this respect, the ledgers are not unlike poll books, but with the advantage that they also record women stockholders.

Where stock was held under multiple names (for example, where it was held in trust) usually only the first named individual is indexed (though the other joint account holders are named alongside that individual in both the alphabet and stock ledgers). The exception are the double-alpha indexes which, for a limited range of stock and time periods, list the second-named person on joint accounts.

For some types of government stock relevant information is also recorded in other record series. An example is the life annuities offered from the early 1800s by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. While the stock ledgers are in AC27, ledgers recording the 'lives' the annuities were nominated against and when these nominees died are in series C73. The records in C73 are not indexed and so some patience is needed in linking the nominees' records with the purchasers' stock records in AC27¹³.

The war loans in series 20A29 are interesting in that they were successfully marketed at the better-off among the working class. Although the vast bulk of the debt was purchased by financial institutions and already wealthy individuals, from 1917 there was an increase (admittedly from a near-zero base to only about 5%) in the proportion of account holders who described themselves as being 'skilled labour or trades', many of whom lived in the north of England and in Scotland.

Stock Ledgers of other debt for which the Bank acted as a registrar

The Bank not only recorded changes in the ownership of central government and its own stock but also acted as a 'registrar' for others, recording the changes in ownership of stock for a range of foreign governments and companies who wanted to access London's financial market. The Bank had long acted as registrar for a small number of UK stocks (such as that of the East India Company, EIC) but the number of such stocks ballooned over the 19th century, reaching over 70 different types by 1900.

For many of the commercial and foreign government stocks, the Bank was not the only registrar and it has not retained the ledgers. The British Library holds the EIC's ledgers up to early

1849 and a search on The National Archives' (TNA's) Discovery catalogue may reveal other organisations' surviving ledgers.

Those 19th century stock ledgers which were retained are in AC27. These comprise British municipal Corporations (e.g. the London County Council, Birmingham), British colonial governments (e.g. India, Newfoundland) and various publicly owned Indian railway companies, all of whom issued tradeable debt.

Legal records of those who committed fraud against the Bank

Included in the Bank's lawyer's - Freshfield's - papers are those concerning prosecutions for a variety of crimes. Those committed by Bank staff between 1778 to 1894 are in series F6. Forgery by the general public was a common problem: those including bank notes, the false endorsement of Bills and forging wills to obtain the administration of the estates of various individuals, are in series F9, covering 1774-1894. Series F10 covers stock fraud during 1824-1896. F13 includes civil court cases from 1798 to 1903 other than for forged bank notes, while cases concerning the forgery of coins between 1804 and 1816 are in F24. These cases are catalogued by the name of the accused perpetrator so should be searchable using the catalogue's 'name' box in its advanced search.

Where prosecutions were successful, those convicted often sought clemency or financial help from the Bank while in prison. This correspondence, and that of some debtors or prisoners convicted of other offences unrelated to the Bank's interests but who nonetheless sought financial support from the Bank, is in series F25 for the period 1781 to 1844. These records are indexed in F25/14, a copy of which is available on the National Library of Australia's website¹⁴. Those for 1781-1827 have been indexed and transcribed by Palk who also provides a very good background to the correspondence¹⁵. The original letters in F25/1-13 are available digitally on the Bank Archive's website¹⁶.

Will Extracts

Although the Bank transferred the bulk of its will extracts to the Society of Genealogists (SoG) in the

1980s, it did not transfer all. It still holds in items M1/90-112 records on the wills of the Bank's owners who bequeathed their stock between 1694 and 1807. M1/114 contains (indexed) extracts of the wills of those who held 4% Annuities for the period 1717-1745 while series AC35 contains the wills and administrations of those holding Million Bank stock between 1704 and its dissolution in 1796. AC27/6537-6551 has will extracts for those holding Old South Sea annuities, dating from 1723 to 1854. These may clearly be of wider genealogical interest than the financial records to which they relate.

How might I know if a relative owned government or other stock?

Only a few of the Bank's records have been digitised. A visit to the Bank's Archive is thus likely to be necessary if you are confident it holds records on an ancestor.

As a rule, you are more likely to find an ancestor in the Archive if they were wealthy and, up to the opening of the branches in early 1830s, based in London or the home counties.

A prior question, therefore, is what preparatory research can be done before a visit, to be confident of finding relevant records?

Most obviously, you could try a 'named' search of the Bank Archive's own online catalogue. As already noted, some of the records for individuals - typically the legal records in series F but also papers relating to the more prominent Directors and senior staff - are catalogued by their name. However, only a tiny proportion of individuals named in the records are included in the catalogue so you should not give up hope if the catalogue fails to name an ancestor.

A search under 'Bank of England' in TNA's Discovery catalogue returns a very large number of references for archives across the UK. County Record Offices' family and solicitors' papers may include information on Bank or government stock holdings for prominent families (including many records that will not have been catalogued with 'Bank of England' in their title so will not necessarily be picked up by a simple search). TNA's online catalogue's Chancery series includes numerous court

cases where named plaintiffs have taken the Bank to court (and, occasionally, vice versa), though not all plaintiffs were necessarily stock or account holders. Similar cases were also brought before the Exchequer Court and, although TNA has not catalogued this court's records by the plaintiffs' and defendants' names, the indexes are available online¹⁷.

The online newspaper collections are likely to include references to the Bank's Governors and Directors. Similarly, contemporary newspapers are likely to have covered the court cases of those prosecuted by the Bank for fraud.

It is possible to find many of those who died (or went bankrupt or were declared insane) while owning government stock by an online search of the Bank of England 'will extracts' for the period 1717 to 1845 (available on Findmypast and SoG's online database). These comprise 58,000 individual records and cover all types of government stock¹⁸. However, by their nature, will extracts record what stock individuals owned either when they made their wills or at the end of their lives¹⁹ and do not include those who had owned and then sold government stock at other times in their life. Moreover, the indices are incomplete. After 1812, the Bank only accepted grants of probate from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury²⁰. Up to 1807 the will extracts were recorded by type of stock and the extract ledgers are missing for what by the end of the 18th century were the most numerous types of stock: 3% Consols and the 3% Reduced. This means that for the period up to 1807 you should not limit yourself to just the will extracts but also carefully check your family wills for any references to government and Bank stock.

Another source, which may include some who owned government and Bank stock at other times in their lives, are the books listing the owners of unclaimed stocks and dividends. The Bank produced the first of these in 1791, which listed dividends unclaimed from 1716 to 1780 and named approximately 20,000 owners by the type of stock, giving their name, abode, description (widow, gentleman, trade, etc.), the date when first dividend became payable and the number of dividends due. Shortly after publication of the 1791 list many stockholders claimed their dividends. While hard

copies of different years' editions are available in various libraries (including SoG's, and the Bank also has several in AC9), more useful are those available online and - critically - searchable by name²¹. In 1816 a law was passed which authorised the transfer to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt of stock on which no dividend had been claimed for 10 years. Lists were published naming the owners of the stock transferred: the British Library has eight volumes, at least one of which is available and name-searchable online²².

Finally, census returns occasionally record that a person is an 'annuitant'. Whereas this may indicate they are living off the dividends of annuity stock whose ledgers are in the Bank's Archive, there were other sources of life annuities, including those given privately. Without further evidence, information in a census return is unlikely by itself to provide sufficient grounds for visiting the Bank Archive.

Accessing and interpreting the Stock Ledgers

The following section uses one individual as a case study for showing both how to access the stock ledgers at the Bank and what the information in the ledgers may tell you.

The individual is Ann Smith. The Bank of England will extracts show she was a spinster living in Great James Street, Bedford Row, in Middlesex and who died owning Consols to a face value of £1,400. She had owned Consols since at least 1810 when her will was written. Probate was approved at Doctors' Commons in September 1812 and Bank staff transferred her stock holdings in October 1812 (see figure 1).

Ann's will extract (in common with those from 1807 onwards) is useful in that it not only shows the face value of the stock but also its price and so its market value at the time of her death. However, prices changed daily. Given that Ann's beneficiaries are likely to have either received and/or sold the stock some months after her death, it is important to check the stock's prevailing market value.

Knowing what type of government stock was owned and having an approximate date (in Ann Smith's case, both the date she drew up her will -

November 1810 - and the date her stock was transferred to her executors - October 1812 - are both relevant), it is possible to locate her account in the ledgers of the relevant stock in the Bank's Archive. This can be done using the Archive's online catalogue and by narrowing the search by date and stock type.

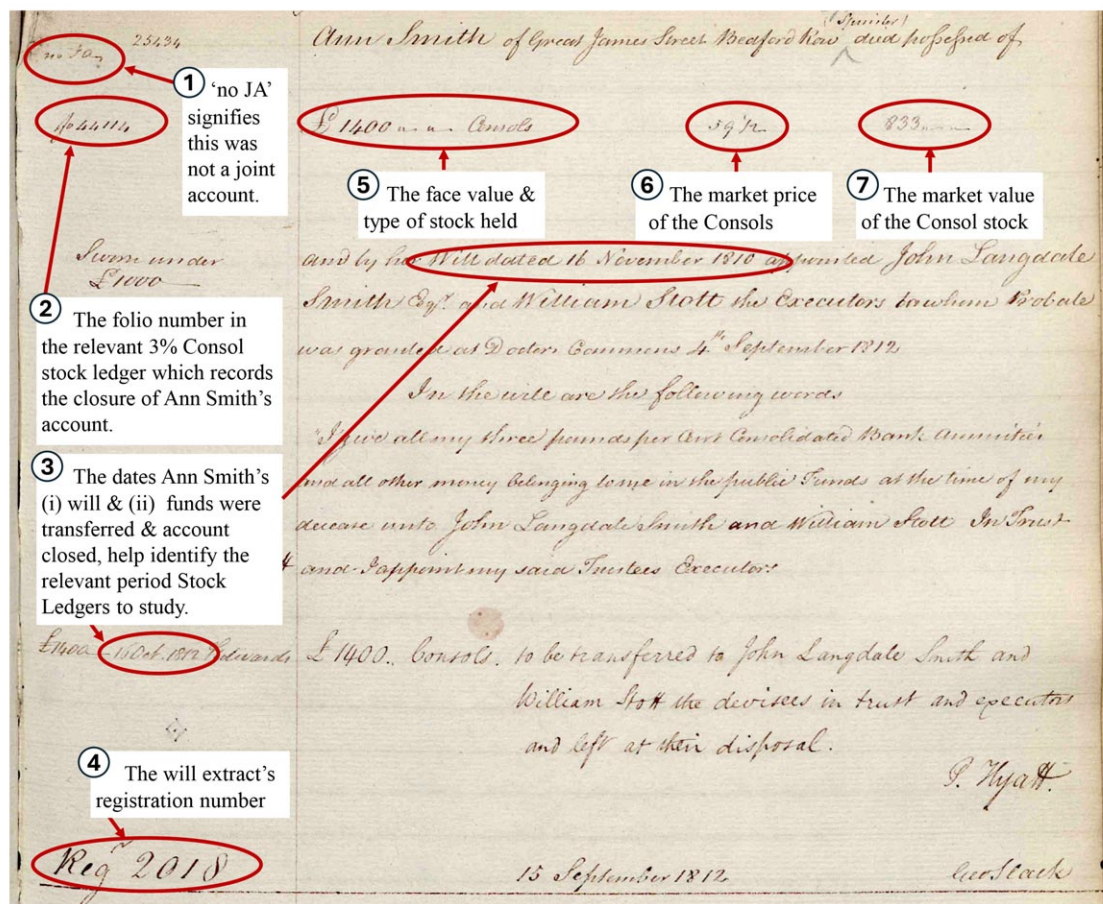
It is best to use the advanced search function, selecting that you want an index ledger (typing **index** in the top Any Text box) and narrowing the search further by typing *AC27** in the Reference box and giving a date range.

This search will still throw up many indices of different types of stock that were being held between 1810-12. You can ignore most, knowing

that Ann Smith's holdings were of 3% Consols (which appear in the catalogue as *STOCK LEDGER INDEX: CONSOLS £3%*).

Three stock ledger indices come up for the letter S for the period 5 Jul 1804 - 5 Jul 1812: SA, SE-SI and SO-SU. Bank indexing was unusual in that it did not index strictly alphabetically but rather by initial letter, then by consonant and only then by first vowel. So, Sackler and Swamp would appear in the first volume, SA. Smith will be in SI, meaning that for the period July 1804 to July 1812 the ledger you will need to order is AC27/1747.

Whereas it would perhaps make more sense to start with the SI index in AC27/1825 for the period July 1812 to July 1818 to locate the final ledger entry



Source: Society of Genealogists, Bank of England Will Extracts, 1717-1845

Figure 1 - Ann Smith's will extract

(which the will extract indicates should be on folio 44114), the following uses AC27/1747 to illustrate how to work both forwards as well as backwards through the stock ledgers.

Having ordered the relevant stock ledger index, found Smith and narrowed down to the correct Ann Smith, the next step is to note the folio number(s) next to her name (figure 2).

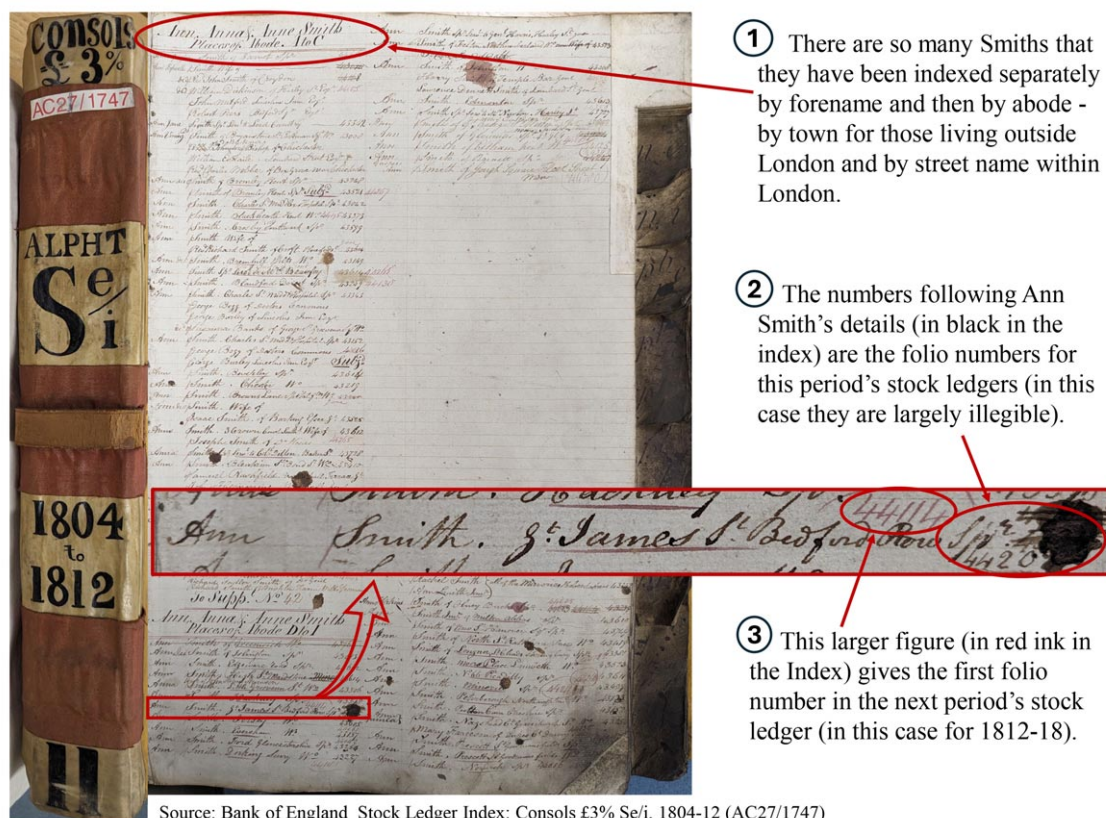
If Ann Smith had only made a few Consol transactions in the period 1804-1812, there might only be one folio number for her in the stock index. Figure 2 indicates that her Consol account was active enough for the transactions to be spread across three folios (the two earlier ones crossed out). Figure 2 also illustrates another problem: illegibility.

Fortunately, in this case, only the final digit of the last folio number is blotted, and so the relevant folio must be between 44200-44209 in the period 1804-July

1812. This page also indicates a second solution: the large folio number slightly above the others, and written in red ink, shows the first folio in next period's stock ledgers. Ordering the relevant stock ledger for the period from July 1812 should allow you to work backwards. Indeed, knowing this red folio number allows you to order the next period's stock ledger without having first to refer to that period's index.

Having found the folio number it is necessary to return to the Archive catalogue to find the relevant stock ledger. There are two SI 3% Consol stock ledgers for the 1804-1812 period. Clicking on the ledger number in the online catalogue will show the folio numbers contained in that ledger; in this case AC27/1790 contains folios 43800-44529 so is the relevant one to order.

The Consol stock ledgers for this period contain up to eight accounts per folio. An individual who was active in buying and selling stock may thus appear



on several folios in a ledger and the entries on each folio will give both the preceding and the following folio numbers²³.

Figure 3 shows that in Ann Smith's case she had made other transactions that appeared in an earlier folio for the period 1804-12. Folio 43692 appears in AC27/1789, along with two other folios. Collectively, these show that Ann Smith had held 3% Consols for several years, carrying stock with a face value of £700 over from the period 1798-1804 to which she had subsequently added stock in increments of up to £100. By tracing these folios backwards to the earlier ledger period(s) it would be possible to build up a picture of Ann Smith's changing stock portfolio, including whether she purchased her initial stock or received it by a transfer (possibly through an inheritance, just as her own stock was so transferred). Similarly, it is often possible to work forwards from a stock ledger, tracing how the portfolio changed. If, as in figure 3, the account is carried over into the following period, then the first folio number in that

new period will also be given in the individual's final folio in the current period's ledger.

In Ann Smith's case the first folio in the next period is 44114 for July 1812-1818 in stock ledger AC27/1877, as shown in figure 4. Folio 44114 not only gives the number of the last folio in the previous period (44208), but, because this folio reflects the closure of Ann Smith's account, the information in it ties back to the will extract in Figure 1, referencing the will extract's registration number (2018) and naming her two executors.

It is thought that the term 'Subjected' meant that the Bank clerks had complied with instructions in a will concerning how the stock was to be bequeathed. By contrast, the account following Ann Smith's on folio 44114 - Ann Singers' - states 'Not mentioned', which may suggest that she did not specifically refer to her stock holdings in her will, meaning the Bank had no instructions to transfer them to anyone other than her executors.

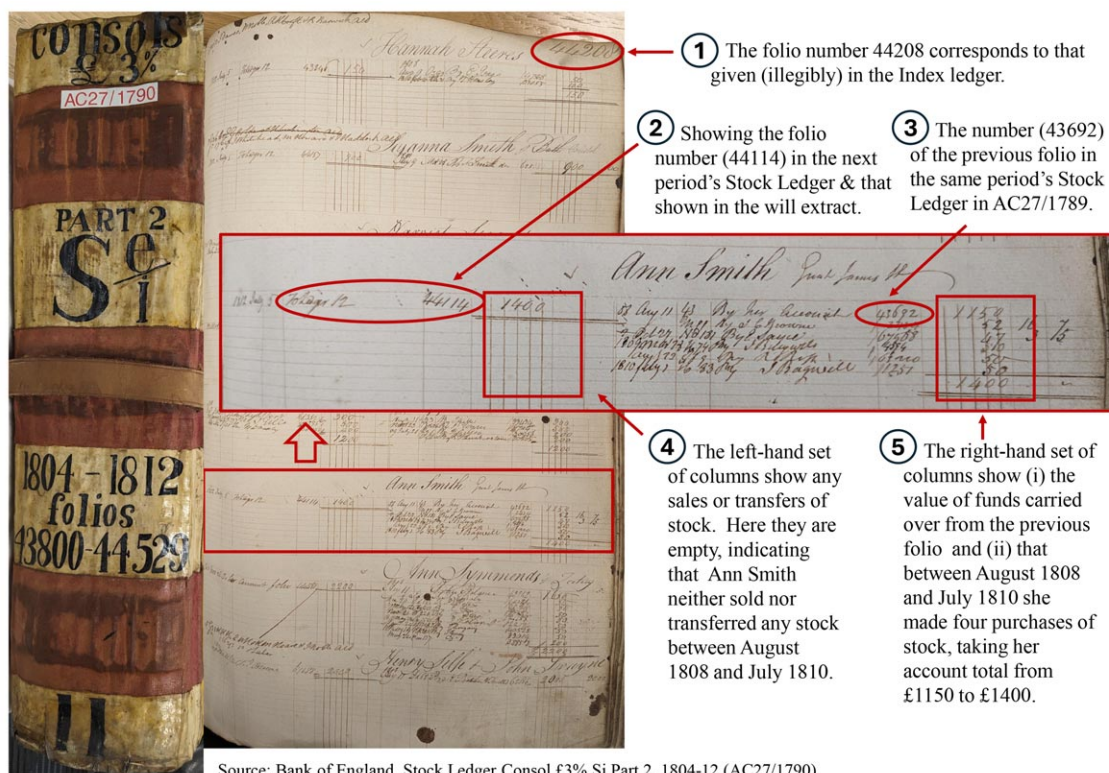


Figure 3 - Using the stock ledgers to understand holdings and transactions

Knowing the face value of the stock Ann Smith held each year allows us to calculate what dividend income she earned from it. For example, figure 3 shows that she held £1,400 from July 1810. This would have earned her £42 a year, a sum which had the same purchasing power as about £2,800 today²⁴.

However, as noted earlier, while the Bank stock ledgers show face value, it is necessary to know the market price to determine what Ann Smith's Consol stock was actually worth. As indicated in the will extract in figure 1, at Ann's death her stock was worth far less than £1,400, at only £833.

Fortunately, there are several sources for stock prices. By the late 18th century, newspapers increasingly printed the prices of Consols and other government stock (as well the prices of companies' stock, such as the South Sea Company, the EIC and the Bank of England). Many of these newspapers are now available online, including through the British Newspaper Archive (BNA) via Findmypast. One

good source is *Lloyd's List* which, until at least the mid-19th century, printed Government and company stock prices; copies are available free online for most of the years 1741-1826²⁵ and the BNA has it from 1801. If you are visiting the Archive, then it can call up contemporary copies of the *Course of the Exchange* listing daily prices for much of the 18th century²⁶. Average monthly Consol prices can also be calculated from a spreadsheet available on the Bank's website²⁷.

Using the Records - where may they take you?

If you are still wondering how the Bank's records can complement other evidence to deepen the understanding of an individual, then a good example is provided by work undertaken on the musician Handel²⁸. Financial information from the Bank and elsewhere was combined with other records (such as letters) to weave a far more nuanced understanding of the man and his times, helping answer questions other sources had posed. His

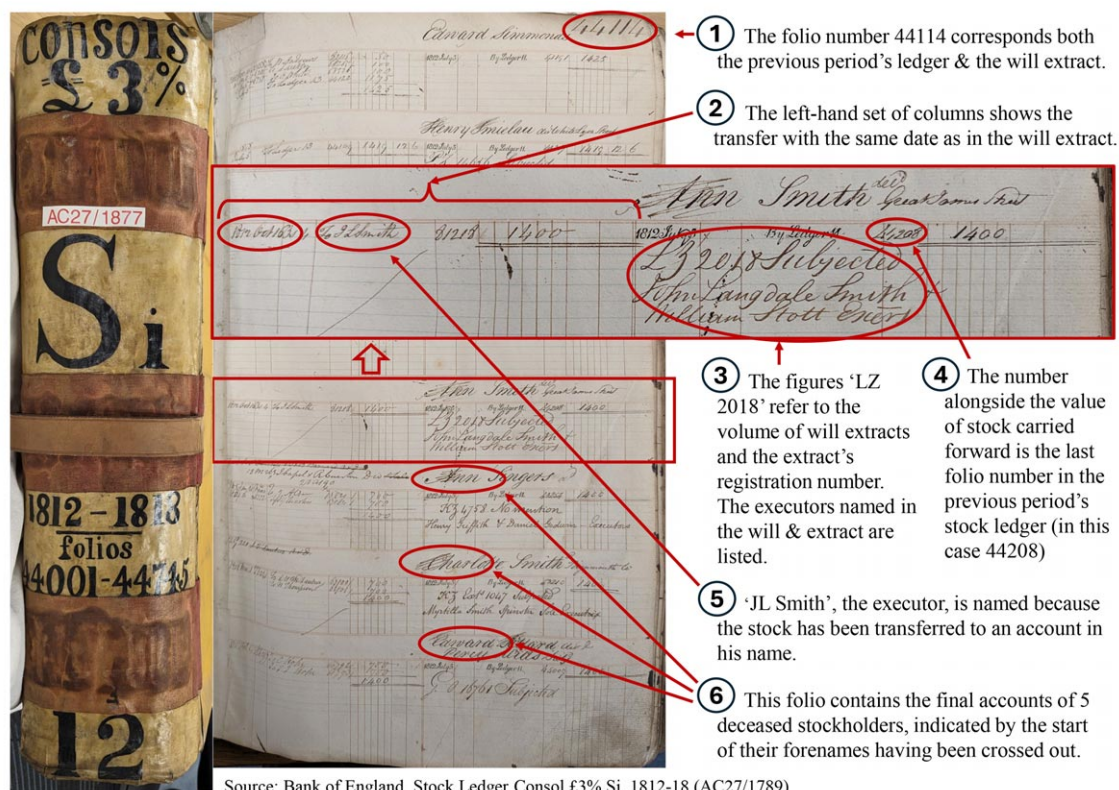


Figure 4 - Linking the stock ledgers and will extract of a deceased stockholder's account

holdings of government and South Sea annuities illustrate both the variability of his income over time and, given the value of his stock on his death, that he was careful in how he managed his finances.

I would like to thank the staff at the Bank Archive for their help both in improving this introductory guide and for retrieving the wide range of records consulted in its preparation.

Notes

1. Which is why from the 1690s onwards many new taxes emerged (such as the land, carriage, male servants and other assessed taxes) with which family historians will be familiar.
2. UK government stock has also gone by the names bonds, securities and gilts (short for Gilt-Edged Stock).
3. 3% Consols paid a constant annual dividend of £3 for every £100 of face value. If you bought these Consols at their face value of £100, then your 'yield' would be the same as the interest rate, at 3%. If, however, as in spring 1797, you bought Consols when the market price was only £50 for every £100 of face value, then you would still earn £3 for every £100 of face value, meaning your yield would be 6% (£3/£50). In theory, at any point in time different types of government stock should have roughly the same yield, meaning that e.g. the 5% Navy Blues issued during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars would have a higher market price (i.e. cost more to buy) than 3% Consols to compensate for their higher interest rate.
4. These nominees were initially required to be at least 35 years-old and born in the UK (48 Geo.III cap142) but this was dropped to 15 years in 1829 (10 Geo.IV cap24). In practice, many of the 1808 nominees were much older than the earlier minimum age.
5. Researchers at the Bank have documented these payments, including listing the recipients in a spreadsheet. See Anson M & MD Bennett (2022) *The collection of slavery compensation, 1835-43*. Staff Working Paper 1006, Bank of England, available at www.bankofengland.co.uk/working-paper/2022/the-collection-of-slavery-compensation-1835-43 (accessed 17 May 2024).
6. www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/archive/original-bank-subscribers/1694.pdf (Accessed 18 March 2024).
7. The Wellcome Trust has a copy of the list of Bank Proprietors qualified to vote in 1721 available online (to those registered with its library) and Society of Genealogist's library has a copy for 1891 [shelf TB/MR 14].
8. A collection of staff photographs is in the process of being catalogued. Archive staff can check for particular names where there is other evidence that the individuals worked at the Bank.
9. www.bankofengland.co.uk/about/people (accessed 15 May 2024).
10. www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive/directors-annual-lists-1694-1950 (accessed 21 May 2024).
11. Millard, S., Ulph, J. & Wilding, H. (2006) A New Direction for an Old Lady: An Overview of the Bank of England Archive, Its Work and Future Challenges, *Business Archives* Vol. 91, pp.44-59. Available at <http://public.bacs.daisy.websds.net/PDFFiles/Articles/91043.pdf> (accessed 17 May 2024).
12. If you want better to understand the wide range of types of stock available from 1715 up to the late Victorian period then a good introduction is *Fenn's Compendium of the English & Foreign Funds*, an 1883 edition of which is available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015051424573&seq=38> (accessed 6 May 2024).
13. The Bank's annuity records in C73 also have their counterparts in The National Archive's NDO 900 series. The latter contains the life annuity contracts that provided proof of nominees' ages and other genealogical information.
14. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1151823438/view> (accessed 19 March 2024).
15. Palk, D (ed) (2007) *Prisoners' Letters to the Bank of England 1781-1827*, London Record Society, Volume 42. Available online at www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42 (accessed 21 May 2024).
16. www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive/freshfields-prison-correspondence-1781-1840 (accessed 21 May 2024).
17. Under 'KR Orders' at <http://aalt.law.uh.edu> (accessed 23 May 2024).
18. The Indices to the will extracts published by SoG provide a good introduction to the records, as does Anthony Camp (2000) Bank of England will extracts, *Family Tree Magazine*, 16(7), May, pp.21-22.
19. In addition to those declared lunatics or bankrupt.
20. Though this may not have excluded many testators, particularly given the southern bias among those who owned government stock.
21. Various editions are available on googlebooks including those of 1800 and 1815. The 1791 edition is at www.google.co.uk/books/edition/The_Names_and_Descriptions_of_the_Propri/C7hjAAAACAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=inauthor:%22Bank+of+England%22&printsec=frontcover (accessed 17 May 2024).
22. The 1845 edition at <https://books.google.co.uk/books?vid=BL:A0020331240> (accessed 17 May 2024).
23. Figure 3 also shows names in the central column of the stock purchase section of Ann Smith's account (as would the sales section, had she sold or transferred any stock). Usually these names are just those of the jobbers the stock was purchased off and so not of genealogical use for researching Ann Smith.
24. The £42 is 3% of £1,400. The purchasing power figure is taken from www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator (accessed 31 July 2024) and compares 1810 and 2024 values.
25. www.maritimearchives.co.uk/lloyds-list.html (accessed 4 January 2025)
26. Often quoted alongside the various stocks is the price of omnium. Omnium was a composite asset, made up of different types of government stock in fixed proportions. You will not, therefore, find ledgers for omnium in the Bank's or other archives.
27. The spreadsheet available at www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/statistics/research-datasets/a-millennium-of-macroeconomic-data-for-the-uk.xlsx (accessed 13 August 2024) has in the worksheet M10 a series for Consol 'yields'. Consols paid a constant 3% dividend from 1753 to 1888, when it was cut to 2.75%, and to 2.5% in 1903. Yields can be converted to monthly prices by dividing the dividend by the yield. So, for January 1800 the yield of 4.97% gives a price of 3, $4.97 = 0.6$, meaning the market price was £60 for every £100 of face value of the stock.
28. <https://bankunderground.co.uk/2019/11/08/handel-and-the-bank-of-england/> (accessed 21 May 2024).

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AMBROSE PURCHAS, 16th CENTURY BREWER OF CAMBRIDGE, AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Fiona Ligonnet

At present the history of my North Yorkshire Purchas family starts with Ambrose Purchas, burgess and brewer of Cambridge, although it should be possible to delve further back in the 16th and perhaps 15th centuries. Just in the last few months fresh dates have emerged from the Saffron Walden and Thaxted (Essex) parish registers.

The spelling of the name has evolved over the years and in Ambrose's time it is often spelt Purkiss. There are several families of Purchas recorded in and around Cambridge, Thaxted and East Anglia and this article relates to the Purchas family who were settled in North Yorkshire by the middle of the 17th century.

Ambrose (I) was born c.1535 and died late in 1595, since his will¹ was proved on 19 January 1596. We do not know the maiden name of Alice, his first wife, only that she was buried at Saffron Walden, 'Alice Pancrase wife of Ambrose Pancrase buried' on 10 January 1585. He married secondly a widow, Helen (Ellen) Gybb, and the four sons of her first marriage, Jeremy, John, George and Adam, are mentioned in Ambrose's will.

By the first marriage to Alice, there were six sons, Thomas (I) baptised 1574 at St John, Thaxted. William 1575, Henry 1577, John 1580, Philip 1582 and Ambrose (II) 1583 were all baptised at St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden. Thomas survives and is well documented as Mayor and MP for Cambridge. William, Henry and Philip are all mentioned in their father's will of 1595; John must therefore have died before 1595. William's own will of 1634 survives. The son named Ambrose, listed as a minor in his father's will, is presumably the child born in 1583.

By Ambrose (I)'s second marriage to Helen Gybb, widow on 10 May 1585 at St Clement's, Cambridge, there are two known children, Edward baptised on 12 April 1586 and Mabel on 25 August 1588 both at St Clement's. Edward married Ann Thornton on 28 July 1611 at St Giles, Cambridge, and she died after 1663 since she is mentioned in the will of Elizabeth Barnes her half-sister-in-law. They had four children all baptised at St Clement's. Mabel married James Myton on 14 April 1611 at St Clement's and had 9 children of whom at least 4 survived as they are mentioned in the 1638 will of her half-brother Alderman Thomas (I) Purchas MP, 'Jas. Myton all he owes me, Mabel wife of Jas Myton £10' and the four children of Mabel 50 shillings each.

There is an Ambrose Purkish son of Ambrose of Cambridge, brewer, who was apprenticed to a London brewer in 1611. If this was Ambrose (II) then he would have been aged 28 years at the date of his apprenticeship which would be very old. 'Over the 17th and 18th centuries apprentices in London became younger - the age they started fell from nearly 18 in 1600 to 15.5yrs in 1800². Very late apprenticeships in other livery companies are recorded³ although not by the Brewers' Company. Given the very complete baptism records that exist for the children of Ambrose (I) it is unlikely that there was a second son named Ambrose. He would have had to be born in or later than 1589 but before the 1596 date of his father's probate. However, in over 100 years of researching this Purchas family of Cambridge, records for only two and not three Ambrose Purchas' have been found.

For the present we are unable to unravel the connection between the Ambrose (II) born in 1583 and the Ambrose listed in the register⁴ of the Worshipful Company of Brewers, London, as

'Purkish Ambrose, son of Ambrose Cambridge, Cam Brewer to Philip Allford 21 May 1611'. No record exists of this apprenticeship being completed. Apprenticeships were actually quite flexible at this period with fewer than 50%⁵ of private apprenticeships being completed. Although it seems unlikely that there were three brewers in Cambridge at this time, all named Ambrose we have no evidence to identify the Ambrose apprenticed to the Swan Brewery in London in 1611.

In the Annals of Cambridge⁶ there is reference to Ambrose (I) as one of the two Treasurers of the Town with a list of their disbursements for the year to Michaelmas 1594. This included payments to 'the Lord Chamberlyn's players, a present gyven to the Earle of Essex, and for carryenge away of dunge in dyvers places, when the Lords were here at lent commencement'. These accounts were submitted by Ambrose's widow and executrix, Ellen (Helen) since both he and his fellow Treasurer William Styth, had died in that year. Interestingly, the Lord Chamberlyn's Players played almost continuously in London between 1594 and 1603 unless an outbreak of the plague forced them to go touring⁷. They were the most important company of actors in Elizabethan and Jacobean England for whom Shakespeare wrote many of his plays.

Ambrose (II) is described as a brewer at his marriage to Mary Swanne on 8 October 1615 recorded at St Clement's. They had two daughters, Mabell baptised 25 October 1618, buried two days later, and Lydia baptised 30 December 1621. Lydia married Isaac Cox on 26 November 1646 dying just three years later in 1649 following the birth of her son Isaac. She had received an inheritance of £6.13s.4d under the will of her uncle Alderman Thomas (I) Purchas MP. Ambrose (II) next appears in the records living in the parish of St Giles where he was buried on 21 August 1631 and his will⁸ proved 13 September 1631.

At this period the Brewers Company had regulatory control over brewing and brewers and the price of ale/beer. Their jurisdiction only covered London and there is reference to Ambrose, son of Ambrose of Cambridge, only because he was apprenticed in May 1611 to a London brewer, Philip Allford, joint owner of the Swan Brewery in Whitechapel. Philip

Allford had died by 1614, when his widow remarried, so the apprenticeship may have continued under his widow or been cut short. The brewery must have been of some importance since his successor Samuel Cranmer⁹, who had married his widow Margaret, went on to acquire estates in Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire and was appointed a Sheriff of London and Middlesex.

Hops were introduced into English ale/beer-making for the first time in the early 1500s and this had a radical effect on ale production. The hop had been introduced by Flemish immigrants. Ale was very low in alcohol and drunk even by children since water was often brackish and bad tasting. 'In 1590 each man in England had a daily ration of a gallon of beer'¹⁰. With the introduction of hops into beer-making the strength increased, beer could be kept fresh longer and the profit for brewers went up and the number of breweries too. In 1564 Norwich had '5 common ale breweries and 9 common beer breweries'¹¹.

At this period breweries and brewing in Cambridge came under the jurisdiction of the University¹² and there may be mention of Ambrose (I) and his son Ambrose (II) in the records of the Vice-Chancellor's Court.

Ambrose (I) must have had an important role in Cambridge being a Burgess and elected a Treasurer in 1594. His eldest son Thomas (I) followed him as Treasurer in 1607 and was Auditor for 10 years between 1609 and 1636. There were still Purchas brewers in Cambridge in the 18th century although not descendants of either Ambrose.

Ambrose (I) wrote his will on 6 December 1595 shortly before his death. He left his eldest son and heir by his first marriage the sum of £5 to be paid one year after his death and his best bed 'to be delivered to him after my death'. To William Purkys, my sonne, the sum of £10: £5 one yeare and £5 two yeares after my death'. To his other sons: £8 to Henry, £5 each to Philip, Ambrose and Edward to be paid at the age of 25 (?) years.

To his daughter Mabell he bequeathed £5 and one milk bullock to be paid at the age of one and twenty or date of marriage.

His wife Helen was required to enter into an 'obligation for the bringing up of Philip Purkis, Ambrose (II) Purkis, Edward Purkis & Mable Purkis my children until ... attain lawful ages before specified in my will'. There were other bequests to the Gibbs family, the four sons and a grandson Thomas, from Helen's first marriage.

His wife Helen, Richard Joanes his ...and friend and Ambrose's son Thomas (I) to be his executors.

There is a record at St John's College¹³ showing that his widow obtained a license 'to alienate the lease of the Great Barn nigh to the Cross, Huntingdon Way', leased on 29 March 1592 by Ambrose from St John's College, Cambridge, for 20 years at a rent of 33s.4d. and 2½ quarters of wheat. Perhaps this was the site of the Purchas brewery and she wished to assign the lease on his death. No other mention has been found of the Purchas brewery in Cambridge although there should be records in the university library.

Thomas (I), baptised 25 May 1574, was the eldest son and heir of Ambrose (I)'s first marriage. He married firstly Tomarzin sometime prior to 6 December 1595 since she is mentioned in the will of her father-in-law Ambrose (I) above. She was buried at St Peter's, Cambridge, on 25 February 1615. There were seven children born of whom only the Rev.Thomas (II) and a daughter Sarah (who married Francis Sheldrake) survived to leave any record. Perhaps unusually, their fifth child is recorded in the parish burial register for St Peter, Cambridge, as (unnamed) 'Purcas, buried 1st February 1606. Notes: the young child of Thomas Purcas being dead borne.'

Thomas (I) married secondly Elizabeth Keye, widow of ...Cripps, in 1627 and there was no issue of this marriage. Elizabeth Purchas outlived her husband and married thirdly John Barnes in 1642. She was widowed for a third time and lived on until 1663. In her long and detailed will¹⁴ she asked 'to be interred within the Church of the Parish of St Clements in Cambridge in the same plot of ground where Alderman Thomas Purcas my former husband deceased was buried or as near thereunto'. There is a long list of bequests of £5¹⁵ to each to her children, grandchildren and cousins, and 40 shillings to the poor of the parish of St Andrews. To her daughter Elizabeth she left £20, her diamond

ring, a mantle, a muff and her long scarf. However, there was a sting in the tail in her codicil¹⁶ added the following January. The bequests to her son-in-law John Wilkinson and his wife Elizabeth were to be conditional upon him repaying a debt of £46 or any other debt at the time of her death, to her executors together with the amount of £40 p.a.¹⁷ he was bound to pay her each half year. Without these repayments the bequests were to be set aside by her executor William Frisby, apothecary.

Thomas (I) was elected Mayor and Alderman of Cambridge 27 September 1624 to September 1626 and again in 1634. His time as Mayor is documented in the Court Book of the Vice Chancellor and Mayor¹⁸. There was initially some dispute over his election as Mayor by the Common Council rather than his fellow Aldermen. The problem was referred to the Lords of the Council in London who ratified his appointment on 21 September. The Corporation¹⁹ ordered £40 to be paid to Mr Atkinson and 40 marks to Mr Purchas - 'expenses about the difference in the choice of Mr Purchas Mayor in riding to the High Stewards and Lords of the Council for quieting & peace making in the body'.

In 17th century Cambridge the positions of Alderman and Mayor might well have been expensive. There were strict rules on the matter of dress and fines were imposed if not followed. The Mayor had to wear a scarlet gown on feast days and holidays. Aldermen and Mayors must also wear murrey²⁰ gowns and tippets and Aldermen had to be attended by at least one servant in church²¹. There were however benefits of gifts and dinners!

In the Court Book²² of the Vice Chancellor (of the University) and Mayor and their assistants are the records which relate to the outbreak of plague in Cambridge and the enforcement of control measures in the years 1625-26. The entries below indicate the very important role played by Thomas in dealing with the problem.

'Plague was endemic in Cambridge in the first half of the 17th century, & the years 1625-6 & 1630 were particularly severe. This created problems of poor relief for the authorities. On 11 July 1625 the Vice Chancellor & Mayor agreed a series. The Court Book includes presentments of breaches...'

'11 August 1625: Orders made by John Mansell, Vice Chancellor, Thomas Purchas, Mayor, Owen Gwyn, Leonard Manse & Thomas Bainbridge, doctors & Richard Foxton, Richard Lukin & Thomas Atkinson, aldermen.

Authority conferred by Vice Chancellor & Mayor & representatives of all parishes on 1st August to continue until removed by the same, those refusing to obey it to be punished.

Household survey to be made by constables & overseers in the town & Barnwell to discover & report strangers.

Watch & ward to be kept continually in all streets & lanes to prevent strangers from entering & leaving:

The watches to be stationed at Castle End, near Bell Lane; at the Barnwell end of Jesus Wall, near Mrs Harding's Barns for Emmanuel Lane which leads to Ball's Folly near St Thomas' Leys for Trumpington Lane, the Spittel or Ellery House for the Black Lane under Cannon's Wall; The Cock near Queen's College for Small Bridges; two to watch in every other lane & street at the outermost houses & turn strangers to the fixed point of watch'.

All these measures taken by the Mayor and the University seem amazingly modern given our recent experience of a pandemic.

Following on from what must have been an exceptionally tough tenure as Mayor, Thomas was then elected MP for Cambridge Town from 6 February 1628 - at a time of political turmoil. James I had died in 1625 and his son Charles I had severe financial problems. He had launched a disastrous attack on the Spanish at Cadiz in 1626 and then raised a Forced Loan to assist his uncle, the Danish King Christian IV against the Spanish. This was a deeply unpopular act since it had not been passed by Parliament. Much of the money was put to other uses by Charles as he turned his attentions to his former ally, France. The 1628 Parliament made further grants but in return expected the King to agree to the Rights and Liberty of the Subjects, i.e. The Bill of Rights. The Duke of Buckingham, unpopular with Parliament, was murdered in 1628 and this improved matters somewhat. The argument over the King's levying of taxation in the form of Tonnage and Poundage continued until incensed,

by Parliament's continued refusal, Charles dissolved Parliament by Proclamation in March 1629. It was not to sit again until 1640 thus laying the foundations for the Civil War.

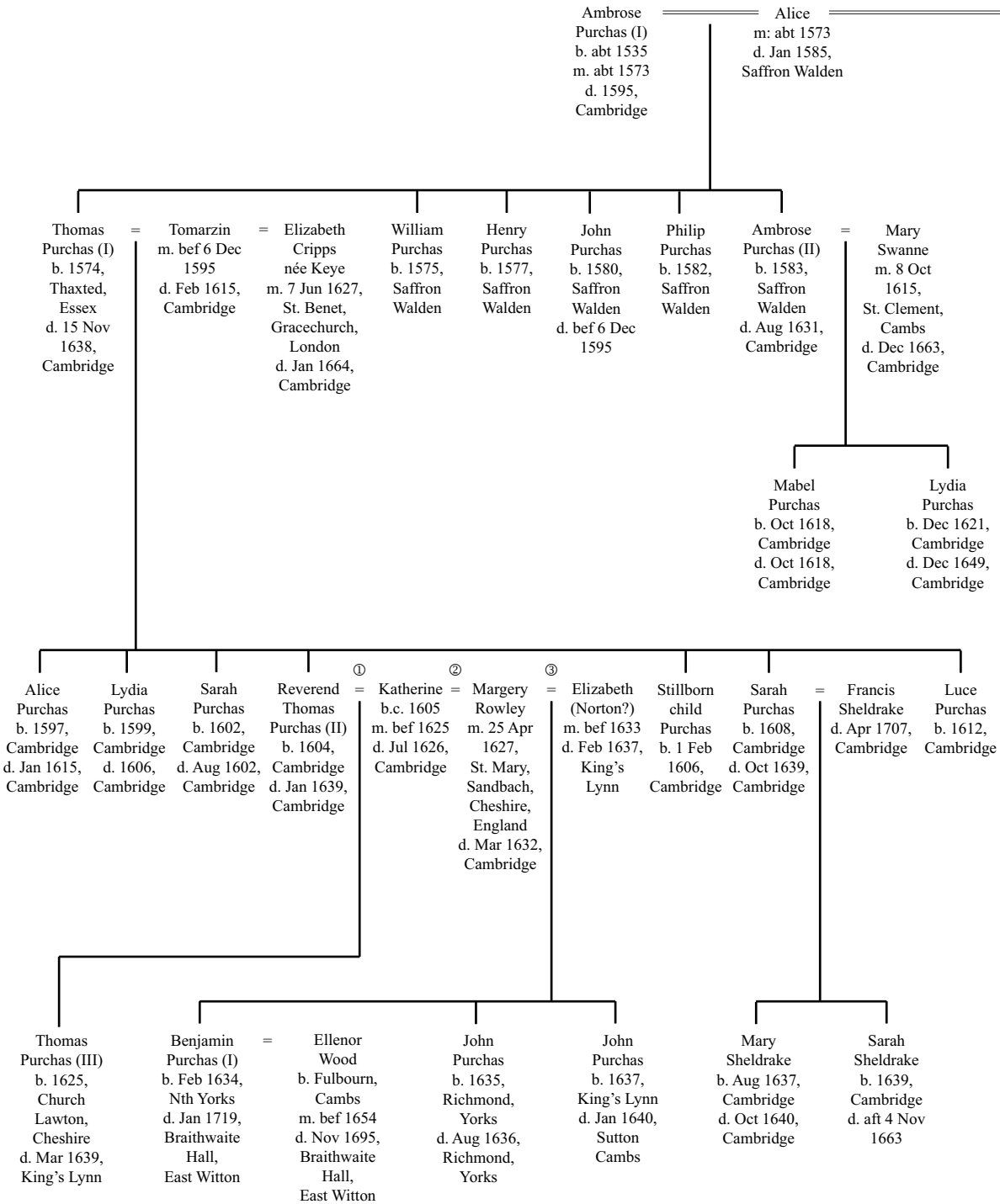
Thomas' time as an MP, although cut short, was at a very interesting time politically and historically. The only record left of his time as MP was the grant of one week's leave of absence on 22 May 'special occasions'. He received Parliamentary pay at 4s per day, totalling £21.8s 0d for the first session and £13.16s.4d for the 1629 session.

There are no records of Thomas as MP but he must have been present at the opening of Parliament in 1628 and listened to the King's contemptuous harangue which ended with the words 'Take not this as threatening for I scorn to threaten any but my equals'. In defiance to the Crown, members of the lower house formed committees outside the control of the Speaker, where they could talk freely, but I have found no mention of Thomas. He would have been present to witness members holding down the Speaker in his chair, followed by Charles' angry dissolution of Parliament. He must have returned to Cambridge wondering what the future held and never thinking that Parliament would only be summoned again in 1640, two years after his death.

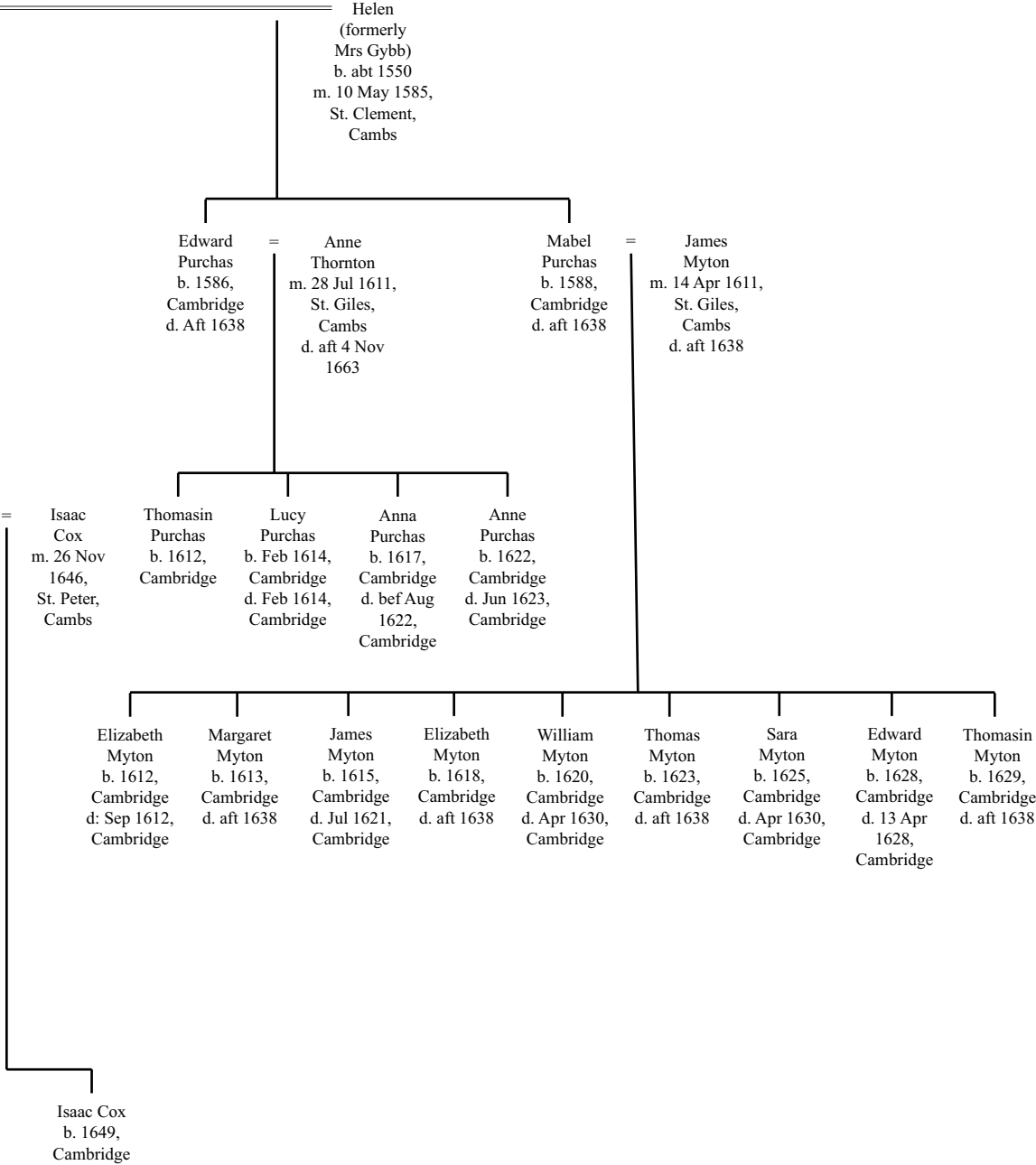
Oliver Cromwell had been elected in the same year, as MP for nearby Huntingdon. Also sitting was Christopher Wandesford, MP for Richmond and then Thirsk in Yorkshire, later to be Lord Deputy of Ireland. His granddaughter Catherine Thornton²³ was to marry Thomas (I)'s great-grandson, the Revd Thomas (IV)²⁴ of Great Langton, North Yorkshire, in 1682.

Thomas (I) was elected for a further term as Mayor in 1635 but I have found no records so far. The list of his Cambridge appointments is impressive: made a Freeman by 1607; Common Councillor 1609-1624; as Auditor he served 9 years between 1609 and 1636; Bailiff 1610-1613; Alderman 1624-1636; Mayor 1624-1626 and 1636; JP 1624-1626.

Together with this mysterious title: 'Commr goal delivery, Cambridge 1624-36; sewer, Gt Fens 1631-5' which I cannot unravel!



Ambrose Family Tree, showing four generations



Thomas wrote his will²⁵ on 9 November 1638 and was buried on the 16th. His son-in-law Francis Sheldrake was executor and the will proved on 18 January 1639. He settled his freehold messuages and tenements in St Clement's on his widow Elizabeth, and then to Sarah, wife of Francis Sheldrake the eventual reversion of this property in trust for his grandsons Thomas, Benjamin and John the children of his only surviving son Revd Thomas (II). He mentions in particular provision for their education. There is a long list of monetary bequests to nephews and nieces, family members and servants and for the poor. His son Revd Thomas (II) was left £100. The detailed will is helpful in clarifying the family relationships and checking against parish records.

So, with the death of Alderman Thomas (I) Purchas in 1638 the family's close connection with Cambridge came to an end. His son Thomas (II) did not follow his father either as an administrator or politician. His baptism on 17 June 1604 together with his burial in 1639 both at St Peter's, Cambridge, together with his education at Magdalene College²⁶ are the only records in Cambridge.

In 1625 Thomas (II) was ordained Deacon on 14 September and priested the following day at Upton Chapel, Peterborough²⁷. It is not known how he supported himself financially in the early years with no recorded parish and presumably no stipend; perhaps with support from his father in Cambridge. We believe he was a roving preacher since there is no record of him having a parish until taking up his post at Kings Lynn in 1637. His book of sermons, published the year of his death in 1639²⁸, must have been highly thought of to have been republished nearly 20 years later in 1657.

In July 1630 he received a license as Clerk in Holy Orders for the marriage of Brown and Heaward of Marton, Cheshire, and again in June 1631 for the marriage of Pass and Bromfield of Asbury Marr, solemnised at Prestbury, Cheshire. There are no clergy call books among Chester Diocesan records for the early 17th century and the Bishop's Act Book is incomplete so there is no easy way of checking on Thomas Purchas' position in the diocese.²⁹

There is a family connection with Cheshire since his first wife, Katherine, gave birth to a son Thomas who

was baptised 1 March 1625, at All Saints, Lawton³⁰. She died soon after and was buried on 13 July 1626 at St Giles, Cambridge. 'Katherine wife of Mr Thomas Purchas'. His grandfather Thomas (I) had, in his will (9 November 1638), provided for his education, 'Thomas Purchase my grandchild, shall be educated and brought up by executors until he is 17 and then to find fit place for him to be an attornys clerk'. Thomas (II) died at a time of plague and was buried at Kings Lynn on 24 March 1639 aged 14.

The Revd Thomas Purchas was married again on 25 April 1627 to Margery, daughter of William and Margery Rowley of Church Lawton, 'License to Thomas Purcus Clerk & Margeria Rowley Spinster for Sandbach or Church Lawton'³¹ There are no known children of the marriage and she too was buried at St Giles, Cambridge, on 11 March 1632.

There was a third marriage, we assume in the north of England, to Elizabeth but the date and place are unknown. Family tradition says she was either a Norton or closely related. The two youngest sons were baptised at St Mary, Richmond, Yorks Benjamin (I) on 11 February 1634 and John 12 April 1635. This son named John died in August 1636 and a second child 'John Purchas son of Thomas Purchas minister & preacher of God's word' baptised at St Margaret's, Kings Lynn, on 24 September 1637. His mother Elizabeth's burial is recorded on 16 February 1636 at St Margaret with St Nicholas, Kings Lynn. The gap between birth and baptism is unusual. He is described as 'the child of my son Thomas, whose name I think is John, who was born in King's Lynn in Norfolk, who is the child to whom I have given £50 to be paid from the freehold houses in Cambridge, after the death of my wife £4 a year until he is 16'³². He vanishes from the records and we believe his death is recorded as John Purcase on 12 January 1640 at Sutton-in-the Isle, 12 miles from Cambridge.

On 3 May 1637 Thomas swore his Oath of Allegiance³³ to Archbishop Laud 'I Thomas Purchas Master of Arts appointed (licensed) May 3rd curate to the Parish of Lynn... In the sacred Synod of London in the year 1552 and I subscribe to all the conditions'. Signed Thomas Purchas. His stay in Kings Lynn was quite short and at a time when plague was rampant and this may account for the

deaths of his wife Elizabeth and son Thomas. The signature of Thomas Purchas as Minister appears at the foot of pages recording burials from February 1637 to March 1638. Pages recording burials from February 1639 are signed by Lionell Gatford curate, apparently no incumbent for the intervening year.

Thomas (II)'s burial is recorded on 22 January 1639, 'Thomas Pirkis son of Thomas & Thomazin' at St Peter's, Cambridge. This is the Revd Thomas although it omits the words 'clerk in holy orders'. There is an enigmatic entry in the records of the Vice Chancellor's Court at Cambridge University³⁴ 'an inventory unsupported by will or Admin. Bond and no indication of status or occupation for one Thomas Purchas dated 1639 it contains only 2 items books 6/8d wearing apparel value at £2'. Meagre for a Clerk in Holy orders, it could apply to his son Thomas who died at Kings Lynn the same year.

Thomas(II)'s only surviving son, Benjamin, was baptised at Richmond, Yorkshire, on 11 February 1634. Benjamin remained in Yorkshire to be raised at St Nicholas, Richmond, by the Royalist and most probably Catholic family of Major Maulger Norton and his wife Ann, née Wandesford. Another indication that Benjamin's mother Elizabeth was a Norton or closely related. Benjamin lived to a great age, dying a Papist³⁵ in 1718. He became Steward of the Middleham Castle Estate³⁶ for Thomas Wood, a London merchant and he managed the mining interests of Dr John Bathurst, physician to Oliver Cromwell. He was active in managing Maulger Norton's estate and appointed trustee for Maulger Norton's youngest and only surviving son Christopher. Benjamin's eldest son Revd Thomas (IV)³⁷ married Catherine Thornton, the niece of Ann Norton and grand-daughter of Christopher Wandesford. A part of his Yorkshire land holdings survived into the mid-20th century and three of his manors and his archive are still in the possession of the family.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Suzanne Tyson-Butterworth (also a Purchas descendant) for so tirelessly checking and adding to many of the Purchas family dates included above and for the updated family tree. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the late Arthur Purchas

who, almost a hundred years ago, gathered so much of the information working from original parish registers, and my parents, Sonia and Anthony Chapman-Purchas who continued the search.

Notes

1. Ely Diocesan Records CU Library Arthur Purchas transcript.
2. T Leunig, C Minns & P Wallis. J.E.H. Santa Clara vol. 71. Iss. 2. 2011 pp.413-43.
3. P Wallis & C Minns: LSE Working papers no. 125/09. p.6. ref. to age of Carpenter's Co apprenticeships, 4% being older than 24 yrs.
4. Brewers Company Apprenticeship Register 1531-1685
5. Maarten Prak & Patrick Wallis eds. Apprenticeship in Early Modern Europe ch. 9. CUP 2020
6. Annals of Cambridge vol. 2 ed C H Cooper 1834: pp.537/8
7. Wikipedia: The Lord Chamberlyn's Players.
8. Archdeacons of Ely Probate records 1513/1857 and C.U. Library ref 1631 Arl: 127
9. Genealogical Memoirs of the Kindred Families of Thomas Cranmer.
10. Sutherland D: Raise your Glasses: MacDonald 1969 p.16.
11. Cartright M: World History Encyclopedia. Food & Drink in the Elizabethan Era.
12. Records held at the University Library.
13. Thin Black Book, St John's College: Cambridge Treasury.
14. Elizabeth Barnes Will 12.10.1663.
15. National Archive: approx £525 today or 71 days wages for a skilled worker.
16. Codicil 18 January 1664.
17. National Archive: approx. £4,207 today.
18. Cambridge Univ. Library catalogue ref: code GBR/0265/UA/T.X.19
19. Annals of Cambridge vol. 3.
20. mulberry coloured fabric.
21. V.C.H: A History of Cambridge: vol. 3 City & University pp.29-68.
22. Cambridge Univ. Library catalogue: ref. code GBR/0265/UA/T.X.19.
23. Thornton Alice: Autobiography: for the Surtees Society, Durham 1875 ed Charles Jackson. facsimile reprint - Hardpress USA: 2019, ISBN 9780371990735.
24. Memoir of the Life & Writing of Thomas Comber DD by his nephew Thomas Comber 1799. ECCO reprint ed. 2022.
25. Will filed Prerogative Court of Canterbury 16 Hervey. Abstract Arthur Purchas.
26. Cambridge University Alumni on line: BA 1624. MA 1627.
27. CC222540222539, IDED Record ID.
28. The Communicants Duty set forth in 8 sermons preached at Kings Lynn by Thomas Purchas Clerk: Printed by John Norton for W. Edmonds 12mo 1639. Copies British Library & Princeton Theological College.
29. Cheshire Record Office, Chester. Letter ex co Archivist 6.7.1979.
30. IGI Beta image no 531/Digital folder no. 4003798 film no. 1655594.
31. see 28 above.
32. Will of Alderman Thomas (I) Purchas 15.11.1638.
33. Original doc. in Diocesan Records at Norfolk R.O.
34. Letter: E. S. Needham-Green. Cambridge Univ. Archives 1979: C-P archive.
35. Catholic Ancestor: vol. 18, no. 4 April 2021 and vol. 19, no. 5 August 2023.
36. Wood Family Archive @ LMA; C-P family Archive; Purchas family archive NYCRO.
37. Memoirs of the life & writings of Thomas Comber DD. ECCO: Thomas Comber reprint ed. 2022.

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FREEDOM ADMISSIONS IN THE CHAMBERLAINS' COURT OF LONDON

Cliff Webb FSG

These records at The London Archives¹ are extremely important for discovering the origin of Londoners who lived before the census returns. They have been described in this journal many years ago², but this paper is to reflect on more recent developments.

The earliest bundles available to consult are from 1682³ and from about 1688 they are largely complete, except that only Oct - Dec 1784 survive after Sep 1778 and before Feb 1786 due to a fire in the latter year. Freedom could be secured by apprenticeship to a master⁴ who was himself free, or by patrimony, for men who were born after the father had himself become free, or by redemption, i.e. by paying a fine for entry. Much more rarely, the freedom could be granted as an honour.

Many smaller companies have lost some or all their records, and there are companies that no longer exist. Even where a record can be found in the individual company archive, the Chamberlain's record may well contain additional information.

The records consist of individual items, usually a single sheet of paper or parchment. Occasionally there is one or more additional sheets. They were stored on a string pierced through the middle; this has only very rarely damaged any information. They were stored monthly in approximate alphabetical order, freedoms by apprenticeship first, then those by patrimony and finally those by freedom. Freedom by apprenticeship almost universally recorded the parish to which the father belonged and his occupation. Freedoms by redemption also generally (but not universally) did so from the late 1710s. At some point (probably in the 1970s) all the documents were given pencilled reference numbers.

There are also the so-called alphabets. These are indexes to the records, where each month's new

freemen are listed alphabetically (but not lexicographically) and month by month with their Company and indication of the means by which the freedom had been obtained.

Such an important source was an early candidate for filming and digitisation. Unfortunately, the bundles had been accessed by researchers who had jumbled many of the bundles, and this was not corrected before filming, so there is no easy way of judging where in a bundle a given document might appear.

Ancestry was chosen as London Metropolitan Archives' (as it then was) partner in the digitisation program, which started with the monthly bundles. These are not particularly easy documents to read and a very large proportion of the names in them were misread by Ancestry. Worse, they completely misunderstood the nature of the records. Their index entries were normally taken from the date of the document, not from the date of the bundle. But, of course, the apprenticeship would normally be at least 7 years before the freedom and sometimes many more. Furthermore, they missed some bundles out entirely and placed some months under the wrong heading. A final difficulty was that sometimes the verso of a page was filmed before the recto (which is normally the page with the pencilled reference on). The reader, therefore, having found the correct item, must look both before and after it to ensure seeing the whole of the document.

Recently, the alphabets have also appeared on the Ancestry site. Generally, the name in these has been transcribed correctly by Ancestry, but the reader on finding an entry in the alphabet will be disappointed not to find a counterpart entry in the index of the bundles from which s/he can extract the details. This is not helped as sometimes Ancestry includes an image of their order slip at

the beginning of each month, sometimes the outer folder of the bundle and sometimes nothing at all. Also, some bundles were filmed beginning with the last item rather than the first.

This is an intractable problem, though it is to be hoped that Ancestry will at least add films of the missing months.

I have attempted to ameliorate the situation as far as possible, by going through the films of the bundles up to 1800 and noting on which frame each month starts. Thereby, a researcher finding an entry of interest in the alphabets and no apparent entry in the bundles can go to the beginning of the month in question and work their way through until they find it. This may involve examining 200 or more frames, but at least if an entry is in the alphabets, it should be there in the bundle (unless the month has not been filmed). If they are lucky, they will find the bundle has not been disturbed and they can

therefore make some sort of guess where it is likely to be, and so cut the number of frames searched.

A copy of my work on the bundles has been given to The London Archives, and I hope a copy can appear on the Society's website.

Notes

1. The new name for London Metropolitan Archives.
2. 'The Archives of The Freedom of the City of London 1681-1915', Vivienne E. Aldous, *Genealogist's Magazine*, Dec 1989 (Vol. 23 No. 4).
3. There are some earlier bundles which are so damaged (in some cases fused into a single block) that they cannot be used.
4. I have used male terms throughout for the sake of brevity; there were female apprentices and masters, but they were a small minority.

Cliff Webb FSG

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The following apprenticeship records were printed by the Society of Genealogists:

- Vol. 1 Brewers 1685-1800 (984) Printed (33pp)
- Vol. 2 Tylers and Bricklayers 1612-1644, 1668 1800 (3,728) Printed (129pp).
- Vol. 3 Bowyers 1680-1806; Fletchers 1739-54, 1767-1808; Longbowstringmakers 1604-68, 1709, 1714-17 (913) Printed (35pp)
- Vol. 4 Glovers 1675-79, 1735-48, 1766-1804 (1,055) Printed (41pp).
- Vol. 5 Glass Sellers 1665-1812; Woolmen 1665-1828 (1,534) Printed (49pp)
- Vol. 6 Broderers 1694-1713, 1763-1800; Combmakers 1744-50; Fanmakers 1775-1805; Frameworkknitters 1727-30; Fruiterers 1750-1815; Gardeners 1764-1850; Horners 1731-1800 (1,659) Printed (53pp)
- Vol. 7 Glaziers 1694-1800 (1,676) Printed (49pp)
- Vol. 8 Gunmakers 1656-1800 (1,837) Printed (53pp)
- Vol. 9 Pinmakers 1691-1723; Needle makers 1664-1800 (1,846) Printed (66pp)
- Vol. 10 Basketmakers (1,385) 1639-1824 Printed (41pp)
- Vol. 11 Distillers (1,713) 1659-1811 Printed (46pp)
- Vol. 12 Makers of Playing Cards 1675-1760; Musicians 1765-1800; Saddlers 1657-1666; Tobacco pipemakers 1800 (1,450) Printed (45pp)
- Vol. 13 Pattenmakers 1673-1805 (1,322) Printed (41pp)

- Vol. 14 Spectaclemakers 1666-1800; Loriners 1722-1731, 1759-1800 (1,299) Printed (44pp)
- Vol. 15 Gold and Silver Wyredrawers 1693-1800 (1,261) Printed (41pp)
- Vol. 16 Tinplateworkers' 1666-1800 (2,320) Printed (61pp)
- Vol. 17 Innholders' 1642-1643, 1654-1670, 1673-1800 (1,516) Printed (50pp)
- Vol. 18 Poulterers' 1691-1729, 1754-1800 (1,429) Printed (48pp)
- Vol. 19 Upholders' 1704-1772 (1,319) Printed (46pp)
- Vol. 20 Paviours' 1568-1800 (951) Printed (33pp)
- Vol. 21 Founders' 1643-1800 (3,390) Printed (89pp)
- Vol. 22 Armourers and Braziers' c1610-1800 (3,509) Printed (97pp)
- Vol. 23 Coach Harness Makers' 1677-1800 (3,802) Printed (95pp)
- Vol. 24 Ironmongers' 1655-1800 (2,826) Printed (85pp)
- Vol. 25 Dyers' 1706-1746 (2,311) Printed (64pp)
- Vol. 26 Cooks' 1654-1800 (3,073) Printed (91pp)
- Vol. 27 Masons' 1663-1800 (1,881) Printed (58pp)
- Vol. 28 Farriers' 1619-1800 (3,708) (105pp)
- Vol. 29 Carmen 1678-1800 (2,444) (77pp)
- Vol. 30 Curriers' 1628-1800 (2,737) (91pp)
- Vol. 31 Wax Chandlers' 1666-1800; Brown Bakers' 1615-1646 (1,787) (58pp)
- Vol. 32 Apothecaries' I 1617-1669 (ed. P. Wallis)
- Vol. 33 Plumbers' 1571-1800 (1,970) (63pp)
- Vol. 34 Plaisterers' 1571-1800
- Vol. 35 Cutlers' 1442-98, 1565-1800

- Vol. 36 Brewers' II 1531-1685
- Vol. 37 Feltmakers' 1676-1800
- Vol. 38 Painter Stainers' 1666-1800
- Vol. 39 Tallow Chandlers' 1633-1800
- Vol. 40 Pewterers' 1611-1800
- Vol. 41 Blacksmiths' 1605-1800
- Vol. 42 Apothecaries' II 1670-1800
- Vol. 43 Vintners' 1609-1800
- Vol. 44 Fishmongers' 1614-1800
- Vol. 45 Turners 1604-1800
- Vol. 46 Skinners 1498-1800
- Vol. 47 Butchers 1592-1800
- Vol. 48 Grocers' 1629-1800

The records above are available online at Findmypast.

The British Record Society has now published the Merchant Taylors and Haberdashers. Unlike the Society of Genealogists series, they include freedom admissions. More volumes are planned and the Cordwainers' and Joiners' are in an advanced stage of preparation.

Various other Companies have had some of their records published.

Armourers

Apprentices and Freemen of the Armourers' Guild from 1416-1621. the *Genealogists' Magazine* 1940-46; Volume 9, pp. 179-192, 217-222.

Carpenters

Records of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters

- Vol. I Apprentices Entry Books 1654-1694, London 1913; xiii+241 pages.
- Vol. II Warden's Account Book 1438-1516, London 1914; xvi+283 pages.
- Vol. III Court Book 1533-1573 London 1915; xx+230 pages.
- Vol. IV Wardens' Account Book 1546-1571 London 1916; xix+269 pages.
- Vol. V Wardens' Accounts 1571-1591 London 1937; xii+282 pages.
- Vol. VI Court Book 1573-1594 London 1939; xvi+350 pages.
- Vol. VII Wardens' Accounts 1592-1614 London 1968; xv+546 pages.

Clockmakers

The Register of Apprentices of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers of the City of London from its Incorporation in 1631 to its Tercentenary in 1931

Compiled from the Records of the Company, London 1931; xvi+339 pages.

Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers 1631-1984 George Daniels for the Company, London 1984; xvi+133 pages.

Drapers

Roll of the Drapers' Company of London Collected from the Company's Records and other Sources. Percival Boyd, the Company, London 1934; 208 pages.

Fishmongers

The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Lists of Apprentices & Freemen in 1537 and 1600-1650. W.P. Haskett-Smith, 1916; 44 pages.

Founders

Wardens' Accounts of the Worshipful Company of Founders of the City of London 1497-1681. Guy Parsloe, London 1964; lviii+491 pages.

Grocers

List of the Wardens of the Grocers' Company from 1345 to 1907. William Wilson Grantham, London 1907; 56 pages.

Facsimile of First Volume of Ms Archives of the Worshipful Company of Grocers of the City of London A.D. 1345-1463. Transcribed and Translated with Extracts from the Records of the City of London and Archives of St. Paul's Cathedral. J.A. Kingdon, 2 volumes, 1886; xxxiii+XII+pages 1-173. Illustrated and pages 175-400. Illustrated.

Joiners

Annals of the Worshipful Company of Joiners of the City of London, Extracted from Original Documents, Minute Books, and Renter Warden's Accounts, etc., from A.D. 1237-1850, Together with a Chronological List of the Feoffees of the Company from A.D. 1497-1885, and an Alphabetical List of the Livery from A.D. 1496-1914, with the dates of their Livery. Henry Laverock Phillips, London 1915; 130 pages. Illustrated.

Mercers

Acts of Court of the Mercers Company, 1453-1527 Laetitia Lyell and F.D. Watney, Cambridge 1936; xxiv+817 pages.

Scriveners

Scriveners' Company Common Paper 1357-1628 with a Continuation to 1678, Francis W. Steer, London 1968; xxviii+158 pages

Shipwrights

Records of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, C. Harold Ridge, Volume I 1428-1780; xvi+261 pages, 1939; Volume II 1728-1858, 1946; xl+122 pages

Stationers

Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554-1640. E. Arber, 5 Volumes, London 1875-1895. Facsimile Reprint, 1950.

A Transcript of the Registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, from 1604-1708 A.D. 3 Volumes. G.E.B. Eyre and C.R. Rivington, London, 1913-4, Facsimile reprint 1950.

A List of Printers' Apprentices 1605-1640. D.F. McKenzie, Studies in Bibliography 1960; Volume XIII pp. 109-141.

Stationers' Company Apprentices 1641-1700. D.F.

McKenzie, the Oxford Bibliographical Society, Oxford 1974; x+234 pages.

Stationers' Company Apprentices 1701-1800. D.F. McKenzie, the Oxford Bibliographical Society, Oxford 1978; xii+514 pages.

Watermen and Lightermen

Their historic records are largely available on Findmypast.

Weavers

Extracts from the Court Books of the Weavers' Company 1610-1730. W.C. Waller, the Huguenot Society Publications, London 1931; Vol. 33, xix+139 pages.

Rollco

Some major Companies have chosen to have their records made available online through Rollco (www.londonroll.org) initiated by the Institute for Historical Research. The following companies are part of this resource:

Bowyers'; Clothworkers'; Drapers'; Founders'; Girdlers'; Goldsmiths'; Mercers'; Musicians'; Salters'; Stationers'; Tallow Chandlers'.

JAMES BEGG (1808-1883): A MAN OF HIS TIMES

Young people often judge their parents and reject their parents' right to judge them. We may try to like our ancestors but sometimes it's hard.

The *Scottish Biographical Dictionary* (editor Rosemary Goring, published by Chalmers, 1992) is a very valuable account of every famous Scot - as it seemed to her - and an enjoyable browse at odd moments. Keep it by the kettle!

Here she seems to deal in a balanced way with a man whom perhaps she did not find congenial but who was clearly important in his day:

Begg, James (1808-1883)

Free Church minister, born in New Monkland, Lanarkshire, a leading exponent of the Anti-Establishment movement that led to the Disruption of 1843. After graduating from Glasgow University,

he was ordained at Maxwellton, Dumfries, going on to serve at Middle Parish Church, Paisley, and at Liberton, in Edinburgh, from 1835 to 1843. The remaining 40 years of his ministry were pursued at Newington Free Church, Edinburgh. While his views might today be considered reactionary, anti-ecumenical and aggressively divisive (he was strongly anti-papist, and rejected any form of union with the United Presbyterian Churches), he was typical of many of his generation and the style and belligerence of the Free Church mentality of that era. Opposed to hymn singing and the use of musical instruments in church, he remained an influential and respected exponent of a narrow, rigid religiosity.

P.G. Wodehouse says somewhere lightly: 'It is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine.'



CORRESPONDENCE

From: Michael J Watts
Email: mjwatts@mozart.net

Re: Commemorative Tree Replacement (Chris Watts)

Many of you will remember the SoG move from Harrington Gardens to Charterhouse Buildings when my late brother, Dr Christopher Watts, was Chairman of the Executive Committee. I was reminded of this huge event by the article by Emma Jolly in the September Magazine about the new premises at Wharf Road, N1. May I also let those who remember Chris know about the recent replacement of the commemorative tree in the grounds of the National Archives at Kew. Sadly the original Acer Rubrum Brandywine did not survive the recent hot summer years.

Elizabeth Cameron-Taber at Kew recently wrote to me: 'We have now sourced and planted a new Acer Rubrum red standard tree in Memory of Christopher and we have installed the original Plaque. We will be monitoring it over the coming months to make sure it has a good start and develops into a splendid tree.'

May I also just mention that I still have a few copies of the Memorial Book written in 2015 to remember Chris? The title 'Oh, good it's Chris' was the headline of Michael Gandy's funeral eulogy for him, based on his reaction to seeing him on his visits to the National Archives at Kew. I would be glad to send you a copy if you would provide your snail-mail address!



From: John Parsloe
Email: j.parsloe@zen.co.uk

Re: The Bear Inn at Perrotts Brook, Bagendon *Genealogists' Magazine*, December 2020

Since writing this article, additional information has been found on the origin of the Inn.

The Denton family had been in occupation of a substantial Bagendon property since before 1580.¹ In 1653 Alice Denton widow, probably of John Denton, claimed free bench of the property, comprising a tenement and 5 yard lands, which the Lord of the Manor, Sir James Thynne, granted, subject to her surrendering 3½ acres.² The Court Baron of 26th October 1653 then records:

'Leonard Rafenell comes to Court and taketh of the Lord by deliverie of the Steward one close of pasture or arable called the Upper Moore containing by estimation three and a half acres whereon a dwelling house is lately built and various bits of land all lately surrendered by Alice Dinton to have to himself Leonard Rafenell and his son Thomas. Rent 3/4. Heriot 3/4. Fine £12.'

It is this property described in the Article which was granted to the son Thomas by copy of Court Roll on 2nd September 1669, presumably after his father's death.

While rent and heriot are unchanged the fine was increased to £30.

Edward Rich, in a letter from Lincolns Inn, to Sir James dated 20th January 1650/1,³ states that the wife of Leonard Ravenell has told him that Sir James wants his opinion on the desirability of building, near Bearfoots Bridge, an Inn or place for entertainment of travellers. His opinion was favourable:

'I doe now conceave that to be a place both fit and necessary for that imployent and (well orderd) may much conduct to the safety and relief of travellers.'

So the Inn was built before October 1653.

Edward Rich is described as old in another letter of 1646/7, when he was negotiating with the Gloucestershire Sequestration Committee over the sequestration of Sir James's estates there.⁴ There is no record of any puritan objections to the building of the Inn, but Bagendon was strongly royalist.

Notes

1. Longleat Archives TH/Book XLII f.195
2. Longleat Archives TH/Book XII f.35v
3. Longleat Archives TH/Book IX f.282
4. Longleat Archives TH/Book IX f.262

FINDING SISTER JANE

IT WAS JANE HARRIS STEPHENS, NOT JAMES

Sally Dean Hamblen, C.G.

When an original record, created near the time of an event, appears to be wrong, how does a researcher resolve it?

Background

American family tradition says that Henry Stephens, of Brooklyn, New York, was an English immigrant born in Ilfracombe, a fishing village 'up near the border with Wales.' Henry was 'bound out' aboard a vessel when young, and when his ship arrived at New York or Philadelphia he ran away. Henry had a brother Edward who immigrated to Massachusetts, and a sister Jane. The source of this family history was Almira (Hamblen) Jacobs, the granddaughter of Henry Stephens. Almira lived in the same Massachusetts town as her great-uncle, Edward Stephens. She knew both men.¹

New York sources indicate that Henry, a sailmaker, was born about 1830 in Devonshire, England, and his mother's name was Mary.² His sailor brother Edward's death certificate in Massachusetts gives no parents' names, but his age at death indicated he was born in England on 25 December 1824.³

Henry and Edward's baptism records were located in Ilfracombe, Devon, at the Independent Church, and their parents were identified as Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens. But no baptism for their sister Jane was found. Or was it?

Ilfracombe independent church records

On 25 April 1820, Rev. Henry Besly of the Independent Church of Ilfracombe, Devon, baptised a seven-week-old infant of Hugh and Mary Stephens. He then recorded the baptism in the church book in his loose, but legible, hand:

'James Harris Stephens, son of Hugh Stephens & Mary his wife, was born March 4th and baptised April 25th 1820 by Hen. Besly I'combe.'⁴

In actuality, this child was not a boy named James, but rather, a girl named Jane Harris Stephens. Perhaps Besly misheard the child's name or misread his notes later when entering the baptism into the register. He was 35 years old and unlikely to be hard of hearing, although he did suffer from poor health most of his life.⁵ Regardless of exactly how it happened, Besly made a mistake of gender and name.

Rev. Henry Besly was settled at the Independent Church of Ilfracombe, a nonconformist congregation, in 1814, and continued there until his retirement in 1844.⁶ In 1837 when the registers were sent to the Chancery Lane Court, Besly stated that the books had remained: '... always in the Minister's custody where this has remained fixed and always at his home'⁷

It is possible Besly did not have the record book with him while performing the baptism, and there was a gap between the actual baptism and its recording. Besly may not have immediately recorded other baptisms during this time period. In this particular record book, Besly made comments about the baptisms that seem to have been made in private.⁸ No changes to this or any other nearby entry are apparent.

Children of Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens

Hugh Stephens, cabinetmaker of Barnstaple, Devon, bachelor, and Mary Harris, spinster and sojourner, married on 3 October 1814 at the parish church in Clovelly, Devon.⁹ By 3 September 1815, Hugh and Mary were living in Ilfracombe, Devon, ten miles from Barnstaple, where their first child

John was baptised. Prior to 19 April 1818, Hugh and Mary began attending the Independent Church of Ilfracombe, where their next five children were baptised.

Below is Table 1 with births and baptisms for the children of Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens, displaying a typical spacing of two to almost three-years. Mary (Harris) Stephens was 28 at marriage, and 42 when her last child Henry was born.¹ The third child born 4 March 1820 is sandwiched evenly between children born before and after, and carries the mother’s maiden name Harris as a middle name.

John’s baptism appears in the standard Anglican printed register. The baptisms of William and James Harris are in an unstructured book which contains other chapel records such as the minister’s salary and gifts by parishioners. The baptisms of Mary, Edward Reynolds, and Henry are in a printed book which begins in 1821. Hugh and Mary signed the printed baptism register for Mary and Edward Reynolds, but for Henry, only Mary signed, the ‘father being absent.’ Note that the date of birth for Edward matches that of the man who died in Massachusetts in 1907.

It is evident that without a printed book, the persons present at the baptisms of William and ‘James’ Harris are unknown, and fewer details were recorded. When the new printed book for Non-Conformist congregations came into use and the parents signatures were expected, Besly

probably would have had the baptism register accessible for parents to sign.

There is no baptism record for Jane Harris Stephens in Ilfracombe or anywhere else in Devon within a ten year span before or after 1820. No baptism for a ‘Jane Stephens’ or ‘Jane Stevens’ with Hugh and Mary as parents was found. As seen above, all their other children were baptised. Indeed, it seems unlikely that this couple would *not* have had their daughter Jane baptised.

Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens in brief

Hugh Stephens was a trained cabinetmaker who made upholstered furniture, as well as a ‘lodginghouse keeper.’² He leased a property belonging to Sir Bouchier Wrey from 1822 to at least 1832, but probably to 1836.³ In 1836 he was occupying the public house called the William IV Inn at Ilfracombe when it was advertised for sale by the heirs of Sir Bouchier Wrey. This inn or lodginghouse had a large front room that Hugh may have used as a showroom or workroom.⁴ Mary (Harris) Stephens was 51 years old at this time. It is doubtful Hugh and Mary had any additional children beyond the six noted above that could have been born and baptised elsewhere.

By 6 June 1841 Hugh and Mary moved to Toxteth Park, Liverpool, Lancashire, with their two youngest children, Edward and Henry.⁵ They lived

NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	BAPTISM DATE	PLACE OF BAPTISM
John	Before 3 Sept. 1815	3 Sept. 1815	Anglican Church Ilfracombe
William	3 Jan. 1818	19 April 1818	Independent Ch. Ilfracombe
James Harris	4 March 1820	25 April 1820	Independent Ch. Ilfracombe
Mary	15 April 1822	19 August 1822	Independent Ch. Ilfracombe
Edward Reynolds	25 Dec. 1824	13 Sept. 1825	Independent Ch. Ilfracombe
Henry	13 Nov. 1827	3 March 1828	Independent Ch. Ilfracombe
Ilfracombe Chapel registers are in the National Archives under RG4/1087 and 1211.			

Table 1 - Births of Stephen’s children

with James Prout, also a joiner, his wife Mary, and their five children. The Prouts were not natives of Lancashire. No relationship seems to have existed between the Stephens's and the Prouts' other than the fact that both men were joiners.⁶

At Liverpool sons Edward and Henry were both apprenticed into the Merchant Navy onto the ship *Glenlyon*, Edward in 1842 and Henry in 1844.⁷ After their two youngest sons went to sea, Hugh and Mary left Liverpool.

On 30 March 1851, Hugh and Mary Stephens were living with their daughter Jane and her husband Henry Pinder in Sheffield Park, Yorkshire. Jane's birthplace is indicated as Ilfracombe, Devon.⁸ Mary (Harris) Stephens died at Broad Street, Sheffield, on 4 November 1853.⁹ Hugh was listed in the Burgess Roll for Broad Street, Sheffield, in 1853.¹⁰

No death record has been discovered for Hugh Stephens in England. Perhaps he was the Hugh Stephens, carpenter, who left Liverpool on the ship *Albert Gallatin* on 22 May 1856, arriving at New York City on 2 July 1856.¹¹ If so, it is likely he is the Hugh Stevens who died the same day he arrived, and was buried at Wards Island in New York harbour.¹²

On 19 May 1875, Henry Stephens of Brooklyn, New York, advertised in a Liverpool newspaper that: 'If any of the relatives of Hugh Stephens, formerly of Ilfracombe, Devonshire, should see this, they can hear from Henry Stephens by addressing him at 203 Fulton Street, New York, U.S.'¹³ Perhaps Henry was looking for his sister Jane.

Search for a James Harris Stephens

Research to trace a James Harris Stephens after the baptism of 25 April 1820 was conducted and no record was found that could be tied to him.

- No burial record in parish churches.¹⁴
- No marriage record in parish churches in Devon or surrounding counties, or other places where known relatives lived.¹⁵
- No apprenticeship or indenture records.¹⁶
- No 1841 or 1851 England or Wales census record.¹⁷

- No death record in civil registration for a James Harris Stephens after 1837.¹⁸
- No James Stephens interacting with other Stephens family members as witnesses in marriages or baptisms.¹⁹
- No newspaper article, tax record, or military record.²⁰

It is highly probable that the infant baptised as James Harris Stephens did not really exist.

Finding Jane Harris Stephens

In contrast to the lack of records for James Harris Stephens, Jane Harris Stephens left many records that confirm her existence. Table 2 illustrates records that identify Jane's parentage, religion, middle name, place and confirm a date of birth before 22 March 1820. Her marriage to Henry Pinder resulted in a name change to Jane Harris Pinder.

England and Wales censuses below in Table 3 also confirm a birth in Ilfracombe, Devon, prior to 30 March 1820, or at the latest, 6 June 1821 for Jane (Harris) (Stephens) Pinder.

Jane Harris, Mary (Harris) Stephens's sister

Importantly, there *was* a Jane Harris in this family. Mary (Harris) Stephens, mother of Jane Harris (Stephens) Pinder, had a sister Jane who died when a young woman.

Jane Harris was baptised on 30 March 1794 in Ilfracombe, Devon, child of Thomas and Ann (Main) Harris when Mary was 11 years old.²¹ She died at age 19 and was buried from the Holy Trinity Church in Ilfracombe on 4 April 1813.²² On 3 October 1814, Mary Harris and Hugh Stephens married.²³ Evidently Mary named her first born daughter in memory of her deceased sister Jane Harris.

Summary of Evidence

- James Harris Stephens appears in the baptism of 25 April 1820 and then disappears after that date.
- The timeline of Jane's life commences after the baptism of James without gaps or overlaps.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	JANE'S NAME	INFORMANT	COMMENTS
10 July 1844	Marriage to Henry Pinder	Unitarian Church, Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales	Signed as Jane Harris Stephens, occupation Bonnet Maker	Bride and groom to minister	Jane 'of full age' born before 10 July 1823- states father's name as Hugh Stephens
9 Sept. 1848	Birth of daughter Henrietta	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Jane Pinder, formerly Harris Stephens	Henry Pinder, husband	Husband included middle name of Harris
12 Oct. 1853	Birth of son Albert Pinder	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Jane Pinder formerly Stephens	Jane Pinder, mother	Jane as informant stating her own maiden name.
25 July 1856	Birth of son Charles Henry Pinder	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Jane Harris Pinder, formerly Stephens	Henry Pinder	Husband included middle name of Harris
24 Nov. 1858	Death of husband Henry Pinder	Ecclesall Bierlow, (Sheffield) Yorkshire	Jane Pinder	Wife of deceased, Jane Pinder	Jane in attendance and reported husband's death
22 March 1879	Death of Jane (Stephens) Pinder at age 59	Ecclesall Bierlow, (Sheffield) Yorkshire	Jane Harris Pinder	Fanny Hill, neighbourhood nurse	Jane's age of 59 indicates a birth before 22 March 1820, which correlates well with the child born 4 March 1820 in Ilfracombe, Devon.

Table 2 - Jane Harris Stephens in Vital Records

DATE	PLACE	NAME, AGE, BIRTH PLACE	CALCULATED BIRTHDATE	OTHER FAMILY/ COMMENTS
6 June 1841 [a.]	Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales	Jane Stephens, 20, not born in Glamorgan, milliner	between 6 June 1816 and 6 June 1821.	With Mary Stephens presumed sister. Boarding with W. Edward Kent and family. Age rounded down to nearest 5.
30 March 1851	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Jane Pinder, wife, 31, born Ilfracombe, Devon	Between 30 March 1819 and 30 March 1820	Henry Pinder, [head], Elizabeth Pinder 5, Henrietta Pinder, 2, [daughters]; Hugh Stephens 60, [father-in-law], cabinetmaker, born Ilfracombe, Devon, Mary Stephens, 64, [mother-in-law], born Clovelly, Devon. Age at last birthday instruction.
7 April 1861	Ecclesall Bierlow, (Sheffield) Yorkshire	Jane Pender, 40, head, widow, dressmaker, born Ilfracombe, Devon.	Between 7 April 1820 and 7 April 1821	Elizabeth, 14, Henrietta, 12, Albert, 7, Charles Henry, 4, all surnamed Pender. Age at last birthday instruction
2 April 1871	Sheffield, Yorkshire	Jane H. Pinder, 50 head, widow, dressmaker, born Ilfracombe, Devon	Between 2 April 1820 and 2 April 1821	Albert Pinder, 17, Charles H. Pinder, 14, sons. Age at last birthday instruction.

a. Note: In the 1841 England and Wales censuses, the ages of persons over fifteen were rounded down to the nearest multiple of five. Jane was twenty-one, so her age was rounded down to twenty. This census places Jane in Swansea where she met and married her husband, Henry Pinder.

Table 3. Jane Harris Stephens in census records

- All other children in the family were baptised, yet no baptism was found for Jane.
- The birth order of the Stephen's children leaves doubt that another child was born between 4 March 1820 and 22 April 1822.
- Jane Harris (Stephens) Pinder, her husband, and survivors, included her middle name Harris or the initial H. in official records.
- Jane's age in her marriage record, censuses, and death certificate are consistent with the birth date of 4 March 1820. Any conflicts are minor.
- Mother Mary (Harris) Stephens's sister Jane Harris died a year and a half before Mary's marriage to Hugh Stephens and seven years prior to the birth of this child of 1820, their first daughter.
- Oral family history, which is quite accurate in most areas, includes a sister Jane Stephens.
- No interactions between a James Stephens and this family have been discovered.
- There are no conflicts for the parentage of Jane Harris (Stephens) Pinder. Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens were her parents, and she was born in Ilfracombe.

Conclusion

It is evident that Rev. Besly indeed made a mistake of name and gender. The child of Hugh and Mary (Harris) Stephens, born 4 March, and baptised on 25 April 1820 in Ilfracombe, Devon, was a daughter 'Jane Harris,' not a son 'James Harris.'

Notes

1. Almira T. (Hamblen) Jacobs, [deceased 1979], family narrative, notes written by Lizette (Luippold) Hamblen, interviewer, [deceased 1975], circa 1972, privately held by Sally D. Hamblen, Lynnfield, Massachusetts, 5 January 2024. Almira was Lizette's sister-in-law, and this author's great-aunt.
2. State of New York, City of New York, Borough of Brooklyn, Death Certificate # 10434, for 'Henry Stevens', died 28 May 1900.
3. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Barnstable County, town of Bourne, return of a death, vol. 23 p.15, 'Edward Runnels Stevens', died 30 April 1907.
4. Independent Church (Ilfracombe, Devon, England) untitled record book containing bequests, expenditures, burials, baptisms & marriages, beginning 22 Oct. 1735 to 8 Feb. 1837, digitized filmstrip in record set 'England and Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptism' 25 April 1820, James Harris Stephens, Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=TNA/RG4/1211/0/001>: accessed 7 December 2022); >James Harris Stephens> Ilfracombe> 1820>page 27 verso [stamped]; citing The National Archives, Surrey, U.K. (TNA) record group Devon RG4/1211.
5. 'Death of Rev. Henry Besly', *North Devon Journal* (Barnstaple, Devon) 31 May 1860, p.8, col. 2 & 4, image copy, Findmypast.com (<https://search.findmypast.com>: accessed 1 December 2022), British Newspapers Collection.
6. 'Ilfracombe-We Regret to Announce' *North Devon Journal* (Barnstaple, Devon) 3 October 1844, p.4, col.2; image copy, Findmypast, (<https://search.findmypast.com>: accessed 18 December 2022), British Newspapers collection.
7. Independent Church (Ilfracombe, Devon, England) 'Register of Baptisms Solemnized with Water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by Ministers of a Congregation of Dissenting Protestants, in the Parish of Ilfracombe in the county of Devon' pre-printed baptism register book with town and county handwritten, 25 Dec. 1821- 15 March, 1836 (London, Francis Westley, 1815), followed by handwritten addendum 2 March 1837-7 April 1837, digitized images, in record set 'England and Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms' Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.com>: accessed 18 December 2022); citing The National Archives, Surrey, U.K., (TNA) record group RG4/1087. The first five images in film strip include Rev. Besly's answers to a pre-printed questionnaire. Hereafter: Independent Church, RG/1087.
8. Independent Church records 1735-1837, RG4/1211, p.27, see footnote 1. For example, on same page as James Harris Stephens is this notation: 'On Lord's Day Augt 13, 1820, H. Besly rode to Croyde in the afternoon-presented to a crowded auditory-and then baptised an infant whose parents had been themselves Baptists for some years-This was the first infant baptism, administered in that Chapel (which H B had opened, exactly three years before- the Church there having been formed on Baptist Principles- but the house retained by the Independents-the child baptised is Mary the daughter of [blank] Baxter (or Bagster)- and Grace his wife- who was born June 15 and baptised Augt 13 1820 at Croyde Chapel in the Parish of George Ham by H Besly [flourish]- Il'combe Augt 14 1820' and page 24 [stamped] 'Hannah Lawn Keale, daughter of Wm & Hannah Keale, now of Bristol, was baptised at the age of nearly 4 years, at Ilfracombe, born 4 July 1812 & baptised June 4 1816 by Hen Besly' which may indicate this entry was made by Besly in private afterwards.
9. Church of England, Clovelly, Devon, England, parish register, printed book, 'Register of Marriages in the Parish of Clovelly in the County of Devon,' p.6, no. 16, Hugh Stephens and Mary Harris, 3 October 1814, in record set: 'Devon Marriages and Banns,' Findmypast (www.search.findmypast.com/record: accessed 21 January 2024); courtesy South West Heritage Trust and Parochial Church Council.
10. Church of England, Clovelly, Devon, England, parish register, handwritten, no title page, including christenings 1778- 1812; burials 1778-1812, christening entry for Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann Harris, 13 November 1785, page 8 penna, image 9 of 66, numbered digital images, in record set 'Devon Baptisms,' Findmypast (<https://search.findmypast.com>: accessed 22 December 2022); images courtesy of South West Heritage Trust, archive reference 1058A/PR/1/3
11. For his training, see: Hugh Stephens 1805 apprenticeship, image of original document, South West Heritage Trust, North Devon Record Office, Devon Archives and Local Studies, Barnstaple, Devon, Hugh Stephens, son of William, apprenticed to William Ford, 4 October 1805, reference number TD 146/A/77/20; Hugh Stephens, 1808 apprenticeship, image of original document, South West Heritage Trust, North Devon Record Office, Devon Archives and Local Studies, Barnstaple, Devon, Hugh Stephens, son of William, apprenticed to William Hunt 13 October 1808, reference number TD 146/A/78; For joiner, upholstery, and lodginghouse keeper, see 'Ilfracombe from London and Provincial New Commercial Directory,' London, J. Pigot & Co. (1830), transcription by Brian Randall, 17 July 1999, *genuki.org* (www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Ilfracombe/IlfracombePigot1830: accessed 5 January 2024.)
12. Hugh Stevens or Steevins is listed as leasing a property in Ilfracombe from Sir Bouchier Wrey from 1824 to at least 1832, after which the tax list is not extant. See: 'Land Tax Assessments, 1780-1832, Ilfracombe, Devon' *Familysearch*, (www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939F-5HQH-Q7: accessed 9 October 2022), film no. 004627013, item 14, Great Britain, Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Devonshire.
13. 'Ilfracombe, Devon to be Sold by Auction,' *North Devon Journal* (Barnstaple, Devon), 14 January 1836, page 1, column 4; (<https://search.findmypast.com/bna/viewarticle>: accessed 14 October 2021). Also see Sir Bouchier Wrey, Bart, will, in 'Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858', PROB 11, Will Registers, 1826-1828, Piece 1724, Hober, Quire Numbers 201-250, (1827) pp.50-53; Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5111/images/40611_311457-00102: accessed 5 January 2024); image 103 of 822.

14. 1841 census of England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Toxteth Park, West Derby registration district, p.30 [stamped], image, Henry Stephens in James Prout household, *Findmypast*, (<https://search.findmypast.com> >1841 UK census>Hugh Stephens> : accessed 14 March 2022); citing The National Archives, ref. HO 107, piece 568, book no. 20, folio 29, p.23, schedule 2619. District 76, 'Extra Parochial of Toxteth Park Parish'.
15. James Prout was baptised 1 Oct 1797 in Steynton, Pembrokeshire, Wales, see: 'Pembrokeshire Baptisms' database with images and transcripts, *Findmypast*, (www.findmypast.com); James Prowt, son of John and Martha, bapt. 1 Oct. 1797, Steynton, Pembrokeshire, p.23; citing Welsh Archive Service.
16. Hugh Stephens 1805 apprenticeship, image of original document, South West Heritage Trust, North Devon Record Office, Devon Archives and Local Studies, Barnstaple, Devon, Hugh Stephens, son of William, apprenticed to William Ford, 4 October 1805, reference number TD 146/A/77/20; Hugh Stephens, 1808 apprenticeship, image of original document, South West Heritage Trust, North Devon Record Office, Devon Archives and Local Studies, Barnstaple, Devon, Hugh Stephens, son of William, apprenticed to William Hunt 13 October 1808, reference number TD 146/A/78.
17. 1851 census of England, Yorkshire, West Riding, Sheffield, Sheffield registration district, p.126 [stamped], image, Henry Pinder household, *Findmypast*, (<https://search.findmypast.com> >Henry Pinder> Yorkshire> Sheffield: accessed 15 January 2024); citing The National Archives, ref. HO 107-234, piece 2341, folio 126, p.4, schedule 12.
18. England, death certificate, Mary Stephens, digital copy, died 4 December, 1853, registered December quarter 1853, Sheffield district, vol. 09c, p.216, Sheffield Park, Yorkshire, General Register Office, Southport.
19. Trade Directories, The Sheffield Indexers, webpage, (Sheffield Indexers.com/DirectoriesIndex.html: accessed 13 September 2021); citing Sheffield Burgess Rolls.
20. The *Albert Gallatin* cleared Liverpool, 22 May 1856, see: 'Emigrant Ships from Liverpool to US East Coast and Gulf Ports, 1856' webpage of extracted data, *The Ships List* (www.theshipslist.com/ships/Arrivals/us1856.shtml : accessed 21 January 2024); citing British Parliamentary Papers: 1857 Session 2 [2249] Colonial Land and Emigration Commission 17th General Report, 1857; for N.Y. arrival see: 'New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (Including Castle Garden and Ellis Island, 1820-1957,' database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/132078:7488 : accessed 21 January 2024); Ship *Albert Gallatin*, arrival 2 July 1856, image 11 of 13, entry for Hugh Stephens, age 50 [or 60?], carpenter, [native of] England, intended destination: N. America, upper deck; citing National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.
21. 'New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949', database of extracted data, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F69w-SZZ> : accessed 21 January 2024); citing Wards Island cemetery, for Hugh Stephens, age 77, born England, address: Castle Island, Manhattan, New York, died 2 July 1856. Although the age on the passenger list and the burial at Wards Island are inaccurate, the name, occupation, and date is significant.
22. 'If Any Relatives of Hugh Stephens' *The Liverpool Mercury*; Liverpool, 19 May 1875, p.1, col. 4; British Newspapers collection, *Findmypast* (<<https://search.findmypast.com/bna/viewarticle?>: accessed 14 September 2021).
23. Negative searches for James Stephens/Stevens between 1820 and 1840 in: 'England, Devon, parish registers: Collection Record, 1538-1912' FamilySearch.org; 'Devon Burials' database, *Findmypast.com*. Ilfracombe Independent Church records viewed page by page. All Devon parishes were checked. Burials were not always recorded.
24. Negative search for marriages in parish registers on *Findmypast* for James Harris or James Stephens/Stevens from 1840 to 1860 with the correct father, age or birthplace. Counties checked were Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire and Glamorgan, Wales and were chosen because of locations of family members and proximity to Devon. Note: Parish marriage records often include the name of the groom's father. None had a father named Hugh. Many also have the age of the groom. None were born in 1820. Negative search in Civil Registration indexes on *Findmypast* from 1840-1860. Index of civil registration can be compared to parish registers to eliminate candidates. There was a *John Harris Stephens* who married in Lifton, Devon in 1856, however, he was the son of John Stephens, and no relation to this family. 'Devon Marriages and Banns' image of parish register, *Findmypast*, (<https://search.findmypast.com/record?>: accessed 17 October 2022); John Harris Stephens and Mary Anne Ball, 24 March 1856.
25. Negative searches for a James Stephens/Stevens of the correct age in: 'UK, Apprentices Indentured in Merchant Navy, 1824-1910', database with images of seamen's registers, *Ancestry.com*. Brothers Edward and Henry were both indentured into the Merchant Navy.
26. Negative searches in 1841 and 1851 England, Wales & Scotland census databases on *Findmypast*. The 1851 England census listed the parish of birth for each person, and no James Stephens/Stevens was born in Ilfracombe, Devon.
27. Negative searches for James Harris Stephens/Stevens in 'England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915' on *Ancestry*. There are deaths of 21 'James Stephens' born within a two-year range of 1820 recorded in England and Wales civil registration. All deaths were after 1851 and therefore were checkable against the census records.
28. Siblings' marriages and baptisms of children are without a James Stephens as a witness or sponsor.
29. Negative search for James Stephens/Stevens born about 1820 in databases: 'British Newspaper Collection' on *Findmypast*; 'Military Service & Conflict' database on *Findmypast*; of eleven James Stephens's who served, none were born in Devon; 'Rate Books' database on *Findmypast*.
30. Church of England, Ilfracombe, Devon, England, parish register, handwritten, 'The Register Book of the Parish of Ilfracombe, containing Christenings, Beginning with the Year MDCCCLXVII (1767) 'unpaginated, image 14 of 36, Jane, daughter of Thos & Anne Harris March 30, 1794, in record set 'Devon Baptisms,' *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 15 January 2024); courtesy South West Heritage Trust, archive reference 3253A/PR/1/3. For the marriage of Thomas Harris and Ann Main see: Church of England, Clovelly, Devon, England, parish register, printed book, 'Register of Marriages in the Parish of Clovelly in the County of Devon,' p.6, no. 16, Hugh Stephens and Mary Harris, 3 October 1814, in record set: 'Devon Marriages and Banns,' *Findmypast* (www.search.findmypast.com/record : accessed 21 January 2024); courtesy South West Heritage Trust and Parochial Church Council.
31. Church of England, Ilfracombe, Devon, England, parish register, printed book, 'Register of Burials in the Parish of Ilfracombe in the County of Devon', p. 2, image 5 of 97, Jane Harris, 4 April 1813, age 19, in record set 'Devon Burials' *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com: accessed 15 January 2024); courtesy South West Heritage Trust.
32. Church of England, Clovelly, Devon, England, parish register, printed book, 'Register of Marriages in the Parish of Clovelly in the County of Devon,' p.6, no. 16, Hugh Stephens and Mary Harris, 3 October 1814, in record set: 'Devon Marriages and Banns,' *Findmypast* (www.search.findmypast.com/record: accessed 21 January 2024); courtesy South West Heritage Trust.

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DENTAL NURSING: DEVELOPMENT AND RECORDS

Fiona Ellwood BEM and Dr. Janine Brooks MBE

'The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see'. Winston Churchill (cited in Smith, 2021 p.38)

What a great sentiment from Winston Churchill. We hope we can do justice to the quote as we look back on the growth of dental nursing and shine a spotlight on both the past and the possibility that your ancestor could have been a dental nurse.

Dental Nurses currently and historically, generally assist(ed) clinicians, that is dentists, dental therapists or dental hygienists. From 30 July 2008 it was mandatory for qualified dental nurses to become registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) in order to work in the United Kingdom. The General Dental Council (GDC) (2013), the regulatory body for all dental professionals, describes dental nurses as 'Registered dental professionals who provide clinical and other support to registrants and patients.'

Dental nursing has undergone seismic changes and developments over the last 100-125 years. It has evolved from handmaidens to the dentist, chaperones, to unqualified mixer of dental materials, finally to trained, qualified and registered dental professionals, essential members of the dental team.

When thinking about the evolution of dental nursing, it is important to consider the various terms and compilations that have been applied as a title over the years. The most commonly and synonymously applied descriptor, both historically and in modernity, is the term dental assistant. This is important if you are trying to determine if your ancestor worked as a dental nurse.

Although there is general mention of dental assistants in England in 1909, the UK census returns show that dental nurses and dental

assistants were formally recognized as being within the dental workforce as early as 1881. However, there is little written relating to dental assistants in the UK until 1940. Early dental assistants / dental nurses in England appeared to undertake mainly administrative and chaperone roles.

The primary role of the dental assistant has been identified historically by many as assisting the dentist. What is clear is that not every dentist worked with a dental assistant and their education and training appears to have been poles apart.

In Figure 1 below we see two dentists, Dr. Cunningham and Mr. Gant, a school dentist, providing treatment for a child. A dental nurse, known then as a surgery maid is also present. This photograph is from the archive of the British Dental Association museum. The collection records that the surgery maid was named Rose, sadly no surname is given for Rose.



*Fig. 1 - 'Surgery maid' assisting two dentists, circa 1900.
Photo permission: British Dental Association Museum.*

From the early days of assisting in dentistry, those who assisted received instruction and 'training' on the job from the dental surgeon with whom they

worked. There was no formal education and the training would have been very practically focused and tailored to the needs of specific practices and individual dentists. It was thought that assistants did not need to understand the process of tooth decay, gum disease, or the composition of the materials they mixed. They were there to assist at the chair side and to be complementary to the dental surgeon they were working with. This began to change in the 1930s in the UK.

The British Dental Nurses and Assistants Society was formed in 1940 in Leyland, Lancashire, by dental nurse Madeleine (Bunty) Winter and dentist PE Grundy. Bunty, as she was known, was the Association's first general Secretary in the early 1940s. In 1943 the Association held the first dental nurse examination, there were 175 applications and 134 successfully passed. Bunty Winter was one of those first dental nurses to become qualified.

The numbers of dental nurses steadily increased after the 1921 Dentists' Act but it was during the Second World War that they became more properly organised.

The gender of those taking on a caring role is an interesting one. Although the division is not total and there remains a fuzzy boundary between the genders in the 21st century, currently the majority of dental nurses across the United Kingdom are female. Those who assisted dental surgeons in the past however, may have been predominantly male, as they were generally considered to be learning the trade and preparing to become a dentist. In that respect they cannot truly be considered to be dental nurses. They are more likely to have been dentist apprentices. This is not a statement that can be accurately tested as records of specific dental professionals are not easy to find. A look at art depicting dental surgeons and their assistants does tend to show the assistant as male. As we move through the years the numbers of females occupying the post of dental assistant or dental nurse begins to increase.

It is difficult to find references to dental nursing in its earliest forms. Dentistry in art however can provide some clues. One such piece of art, a print by Edward Dighton (c1752-1819), was published in '*some Alnwick caricatures*' (1812-1817) by William

Davison of Alnwick, Northumberland. The print depicts an itinerant tooth drawer, who is accompanied by his (male) assistant. The assistant, dressed in a clown's costume, is providing entertainment and distraction whilst an extraction is being undertaken. Another print, by Edward Dighton and also published by William Davison, shows a village smithy. His assistant is standing on a stool supporting the patient's head against his chest. Yet another print by Edward Dighton depicts a town tooth drawer in a wealthy-looking house although it's not clear if this is the tooth drawer's house or perhaps he has made a home visit. He is accompanied by an assistant (again male) who is carrying an instrument case. Both the tooth drawer and assistant are dressed (and wigged) as wealthy individuals. It seems we have a theme in this small selection of art by the same artist, there is an assistant; however, they are always male. Perhaps this says more about the position of working women in society during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. An important point is that the prints do give us evidence that dental assistants, the forerunners of dental nurses, were to be found at this time, their gender is of lesser importance.

We can find evidence of the dental assistant in even earlier pieces of art. A copper engraving by Lucas Van Leyden, *The Dentist*, crafted in 1523, depicts a dentist at work. It appears he is operating with his assistant, a woman. Sadly, the assistant is shown placing her hand in the patient's pocket, not the greatest illustration of a dental nurse.

The 19th Century



Fig. 2 - Dental nurse assisting dentist whilst treating a child at Enfield Dental Clinic. Photo permission: British Dental Association Museum.

During the 19th century it was generally considered that men and women occupied different places in society and undertook different areas of work. Ridley (2017) calls these ‘different spheres’. Women occupied the private sphere of home and family, whilst men occupied the public sphere of work, business and politics. The latter sphere was considered to be the more important of the two. Not surprisingly this meant that men were able to lead and control the world as they saw fit. Women could rarely operate outside the control of a man, whether that be father, husband or brother. This had a direct and generally limiting effect on the type of work that a woman could undertake. Once a woman was married she was mostly confined to running the home and raising children. However, it is interesting that a small proportion of those noted in the various census returns as dental nurses, or variations of this title, were married, as we shall see later.

Bullough, (1994) notes that female dominance in general nursing began in the 19th century. The Nightingale reforms were influential and seemed to have created a stigma against men working in caring. Prior to this time male nurses were much more numerous, particularly within the military (Ross, 2017). India may have been the birth place of nurse education (Vallano, 2008) with men taking the role of nurses because of their ‘pureness’. Bullough (1994) tells us that caring for the sick was not deemed to be a role that women were suited to. This may come as a surprise to us today, particularly as women totally dominate the caring professions. It would seem that Florence Nightingale flipped the gender roles for nursing and the current predominance of women as general nurses is largely due to her. Clearly dental nurses undertake different roles to general nurses; however, it may be that the gender changes in general nursing had a knock-on effect for the emergence of female dental nurses.

Dental assistant duties were first formally described in the UK in 1883. At that time, those duties included arranging appointments, taking care of the office, standing at the side of the dental chair during treatment of the patient by the dentist. However, we know from the art record that dental assistants had been working in dentistry for many years before 1883. The 1881 UK census also provides evidence that at least one dental nurse was working.

It seems that when anaesthetics began to be used within dental practice after 1850, the chaperoning of women patients by women assistants became more commonplace. Their role was probably extremely limited, but it was a beginning.

Whilst the history of women in dentistry is relatively sparse; most of what is written concerns women dentists, the mention of female dental nurses is particularly difficult to find. Those who undertook the role that we today know as dental nursing went under a wide variety of titles, a literature review showed the following descriptors:

Subordinate	Trained Auxiliary
Lady in waiting	Chairside Assistant
Dental House Maiden	Dental Auxiliaries
Auxiliary	Somatological Assistant
Dental Nurse	Dental Assistant
Certified Dental Assistant	Registered Dental Assistant
Licensed Dental Assistant	Intra-oral dental assistants
Chairside attendants	Dental Dresser
Dental Surgery Attendant	Sick Berth attendant to dental surgeons

Clearly it was many years before the title became more standardized, although even this has only taken place very recently. Gelbier, (2005) confirms that the title ‘dental nurse’ was not a new title born in the 1940s, a fact borne out by census returns, as shown in Table 2.

Census returns are an interesting source of information about dental nurses and dental nursing over time. Before 1918 female dentists were recognized and dental assistants were also noted within the dental environment, although at that time it was not common for dentists to work with an assistant. A review from the 1871-1939 UK census returns using the search term dental nurse, provided the information found in Table 1. The provider, www.findmypast.co.uk, was used for all census searches and data reproduced.

Ten years later the census of 1881 shows the first dental nurse noted as an occupation in the census returns. She was Fanny Payne, single and aged 35 years. Fanny worked as a nurse at the dental hospital, St. Martin in the Fields. It seems reasonable to assume that Fanny was not the only dental nurse

Table 1 - UK Census by year, search term - dental nurse, by age and marital status.

Census Year	Number	Gender	Age range	Mean Age	Marital status
1871	0	-	-	-	-
1881	1	Female	35	-	Single
1891	2	Female	18-61	31	Single 1 / Married 1
1901	17	Female	19-58	29	Single 15 / Widowed 2
1911	71	69 Female / 2 Male	17-77	-	Single 57 / Widowed 7 / Married 7
1921	425	406 Female / 19 Male	Not available	-	Not available
1939	1562	1505 Female / 57 Male	Not calculated	-	Not calculated

The census of 1871 has no reported dental nurses of either gender.

working at the dental hospital, however, there are no others recorded as such in the census return that year. In the return of 1891, two women report themselves as dental nurses, one single, one married. Ann, one of those two, was 18 years old and lived in the same residence as John Wilson a surgeon dentist. Ann is noted in the census return as a servant (nurse domestic), in relation to the head of the household, however, it seems fair to assume that Ann was dental nurse to John Wilson. In 1911 we find the first men to report their occupation as dental nurse. Arthur Trimnell was 41 years old, married and lived in Fulham. William Warren Alcock was 38 years old, married and worked at West Ham Borough Asylum. We find Arthur Trimnell in the 1901 census also but here his reported occupation is male nurse. We will never know if Arthur was a dental nurse in 1901 or whether he swapped from general nursing to dental nursing. Over the years the number of recorded dental nurses begins to slowly rise and in 1921, 406 women and 19 men report themselves to be dental nurses. This number has increased to 1562 by the 1939 census.

The search becomes more interesting when the term dental assistant is used. However, care must be taken in the interpretation of the term. Dental assistant is a broad umbrella title that covers those who were apprenticed to a dentist as well as those who were undertaking the role of dental nurse. In addition, it could also apply to those who worked in the dental manufacturing sector, for example technicians. Other descriptors are also found, for example; dental secretary, tooth trimmer, assistant

at dental depot, dental assistant moulder, dental instrument maker assistant. After 1911 the numbers become too large to accurately count individuals in each reported category. Many of the descriptors are not roles within the dental surgery. However, they are interesting as roles that women undertook within the larger remit of dentistry.

Table 2 shows the total number in each census year (1871-1939), denoted as dental assistants. The different role descriptors that are found when searching are also recorded. Only females were included in our analysis of age and marital status as it is not possible to accurately determine if the males were actually dental assistants (dental nurses) or apprentice dentists. It is appreciated that this will fail to recognize those males who were actually employed as dental assistants, specifically dental nurses. It is interesting to note that throughout the census years there are a number of families where several children are working in the dental industry in some form or another. Sisters working in the role are particularly notable, also a small number of mothers and daughters. Several female dental assistants are living in the same household and, it is assumed, working for a dental surgeon who is the Head of that household. Some are clearly relatives, a few are described as servants, as was the case for Ann, noted above.

The numbers of individuals employed as dental nurses or dental assistants grows with each census, which is not surprising as the practice of dentistry itself was growing at this time. It is clear that most

**Table 2 - UK Census: Individuals reported as working in the dental industry 1871-1939
by age, gender and role descriptor.**

Census Year	No.	Gender	Role Descriptors	Age range (Females) years	Mean Age (Females) years	Marital status (Females)
1871	None	-	-	-	-	-
1881	90	19 Female 71 Male	Dental Assistant	14-54	-	Single 18 Widow 1
1891	248	43 Female 205 Male	Ass. Dent. Manufacture 1 Ass. Dent. Academy 1 Dent. Works Ass. 1 Ass. Dent. Factory 1 Dental assistant 39	14-65	31	Single 41 Married 0 Widow 2
1901	447	73 Female 374 Male	Ass. Dent. Factory. 2 Ass. Dent. Depot. 2 Dent. Works ass. 8 Dent. Manufa. Ass. 1 Dental lady ass. 1 Dental assistant. 433	13-74	29	Single 72 Married 1 Widow 0
1911	809	183 Female 626 Male	Moulder's ass. Dental works Ass. Dental depot Dental lady ass. Dent. Secretary Tooth trimmer Dent. Factory ass. Packer at dentists Dent. Manufa. Ass. Dent. Instrument maker ass. Dent. Acad. Ass. Dent. Ass. Arti. Teeth Dent. Rubber stamp ass. Ass. Dental store Ass. Dent. App. Dealer Dent. Anaesthetist Dent. Shop ass. Tooth pourer ass. Dent. mechanic	17-77	-	Single 173 Married 7 Widow 3
1921	-	406 Female 19 Male	Dental Dresser (20)	Not available	Not given	Not given
1939	-	1508 Female 58 Male	Dental Dresser (4)	Not calculated	Not analysed	Not given

of those described as dental nurses were female whilst the majority of those described as dental assistants were mainly male. However, this is not universal but it is difficult to differentiate precise roles between the genders accurately.

The age range of those described as working within the dental sector is wide. For the three census returns between 1881 and 1901 the youngest dental nurses or dental assistants are 13/14 years, but the oldest are recorded as in their 50s, 60s and even

70s. In the census of 1911 the youngest age has risen to 17 years and the oldest 77 years. These women, whilst largely single, also include those who are married and those who are widowed. In 1881, two dental assistants are recorded as mother and daughter, the mother is a widow (at the age of 46 years). In 1891 a grandmother, mother and daughter are recorded as dental assistants, grandmother and mother are both widows (at the ages of 65 and 31 years). The granddaughter is aged 16 years. Also, in 1891, four sets of sisters are

recorded as dental assistants. In the census of 1911, 17 sets of sisters are recorded as dental assistants. The descriptor 'servant' is still used for a number of those women, they were all living in the same residence as the dentist who it is presumed they worked for.

Searching the census years can reveal some interesting and tantalizing pieces of information. For example, in 1871 when searching using the term Dental, Annie Garner is recorded. In 1871 Annie is a baby, only a few months old. She is recorded as living with her family at Soho Square Dental Hospital, St. Anne, Westminster, London. Unfortunately, the occupation of her father is not recorded, so we can't know whether he was a member of staff. Soho Square Dental Hospital was the first dental school to open in Britain on 1 October 1859. It eventually became the Royal Dental Hospital in 1901.

Another interesting find came with the census of 1841 when searching using the term Dental. 40 results at first looked very promising, only to find that 36 of the results were for individuals living in Dentals Street, St. Leonard, Elham, Kent. A further four of the results lived in Dentals House, Borden, Milton, Kent.

In the census of 1861 three sisters are recorded with the surname De Horn, two of whom were born in Australia, the youngest sister being born in Surrey, England. Why was this interesting? All of the sisters have a recorded occupation of Dental co-scholar. Sadly, the exact meaning of this occupation is unknown. In the same census a female servant is included, she was born in Germany and her name was Herenerille Dental. Finally, in 1861 Sarah Ross, married aged 53 years, has a recorded occupation of Dental pupa, was she an apprentice dentist, or was she a dental assistant?

Census returns have provided a fascinating source when seeking information about dental nurses. It would be interesting to undertake more research on these individuals; where they were born, their families and more about the places they worked. Who knows if a dental nurse working today is the descendant of one of these early dental nurses. However, that will have to wait for another article.

We hope you have enjoyed this dip into the world of dental nursing and that it has wetted your appetite to consider if you may have a dental nurse ancestor.



Fig. 3 - Dental nurse assisting a dentist whilst treating a child patient. Photo permission: British Dental Association Museum.

Note

Census data has been taken from the Findmypast website. www.findmypast.co.uk. This is a subscription genealogical database. Records of UK census returns from 1841-1921 can be searched online.

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Authors' biographies

Fiona Ellwood BEM, M.Ed L.M, PG Cert HF/E, PG Cert Public Health, PG Cert Mentoring in Dentistry, BA (Hons) Ed S, PG Cert Ed (PGCE) (Hon) FFGDP (UK), FDTF (RCS Ed) IAM & RSPH- fellowships, NCSCPT Practitioner, Doctoral Researcher, Trustee of DentaId.

Fiona is a member of the Executive Board and elected President 2019-22 of the Society of British Dental Nurses, leading on Education Governance & Quality Assurance with a special interest in Public Health matters. She writes extensively for a number of journals. Fiona has been a dental nurse for 37yrs, although first entered the field over 40 years ago. She speaks nationally and internationally on related topics.

She was the first Dental Care Professional to receive an honorary Fellowship from the FGDP (UK) RCS England and one of the first to be awarded the Fellowship of the Faculty of Dental Trainers, RCS Edinburgh.

In June 2019 Fiona was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her contribution to dentistry.

Dr. Janine Brooks MBE, DMed Eth, MSc, FFGDP (UK), MCDH, DDPH(RCS), BDS, FAcadMed.

Janine is CEO of Dentalia Coaching and Training Consultancy; Co-founder of Dental Mentors UK; a

private Coach and Mentor (Remediation, Career and Personal Development), Registration Assessment Panellist for the General Dental Council; Trustee of the Dentists' Health Support Trust; Expert Witness; Trustee of the NHS Retirement Fellowship and Honorary Fellow, Society of British Dental Nurses.

Janine enjoys a portfolio career working across a number of roles and organisations. Themes running through her work include education, mentoring and coaching. She writes extensively and has published several books, plus a number of articles and papers over the years.

Janine qualified from University of Birmingham dental school in 1983 and spent 19 years working as a Community Dentist in Herefordshire and Warwickshire before taking on national roles.

Janine was thrilled to receive an MBE for Services to Dentistry in 2007.

Fiona and Janine share a deep interest in education and training within dentistry, their paths initially crossed whilst both working with National Vocational Qualifications. The history and development of dental nursing is another area of shared interest for them.

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PORTRAITURE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

... IT'S WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Helen Dawkins LRPS

It goes without saying that photography covers every aspect of our lives and it has always been invaluable in recording our environment - buildings to display styles of architecture, gardens, interiors of our houses to record styles of furniture, decoration and lighting. But one very significant use has been in portraiture. In fact, this is where it all began.

Back in 1841 Richard Beard established the first photograph studio in England to enable him to produce Daguerreotypes as introduced by Louis Daguerre in France in 1839. The constraints of photography at this time were brought about by the unportable nature of the camera and associated equipment. He therefore established his studio on the top floor of the Polytechnic building in Regent Street, London to enable him to utilise the availability of natural light via the glasshouse-type roof. With the ingenious use of a posing chair placed on a raised platform, the sitter could be rotated to face the best angle of natural light depending on the time of year/day, the sitter's head held still by a clamp - you can now forgive your ancestors for not smiling in their photographs. But did you know that rather than "smile", the Victorian request was for sitters to say the word "prune"?!



Figure 1 - Sketch of 1841 Daguerreotype Studio Regent Street

It must have been quite some experience to attend Beard's studio for a sitting and how privileged were his early customers to take advantage of this new medium to produce a 'likeness', only previously possible by employing the services of a portrait artist. The Daguerreotype was produced on a copper plate which was prepared by being coated with silver, cleaned and highly polished. The plate was then exposed to iodine vapours in an enclosed box to create a light-sensitive surface. The exposure took place in a specially produced camera and initially took between five and 70 minutes, but this time was soon reduced, by the utilisation of different chemicals, to between 5 and 40 seconds. I am sure a very welcome development if you were the sitter! Portrait photography was born.

The daguerreotype was a piece of artwork to be treasured, and at approximately twice the average weekly income, was at first only accessible to the aristocracy and royalty.



Figure 2 - Typical Daguerreotype

Cameras and methods of producing photographs quickly developed and became more portable. The Daguerreotype dominated for the first ten years until the early 1850s but mention should also be made of the important contribution by William Fox Talbot of Lacock Abbey, who in 1834 discovered how to make and fix images through the action of light and chemistry on paper. He continued many experiments to transfer this knowledge to a plate in a camera and in 1841, the calotype process was born. Its main advantage over the Daguerreotype was that more than one print could be made. This was the first negative/positive process which would evolve over time.

The method of producing negatives on glass arrived in the 1860s and the style of photograph changed to utilise this medium hence the Ambrotype was born - a negative transposed into a permanent image by coating the reverse of the plate with black shellac varnish or black velvet etc. It was presented in a similar case to the Daguerreotype. We then moved into a simpler style with the negative continuing to be produced on glass but in 1853 a Parisian photographer, Andre Disderi, had the idea of making several small exposures on one large photographic plate and this new size brought about the introduction of the Cartes de Visite which dominated until the advent of the Cabinet Card (twice the size) in the 1860s. Cartes de Visite however remained very popular into the early 20th century. Produced the size of a visiting card in a specially designed camera and backed onto an ornate backing card Cartes de Visite became hugely collectable and specially designed albums were produced for the Cartes to be inserted into. These were often very substantial with pages of rigid card, beautifully decorated and although generally the size of an A4 sheet, each page would often only contain a single photograph.

Cost always being at the forefront of any developments, the use of iron was introduced in the mid-1850s, with all the chemical operations taking place inside a specially designed camera developed for the use of the itinerant photographer. The cameras had multiple lenses to enable up to 36 exposures on one plate. The thin sheet of tin would be coated with a wet collodion emulsion and the photographs quickly processed, cut up into individual Tintypes and handed to the customer whilst still wet. The small plate would often be inserted into a paper or card

mount to bring it up to the size of a Carte de Visite. However the image would be more inferior often displaying with a murky, dark appearance. Nevertheless, the cost was merely a few pence so open to a much wider number of customers.



Figure 3 - Carte inserted into single page

The greatest development was the transfer of the negative on to roll film introduced in the 1880s. But it was the further development to the celluloid roll film, with which we are all familiar and which predominated until the 1980s, and the introduction of the Kodak Box Brownie in the early part of the 20th century, which opened photography to the masses.

The number of photographic studios grew, and as well as outlets in cities, studios began to open up in the provinces which were initially greeted with some disdain. The 1851 census recorded 51 commercial photographers in England - by 1871, 4,700 studios were recorded and by the 1890s it was estimated that some 20% of these photographers were women. One of the best known was Julia Margaret Cameron who developed a very distinctive style, often posing her sitters as characters from biblical, historical or allegorical stories.



Figure 4 - Example of Julia Margaret Cameron portrait

For readers north of the border mention should also be made of one of the greatest portrait photographers of the 19th century, David Octavius Hill, who in conjunction with Robert Adamson set up the first photographic studio in Scotland in 1843. Sadly, Adamson died in 1846, and soon afterwards Hill returned to his first love as an artist.

In the Victorian era photographic cost restraints meant photographs were only ever taken for a reason such as a birth, breeching of a boy child at the age of 4/5 when he entered the first stage of manhood and would be dressed in trousers i.e. first put into 'breeches', 21st birthdays, engagements, weddings, significant birthdays etc. It wasn't until the early 20th century, with the introduction of the Kodak Box Brownie camera that photography became much more accessible to all and the number of photographs taken increased.

Into the 20th century, photography opened up to the masses, and professionally included more experimental work from people such as Man Ray, a prolific photographer during the first half of the 20th century. Born Emmanuel Radnitzky in Philadelphia in 1890, he was the son of Russian/Jewish immigrant parents who changed their surname to Ray after the turn of the century. Man Ray was one of the early practitioners to liberate photography from the staid conventional style. He presented us with such ideas as solarised images - allowing in a little light when developing to give an ethereal image also Rayographs similar to early Photograms which create images outside the camera. An old technique but Man Ray brought his Surrealist's eye to the process to create unusual images. Man Ray

died in 1976 and progress is still being made to sort through his vast archive.

As well as photographers creating their individual styles, the way a portrait was produced can give many clues as to the date it was taken. Fashion obviously tells much of the story with variations particularly evident in photographs of females, from the use of the bustle at the beginning of the photographic era to the gradual simplification of style going into the Edwardian period. Necklines varied with the onset of the Victorian era showing a much more conservative and prudish style, and high necklines generally prevailed for daytime wear into the 20th century with variety being sought with the use of scarves, jabots etc. in the 1860/70s and standing collars, buttoned to the throat and having piecrust frills being more prevalent from the 1880s into the early 1900s. Sleeves also showed great variety from being fitted to the arm in the early 1840/50s, moving into high-set sleeves through the 1870s, narrow sleeves, peaked at the shoulder in the 1880s and more puffed at the shoulder through to the turn of the century.



Figure 5 - The Princess Alexandra hairstyle

Hair styles changed, but one significant milestone which may help with dating was the introduction in the 1860s of the Princess Alexandra style curly fringe and the acceptance of ears on display rather than being covered by the hair.

Male fashion was also not to be left out with varying styles and lengths of jacket, and the move from the

earlier high shirt collars with large cravats to large loose cravats in the 1850s leading into narrower ties and significantly 3-inch shirt collars from 1899.

Fashion is a huge subject, which I have only briefly touched on, but is a very useful indicator when dating Victorian photographs but I should also mention here the fashionable style of photograph when looking at portraiture in photography. In the early days the sitter would be shown full length, often seated to accommodate the long exposure times, and very often with props such as a book, table, walking cane etc. Into the 1870s the style developed into $\frac{3}{4}$ length figures and from the 1880s utilising backdrops of screens often depicting landscapes, balustrades, plants etc. From the mid-1880s the trend was for head and shoulder portraits which from the early 1890s were often vignettes.



Figure 6 - Cabinet Card depicting backdrop



Figure 7 - Vignette portrait

With the advent of World War I the use of portraiture was more often for photographs of our soldiers - more fickle reasons could not and would not be afforded. We should remember however the use by soldiers of the small, handheld vest pocket cameras, sometimes for portraits but often to record environments. Their use was formally banned in 1915 but they continued to be used surreptitiously, their rebellion being encouraged by the rewards offered by newspapers starved of fresh pictures. A scoop picture taken at Ypres in 1916 won an officer £600 - £50,000 in today's money.

Our love of the portrait continues to this day and we are now drowning in the images - posed and 'selfies' - taken on smartphones, but portraits of people including family, friends and colleagues are so important in recording our lives. Please don't forget to continue printing some out and sharing them. I believe albums are so important to remind us of who we are, where we come from and what we do, and have also been found invaluable in helping dementia patients.

... And a few other thoughts:

I share this, courtesy of one of my customers:

"The etymology of 'pedigree' - from the French 'pied de grue', foot of the crane, the family tree resembling the shape of a crane's leg" - you never stop learning!

And a diary note:

This year marks 50 years since the Fox Talbot Museum, home of the William Henry Fox Talbot archive, opened in Lacock on 28 June 1975 - well worth a visit.

Helen Dawkins LRPS

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Established in 1992, Black and White Revival carries out traditional restoration and conservation of photographs. Helen Dawkins is now one of the few traditional processors for black and white photography continuing to produce archival quality photographs in the darkroom. For further advice: email helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk, visit www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk or tel: 01234 782265.



ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

Christine Worthington & Alice Imperatori

Our amazing archives volunteers have been enjoying working in our new building. Our very large and solid archives table in the library gives the team plenty of room to spread out and work together, now enabling the processing of very large collections (and even of multiple collections at a time!). Our specially-designed archives storeroom keeps collections secure, and in a temperature-controlled environment, in between processing sessions.

Following is a list and some brief details of collections processed and catalogued over the past year, as well as some collections received years ago that reports have only recently been created for.

If you are interested in looking at any of these collections, you can do so by booking a library visit and completing your Collections Order Form at least one week prior to your visit.

Our Archives Finding Aids folder is accessible online and gives detailed information about the box contents of each collection. You can use the details from the Special and Small Collection Reports to identify archives likely to be most useful to your research, and you can order up to five boxes per visit.

Links to both the Archives Finding Aids and the Collections Order form can be found at the top of our library page www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library/ and information about visiting SoG and booking your visit can be found on our visit page www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/visit-us.

If you don't live in London and can't consult archive collections in person, email genenquiries@sog.org.uk to contact our staff genealogists who can order archives from storage, consult them on your behalf and (for a small fee) make copies of relevant documents for you.

Archives Assistant Alice Imperatori has continued creating digital catalogue records for our archive collections which will eventually appear in our new collections system (SoG Explore). This is a huge

job, but well worth it when researchers will be able to see and search archival catalogue records of our many research collections for the first time.

If you are interested in depositing your research with us, please see this page on our website: www.sog.org.uk/depositing-materials-with-us.

There is still a considerable backlog of processing, but our team is now better equipped than ever before to work on material retrospectively alongside new collections. If you have donated material in the past that hasn't yet been processed, we very much appreciate your patience and we look forward to publishing details of newly-processed collections in future issues of *Genealogists' Magazine*.

Grimshaw, Brian (5 boxes)

Received from the Essex Record Office in 2024. This collection is the life work of Brian Grimshaw (14th July 1946-1st November 2022). He lived in Saffron Walden for his entire life and was a keen family historian. It was donated by Brian Grimshaw's brother, Roger Grimshaw, to The Gibson Library in Saffron Walden who have passed it onto the Society of Genealogists via the Essex Record Office because it fell outside their geographical range. This is Brian's family research into the Tredgett Family in Epping, which consists of research into his mother Violet Tredgett (1921-2006), who married James Grimshaw, and additional linked families.

There are 5 boxes in this collection, which contain information about at least 404 families. Each box and the folders within it contain printouts and photocopies of extracts from the English census (1881-1921) and the 1939 Register, marriage information including some certificates (1865-1964), birth and death information including death entries, death certificates, and copies of probate for some individuals. The majority of the information has been downloaded from Find my Past, which includes copies of birth certificates, baptism records and electoral registers. There are also some photocopies of maps of the local area, some ship passengers lists and printouts of war grave information. The Archive Team at the Society of Genealogists have kept the original order, dividers, and titles in which the

collection was received. Many pages do contain additional handwritten family information.

Gordon, Alastair (2 boxes)

Gifted by Alastair Gordon in 2024, these papers concern the English families related to the Gordon families of Sutherland, Scotland. The collection comprises primarily research notes, copies and transcripts of wills and birth, death and marriage certificates, family trees, pedigrees, and some notes on legal cases. The collection covers the following families: Oakley/Okeley, Peart/Pritt of Furness, Fell, Constant of Thanet, Cottons of Crakemarsh, Crane of Ipswich, Crane of Loughton, Crane of Cambridge, Hills of Cradley, Mott of Lichfield, Noble of Lichfield, Sweyne of Penn, Cotton of Bellaport, Sclater, Lowe.

Harvey, Sheila (3 boxes)

Received as part of the estate of Sheila Maureen Harvey in 2024. The collection contains the family history papers and the life history of John T. A. Harvey and Sheila Maureen Harvey (nee McCarthy), OBE. It consists of research notes, birth/death/marriage certificates, family trees, research and family correspondence, education certificates, photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings, theatre programmes, a soldier's book of service and two framed certificates.

The names researched in this collection are: Harvey, Hanlon, McCarthy, Lord, Young, Littleton, Bray, Holmes, Broad, Bailey, Patterson, Perkins, Sexby, Wriggleworth, Dalton, Crouch, Dugard, Hudson, Toole, Chivall/Chevill.

Joyce, Brenda (3 boxes)

This collection, received from the estate of Brenda Ann Joyce of New Zealand in 2024, contains extensive research by Brenda Joyce into her Sussex family genealogy and historical family connections to New Zealand. It consists of family trees; descendant charts; extracts and copies from parish registers, indexes, census material; birth/death/marriage certificates; photographs; memorial inscriptions; newspaper cuttings; correspondence and research notes. The collection also contains a large number of discs and DVDs which are awaiting format conversion and are therefore not yet accessible.

The following family surnames appear throughout the collection: Arnell, Burgess, Comber, Cottingham, Knight, Mummery, Pearce, Stanbridge.

King, Rena (3 boxes)

Gifted by Rena King in 2018, this collection contains more than 2000 paper inscriptions taken from family/personal bibles. These include handwritten

transcriptions and photocopies of the original bible. Every file is numbered and contains correspondence related to its receipt by Rena King.

A Surname Index was produced by Rena King. It includes all surnames mentioned in the collection, followed by first names, title of the bible, places/other notes, and reference number of the inscription. Where the contributor was related this was shown as RCD (Related contributor details). First names were not listed when an individual had several.

The surname index has been added to SoG Explore and is available at the Society of Genealogists in a digital format.

Oliver, Rosemary (5 boxes)

The Rosemary Oliver collection was donated to the Society in November 2022 by Ms Phillipa Spurway. The collection contains research information relating to Rosemary Oliver's family history and further selected documentation from her work as a professional genealogist.

It includes pedigrees; descendant charts; copies and extracts of wills, publications, diaries, parish registers, inquests, family letters; research notes; newspaper cuttings; photographs; research correspondence; obituaries.

The following family surnames appear in the collection: Anderson, Cottingham, Cramp, Creighton, Elibank, Goxhill, Indy, Mander/Maunders, Martinsen, Moor/Moore, Murray, Oliver, Phillips, Richardson, Staples, Waterland.

Pearson, Roy (1 box)

The collection contains the early research papers of Roy Stanley Pearson (1945-2020). It was bequeathed to the Society by his wife Dorothy in 2024.

The collection contains information on the Burton, Cameron and Fenwick families of Bolton Bay, Lancashire. It includes family trees, parish register extracts and the general correspondence of the Cruikshank family; the will, burial details and general correspondence of Dora Alice Geedes; research material for related families of Herbert, Newton, Stimpson, and Weedon; a Fouague/Fovargue family indented pedigree 1513-1995 compiled by Ian C. Grant; various research material on the Pearson family, including military records and newspaper cuttings; original and copies of related family birth/marriage/death certificates.

Skoyles Family (6 boxes)

Gifted by Edward R. Skoyles in November 2001. This collection is the result of family research spanning generations of the Skoyles family. Herbert Drew Skoyles

laid the foundations of this collection. He recorded stories on Norfolk relatives by his father Robert Skoyles b. Filby (1835-1922) who had moved to London and in 1912 undertook a genealogical research journey to Norfolk. His research led to the finalisation of his third family tree in 1939. After leaving school, Herbert D. Skoyles' grandchildren, John and Janet Skoyles, continued his research and traced the family roots back to the 16th century. After his retirement in 1984, Herbert D. Skoyles' son, Edward R. Skoyles, revised and re-organised all this research, and expanded it into other Skoyles' family lines.

The collection contains research on the Skoyles name in Norfolk and London, and its branches in the US, South Africa, Australia and Canada. It contains family trees of various Skoyles families; research notes from parish registers, directories, census, monumental inscriptions, newspaper cuttings; birth/death/marriage certificates; biographical notes on individual family members; research correspondence; research on charities and other institutions related to the Skoyles name; three genealogists' travelling notebooks.

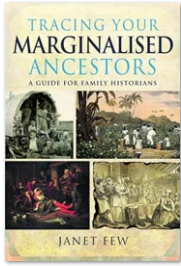
Thanks to Kathryn Skoyles for compiling the report on this collection.

A number of Small and Topographical Collections were also processed by the archive volunteers team:

- **Belcher Small Collection:** donated to the Society in April 2016 by Eleanor Donaldson of New Zealand, the collection relates to distant members of her family and provides information on the marriage of The Reverend Henry St. Andrew St John to Miss Emily Murray Belcher (1835).
- **Blundle Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Mrs G Edwards, the collection focuses on the Blundle/Blundell family of Woolpit and Rattledean, Suffolk, and of Bury St Edmunds and Poole, Dorset. It contains family trees, census returns and monumental inscriptions.
- **Buckeridge Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Christine Ducrotoy of Deal, Kent, in 1989, it relates to the Buckeridge family of Newberry, Berkshire and London. It contains two volumes of a pictorial family history compiled by Lloyd H. McGuire of San Diego, California, and related correspondence and research records. Three pedigree rolls on Buckeridge have been extracted for digitisation.
- **Buggin Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Mary Gill in February 2021, it contains a collection of wills of Buggin family members of Kent and London.
- **Dayrell Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Dr Pamela Fox-Russell in July 2008, it contains a brief life history of Iris Angela Dayrell Stenning. It also includes a Dayrell family history compiled by Eleonora, second wife of Edmund Marmaduke Dayrell, 36th Lord of the Manor of Lillingstone Eayrell, Bucks (1885), and a watercolour sketch of the glove presented by Queen Mary to Lord Dayrell on the day of her execution.
- **Gant Small Collection:** donated to the Society by R. J. Goulden, it contains family trees and birth/marriage/death certificates on the Gant family of England, Australia, Indiana and North Carolina (1695-1989).
- **Lavie Small Collection:** donated to the Society by a small group of family historians who came together as the result of a SoG course, the third stage of which centred on the Lavie family of France and England. It includes research information on individual Lavie family members, as well as family trees. A roll pedigree of the descendants of Jean de Lavie (1600 onwards) has been extracted for digitisation.
- **Oppenheimer Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Dr Pamela Fox-Russell in July 2008, it contains a brief life history of barrister Paul Oppenheimer, as well as his poetry and photographs (1914-1918) depicting military personnel and scenes in Iraq.
- **Piggott Small Collection:** donated to the Society by Sophie Piggott, it contains copies of family trees for the Phinns of Great Yarmouth (1760-1860) and extracts from printed sources on the names Kempton, Markham and Gallehawk.
- **Chobham Topographical Collection:** it contains research material relating to Robert Schuller's book 'A History of Chobham' (1989). It also includes extensive written correspondence with residents of Chobham, Surrey, relating to their family history.
- **Couldson Topographical Collection:** donated to the Society by Daphne Palmer, the collection contains research material relating to her book 'The Rectors of Couldson, Surrey, 1224-1950' (2013). Each file lists in alphabetical order the names of linked clergy.
- **Maldon Topographical Collection:** donated to the Society in December 2007 by Peter Harrington of Ulverston, the collection comprises material from the Cambridge Extra Mural Department project he led. The project researched family reconstruction primarily for the names Capstaffe, Carnell, Champion and Chissel over a number of parishes in the Maldon area. The details of these parishes can be found in an accompanying CD-ROM.



BOOK REVIEWS



Tracing Your Marginalised Ancestors, by Janet Few. Pen & Sword Family History, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-39906-185-8. Paperback, 153pp., illustrated, index, also available as an e-book.

It can sometimes be a challenge to research and understand an ancestor's life, other than finding their basic birth and burial records. This book may help that search. Note that the focus is on British records.

The author, Janet Few, has written many books on family history. She is especially interested in people who have been overlooked by mainstream history. She is a co-founder of the Few Forgotten Women project, which seeks to tell the stories of marginalised women.

She has cast her net widely to cover a range of circumstances although it is not intended to be a complete guide to any specific topic. Each chapter includes some historical context, such as various laws in place in Britain in earlier centuries and discusses prevailing beliefs and feelings at different points in time. This is followed up with suggestions for research, in institutions, on websites and in newspapers. There are loads of snippets, giving details about specific people, as examples of what may be discovered. At the end of each chapter is a brief biography of a person or a family, which helps the reader see how they might proceed with their own research.

The main topics covered include poverty, criminality, prostitution, sickness and disability, mental ill-health and, of course, how an ancestor may have experienced a combination of these conditions. There are also chapters on ethnicity, illegitimacy and religion.

Chapter 6 is interesting because it considers the inebriate as a separate group. Apparently, the term 'alcoholism' was rarely noted on a person's death certificate in the 1800s, however, researching court records or newspaper reports may uncover more information. To help the reader's progress, there is a small, but fascinating, list of available records that are less well known, for example the Metropolitan Police's Habitual Drunkards List, held at TNA and available on some commercial websites. There is also a brief description of the rise of the temperance movement.

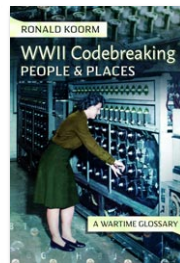
The Romany and Traveller communities (Chapter 9) form groups that can be quite difficult to research. Many people in these communities used aliases and frequently children used their mothers' surnames. The first challenge can be to identify whether your ancestors were Romany and this chapter offers a number of clues to help, for example by considering their names or their occupations,

and by offering references to source materials. Since the communities travelled, the author offers some sources that list where fairs and markets were held and where the established winter camping grounds were.

Chapter 11 covers conscientious objectors and deserting soldiers in the early 20th century. When a person chose to become a conscientious objector, the effects could be felt throughout a family. The author briefly describes the Military Service Act of 1916, which introduced national male conscription, and the formation of the No-Conscription Fellowship in 1914. There are suggestions for finding details about an ancestor who refused military service and where to look for information if they faced a tribunal, for example in the Police Gazettes. An interesting potential source is the collection of record cards, covering the members of the Quakers' Friends Ambulance Unit, including photos. There is an online link to a TNA guide (p.121).

Another interesting group of people were those accused of witchcraft (Chapter 10). Most witches were females, older, with no family support, and exhibiting eccentric or anti-social behaviour. The chapter includes sources of information and records, such as the Quarter Sessions Courts, where examinations of the accused were held.

This is a fascinating book, full of background information, personal stories from the past, and many sources to move your family history research forward. There is a references section with suggested further reading and an index.



WWII Codebreaking People and Places, by Ronald Koorm. Pen & Sword Military, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-39905-349-5. Hardback, 228pp., photos, appendices, bibliography, index, also available as an e-book.

What could possibly connect the Hollywood actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr, the brilliant academic Alan Turing, and a post office engineer called Thomas Flowers? The answer is that they all feature in this book, which is a glossary of the people and places involved in collecting, breaking and processing coded messages during WWII. It is the first in a series of books covering codebreaking and related topics, such as intelligence gathering, deception and technical developments.

The author, Ronald Koorm, has written other books on codebreaking, military intelligence and various aspects of WWII. He writes, blogs and lectures on a wide range of topics, including military history.

Behind the front lines in the War, a large number of people worked tirelessly to gain military advantage by collecting and understanding information on locations and troop movements. It's hard to understand the breadth and the depth of this undertaking, especially in a time that did not have the digital and technical processes available now. The author's aim is to give the reader a reference book on the people and the places involved. None of the entries are hugely detailed but they are fascinating. The sources include books, museums, veterans, lectures and personal accounts from people who played a part.

The first section lists people who were involved in, and contributed to, codebreaking activities. The names are in alphabetical order by surname. Wherever possible, their birth and death dates are included. At the end of each entry are cross references to other people or to the places they operated in. Some are well-known. Others are less well-known but deserve their moment in the spotlight. They were inventors, engineers, mathematicians, data processors, spies, telephone engineers and amateur radio enthusiasts. The author highlights how international the work was and gives details of those who were not British, including the work done by people in Germany. There are many wonderful stories.

Douglas Fairbanks Jnr (1909-2000) helped the military develop deception techniques, using skills learnt in film making. Like crowd scenes in a film, dummy soldiers were made to create a 'ghost' army. British dummies were called Ruperts, American dummies were called Oscars. The whole topic on the art of deception makes fascinating reading.

Alan Turing (1912-1954) is considered so influential in the development of computing and codebreaking that he has his picture on £50 notes. This book offers an excellent summary of his achievements.

Thomas Flowers (1905-1998) studied engineering at night school and worked for the Post Office. Despite his lack of a university degree, he worked with Turing and other engineers to build the Colossus codebreaking machine. The author shows that anyone with ideas or skills was welcomed. In 1993, Thomas took a short course on digital computing. Naturally he passed. Not knowing about his work, the college awarded him a certificate of competence in using basic computers!

Many of the names of the female factory workers at BTM (the British Tabulating Machine Company) in Letchworth are listed. They assembled the components in the codebreaking machines, usually referred to as Bombs.

The second section of the book covers locations in Britain and elsewhere that were highly relevant to the codebreaking activities. Most people are familiar with Bletchley Park but there were many others. Each entry includes whether you can visit the location, what information is available, and where to find records or documents.

Some places are unexpected, for example Selfridges department store in London. A machine called SIGSALY

(Signal voice encoding/decoding) was built in the USA and shipped to Britain, to make high level conversations more secure. It couldn't fit into Downing Street, so it was installed in Selfridges' basement. Shoppers never knew that the British Prime Minister was downstairs talking to the American President.

There are many terms or nicknames to learn. The Testery was not a place for testing. It was the section run by Ralph Tester (1902-1998), where encoded messages on punched tape were processed. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Newmanry was the section managed by Max Newman (1897-1984) and carried out specialist codebreaking. Y-stations were listening posts where people picked up coded messages on radios, recorded them, and passed them on. The 'Y' stands for 'wireless'.

After each section, the author has included a commentary to pull the listings together. A very useful topic is the description of the stages in the process, from collecting a coded message to decoding it and then sharing it. Another is the web of links between ideas, people and locations. For example, Marian Rejewski (1905-1980) in Poland analysed the wiring used in the early Enigma machines, helping the Poles to build a machine called Bomba. Rejewski shared his knowledge with other countries, including Britain. It helped the British build their machine, called Bombe.

Women made a massive contribution. They decoded messages, assembled or operated machines, listened at Y-stations, or rode motor bikes delivering messages all over the country in all weathers. In the USA, 600 WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) worked on the production of the first American codebreaking machines.

This book enables a researcher to look up a person or a location and get an understanding of what they did or where they were. However, there are so many fascinating entries that browsing is a pleasure. The book is also a tribute to the '...many thousands of men and women who worked behind the scenes, those who were not in the limelight' (p.72). They created machines, they modified them, they gathered data. Many of them had no idea how significant their work was but they knew it was top secret. Years later, in old age, many had still not told their families what they had done.



Mastering Spanish Handwriting and Documents 1520-1820, by George R. Ryskamp, Peggy Ryskamp and H. Leandro Soria. Genealogical Publishing Co, 2023. ISBN: 978-0-8063-2119-6. Paperback, 307pp., images, charts, bibliography, also available as an e-book. £46.25.

The prospect of researching documents written in Secretary style and in Spanish would be a challenge for many family historians. Even if your Spanish is good,

there's still the handwriting. In this book, the authors offer a series of coaching sessions, looking at the styles of script used in source documents and the types of records that would interest most family and local historians.

The book covers records and documents used by Spanish-speaking people, in Spain and other parts of the world, specifically written in the Castilian language. It does not include anything written in any other Spanish languages, such as Catalan, Galician or Basque. The timeframe is from the middle of the 16th century, when the Catholic Church required parishes to keep records, until the 19th century, when individual nations began to adopt their own civil registration laws.

The book introduces two styles of handwriting: 'cortesana' and its derivative 'procesoal', (the English Secretary) and 'itálica' (the English Humanistic). It briefly describes legal requirements and customs at various times in Spain and offers some historical background information.

Both the late George Ryskamp (1950-2022) and Peggy Ryskamp have teaching and genealogy research experience, especially in Spanish-language documentation. H. Leandro Soria specialises in acquiring, publishing and indexing genealogical records from Spanish-language countries for FamilySearch.

The early chapters are structured as teaching sessions to develop the basic reading skills needed to understand documents. There are guidelines on how to progress through the chapters for beginners, intermediate users or advanced researchers. There are clear descriptions of extracts and abstracts and definitions of transcriptions and translations.

The remaining chapters cover types of documents, organised by life events. There is a lot of information on how and when documents were created.

'Equally important in using archival documents is an understanding of the purpose for which the record was created and the procedural flow of persons and documents utilized in the completion of the process' (Chapter 1 p.6).

This range of records and documents is wide and varied. Parish records and registers include baptisms, confirmations, banns, marriages, deaths and burials with details of fees and last rites. There is a lot of detail on notaries and notarial documents, such as inventories, wills, dowries, petitions, contracts, property sales and complaints.

As they introduce the range of source documents, the authors have provided 42 transcribed and translated examples. These wonderful examples show the image of the original document, the transcription in modern Spanish, and a translation into English. The commentaries and notes added to each example are very useful. In Chapter 1 (p.11), they set out the guidelines they have adopted for presenting transcriptions and offer notes on the English translations.

The structure of the book is clear and considered. As a reference book, it allows a researcher to just concentrate on a specific record, for example the contents of a will. Local, family and social historians could find this book useful, especially because the examples are all from real sources.

There is a related website (www.script.byu.edu) that gives more tutorials and examples. There is also a bibliography for follow-up reading.

Sherryl Abrahart

BOOKS IN BRIEF

King George's Army, British Regiments and the Men Who Led Them 1793-1815 Volume 2, by Steve Brown. Helion & Co, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-39904-464-6. Paperback, 378pp., images, tables. £24.95.

This is the second volume in an impressive series of five. The first volume detailed army administration and cavalry regiments. This volume covers infantry regiments within King George III's army, for the period 1793 to 1815: the Foot Guards and Regiments of Foot, from the 1st to the 30th.

There are more than 1,000 brief biographies of field officers, lieutenant colonels and majors. The initial chapters are helpful for those who are new to researching their military ancestors. They introduce the regiments, their uniforms, their locations, battles fought and statistics relating to the numbers of officers and the ranks.

For family historians, this book offers great detail and the possibility to break down brick walls. For each person, there are usually dates of birth and death, parents' names, education, military career, awards and honours, and where they lived.

The Packards from Suffolk, by Giles Colchester. Self-published, 2024. Hardback, 797pp., images, bibliography, index.

This book is an impressive example of how to present a large family history. The author, Giles Colchester, describes it as 'an encyclopaedia or directory' (p.7) of the Packard family from Suffolk and their spouses. It does not include the Packards who migrated on the ship *Diligent* in 1638 to New England.

Each chapter covers a separate branch of the family tree, usually from different parts of Britain, for example Chapter D documents the descendants of Joseph Packard of Framlington. There are a number of very good maps for each area and many images. Within the chapter, the narrative moves from the earliest known ancestor forward to the latest generation. Each person has a reference that includes a chapter letter and a sequence number, and most have a brief biography. The book holds biographies of 2,000 people.

The author suggests reading the book backwards. Start by finding your own family branch and family members. Note the reference for each great-grandparent, or earlier ancestor. Then read back through the chapters that are relevant.

There are some ancestors with very interesting stories. John Packard of Walsham le Willows (1290-1374) appears in surviving 14th century manorial records. He lived during the time of the Black Death. Lucy White Packard (1884-1975) served as a nurse in the First World War, battled against American colonisation in Hawaii in the 1930s, and treated casualties during the 1941 Pearl Harbour attack in Hawaii.

One appendix contains a number of pedigrees, with each entry including the personal reference, to help track back to a specific chapter for more information. A second appendix holds a fascinating table showing a timeline of British history in one column and what various members of the Packard family were doing during each period in the other. For example, one row records Elizabeth I becoming queen in 1558 after Mary's death and the Act of Supremacy in 1559, reinstating the Church of England. Within the Packard family, Alice Packard wrote her will in 1560, showing clear Catholic sympathies. She left embroidered blue damask copes to St Dunstan's Church in London, on condition that they reverted to the rites used in Queen Mary's reign. Other appendices include a set of maps and an index of names.

Other surnames: Mills, Newson, Stanford, Thrower, Virtue, Wakeling.

From the Sublime to the Meticulous: The Trillo Saga over Eight Centuries, by Howard Trillo. Self-published, 2022. Hardback, 486pp., photos, images, pedigrees, index.

This book documents the Trillo family from the medieval era to the present. There are notes on Saint Trillo, who lived in Wales in the 5th or 6th century and is the earliest reference the author has found to the name. Other early instances of the name are covered, for example there is a record showing a person called John de Trillo living in Oxfordshire in 1302.

Separate chapters cover various branches of the family, many with interesting stories. Lieutenant Commander Edward James Trillo (1878-1958) joined the navy and spent most of his life at sea. Many members of the family lived and worked in London's East End. Others migrated to Canada in the 1920s, and a descendant has contributed to the description of their lives.

There are many images of original documents, family photos and pedigrees. The references are good and detailed. There is an index to family names and places. Other surnames: Bourke, Bramley, Dean, Mellor, Taylor.

Past Lives, by Alistair Parker. New Generation Publishing, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-83563-035-8. Hardback, pp.263, images, bibliography, index.

Alistair Parker has researched the paternal and maternal lines of his family and those of his wife. He

estimates his database holds approximately 9,800 people and about 30,000 records. For this book, however, he distils the family stories down to focus on those who led more unusual lives or lived in interesting times. He describes them as 'prominent, prolific, notorious, litigious or combinations of such' (Preface p.v).

One branch were global traders in the 16th century: Daniel Skinner (1579-1659) moved to Antwerp, then Calais and, later, Dover. He became a successful merchant, importing and exporting goods, food and works of art (Chapter 3 p.74). James Osenton (1901-1989) was found, by an American anthropologist, starving in a jungle in British Guiana in 1933. He was guarding a mine shaft leading to a gold deposit and could not be persuaded to leave (Chapter 2 p.66).

Ancestors that are in the author's direct line of descent are marked with an asterisk. Pedigrees for each family branch are placed in the chapter featuring family members for easy referencing. There are many family photos.

Other surnames: Chambers, Coggins, Corbet, Osenton, Rooke, Skinner, Waters, Wright.

Sherryl Abrahart

BOOK OF THE MONTH



My Ancestor was a Leather Worker, by Ian Waller FSG.

Published 2015. ISBN 978-1-907199-31-8. Paperback, 259pp., illustrated, index.

This book examines the history, processes, working conditions and records available for researching the various trades and occupations associated with leather work. The leather trade was at its height in the early to mid-1800s, and amongst our ancestors, we will invariably find leather tanners, curriers, merchants, shoemakers, saddle and harness makers, even cricket ball makers and sporran makers. These trades and many more are covered in this comprehensive guide.

The usual cost of *My Ancestor Was a Leather Worker* is £9.99 and it is currently available to SoG members at the discounted price of £8.00 (£9.00 to non-members) here: <https://tinyurl.com/2tebmau3>.

A £2.75 postal charge applies within the UK. This book plus the full range of titles published by the Society available from our bookshop through our website. Offer valid until 31 March 2025.

Catherine Hopkins
eventsoffice@sog.org.uk

NICHOLAS NEWINGTON-IRVING, FSG

1938 – 2024

Flight Lieutenant Nicholas John Newington-Irving, FSG, was elected as a Fellow of the Society in 1999. His unwavering dedication to the Society was evident in his extensive contributions as a volunteer and as a member of multiple committees. His remarkable generosity is reflected in the library catalogue, which lists over 1,600 items donated by him.

These contributions speak to his deep genealogical interests and his commitment to enriching the library's collections.

Nicholas's donations encompassed an impressive array of subjects, including military history - especially related to the Army and Royal Air Force - local and social history, mental health and private asylums, and regions such as Cumbria, India, the Falklands, and the Antarctic. This breadth of interest was a testament to his insatiable curiosity.

After serving in the Army in Malaya during his National Service, Nicholas was commissioned into the Royal Air Force, where he served from 1960 to 1967. Following his military career, he worked as a civil servant in the Export Credit Guarantees Department.

Nicholas's roots were firmly tied to Cumbria through his paternal Irving lineage. His father, Lieutenant Commander John James Cawdell Irving, RN, served in both World Wars and participated in Antarctic expeditions aboard the *Discovery II* (1929-1931), where Irving Point on Visokoi Island was named in his honor. His mother, Beryl Irene Newington, was a talented artist, illustrator, and broadcaster. Several generations of the Newington family owned and ran the historic Ticehurst House Hospital in Sussex, a private mental health facility from its founding in 1792 until 1970.

Nicholas attended Brentwood School as a day boy, alongside his elder brother John, twin brother David, and several nephews. The published history and reminiscence for the school donated by 'Nick N-I', as



he was commonly known to SoG staff and volunteers, had no name index, so Nick, as he was often wont to do, created one. In addition to this, he added a small, rather poignant biographical note about his times there which is found interleaved in the volume.

Nick edited and indexed many publications for the Society and he authored very useful finding aids and lists of the Society's library holdings (of which he had an encyclopaedic knowledge). He led the volunteer team contributing to the lottery-funded project to digitise the library catalogue. He was part of the editorial team that produced the Society's centenary history being responsible for fact checking, all the name lists and indexes and the timelines of milestone important events in our 100 years. He wrote a very personal memory of the old Members Room at Charterhouse Buildings for the history, invoking a bygone age of genealogy and its personalities. He is the originator of two useful online databases now on SoG Explore with updates and amendments to Burkes Peerage and the SoG Army Name Index drawing information from many reference works and periodicals in the library (most of which he either donated or subscribed to on behalf of the Society).

The Upper Library at Charterhouse Buildings was Nick's domain where he was regularly to be found as a counter volunteer. He expected everyone using the library to come prepared and know what they wanted and was perhaps not always the most patient of men. He loved a good debate and expected a spirited response in return, but would be mortified to think he might have offended anyone. (A Cadbury's creme egg or extra strong mint would often appear on a staff member's desk.) His funeral at St Bartholemew the Great in London where he served as sideman for many years was attended by many staff, current and past, who remembered him vividly and fondly.

Else Churchill



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CANADIAN RESEARCH

Melissa J. Ellis PG Cert.



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specializing in probate records and all aspects of migration across Canada.

Dr ANDREA TANNER, FSG

1956 - 2024

The following is based on the eulogy delivered by Andrea's elder sister, Janice Maxted, at the conclusion of the Requiem Mass at the Brompton Oratory on 10 December 2024.

Andrea Tanner was born on Sunday, 15 January 1956, in Clydebank, Scotland, a shipbuilding town on the banks of the River Clyde. She was the second of four children born to William and Isobel Duncan. Educated at Notre Dame High School for Girls, Andrea displayed an early passion for history and scholarship. She pursued a four-year degree at the University of Strathclyde, which she completed by the age of 20, before moving to London from Warwick University to complete the dissertation for her MA. She initially planned to stay for just three months - but London became her lifelong home.

Thus began Andrea's distinguished career as a historian, genealogist, researcher, and archivist. She took up a post as a researcher for John Brooke-Little, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, at the College of Arms, where she remained for 16 years. She even applied to be the first female herald - an indication of her pioneering spirit. During her time at the College, Andrea also met her future husband, John.

A pillar of London's historical community, Andrea was the first Honorary Secretary of the Friends of the Public Record Office and was granted the Freedom of the City of London in 1989. Her career was defined by persistence, a formidable work ethic, an extraordinary gift for storytelling, and an ability to forge deep and lasting friendships. She made unique contributions to the history of London, childhood, and healthcare, particularly through her work as a research assistant at Great Ormond Street Hospital. She co-founded the Historic Hospital Admission Records Project, a landmark achievement in digital humanities. While

working full-time, Andrea completed her PhD at Birkbeck in just 18 months, earning her doctorate in 1996.

Andrea became the company archivist at Fortnum & Mason in the early 1990s, a role she made uniquely her own. She transformed the company's historical record-keeping, ultimately securing not one but two Royal Warrants upon the accession of Their Majesties the King and Queen. Beyond her meticulous archival work, she became the public face of Fortnum & Mason, appearing on television, film, and radio. Affectionately known as "Dr. T.," she delighted visitors with her history tours, welcomed international delegates with insights into British traditions - tea, picnics and scotch eggs, and played host to the annual Burns Supper, where her Scottish heritage shone through.

Andrea's expertise was widely sought after. She authored a history of The Waldorf Hotel and chronicled the legacy of the Founders, her livery company, whose pall adorned her coffin. Most recently, she had been working on a history of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to mark its bicentenary - a project sadly left unfinished due to her illness.

As an educator, Andrea's impact was immeasurable. She taught at Denman College, Kingston University, Birkbeck, and the Institute of Historical Research, where she was a Fellow. She nurtured and inspired countless students, encouraging many to pursue MAs and PhDs, while also mentoring them in their careers and personal lives. In recognition of her contributions to genealogy, she was elected a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists in 1998.

Andrea Tanner's life was one of scholarship, generosity, and passion for history. She leaves behind an extraordinary legacy, not just in the archives she curated and the histories she uncovered, but in the lives of those she taught, mentored, and befriended.

DECEASED MEMBERS

David John Atkins	1988 - 2024	Fiona Hogg	1980 - 2025
Chris Richard Barford	2009 - 2024	Roy Edward Hurst	1989 - 2024
Sheila Bligh	1984 - 2024	Gillian Vavasour Iles	1991 - 2025
Denis Arthur Briggs	1975 - 2025	Nicholas John Newington-Irving FSG	1970 - 2024
Gillian Ellen Burrows	1989 - 2024	Derrick Peter John Phillips	1998 - 2025
Jill Alexandra Christensen	2001 - 2024	Roger David Prangnell	1990 - 2024
Kenneth David Morton Douglas	2013 - 2024	Anthony Stephen Puzey	1979 - 2025
John David Frankland	1996 - 2024	Derek Alan Stock	2010 - 2024
Alan Green Bryant Green	1990 - 2024	Andrea Isobel Tanner FSG	1985 - 2024
Carol Hewitt	1976 - 2024	Anthony Britten White	1994 - 2024

DEREK MORRIS, FSG

‘HISTORIAN, GEOLOGIST, POLYMATH’. 1932 – 2024

Derek Bertram Morris was born in Ilford, Essex, the son of Bert Morris and Ivy Parker. His first career was as a geologist. At school in Amersham he was marked out as a technical chap, and counted himself lucky to have escaped the furniture trade, then the main employer of his contemporaries in the area. Despite his obvious ability he didn’t go to grammar school, but he did get good grades in scientific subjects. After National Service he joined the Meteorological Office, beginning part time to study geology and physics, latterly at Queen Mary. There he obtained a BSc, leading to a master’s degree and DIC in Applied Geophysics from what is now Imperial College. He then joined Hunting Geology and Geophysics as an employee, on his marriage settling in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. He also became managing director, and eventually a consultant geophysicist.



go-to source himself, when the Survey of London came to focus on Whitechapel parish. With Ken Cozens as co-author, books were also produced on the riverside areas of Wapping, and (as ‘London’s Sailortown 1600-1800’), Shadwell and Ratcliff; all four were published by the East London History Society. These works revealed that East London, before the

Docks, was an area which was home to a wide range of society, including the prosperous middle classes. Thus it gave a new perspective to the traditional view of the ‘East End’, heightened as it was by the events, large and small, of the 19th century. At the same time, he advised on the ‘Place in the Sun’ project (with an ongoing index to the Sun Insurance Company’s records), now at the London Archives.

To the last, Derek remained in Harpenden, making forays into the East End to lead local history walks. He played tennis and was a championship-level squash player. Recently he began a new East London study, of Limehouse, and talked in spring 2024 to the local history society about it. That study now won’t, alas, happen. But anybody who wants to know more - or needs a list of his very many articles - can look up his son Richard’s website, <https://singsurf.org>, where they will find more about his father’s life and interests, ample evidence of Derek’s enquiring mind. What they won’t find is false modesty. Derek knew his worth and his achievements. He was indeed all of historian, geologist, and polymath.

Isobel Watson

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Monday: Closed • Tuesday: Closed • Wednesday: 10:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday: 10:30am - 4:00pm • Friday: 10:30am - 4:00pm
2nd & 4th Saturday of the month: 10:30am - 4:00pm



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EVENTS NEWS

Our events focus in March will be on census returns. Join Else Churchill on Zoom on 11th March to learn about pre-1841 census returns at the SoG and elsewhere, including census fragments and other name-rich lists which might include your ancestor. On 15th March, Sophie Kay will be presenting a six-step action plan for an ancestral quickstep into the 1921 census, now on Ancestry as well as Find My Past. The same day, Dave Annal uses his thirty years' experience to introduce some essential techniques for searching the census online, and we also learn how to get the most from Irish census and census substitutes with Claire Bradley.



In April, many of our talks have an “industry” theme, particularly around railways, joining in with Railway 200. In May, we mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day, honouring The Greatest Generation and in June, we’ll be discovering more about ancestors who lived and worked on or by the sea. Visit www.sog.org.uk/events to find out more.

CINEMA EXPERIENCE

We are very excited to be welcoming more people into our Wharf Road Resource Hub to watch our online talks on the big screen in the events room. At the end of the talk there is an opportunity to ask the speaker questions. Of course, it is also possible to discuss your thoughts with other attendees before and after the talk, maybe over a coffee in our lounge area. Most talks cost £10 and are included in Gold Membership which costs just £15 for a month. Why not combine a talk with some research in the library? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2jjxtejw> to book these and other events taking place in our premises.

GEMS FROM THE “GEN MAG” WITH ELSE CHURCHILL

In 2025, the Society of Genealogists proudly celebrates a century of the *Genealogists' Magazine*. To mark this remarkable milestone, Else Churchill is diving into the archives, sharing her favourite articles from the past 100 years.

Join us on Zoom each month to discover some fascinating stories, hear why they caught Else’s eye and explore the insights they reveal about family history and how it has changed (or not!).

Don’t miss this exploration of a century of genealogical gems! Book your place at www.sog.org.uk/events. Monday, 31 March 2025 14:00 and Monday, 28 April 2025 14:00

MILITARY HISTORY

We have a series of four days centred around our military ancestors this year. The first, Women in Military and Wartime, takes place during Women’s History Month on 22nd March. This full day of talks includes a timeline of women in the army, from camp followers to the front line, as well as a look at women in the RAF and Wrens. We’ll learn about the Women’s Land Army, military nurses and the role that Girl Guides played in wartime. The day includes a copy of Emma Jolly’s book, *My Ancestor Was a Woman at War*.



Three more days follow later in the year, WW2 Military 17th May, WW1 Military 14th June, Pre-1914 Military 9th August, and it is book three, get one free. Book a place on three of the days and we’ll give you a free place on the fourth in the series.

GENEALOGY TECH WEEKEND

Harness the power of technology – research, record, share and explore your family history. Discover apps and software, tech tips, time savers and creative solutions to assist you with your genealogy journey.



Whether you are already delving into the world of AI, or more at home with pen and paper, this weekend will have you looking at technology in brand new ways. Whether you are daunted by tech or already a devotee, there is something here for everyone! From practical help for absolute beginners, to apps for streamlining your processes! Join us for a weekend of genealogy geekiness, sharing hints and tips and learning to use new programmes.

On Friday 11th April, online talks between noon and 8pm address the challenges and opportunities that integrating digital tools into our research practices brings. Plus, you'll explore the pros and cons of combining AI with historic photographs and the creative thrill of creating genealogy videos.

On Saturday 12th April, from 10:30am to 5pm you have the option to visit SoG's Research Hub at Wharf Road to watch live talks and get hands-on help with your tech questions. Alternatively, watch online and join in breakout room chats. From social media to the perils of passwords, plus NINETY-FIVE software tools you might not have tried!

On Sunday 13th April, online talks between 10:30am and 5pm demonstrate how to use presentation software, metadata, Google and LibraryThing for family history.

Book the whole weekend at <https://tinyurl.com/ykj7hs3n> or find individual talks at www.sog.org.uk/events

Whether you want to learn more about DNA or genealogy methodology, get the most from a website or explore an ancestral occupation, delve into social history or expand your skills, we are sure that there is an event coming up for you.

FROM THE LIBRARY

We have been pleased to welcome visitors to the library who have been researching over the festive break and keen to look at collection items.

- We're pleased to announce that **MyHeritage** is now amongst our digital subscriptions available to visitors on our library computers. MyHeritage contains 21 billion historical records, including: maps; directories, guides and reference; census and voter lists; birth, marriage and death records; schools and universities; public records; family trees, photos, government, land court and wills; immigration and travel; books and publications; military; newspapers. The emphasis in collections is in the categories of histories, memories and biographies, directories and civil registration for USA and Europe but covering some other regions to a smaller degree. Information on how to access this and our other subscription databases at the library can be found in Collections Guide 1 on our library page www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library/
- We're delighted that the **1921 Census** is now available on Ancestry and Findmypast, both available to visitors on our library computers.
- **Microfiche and CD** resources are still available at the library through the ordering process. Add the fiche to your collections order form (<https://tinyurl.com/mr4ct9wv>) and we'll have it ready for your visit. There are still some gaps in availability which may be resolved in the sorting process but we'll do our best and get in touch before your visit to confirm.
- We now have over **21,000 items on the open library shelves** and we continue adding tracts for the various categories in the library, and we now have tracts for Textbooks, Heraldry, India and counties from Bedfordshire to Cumberland.
- Our latest **Featured Collection is Professions A-B**. You'll find items about accountants, actors, architects, authors, artists, bankers, the book trade and many more. This featured collection will be in the library until June. For a complete list of Featured Collection items in the library catalogue use *Advanced Search*, choose *Location* and select *Library F. Featured Collection*.
- **Collections Review:** We are undertaking a review of our library and archives policies. Our new CEO would like to delve deep and explore the role of the library and its future direction. This will involve consultations with members, volunteers and staff. We'll let you all know more about this, and how you can have your input.

- If you have recently visited the library, please fill in your post-visit survey form to let us know your thoughts about how the library is developing, or if you visit without booking online you're welcome to email us. Your feedback can help us to plan for improvements.

We look forward to another busy year in 2025!

Christine Worthington, Research Collections Coordinator
collections@sog.org.uk | www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library/

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE October - December 2024

FAMILY HISTORIES AND BIOGRAPHIES

Courtauld A century of silver: the Courtauld family of silversmiths, 1710-1780 / Helen Braham.

Haskell The Haskell family heritage book. (1983)

Knight My family / by Robin Knight. (2024)

Lisher The Lisher family: my grandfather Ellis Fuller Lisher and his Lusher/Lisher ancestors and extended family / Mary Connaughton.

GENERAL GUIDES

Copyright and database right: a general guide for family history societies / David Lambert. (1998)

GENERAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Cemetery stories: haunted graveyards, embalming secrets and the life of a corpse after death / Katherine Ramsland. (2002)

Christadelphian fraternal gathering Whitsuntide 1928: a souvenir of a memorable fraternal gathering in the Town Hall at Birmingham Whitsuntide 1928.

Daughters of Queen Victoria / E.F. Benson. (1939)

History of the life and reign of Richard the third to which is added: the story of Perkin Warbeck, from original documents / James Gairdner. (1878)

Johnson's England: an account of the life & manners of his age / edited by A.S. Turberville. (1933)

Magnificent obsession: Victoria, Albert and the death that changed the Monarchy / Helen Rappaport. (2011)

Modern Britain: a social history 1750-1997 / Edward Royle. (1997)

Smuggling in Hampshire and Dorset, 1700-1850 / Geoffrey Morley. (1994)

The Pennine Dales / Arthur Raistrick. (1972)

Photographic memories of the heart of England: a century of change in the Midlands / Francis Frith Collection. (1996)

The squire and his relations / Esme Wingfield-Stratford. (1956)

BEDFORDSHIRE

Clifton A look at Clifton Beds. / B. Livesey & S.J. Stacey. (2000)

Luton The men who wore straw helmets: policing Luton 1840-1974 / T.J. Madigan. (1993)

Stotfold A place in the country: Three Counties Asylum, 1860-1999 / Judith Pettigrew, Rory W Reynolds & Sandra Rouse. (2017)

BERKSHIRE

Reading Greyfriars, Reading: from prison to parish church / edited by Malcolm Summers. (2024)

Reading Reading Abbey records: a new miscellany / edited by Brian Kemp. (2018)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Photographic memories: Francis Frith's Buckinghamshire / by Martin Andrew. (2000)

Aylesbury Britain in old photographs: Aylesbury remembered / Karl Vaughan. (2005)

Marlow Marlow, Buckinghamshire: the official guide / edited and compiled by Royston C. Bunt. (1971)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire / by T. McKenny Hughes and Mary Caroline Hughes. (1909)

The Cambridgeshire village book / compiled by the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes. (1989)

CHESHIRE

Henry V and the Earldom of Chester, 1399-1422 / Anne Curry. (2024)

Arclid At the crossroads: a history of Arclid workhouse and hospital / Marlene and Graham Langley. (1993)

Bebington St. Andrew's Bebington / by Richard Lancelyn Green. (1993)

Wilmslow Pleasant pasture: the history of the Wilmslow Congregational Church 1844-1946 / by Walter Lazenby. (1946)

CORNWALL

Cornish churches in the nineteenth century: the church notes of the Lysons brothers and Sir Stephen Glynne / edited by Paul Cockerham. (2024)

Services, charitable associations and societies, County of Cornwall.

CUMBERLAND

Alston Moor An account of the mining district of Alston Moor, Weardale and Teesdale / Thomas Sopwith. (1833)

Alston Moor: its pastoral people: its mines and miners: from the earliest periods to recent times / by W. Wallace. (1986)

DURHAM

Brancepeth The history of Brandon colliery 1856 to 1860 / by Laurie Moran. (1997)

ESSEX

- Essex boys** / Karen Bowman. (2013)
Hornchurch Bygone Hornchurch and Upminster / Brian Evans. (1990)
Walton on the Naze History of the Arnold Lodge No. 1799: 1879-1929 / compiled by F E Crate. (1929)
Wanstead Wanstead and Woodford / compiled by Ian Dowling and Nick Harris. (1994)
Woodbridge History of the Doric Lodge, No 81, Woodbridge, 1824-1923 / by the Secretary (Wor. Bro. R Bentham). (1932)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- Discover Gloucestershire ancestors: your guide to the archives / Elizabeth Jack. (2012)
Bristol The letterbook of Graffin Prankard / edited by Mary Miles. (2024)
 The Miare of Bistowe is Kalendar / edited by Peter Fleming. (2015)
 Religious ministry in Bristol 1603-1689: uniformity to dissent / by Jonathan Harlow; assisted by Jonathan Barry. (2017)
 War Story / Ethel Thomas. (1989)
Shirehampton Shirehampton church-yard book: Bristol Archives P.St MS/I/6/1 / edited by Richard Coates. (2023)

HAMPSHIRE

- Petersfield** Petersfield guide / compiled by the Petersfield Society. (1971)

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- Buckden Towers** A history of Buckden Towers / by Mary M. Sweeney. (1990)
St Ives The borough and rural district of Saint Ives official handbook / text and photographs by Philip G M Dickinson. (1972)

KENT

- Greenwich** The story of Greenwich / Clive Aslet. (1999)
Hollingbourne Hollingbourne: the history of a Kentish parish / by Helen Allinson. (2002)
Hollingbourn Rural District of Hollingbourn Kent: illustrated official guide.
Leigh Leigh in the war, 1939-1945 / Morgen Witzel. (1993)
Monkton Hasted's history of Monkton / compiled by John W. Brown. (2002)
 Ireland's history of Monkton: from a new and complete history of the county of Kent / by W.H. Ireland, compiled by John W. Brown.
Lamberhurst A short history of Scotney Castle / by Christopher Hussey.
Sittingbourne Sittingbourne: a history / John Clancy. (2007)
 Sittingbourne and district: a pictorial history / Alan Cordell, Bill Lee and Margaret Lee. (1989)

- Wade** Halsted's history of St. Nicholas at Wade / by Edward Halsted, compiled by John W. Brown. (2002)

LANCASHIRE

- Ashton-under-Lyne** Images of England: Ashton-under-Lyne and Mossley / Alice Lock. (2011)
Blackburn History of Trinity Wesleyan Church Blackburn. (1929)
Bolton A brief history of Christ Church, Heaton, Bolton 1896-1956: written in commemoration of its diamond jubilee 11 July, 1856 / by J.M. Howarth. (1958)
Bury The County Borough of Bury official guide.
Fazakerley Fazakerley through the ages / by the Fazakerley Local History Group. (2001)
Hey The registers of St John the Baptist, Hey 1743-1841 / transcribed by K.T. Taylor. (2024)
Stalybridge Stalybridge Celtic in the Football League / Garth Dykes. (2018)

LEICESTERSHIRE

- Kibworth to Smeeton: a stroll down memory lane - III / Philip J. Porter. (2008)

LINCOLNSHIRE

- Crime and criminals in Victorian Lincolnshire / by Adrian Gray. (1993)
 Lincolnshire railway stations on old picture postcards / Eric Croft. (2000)
 The material world of a Restoration Queen Consort: the privy purse accounts of Catherine of Braganza / edited by Maria Hayward. (2024)
 Railways in Lincolnshire, on old picture postcards: a second selection of picture postcards featuring scenes during the past century, with informative captions / Eric Croft. (2010)
 Seeking the Saxon: from Lincoln to the fens / Lorna Lincoln. (1998)
Boston Boston Lincolnshire: the official guide with maps and nineteen illustrations.
 Boston official guide / issued by authority of the Council of the Borough of Boston.
 Boston windmills / by Martin Hanson and James Waterfield.
 History and guide to the Maud Foster Mill: Boston, Lincolnshire / Luke Bonwick.
 Rediscovering England's Hanseatic heritage: medieval Boston / Pamela M. Cawthorne. (2017)
Bourne Grimsthorpe Castle: Bourne, Lincolnshire. (1996)
Grantham Bygone Grantham / by Michael Pointer and Malcolm G. Knapp. (1982)
 Hornsby's of Grantham: 1815-1918 / by Michael Pointer. (1978)
Guildhall Tales of the Guildhall: 600 years of history.
Hibaldstow The story of a parish: a short history of Hibaldstow / compiled by Mary E Insull. (1958)

Holbeach A neat little town: the history of Holbeach / by Jeremy Satherley. (2004)

Lincoln Lincoln Castle / Helen Elliott and David Stocker. (1984)

Spalding Spalding with Holbeach, Moulton and Whaplode: on old picture postcards, a selection of picture postcards featuring scenes during the past century with informative captions / Eric Croft. (2011)

LONDON & MIDDLESEX

Union club: rules and regulations and list of members 1937.

Some memorials of the Globe Lodge, No. 23 of ancient free & accepted masons of England: with a sketch of the origin and history of the Red Apron / Henry Sadler (1904)

London The crimes, detection and death of Jack the Ripper / Martin Fido. (1987)

Holy Trinity, Sloane Street / Peyton Skipwith. (2002)

University College School, London: alphabetical and chronological register for 1831-1891 - with historical introduction / Temple Orme. (1891?)

Muswell Hill History & guide: Muswell Hill / Ken Gay. (2002)

Putney The predecessor of Putney Bridge: Fulham Bridge 1729-1886 / by George and Michael Dewe. (1986)

NORFOLK

Norfolk and Isle of Ely / by Elizabeth M Harland. (1949)

Norfolk country churches and the future / edited by Wilhelmine Harrod. (1972)

Loddon Loddon Rural District Norfolk: the official guide

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The enclosure of Northamptonshire 1485-1901 / edited by David Hall and William Franklin. (2024)

The Victoria history of the counties of England Northamptonshire: the borough of Northampton / edited by Philip Riden and Charles Insley. (1998)

Nothampton General regulations for the government of St. Andrew's hospital for nervous and mental disorders (1963)

Stamford Stamford in the thirteenth century: two inquisitions from the reign of Edward I / edited by David Roffe. (1994)

NORTHUMBERLAND

Ashington Ashington AFC in the Football League: a complete record 1921-29 / Garth Dykes. (2011)

Rothbury The official guide to Rothbury rural district.

OXFORDSHIRE

Oxford Oxford prison employees / transcribed and compiled by Carol Richmond. (2014)

RUTLAND

Barrowden Barrowden: a village in Rutland: a brief historical review / by Philip Rhodes. (1997)

Whissendine Whissendine: a Rutland village / Peter Smith.

SHROPSHIRE

Greenwood's map of the County of Salop, 1827. (2008)

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