

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

SOCIETY OF
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Founded 1911

I am delighted to have been asked to write the introduction for this magazine as the new Chair of the Society. I came to genealogy in my teens as a budding History undergraduate and fascinated by the tales from my diminutive 2nd cousin who lived into her late 90s. Her story telling about her memories of her own grandparents and uncles making shoes; living in the town where my family have been based for centuries and showing me the family dark wood furniture, polished with age, awoke a fascination in me which has never died.

I began my journey in the days of card indexes; individual visits to churches to see record books in dusty oak Parish chests and handwritten finding aids. The Society was a fascinating cornucopia of books and records, based in Harrington Gardens in an impressive Victorian house and with the feel of an English club. Since then I have seen the world of genealogy and the Society step forward in ways which could never have been imagined.

My hopes for the Society, with which I have been involved for over 40 years, is that we now focus in four key ways:

First, we complete the implementation of an up-to-date client digital system that enables the Society to do everything better by knowing what kinds of members we are; from targeting e-mails using our stated interests to creating easy ways to attract and support new members.

Second, we use the system to understand what our members want from the Society, including from the library, SoG Explore and our website, and how we should develop new activities to meet the needs and tailor events to both members and family historians joining us for a one-off attendance.

Third, we bring the running costs of the organisation into line with the income of the Society and look to bolster our financial position with donations and legacies.

Finally, we look to the future, aiming to grow and broaden our membership; considering and understanding the growth of AI in the world of genealogy and working with partners to meet members' needs.

If you have views or thoughts you would like to share with me please use the email: chair@sog.org.uk.

I am looking forward to undertaking this role as the chairman of your Society and taking us forward over the next few years.

Ann Radmore CBE
Chair of the Trustees



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GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE



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Cover picture: *The Capture of the Pirate Blackbeard*, 1718, by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (c. 1863-1930).

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PATRONAGE AND THE PRIESTHOOD IN BISHOP'S CLEEVE:

THE INFLUENCE OF THE REID FAMILY 1754-1815

Barry Jolly

For a period of more than six decades, the parochial affairs of the small Gloucestershire village of Bishop's Cleeve were in the hands of the Reid family. The period was delineated by the acquisition by David Reid of London in 1754 of the advowson of the parish - the right to present a member of the Anglican clergy to a church living - and the death in 1815 of Reid's nephew, Revd Samuel Pickering. However, it seems unlikely that David Reid ever visited Bishop's Cleeve, and the question must be asked as to how attached the Reid family was to the parish, indeed how closely aligned the family was with the interests and affairs of the village and its church during those several decades.

At that time, the village of Bishop's Cleeve was part of the old administrative Hundred of Cleeve, comprising also Stoke Orchard, Gotherington, Woodmancote and the geographically larger and separate parish of Southam. Census returns for 1801, the date of the first national census, show Bishop's Cleeve as a small township of 432 persons (of all ages) with 201 being male and 231 female residents.

Unlike the separate parish of Southam and Brockhampton, whose population was almost entirely engaged in agriculture (81 per cent), the population of Bishop's Cleeve had only 168 agricultural workers, 33 in trade, manufacturing and handicraft and the remaining 230 in neither. When the whole parish - including Gotherington, Woodmancote and Stoke Orchard is taken into account - the total population was 1,153, with an even smaller proportion engaged in agriculture overall. (27 per cent for the whole parish, as opposed to 39 per cent for the township of Bishop's Cleeve alone.)¹

The origins of the Reid Family

Only limited information can be found of David Reid, with small clues emerging only from his will, from his son's education, and from the funerary hatchment of his grandson, William Pickering Reid, this last being held under the custodianship of St Thomas' Church, Lymington, in Hampshire. The hatchment (Fig. 1), reveals an aristocratic, and largely Scottish, lineage. The first and fourth quarters are the arms of Reid of Colliston, Fife, the second quarter the arms of Clan Campbell, and the third quarter is that of a variant of Pickering (a Yorkshire town and family).² The sinister side of the hatchment shows the arms of the Higgs family. The motto on the crest - '*in sublime*' (elevated, exalted, sublime) - is listed as that of Reid, London, in 1740;³ the Reid in question was David Reid.



Fig. 1 - Funerary hatchment of William Pickering Reid, held in St Thomas' Church, Lymington.

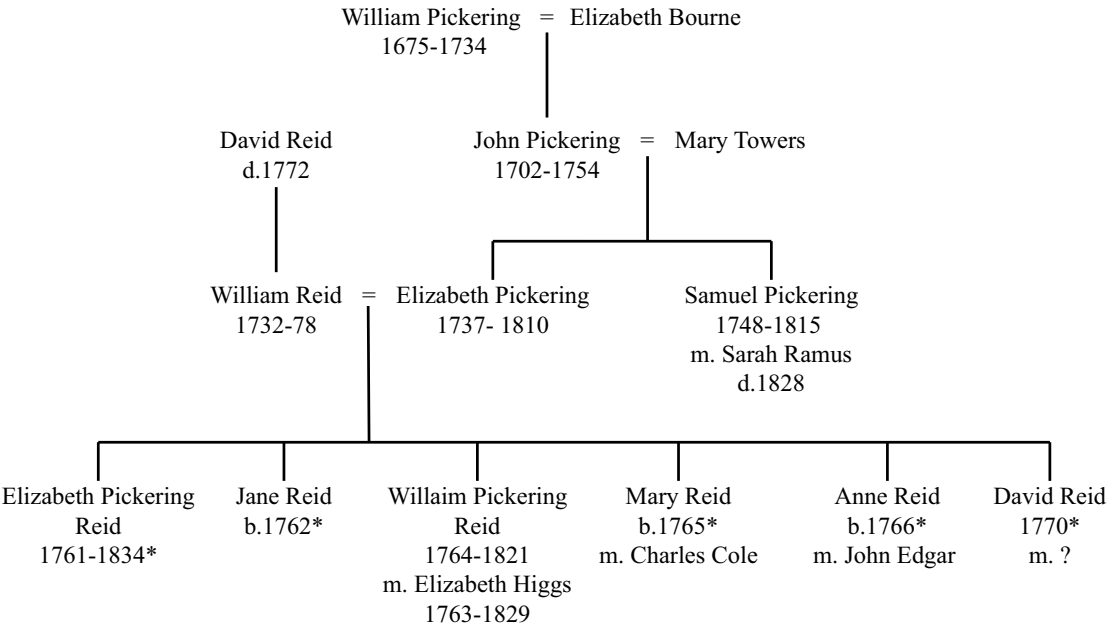
These details indicate that the Reid, Pickering and Higgs families were armigerous, that is to say were entitled to use a coat of arms, an indication of prosperity and, possibly, a noble ancestry, with strong relationships between the three families. (For the relationship between the Reid and Pickering families see Table 1; for the Higgs family, see p.169, last para.

David Reid’s will described him as being of King’s Mews, London. His burial, on 8 May 1772, was at St Martin-in-the-Fields, which suggests that the King’s Mews where he lived - one of several such addresses in London - was the one on a site now occupied by the National Gallery. His will - actually a memorandum which required several court appearances by his representatives before being proved - identified two brothers, the suggestion of a sister, and just one son, William. There is a certain amount of wealth evident, although not very specific, and a number of portraits, including one of himself.⁴

David Reid acquired the advowson in 1754 from the Coke family (by this time, the Earls of Leicester) who had held it since 1608.⁵ His purchase was designed to provide a living for his son, William, who was indeed appointed Rector in February 1756, newspaper reports revealing that the living was worth upwards of £700 *per annum*.⁶ One academic study puts the value at £600 in 1750, falling to £500 in 1779, but still by far the most lucrative benefice in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester at both dates.⁷

The purchase price of this valuable advowson must have been substantial. Current interest rates were about 3%;⁸ to have achieved a return of £700 at similar rates would have involved an outlay of £23,000. Factoring in risk, a purchase price of £15,000 to £20,000 looks very possible.

At the time of David Reid’s acquisition of the advowson, his son, William, was still only 22 years old. His listing in *Alumni Oxonienses* shows him as the son of David of St George’s, London,



* Still living at time of decease of William Pickering Reid

Table 1: Selective Relationships of Reid and Pickering Families

armigerous, age at matriculation indicating a date of birth of 1732, and graduating BA Queen's College Oxford in 1751 and MA in 1754.

A friend in need is a friend indeed - the short incumbency of James Menteath (c1718-1802)

A century later, Anthony Trollope discoursed on the challenge facing a young graduate preaching to an older, and possibly wiser, congregation.⁹ William was probably considered too young and inexperienced to be appointed to a rectorship. The dilemma was resolved in two ways: the installation of a new rector, James Menteath, on 6 February 1754, with David Reid's son, William, joining him as curate on 22 July.¹⁰



Fig. 2 - The Church of St Michael, Bishop's Cleeve today.

Menteath was at something of a loose end at the time. After graduating from Balliol College, Oxford, in 1739 (with MA in 1742) and ordination as a deacon and priest at Christchurch, Oxford in 1740 and 1741 respectively, he had been promised the living of Barrowby in Lincolnshire by the Earl of Thanet in 1745. This turned out to be a long wait; he was installed only on 8 March 1759 on the death of the sitting Rector. Thereafter, he remained Rector of Barrowby and preacher throughout the Diocese of Lincoln until his death on 15 July 1802, although he moved permanently to Scotland on purchasing Closeburn Castle in Dumfriesshire in 1783, which is where he died.¹¹ Without any record of a curate being appointed, the fate of his flock can only be imagined, but he did make a bequest

to the poor of Barrowby and for repair of any dilapidations of the church in his will.¹²

His short spell as Rector of Bishop's Cleeve from February 1754 to 21 January 1756 was his only other clerical appointment. James Menteath may well have been doing a friend a favour in taking up, and then relinquishing, such a financially advantageous rectorship. His installation was a stopgap, possibly also as someone who could mentor William for the first year or so of his clerical career.

Once James Menteath stood aside, parochial affairs for the ensuing 59 years were to rest in the hands of William Reid, who remained Rector until his death 22 years later, and his successor, Samuel Pickering. For much of the period, they were assisted by curates (see Table 2), whose contrasting dedication to their role adds a colourful dimension to the narrative.

Rectors

Francis Fitz-Edwards 1737-54
James Menteath 1754-56
William Reid 1756-78
Samuel Pickering 1778-1815
Robert Lawrence Townsend 1815 on

Curates

John Tayler 1754-57
James Bruce 1758-61
John Blackmor 1757-66
Thomas Hiatt 1766-91
William Pickering Reid 1791-92
John Wilcox 1801-05
Christopher Capel 1807-15

Table 2 - List of Clergy at Bishop's Cleeve 1754-1815

William Reid's Silver Spoon (c1732-1778)

The attention which William Reid himself gave to his parish may best be described as patchy. Over the course of his rectorship, he officiated at just five weddings - three in 1757 and the following year, and two more in 1761.¹³ His wife, though, did not wholly neglect the parish, making a gift of her own work in 1767: a hanging cloth for the pulpit and for the reading desk, both in scarlet.¹⁴

The marriage register is the only available record of clerical activity in the parish until the banns book which started in 1783. However, family records complement those from the parish. William Reid, resident in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, had married Elizabeth Pickering at St James', Piccadilly, on 7 February 1760.¹⁵ Over the course of the next eleven years, six children were born: two boys and four girls. The first five children were born in London, and the last in Bathampton in Somerset.¹⁶

At the time he wrote his will in 1774 - four years before he died - he had moved to Grosvenor Place in the parish of St George, Hanover Square, located adjacent to the gardens of what was then called Buckingham House. He also had a house, Waltham Place, and an estate in Berkshire in the villages of North Waltham and Shottisbrook. Of Bishop's Cleeve, there is no mention at all.¹⁷ He had long since forsaken life in Gloucestershire.

The previous rector of Bishop's Cleeve, Francis Fitz-Edwards, had served the parish without recourse to a curate since 1737.¹⁸ During Menteath's rectorship, John Tayler, since 1741 curate at Haselton with Yanworth (about 17 miles away), acted as curate¹⁹ until appointed Rector of nearby Winchcombe on 24 December 1757.²⁰

The frustrated suitor - Hon James Bruce (c1735-1765)

It did not take William Reid long to appoint his own curate, although the circumstances were not what they might appear at first sight. This was the recently ordained Hon James Bruce MA.²¹ Bruce was another Scot, the second of three sons of William Bruce, 8th Earl of Kincardine. His stay at Bishop's Cleeve was short, with another curate in place by 1761. Bruce did not conduct any weddings during his short tenure, and no further information about him has been found, apart from his death in Lisbon on 25 May 1765.²²

His will, however, written on 24 July 1763 nearly two years before his death, excites interest;²³ Bruce describing himself as of St Martin-in-the-Fields. He left his most hearty thanks to his brother, the Earl of Elgin (who had recently added this earldom to that

of Kincardine) for his great benevolence, and apologised to all his brothers and sisters for not leaving anything to them at all. What little he had, and he wished it could have been more, was to go to Miss Catherine Courtenay, daughter of the late Henry Reginald Courtenay (for many years member of parliament for Totnes), as 'a testimony of the sincere esteem which I have for her and her virtue'.

He left 'best wishes for all the success that can attend them in this life and for all the happiness that a merciful God can bestow upon them in the next' to his mother, brothers and sisters, all his relations, and all his friends, particularly Mr and Lady Elizabeth Bathurst (Miss Courtenay was a granddaughter of the late Earl Bathurst), John Moffatt, John Mill, William Courtenay (later 9th Earl of Devon), and Henry Courtenay (later Bishop of Exeter) 'who were all my good friends'.

All in all, this is a sad testament, almost certainly the work of a man who realised that, as a younger son without a fortune of his own, he could not keep the woman he loved on a curate's salary. His successor as curate at Bishop's Cleeve was engaged on a salary of £30 per annum,²⁴ and it is scarcely likely that he received any more than this. Whether he went to Portugal in an attempt to make his fortune, or simply to pine away, will never be known.

William Reid may have given James Bruce a haven from his troubled personal life, rather than expecting much in the way of help with parish duties. If so, it is likely that a miniature of Bruce's brother, the Earl of Elgin owned by Reid's son, had been a gift from Bruce to William Reid and then family heirloom.

The enigmatic existence of John Blackmor (c1722-1788)

The new curate at Bishop's Cleeve was from an altogether different social class. John Blackmor was the son of John Blackmor of North Cadbury in Somerset, gent. He was born about 1722, although his personal records have proved elusive, and reliance must be placed on those of Oxford University, where he graduated from Balliol College in 1744, but without going on to an MA.²⁵

His ordination as a deacon followed shortly afterwards in the New Church, Temple, London, in a service conducted by the Bishop of Salisbury on 10 March 1745, and as a priest at Wells Cathedral on 2 June 1751. His only recorded clerical appointment was as curate at Bishop's Cleeve fully ten years later, on 30 June 1761, on a meagre salary of £30 per annum. He had, though, been acting as curate in the parish, conducting weddings from January 1758 onwards, indeed before the appointment of the inactive James Bruce.²⁶

John Blackmor was an active curate, but remained in that position only until 1766. He continued to live at Bishop's Cleeve until his death, where he was buried at the church on 12 December 1788.²⁷ His will was short and to the point: all his possessions of any sort - the transcript of his will refers to all his 'estates real and temporal' rather than the customary legal terms of 'real and personal' - were bequeathed to a widow, Mrs Mary Straton of Bishop's Cleeve.²⁸

Mrs Straton, who died in 1804 and was buried at Winchcombe (five miles from Bishop's Cleeve), made her adopted daughter, Mary, her principal beneficiary.²⁹ The latter's will - on her death in 1839 at the age of 77 - in turn evinced an element of comfort and refinement, perhaps indicating that John Blackmor had not been totally dependent on his modest stipend.³⁰

A local choice: Thomas Hiett (c1742-1792)

John Blackmor's replacement as curate was Thomas Hiett. Hiett's record at Oxford - graduation from Brasenose College in 1763 aged 21 - reveal that he was of 'Bishop's Clive'. Ordained as a deacon on 17 June 1764 and appointed to a curacy at Overbury with Alstone, Teddington and Little Washbourne in Worcestershire at the same time, he advanced to the priesthood on 25 May 1766. By the end of the year - 13 December 1766 - he had become curate at his native Bishop's Cleeve.³¹

Hiett served the parish well, officiating at all weddings, bar the handful undertaken by William Reid, from his appointment until October 1791. His will is dated 11 April 1789; he died two years later, and was buried at Bishop's Cleeve on

2 August 1792. He left a house, Lower Farm, with household goods, buildings and belongings and lands called The Hough, Three Orchards, The Croft, The Pool Close and The Butts to Ann Busby for her life. After annuities to an aunt, Frances Cox, and an uncle, Thomas Hyett (the spelling seems to be variable, with a hint of snobbishness in the use of a 'y' in place of the 'i' because of its associations), the residuary legatee was his sister Mary.³²

The 25 years of Hiett's curacy straddle the later years of William Reid's rectorship and the early years of his successor, Samuel Pickering. David Reid's death in 1772 was followed fairly soon after by his son, William, in 1778. The ownership of the advowson would affect the choice of a new Rector, and there was a technical uncertainty about its precise ownership.

The advowson of the parish

The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire states that it was held in trust for Elizabeth Reid, a minor, in 1789 (incorrectly: she had been baptised at St James, Westminster, on 16 February 1737 - New style - and was 23 years of age on marriage),³³ and had become the property of the new Rector, Samuel Pickering, by 1803.³⁴ Church records show that Samuel Pickering was presented to the living in 1778 by, in effect, Revd William Reid's widow, Elizabeth.

There are two versions of the wording:

Presentation made at the request of, and by direction of Elizabeth Reid under the terms of an Indenture of Settlement made before her marriage to Revd. William Reid.

which was amplified, two days later, resolving any ambiguity about the right to presentation:

James Stuart Menteach [*sic*] presenting as the surviving trustee appointed in the indenture of settlement to the marriage of Rev. William Reid, clerk, deceased, with Elizabeth Reid his widow. Patron acting on the request of the said Elizabeth Reid 'but whether in full right or this turn is not in the presentation said'.³⁵

James Menteath, then, had not only stepped in to help David Reid by taking a temporary rectorship in 1754, but was also a party to the marriage settlement of Reid's son, William, on the latter's marriage. By becoming a trustee of that settlement, he helped to ameliorate the difficulties of a married woman owning property. The trust, therefore, was for a woman, rather than for a minor.

The trust was probably devised to enable Elizabeth Reid to present a son to the living at Bishop's Cleeve in the event of her husband, William, predeceasing her. Circumstances dictated otherwise.

At the time of William Reid's death in 1778, the older son was still only 14 years of age. In these circumstances, the widowed Elizabeth Reid chose her nephew, Samuel Pickering, as Rector to succeed her husband.

The new Rector - Samuel Pickering (1748-1815)

Samuel Pickering was born on 13 July 1748 in Westminster. His father, John, was a painter and stainer (as was his father), and he was named Samuel after his maternal grandfather, Samuel Towers.³⁶ He graduated from Queen's College, Oxford - BA 1769, MA 1772 - and was ordained as deacon and priest successively at the bishop's palace of the Diocese of Rochester on 21 December 1771 and 29 September 1772 respectively. He does not appear to have had any other clerical appointments until installation as Rector of Bishop's Cleeve in 1778.

Although he had an active curate in Thomas Hiatt, he does not appear to have been an absentee rector. He is reported to have made some improvements to the rectory³⁷ - essentially in respect of some of the windows - and became established in local life. He was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1787, and was elected a Freeman of the City of Gloucester, during the mayoralty of Giles Greenaway in 1790-91, an honorary position in the gift of the Mayor and Common Council.³⁸ In 1811, he voted for the Whig, Sir William Guise.³⁹

However active or inactive he may have been in conducting the affairs of the parish, Thomas Hiatt's state of health led to the appointment of a new curate in November 1791, the month after the last

appearance of Hiatt's name in the parish registers. The new curate was Samuel Pickering's cousin, William Pickering Reid.



Fig. 3 - Cleeve Hall Old Rectory, Bishop's Cleeve today.

The brief curacy of William Pickering Reid (1764-1821)

William Pickering Reid was born on 19 October 1764, the third child, but older son, of William Reid and Elizabeth née Pickering. He matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, on 2 March 1782 at the age of 17, but did not graduate.⁴⁰ Nothing further has been found about him until he appeared out of the blue at a private ordination as a deacon at the Bishop's Palace in Gloucester, licensed to the Curacy of Bishop's Cleeve, on 30 November, 1791.⁴¹ With the advowson of the parish being held by his mother, and the Rector his cousin, Samuel Pickering, this event was by no means out of the ordinary, but it certainly enabled Samuel Pickering to replace Thomas Hiatt, and perhaps also repay a debt of gratitude to the Reid family.

The appointment led to a happy event; within a few months William Pickering Reid had married Elizabeth Higgs. Elizabeth was a daughter of Charles and Susanna Higgs of nearby Charlton Kings, where she had been baptised on 12 October 1763. The family was of some substance, one of 'the more ancient proprietors of the parish'.⁴² The wedding took place in her home church on 3 May 1792. William Pickering Reid's residence was recorded as Prestbury, another nearby village, a little over three miles from both Bishop's Cleeve and Charlton Kings. The officiating minister, as may be expected, was Revd Samuel Pickering, Rector of Bishop's Cleeve. (See Figs 4 & 5.)

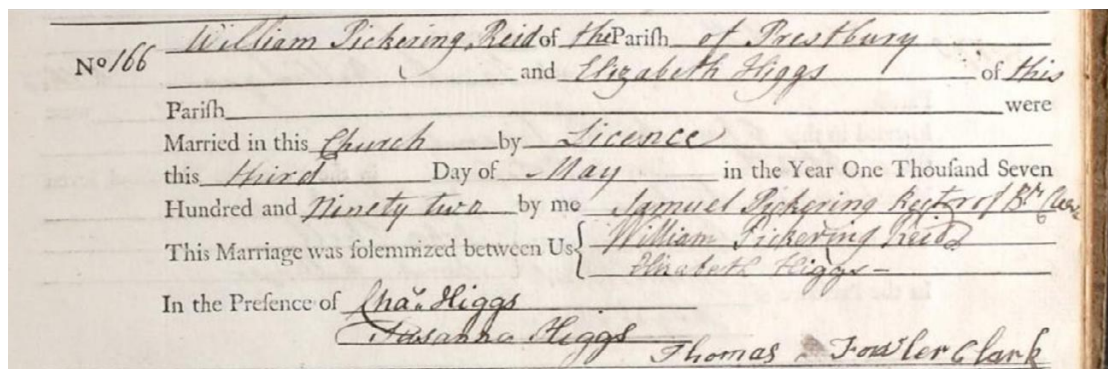


Fig. 4 - Prestbury parish register for marriage of William Pickering Reid and Elizabeth Higgs



Fig. 5 - Map to show relative locations of Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham, Prestbury and Charlton Kings overlaid on Board of Ordnance map, Cheltenham area, 1859.

There are very few records of William Pickering Reid whilst a curate at Bishop's Cleeve, these being limited to his reading of banns of marriage (shared with the Rector) for the seven weddings held in the church between April and December 1792, and conducting just one marriage service himself.⁴³

How much time William Pickering Reid spent in Gloucestershire is uncertain; a period when his father was active as rector in Bishop's Cleeve, no doubt, and sporadic periods of residence thereafter. He may well have been living with, or close by, Samuel Pickering for some time before 1791, as he was elected a Freeman of the City of Gloucester in the same year as Samuel Pickering and also his brother-in-law Charles Higgs.⁴⁴

William Pickering Reid remained a deacon without progressing fully to the priesthood, and he and his new wife did not remain long in Gloucestershire, finding their way ultimately to Hampshire. (He appears also to have lived at Slape House, Dorset.)⁴⁵ Family connexion and the curacy at Bishop's Cleeve had served their purpose.

Following William Pickering Reid's departure, Samuel Pickering appears to have taken on all of the parish duties for several years without assistance. He married Sarah Ramus of Merry Hill Farm, Bushey, Hertfordshire, on 8 August 1798, although there were no children of this union,⁴⁶ and lived at Bishop's Cleeve for the rest of his life.

The Early Career of John Wilcox (c1779-1835)

A new curate, John Wilcox, was appointed on 28 October 1801. He had been ordained on the same day in a service which, although conducted by Richard Beadon the Bishop of Gloucester, was held at the Church of St George, Hanover Square, in London.⁴⁷ Wilcox was actually a Gloucester man, having been born there to an inn-keeper; socially, therefore, he was a far cry from his aristocratic predecessors at Bishop's Cleeve.

Rather more is known about Wilcox, as newspapers and journals became more widespread and informative in the 19th century. From his humble beginnings, he went to Pembroke College, Oxford, in December 1796, graduating MA on 13 July

1803.⁴⁸ He was ordained as a priest in the same month at Gloucester Cathedral, with church records showing various dates of 6 and 25 July and 7 August for this event. Given his modest means, it seems likely that he remained in Bishop's Cleeve until taking up a curacy at Long Sutton (the parish of Sutton St Mary) in Lincolnshire on 12 November 1805. The new appointment came, unusually, with the use of a house, together with a stipend of £50 per annum plus surplice fees,⁴⁹ a significant advance on John Blackmor's modest stipend of £30, and probably his own too, paid out of Samuel Pickering's £700 per annum as Rector.

John Wilcox's subsequent career was spent between a 'small living' at Stonham Parva in Suffolk, where he was installed as Rector on 4 December 1816, and a variety of churches and chapels in London. He was elected joint lecturer at St George the Martyr in Southwark in 1811, but voted out in 1815 when it was decided to have one lecturer rather than two. At the time of his death in 1835, he was Minister at the Tavistock Chapel, Drury Lane, a position he had held since 7 August 1829, and was Chaplain to the 3rd Earl of Kingston, all whilst retaining his rectorship in Suffolk.⁵⁰

Christopher Capel: A Political Priest (c1780-1846)

The next appointment of a curate, after a gap of nearly ten years, was that of Christopher Capel on 3 February 1814. The appointment is consonant with Samuel Pickering's age and with his impending decease; he was now 61 years old, and died just 12 months later.⁵¹ In fact, Capel had been helping out occasionally since 1807, and increasingly from 1810. The last reading of the banns by Samuel Pickering was on 26 April 1812, indicating declining health for some time before his death.

What is striking about the appointment is that the stipend had grown to the princely amount of £100 per annum, and that Capel was required to live in the parish. This apparently new-found generosity may reflect Pickering's desire to ensure the care of his parish as his health declined, but it reflected also an increase in the minimum stipend for curates to £75 by the Curates, etc. Act (1796) and a substantial increase in his own income as Rector: to £1,400 per annum.⁵²

Capel's need for this enhanced income may not have been all that great. Born in Stroud in c1780, he is described as armigerous in the Oxford University alumni directory, indicating descent from a noble or well-to-do family. Graduating BA in 1805 and MA in 1809, he was ordained as a deacon on taking up a curacy at Langford in Oxfordshire in 1807, and then as a priest in a private ceremony at Winchester College in 1809 on appointment as Rector of Wootton in the same county.⁵³

Capel's career must be seen in the light of his family origins. The Capels were well established as a leading family in Prestbury, and were first recorded there in 1679.⁵⁴

Christopher Capel himself inherited shares in the Stroudwater Navigation in 1823, and joined the Committee of Proprietors two years later.⁵⁵ He had some modest involvement in politics, being a member of a committee supporting the successful candidature of a Whig, Sir William Guise, in the election of 1811.⁵⁶ Much later, he proposed a motion at a meeting of Gloucestershire freeholders in favour of parliamentary reform, which was carried unanimously.⁵⁷

It is no surprise, then, when he married on 28 August 1811 at Langford - his bride, Mary Barclay Ogilvy, a daughter of Sir D. Ogilvy Bart of Barras, was 'of this parish' - that his own residence was shown as Prestbury. A daughter, Jane, was baptised at Bishop's Cleeve by Samuel Pickering on 24 January 1813. After the death of his wife in June 1817, he married again, this time at Prestbury, on 23 April 1821. His new wife was Elizabeth Forbes, a daughter of Sir William Forbes of Craigievar 5th Baronet and Hon Sarah Sempill.⁵⁸ In 1831, he was listed as having a Game Certificate, again whilst resident at Prestbury.⁵⁹

He had moved from Langford in February 1813 to be perpetual Curate at Whaddon, some 41 miles south of Bishop's Cleeve, a position he held until August 1831, but all the indications are that he was an absentee incumbent. In the 18 years of Capel's incumbency there, the parish was served by a series of six curates.⁶⁰ Living in his native Prestbury, on the other hand, he was well placed to assist Samuel Pickering in the latter's last months without

disturbing his own activities to too great an extent, although it is doubtful whether he fulfilled the stipulation of his appointment to live in Bishop's Cleeve.

Samuel Pickering died in February 1815, and was buried by Christopher Capel at Bishop's Cleeve on 17th of that month.⁶¹ His death brought to an end six decades of ownership of the parish's advowson by the Reid/Pickering dynasty. The advowson passed to the Lawrence family of Alderton; Robert Lawrence Townsend being installed as Rector on his own presentation on 21 June 1815.

Samuel Pickering's Legacy

For the next few years at least, Robert Townsend performed the duties of his office. The last entry by Christopher Capel in the parish burials book was on 18 July 1815; thereafter it is Robert Townsend's signature which appears.⁶² Christopher Capel, 'a highly esteemed magistrate of the county', died on 8 October 1846.⁶³ Sarah Pickering died on 3 December 1828 at Cheltenham, but was buried at Bishop's Cleeve by Robert Townsend seven days later.⁶⁴

The will of Samuel Pickering,⁶⁵ written on 7 December 1811, reflected the close ties with his Reid relations, as well as revealing something of his wealth. Rental income from leasehold property in Bond Street, London was bequeathed to a Fanny Kidd, wife of Robert Kidd of Kew Green, about whom nothing more is known.

His freehold estates in Paddington and all other, but unspecified, freehold and leasehold estates were to be used for the benefit of his wife during her lifetime, together with all household and other effects, with one exception. This was a pair of miniature portraits of Charles I and George I which had been given him by his aunt, Elizabeth Reid, the wife of William Reid, and which were now to go to his cousin, Elizabeth Pickering Reid.

The sum of £2,000 was bequeathed to his niece Eliza Ramus, and £500 each to his Reid cousins, William Pickering and David and their unmarried sisters, Elizabeth Pickering and Jane. His executors were awarded £300 each, the share of Reverend Benjamin Grisdale going directly to his two

children, as were his servants with rather more modest amounts. The residuary beneficiaries were his three Ramus nephews and Eliza Ramus (already recognised) with equal shares.

Samuel Pickering had not neglected his in-laws in his will, but the closeness of the Reid family is apparent. Pickering owed his appointment at Bishop's Cleeve to his aunt Elizabeth, the wife of William Reid, and he had officiated at, indeed facilitated, the wedding of his cousin William Pickering Reid through the latter's brief curacy.

The later years of William Pickering Reid

With Samuel Pickering's decease, the sole male survivor of the two families who had been involved with the parish in any way was William Pickering Reid, who remains an enigma. Nothing more can be found of him until his death on 28 December 1821. His will, written two years earlier on 8 January 1819, serves only to deepen the mystery.

By this time, he was resident in Totton in the parish of Eling in Hampshire. Today, his house there, on the outskirts of Ashurst and well away from the heavily industrialised Totton, is a rather splendid nursing home, with a hotel close by converted from the original lodge. The house, the will reveals, was a hoped for, but ultimately unrealised, addition to three other properties respectively in St James Street, Westminster, Great Earl Street, St Giles Middlesex, and Nelson Place, Lymington.

His wife was to receive all household goods and effects, with the exception of a number of portraits. These were mostly of the Reid family, but one was of the Earl of Elgin, the presumed gift from James Bruce to William Reid. When having a second portrait restored, he had added a ducal crown in the belief at the time that it was of the Duke of Argyle, but now thought it was of his godfather. (The godfather's initial in the will is obscure, but the surname, Reid, indicates one of his grandfather's brothers, John and William). The portraits were to be retained in the family, variously by his brother and sisters.

An annuity of £450 per annum, augmented by a codicil with a further £25, was to be paid to his wife for her lifetime, and various bequests were

made to his brother David and sisters Elizabeth and Jane (both unmarried), Mary Cole and Anne Egar. Some other more distant relations were also favoured, with the residuary legatee being his brother David. This brother was also in holy orders, having been ordained at the age of 39 without a university education. By the time of William Pickering Reid's death he was perpetual curate at Wissett, just one and a half miles away from Spexhall, at a salary of £40 per annum.⁶⁶ His newfound wealth would have been very welcome.

The source of the family's wealth is unclear, but aristocratic ancestors would appear to be indicated. It was clearly more than sufficient for William Pickering Reid to float through life without being affected negatively either by failing to take his degree, or by truncating his clerical career. His name does not appear in the newspapers or in any books, and it can only be assumed that he was a gentleman of leisure or an invalid. He was buried on 10 January 1822 at St Thomas' Church, Lymington, and, after her death in Cheltenham, joined by his wife, on 11 February 1829.⁶⁷

Conclusion

The majority of the clergy in the late 18th century were educated at the two universities (Oxford and Cambridge), and drawn almost inevitably from a particular social class. However, the lives of the Bishop's Cleeve clergy during this period were far from homogeneous.

Although David Reid had sought to use his own wealth to fund a living and a career for his family, William Reid found life as a provincial rector unappealing. Of his two sons, one went to Oxford without graduating, but took holy orders without progressing to the priesthood, whereas the other did not have a university education but entered the church at a late stage of life. John Blackmor retired after only a few years, whilst Thomas Hiatt worked until an early death.

Whereas James Bruce, the son of an earl, was unable to marry on a curate's meagre stipend, John Wilcox, the son of an inn-keeper, pursued a reasonably successful career. The well-heeled Christopher Capel supported Samuel Pickering at a time of need, but, as

an absentee rector neglecting his own parishioners. Samuel Pickering, from a family of artisans, lived in his own parish and served his parishioners well.

What is particularly striking about nearly all of these is the extent of the influence of friends and family. The most notable of these was James Menteth, although Capel's assistance was similar in nature if not in extent. James Bruce, too, although it is difficult to be sure whether he was the helper or the beneficiary. Thomas Hiatt was able to live in his native parish, whilst Christopher Capel did not have far to travel whilst remaining in his. Samuel Pickering benefited from the early decease of his aunt's husband, and repaid the debt by employing his cousin and facilitating the latter's matrimonial designs.

Neglect of parish duties is also all too evident. James Menteth left his later parish to return to his native Scotland, and the curate, James Bruce, may well have been more in need of succour himself than able to provide the same to his parishioners. John Wilcox retained a rectorship in Lincolnshire whilst being active in London. Christopher Capel's life, and lifestyle, in Prestbury precluded attention to his own parish duties, whilst giving a helping hand more locally. William Reid and his namesake son found little in Gloucestershire to attract them, apart from, in the son's case, a wife.

Others, though, committed themselves to the role of a parish priest rather more dutifully. There is nothing to suggest that John Blackmor, Thomas Hiatt or Samuel Pickering were other than devoted to their work in the parish.

The reign of George III with which this period all but coincides is not noted for the assiduity of its clergy. The period of six decades of the Reid/Pickering dynasty at Bishop's Cleeve are largely representative of this generality, but it provides nonetheless a fascinating insight into the operations of the established church at the parochial level in England at that time.

Image Attributions:

1. St Thomas' Church, Lymington.
2. David Aldred (Bishop's Cleeve).
3. David Aldred (Bishop's Cleeve).
4. Ancestry: Prestbury parish register.

Notes

1. 1801 Census Reports: Enumeration abstract 1801 p.117; Parish register abstract 1801 p.103: <http://www.histpop.org/ohpr/servlet/Search?ResourceType=Census&SearchTerms=1801&search=Search&simple=yes&path=Results&treestate=expandnew&active=yes&titlepos=0>.
2. Nigel Mussett 'Heraldry in St. Thomas Church: 18 The Revd William Pickering Reid 1822' *St Thomas' Parish News* (2021); hatchments at St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomasine_Ravenscroft_plaque_and_hatchment_St_John_the_Baptist,_Chipping_Barnet.jpg & https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Manning_plaque_and_unrelated_hatchment_St_John_the_Baptist,_Chipping_Barnet.jpg. For Pickering, both the town and the family, see various internet searches.
3. Reid (London 1740): in Sir Bernard Burke *The General Armory* 3 (Reprint: Heritage Books Inc.: 2009) 846.
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12. TNA Will of Reverend James Stuart Menteth, Rector of Barrowby, Lincolnshire PROB 11/1389/78.
13. Ancestry: Gloucestershire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938 Bishops Cleeve 1754-1835.
14. Thomas Rudge *The History of the County of Gloucester Compressed, and Brought Down to the Year 1803* 1 (Gloucester: 1803) 94.
15. Ancestry: Westminster, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1935 St James, Piccadilly (St James, Westminster) 1754-1765.
16. Ancestry: various records.
17. TNA Will of Revd William Reid PROB 11/1044/91.
18. CCed Bishop's Cleeve.
19. Ancestry: Gloucestershire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938 Bishops Cleeve 1754-1835.
20. CCed: Haselton with Yanworth: John Tayler.
21. CCed. A graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, he had been ordained as a deacon on 24 July of the same year.
22. http://www.cracroftspeerage.co.uk/kincardine1647.htm#KINCARDINE_1647_8; Joseph Foster *Alumni oxonienses*: 2 (Oxford 1888) 179; See also n 21 above.
23. TNA Will of Hon James Bruce PROB 11/914/446.
24. CCed. It is unlikely that his own salary would have been more.

25. Joseph Foster *Alumni oxonienses*: 1 (Oxford 1888) 118; CCEd.
26. See n 13 above.
27. CCEd John Blackmor: Ancestry: Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813.
28. TNA: Will of Reverend John Blackmor, Clerk of Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire PROB 11/1172/295.
29. TNA: Will of Mary Straton Widow PROB 11/1419/114 Ancestry: Gloucestershire, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813.
30. TNA: Will of Mary Straton Spinster PROB 11/1915/291; Ancestry: Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1988.
31. Joseph Foster *Alumni oxonienses*: 1 (Oxford 1888) 725; CCEd Bishop's Cleeve, Stoke Orchard chapel- Thomas Hiatt.
32. Gloucestershire Archives D2025/Box102/Bundle3 (part).
33. Elizabeth Pickering, for both baptism and burial: Ancestry: Westminster, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558-1812; the baptism was at St James, Piccadilly (St James, Westminster).
34. See n 5.
35. See under 'Other Information' in both CCEd Record ID 145234 210075 (dated 23 October 1778) & CCEd Record ID 210075 (dated 25 October 1778).
36. Pickering genealogy: <http://www.pickeringsof-yorkshire.com/families/1500-1599/pickerings-of-three-kingham>.
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38. Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society: <https://www.bgas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GRS-4-Glos-Freemen-pt2.pdf>; for the eligibility for nomination, see <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/researching/search-by-theme/trades-and-transport/freeman-of-gloucester/>. For appointment as a JP: see various newspaper reports.
39. The Sheriff's Books: The Poll at the election of 1811.
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50. CCEd; The *Gentleman's Magazine* as above, although this is incorrect in the lectureship at Southwark; engraving by C Turner of portrait by Henry William Pickersgill of 1822 - British Museum cat. 1853,0112.2139.
51. Ancestry: Westminster, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558-1812 (Date of birth - 13 July 1748); Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1988 (Burial date - 17 February 1815).
52. CCEd Robert Lawrence Townsend dispensation is the source for the stipend of £1,400.
53. Joseph Foster *Alumni oxonienses*: 1 (Oxford 1888) 216; CCEd: Christopher Capel.
54. Prestbury Parish Magazine June 2006: <http://prestbury.net/magazine/200606/200606.htm>.
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61. Ancestry: Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1988.
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63. *Bristol Mercury* 17 October 1846; *Brighton Gazette* 22 October 1846
64. *The Gentleman's Magazine* (July to December 1828) 573; Ancestry: Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1988 Bishops Cleeve 1828.
65. TNA PROB 11-1568-73.
66. CCEd.
67. Ancestry: Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921 for both.

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HE'S NOT OUR JOHN DONNE!

TRACKING A NON-FAMOUS NAMED ANCESTOR'S FAMILY

Maureen (Perry) Scott & Steven W. Morrison

What would you do if the family of an ancestor you were researching shared a surname with several famous historical figures? It can be overwhelming - but once you've collected yourself, what's your next move? For members of the Doane Family Association (DFA), searching for an answer involved more than a century of dedicated research. Today, we are thrilled to be able to share a major breakthrough with our more than one thousand DFA members worldwide. We believe we have likely uncovered the true lineage of our ancestor, Deacon John Done. To set the record straight - he was *not* the renowned John Donne, 17th century English poet, scholar, soldier, or Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. Nor was he Sir John Donne, the 15th century Welsh diplomat and soldier of the Yorkist party. Our credible ancestor was, in fact, a haberdasher, the second-born son of John Donne, rector at St. Benet Gracechurch, London. After years of persistent research, we can finally separate fact from fiction and bring clarity to our shared history.

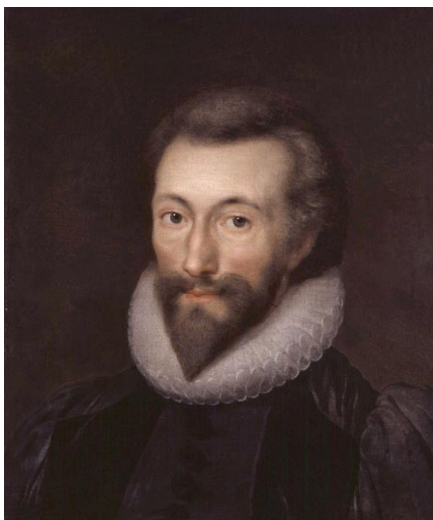


Fig. 1 - John Donne 1571/2–1631, Wikipedia Commons

The Doane Family Association was incorporated in 1907. Its first family reunion, which continues to this day, was held in Plymouth, Massachusetts. High on the agenda was the question: *What was our ancestor the Deacon doing in the Plymouth Colony ten years after the arrival of the Mayflower?* Historical records reveal that soon after his arrival, John Done became actively involved in Plymouth's affairs¹. Listed as a freeman in records for both London and the Plymouth Colony, he served as one of seven council members under the new governor, played a role in shaping new laws, and was quickly appointed Deacon of the Plymouth church. Yet, these records offered no trace of his family origins. *Did he come from the British Isles, or perhaps from Holland?* Even the spelling of his name in various historical records varied. After some time living in Plymouth, and later in Eastham, he changed the spelling of his surname from 'Done' to 'Doane'. *Was the goal to emphasize the long 'o' sound?* We will never know for certain. Whatever the intention, slight variations continue to persist with some of his descendants adopting the spelling 'Doan.'

The DFA has published two extensive volumes - one in 1901 and another in 1975 - documenting hundreds of Doane/Doan families from America, England, Canada and New Zealand, descended from our Deacon. A third volume is currently in progress. The family patriarch identified in Volume I was later determined to be incorrect, a misstep addressed in Volume II, and the search for Deacon John Done's origin continued. More recently the DFA Research Committee has been working with *Family Tree DNA* regarding male Doane descendants through an extensive Y-DNA study. To learn more, please go to: www.ftdna.com/doanefamily.

In 1976, Gilbert Harry Doane - a dedicated DFA member, reference librarian, genealogical author and later a deacon in the Episcopal Church - shared

several promising clues with DFA members, uncovered through his hands-on research in England. One particularly strong suggestion was to explore the records of St. Benet Gracechurch, London, as a possible origin for the family progenitor. Of particular interest to him was John Donne, the rector of this parish for over 40 years. Although he was not explicit, Gilbert Doane's research into records for St. Benet Gracechurch led him to believe, and report to the DFA members in 1976, that: "The Reverend John Donne was pastor of St. Bennet's Gracechurch Street, in the east end of London in the 1620's, it being one of the 'Puritan' parishes."

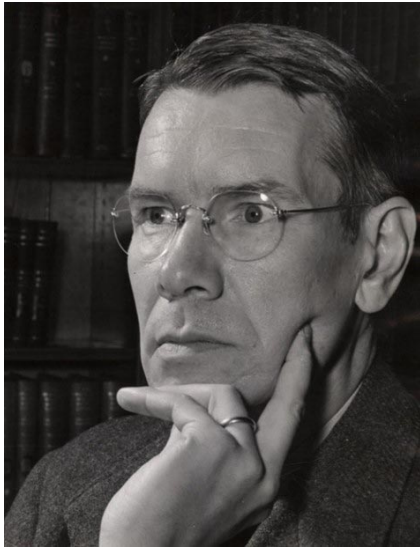


Fig. 2 - Gilbert H. Doane, 1897–1980. UW-Madison Archives

In 2004, after investigating Gilbert Doane's leads and reviewing the will of Rector John Donne, the DFA Research Committee concluded that 'neither John Donne, the rector of St. Benet Gracechurch in London, nor his grandson who shared his name, could have been the Deacon.' It wasn't until a decade later that Gilbert Doane's suggestions were revisited leading to the discovery that Rector Donne did, in fact, have a son named John. This son, along with his older brother, Nathaniel, was baptized at St. Olave, Silver Street, prior to his appointment as rector at St. Benet Gracechurch in 1592. The register at St. Benet's contained the names of ten additional children belonging to Rector Donne and his wife Elizabeth (née Fever). They were:

At St. Olave, Silver St.

1. Nathaniel Donne, bap 19 Jul. 1590.
2. **John Donne, bap 8 Aug. 1591.**

At St Benet Gracechurch

3. Robert Donne bap 26 Aug. 1593; bur 6 Apr. 1631.
4. Daniel Donne, bap 19 Oct. 1595; bur 29 Sept. 1645.
5. Elizabeth Donne, bap 29 Jan. 1597/8;
bur 14 Aug. 1611.
6. Ralph Donne, bap 10 Aug. 1600; bur 12 Sep. 1602.
7. Edward Donne, bap 27 Jun. 1602; bur 25 June 1630.
8. Mary Donne, bap 9 Dec. 1604; bur 24 Feb. 1630/1.
9. Samuel Donne, bap 1 Jan. 1606/7; bur 10 Jul. 1607.
10. William Donne, bap 1 Jan. 1606/7;
bur 11 Jan. 1606/7.
11. Martha Donne, bap 4 Dec. 1608; bur 26 Jul. 1613.
12. Benjamin Donne, bap 30 Jun. 1611;
bur 20 Apr. 1646.

These discoveries motivated the DFA Research Committee to delve deeper into the *Donne* family. One key question emerged: *Where was Rector John Donne educated?* With only two universities at that time, we discovered John matriculated at Magdalene College, Cambridge. After serving from 1590 to 1592 at St. Olave, Silver Street, he was transferred less than a mile away to St. Benet Gracechurch where he remained until 1636. While early career records are lacking from the '*Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835*' John may have been a roving preacher, also referred to as a curate, or served as an assistant in a larger church elsewhere. The clergy records, referred to above, only clarify he obtained his master's degree in 1592. Before his clergyship he married Elizabeth, (née Fever), at St. Botolph, located on the eastern side of the city, in 1587.

Raising a large family came with challenges, yet John and Elizabeth Donne were steadfast in ensuring that their children and grandchildren received a proper education. In their wills, they specifically allocated funds for the education of those grandchildren who had lost their fathers. At the time, grammar schools in London were scarce, making it plausible that Reverend John Donne supplemented his modest income by teaching children in his community². At the very least, he would have educated his own children at home.

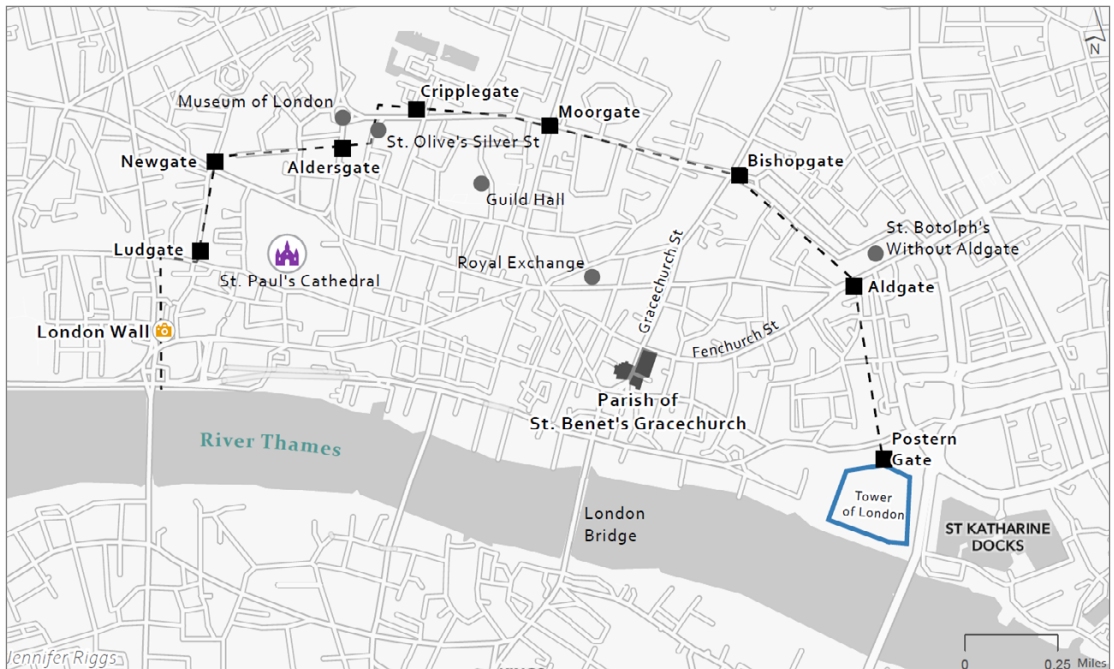


Fig. 3 - Historic London: City Walls, Gates, Churches, and Parish of St. Benet's Gracechurch, ca 1630. Map by: Jennifer Riggs

Despite an income of £20 to £30 per annum, Reverend Donne and his wife, managed to support their two older sons (John and Robert) and youngest son (Benjamin) as they pursued their training within London's livery companies. Two middle sons (Daniel and Edward), followed in their father's footsteps as clergymen that would have required a costly university education.

John Donne was rector at St. Benet Gracechurch for over 40 years. His declining health became evident when he failed to sign the church registry for an extended period starting in 1630. In 1632 church records reveal that his parish allocated ten pounds 'to dispose of his expense in Suffolk'. Later, an additional £4.16s was provided to bring him back from Suffolk in a 'horselitter' (a type of enclosed seat or bed carried on poles and transported by horses) - a journey that took six days. While the details of his trips remain unclear, they imply that the rector may have had some familial ties to the area. When the pastor died the churchwardens disbursed the substantial sum of £9.4s.10d to cover his funeral expenses as a gesture of 'appreciation for his dedicated service.' They also awarded an additional £6 to 'Mrs. Donn, being a gratuifice of ye p[ar]ish.'

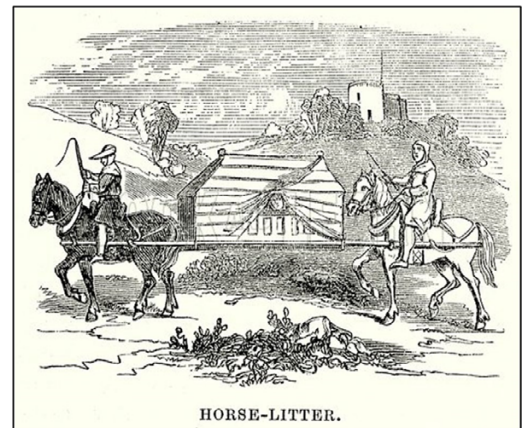


Fig. 4 - Vintage engraving of medieval travel on a horse litter. Getty Images.

The possible connection to Suffolk is supported by a baptism at St. Nicholas, Ipswich, to parents John Duyne (Donne) and Katheryn Boverne (Bourne). The spelling variations associated with this surname included: Donne, Done, Doan, Doune, Dunn, Downe and Dowen. *Could John Duyne, the rector's father, be the long sought after patriarch of the Doane family?* While an intriguing question, this marks the end of the paper trail.

Although no passenger list confirms the arrival of John Donne/Done in colonial America, Plymouth records place it between May 1627 and January 1632/3. In England the loss of several family members may have prompted his departure, possibly in late autumn of 1631 or the spring of 1632. The first event was the death of his younger brother Edward in June 1630. This was followed by the death of a married sister (the wife of John Warren) who died in Feb 1630/31 and finally brother Robert in April 1631. According to historical records Robert, a merchant taylor, was tithed for a shop within the parish as well as an additional building. Since the occupations of merchant taylor and haberdasher are compatible, it seems possible that Robert may have employed his older brother, John, who may have lived above the shop. Thus, Robert's death would have been especially devastating, both personally and financially.

Those researching the origins of American colonists are well aware how rare it is to find English wills explicitly naming relatives overseas.³ If there was a single document that could have established an unbroken link across the Atlantic, it would undoubtedly have been the inclusion of John in his parents' last testaments. Unfortunately, both Rector John Donne and his wife, Elizabeth, chose not to name their son in their respective wills. *Had they helped finance his passage, so he had already received his share?* - OR - *since he sailed away to the colonies, was he dead to them?* The fact remains that no death record for John has been discovered in England. So, it stands to reason that if he remained in England, he most certainly would have been buried at St. Benet, Gracechurch, along with all his siblings.

Relevant points of information supporting the case for the rector's son to be the youthful Deacon John Doane of Plymouth and Eastham in the Plymouth Colony are as follows:

- Both men were of similar age.
- Both men had a similar surname.
- Both men were Freemen.

- Both men could have arrived between 1627 and 1632/3.
- John, Rector Donne's son, had knowledge of religious practices. (Two younger brothers were also clergy of the church.)
- Both men practiced similar occupations. (While the London Merchant Taylors and Haberdashers were separate livery companies, in the wilds of early New England such a distinction would likely have been meaningless and both would likely fit under the broad definition of a tailor.)

For the DFA Research Committee, the journey of family exploration is never truly complete. Just when least expected, new information emerges renewing our hope of uncovering more about our colonial ancestors. In recent years DNA testing has become an invaluable tool in discovering new family branches. While it does not replace traditional forms of genealogical research, it can complement a well-documented pedigree.

Interested in getting tested? Contact the Doane Family Association DNA coordinator at: <https://doanefamilyassociation.org/DNA-Coordinator>

For additional details regarding the Donne / Done / Doane Family refer to the information below.

Steven W. Morrison and Maureen (Perry) Scott, 'The English Ancestry of Deacon John Doane of Plymouth and Eastham, Massachusetts.' *The Genealogist* 38:2 (Fall 2024): 143-172.

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Interested in DNA testing?

The Doane Family Association (DFA) has been collaborating with *Family Tree DNA* (FTDNA) for over a decade. In America, all male Doane descendants can be traced back to one of Deacon John Done's three sons through Y-DNA. In the UK, research has expanded to include individuals with the "*Downen*" surname, who show a close genetic match. If your ancestors originated from London, you recognize a connection to the family mentioned in this article and you have the surname: *Donne, Doan, Done, Doen, Doune, Dunn, Downe, Downen, or Dunne*, we would love to hear from you. The DFA will cover the cost of Y-DNA-testing with FTDNA, if within two years from the publication date of this article.

Interested in getting tested? Contact the Doane Family Association DNA coordinator at: <https://doanefamilyassociation.org/DNA-Coordinator>



BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL

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ARCHIVAL STORAGE

The Archival Storage Starter Pack continues to prove very popular as a gift for the Family Archivist. This is the ideal storage for the family archive ensuring that your photographs and ephemera are all stored in acid free sleeves away from any possible damage or handling. Please advise your requirements as soon as possible to ensure despatch in time for Christmas.

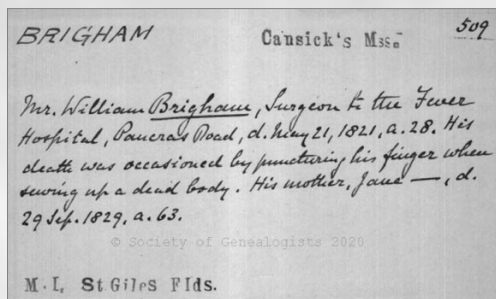
Helen Dawkins LRPS | Email: helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk | Telephone: 07732 642139.



Oddities from the Great Card Index

ODDITY #1

Occupational hazard: He stitched the dead, then joined them. In 1821, 28-year-old surgeon William Brigham died after puncturing his finger while sewing up a corpse. (Brie-Brim Image No. 1077)



DANIEL MARDELL - BUT WHICH ONE?

Michael Gandy FSG

My mother's name was Olive Eileen Mardell, pronounced with the emphasis on the second syllable. She was born in Eltham, Kent, but her father was born in Tottenham, Middlesex, in 1888. The family there starts with James Mardell and Elizabeth Schooling who married at Much Hadham, Herts, in 1797 and moved down the Hertford Road between 1800 and 1802. James was a coachman so I imagine he moved with his employer. They lived on the border of Tottenham and Edmonton (right on the junction of Fore Street and the present North Circular Road) but eventually settled in various streets within a few hundred yards between Tottenham parish church and the present Spurs football ground in Park Lane. After the coachman they were generally painters and decorators, carpenters, plumbers and builders, comfortable in a small way.

When I first went to Hertfordshire Record Office (about 1966) and mentioned the name the archivist said 'They pronounce it Mardle up here' and that was a surprise but I soon got used to it and traced the family backwards relatively easily from Much Hadham through Great Amwell to Shephall where the first reference in the parish registers is in 1575.

How easy to write that sentence and how it hides 50 years of grief! The trouble was Daniel Mardell of Shephall (b.1649). It looked as though he ought to be the father of Daniel Mardell who baptised two children at Shephall in 1711, but where was the baptism and who was the mother? Moreover, there were a number of other Daniels (mostly second cousins); one in Stevenage, another who moved over to Watford (but which one?), another who was just a baptism with nothing more known. There were even more Daniel marriages than baptisms, including some in London.

Over the years I got together with various descendants (Fred Parker, Anne Prudames, Tony Evans, Fay Winkworth, Felicity Brimblecombe

and, particularly, Julia Roberts) and we all grappled with the possibilities and looked for evidence to sort out these late 17th century Daniels - but they were all descended from the Knebworth or Datchworth families - I was the only one with the Shephall problem. It was obviously all one jigsaw puzzle - but how did it go together? At one point I thought I had my Daniel's baptism - and then found a removal order showing quite clearly that he had gone somewhere else. So, in a second my line was cut down from 1575 to 1711 (again). 150 years of ancestry went up in smoke.

It looked as though Daniel of Shephall had become a Quaker and married Ann Nutting of Cottered in 1675. They only had one daughter registered amongst Quakers (in 1677) so after a while I accepted that any later children weren't registered and thought my Daniel was probably one of theirs. Then (but we are talking years here) I found the marriage of Daniel Mardell, bachelor, aged 30, of Shephall (!) to Ann Dickenson of Hatfield on October 2 1709 at All Hallows, Staining, in the City of London - not to be confused (which I had been) with Daniel, widower, of Stevenage, who married Ann Sheffield at Ardeley in 1706, or with Daniel who married Mary Catline in 1713 at All Hallows, London Wall. I still have no idea who he was. Three Daniel marriages in seven years - and two of them to Anns.

There was an extra complication. Daniel the Quaker (b.1649) certainly had a son Daniel, but he had moved to Epping in Essex and from there he moved to Harolds Wood in the parish of Hornchurch (they said - it seems to be Romford actually). The family attended the Quaker meeting at Barking, which unfortunately has no surviving records of birth, marriage and death. However, there are good minutes of the monthly meeting and there I found in May 1701 that 'Daniel Mardell the younger, son of Daniel Mardell the elder of Harolds Wood in Essex, proposed his intention of

taking Mary Ansell daughter of William Ansell of Stansted Deale to wife and desired a certificutt from the meeting which was given him accordingly of his cleanness from all others in relation to marriage so far as was known’.

My heart sank (again) as Daniel who married in 1709 said he was a bachelor so apparently the Quaker family weren’t mine. Yet another good theory blown out of the water.

However I have another good theory and I shall now tell the story forwards...

The name Mardell presumably comes from the Mardle ley (Mardley) in the parish of Welwyn. Alweard of Mardleybury appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 but I don’t claim him for mine. Philip de Mardeley appears in various documents between 1269 and 1279 but I can’t tell whether it was a surname or just a description. In fact I have no more entries until parish registers begin and there are three branches - all linked: one in Datchworth from 1570, mine in Shephall from 1575 and another in Knebworth from 1609. All three branches flourished and threw off shoots to various other parishes in central and east Herts. Apart from the Daniels there were lots of Rowlands.

My John in Shephall from 1575 had four married sisters in the parish so he was obviously local; he was a churchwarden in 1582. However, his son John (1575-1640), who founded the Knebworth branch, was cited in January 1598/9 for ‘incontinency with his wife before marriage’ and did penance before the minister and churchwardens. In fact this probably didn’t mean they jumped the gun as regards church marriage (almost everybody did that) but that they said they didn’t believe in church marriage but had married each other privately. This was a standard Puritan view and may be the first sign that nonconformity was in the family.

I am descended from the younger brother Robert (1581-1670), a blacksmith, who stayed in Shephall. His son Daniel (1622-1699) also stayed in Shephall all his life but apparently continued the trend towards nonconformity as he and his wife appear in the Quarter Sessions on January 12 1661/2 for not attending Divine Service.

The next Daniel (1649-1709) became a Quaker. The marriage certificate (April 11 1675 at Sandon) reads:

‘These are to sertefie whom it may consern that Daniell Mardell of Cotteder in the County of Hartford did take to wife Ann Nutting daughter of Thomas Nutting of Yardley in the said County and likewise that the aforesaid Ann Nutting did take the said Daniell Mardell to bee her husband untill death doe them part att a meetting holden att Sandon on the eleventh day of the second month commonly called Aprill and in the yeare of our lord one thousand sixe hundred and seaventy and five in the presents of us whose name are hearunto subscribed 1675”

Jo. Exton	Prudence Joyce
Simon Charles	Prudence x Burmidge
Thomas Nutting	Thomas x Pardes
Peter White	Elizabeth Harisson
John Harison	Mary Bardolfe
Samuell Dunn	
Edward Joyce	
Edward Bardolfe	

The following year (on February 22 1675/6) the Quarter Sessions had information:

‘that Daniel Mardell of Cotteder, Thomas Nutting of Yardley, William Nutting, singleman, of the same [and many others] were present at an unlawful conventicle in the house or barn of George Gates of Layston, butcher, and that John Parker of Yardley and Anthony Tompkyns of the Borough of Southwark, co. Surrey, took upon themselves to preach there’.

Daniel and Ann had two children - Sarah and Daniel - and then Ann must have died, as Daniel remarried Prudence. I don’t have a marriage entry for them but there are two witnesses called Prudence at his first marriage and perhaps his second wife was one of them.

By 1683 they had moved to Epping and the Quarter Sessions says:

Sep 30 1683: Note that the following persons were convicted for being at an unlawful assembly at the house of John Knight in Hoddesdon and were fined 5s each: Daniel Mordell of Epping, Thomas Nutting of Stondon [and many others]



A Quakers' Meeting, c.1675, by Egbert van Heemskerck. (From Wikimedia, public domain.)

Then on Jan 20 1683/4 [Sunday]:

Memorandum that on Sunday 20th January 1683/4 a conventicle was held in a barn of John Knight at Hoddesdon in the parish of Broxbourne, at which the following persons were present: Daniel Mordel of Epping in the county of Essex [and many others].

Besse's *Sufferings of the People called Quakers for the Testimony of a Good Conscience* records that in 1689 Daniel Mardell, Stephen Fetherstone, and John Siggins had distresses for tithes levied against them worth £24.6s.0d. in respect of corn.

In the 1680s the Mardells obviously attended the meeting at Waltham Abbey and on 3rd of 4 mo (June) 1686 Rachel Pricklove and Prudence Mardell are desired to enquire into the clearness of Ruth Morrice from all others (that is, whether she was free to marry).

In 1688 they were attending a new meeting at Epping and on 6th of 12mo 1689/90 it was the request of the meeting 'that Richard Pritlove and Daniel Mardell doe speak to Henry Rayner and desire him to be at next monthly meeting'. [No idea why.]

Quakers disapproved of the names of the days and months as most of them were pagan so they numbered the months - but started from March until 1752. So the 12th month was February. They didn't use the names of the days of the week at all.

By 1691 Daniel and Prudence had moved further east and I have some references to the meeting at 'Playstow':

5th 8mo 1691. Ordered that the next monthly meeting be in Harrolds Wood at Daniell Marding [the monthly meetings continued to be held there].

7th 7mo 1693: Daniel Mardin appointed as a collector for Harrolds Wood and Hornchurch.

Then the meeting for worship was moved to Barking:

2nd of 4mo 1698: Letter of engagement regarding the will of Ann Bayley. Daniel Mardell signs amongst others.

7th of 10mo 1699: A certificate being given at the request of Mary Sibly who is liveing with Daniel Mardal of Harrals Wood touching her conversation we have heard a good report of her and therefore the

Friends of the meeting signed the same [conversation = behaviour; maybe she was a servant].

In 1699 old Daniel Mardell died - I don't think he had ever left Shephall. I have no burial for him as presumably he was nonconformist, but his son Daniel of Harolds Wood attended the Archdeacons Court of St Albans and the record says:

Daniel Mardell of Hornchurch, Essex, Richard Challener of Chipping Barnet and Jane Bouts of Chipping Barnet, 21 December 1699. Daniel Mardell declares that he is a Quaker:

'I, Daniel Mardall, the natural and lawful son of Daniel Mardall, late of Shephall in the County of Hertford senior deceased, do declare in the presence of Almighty God the witness of the truth of what I say, that I am one of the dissenters commonly called Quakers and that I know of no will made by the said Daniel Mardall my father deceased and that I will well and truly administer the Goods, Chattells and Credits of the said deceased by paying his debts so far as the same shall extend and the Law charge me And that I will make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattells and Creditts of the said deceased and also a just Accompt thereof when I shall be thereunto lawfully required. Daniell Mardall'.

So the genealogy is absolutely firm. Only that in 1701 young Daniel applied to marry Mary Ansell...

There are some more casual references in the minutes of the monthly meetings:

2nd of 7mo 1701: report of collection for the poor includes Daniel Mardall 2s.6d.

7th of 8mo 1701: Letter to Philadelphia concerning the bankruptcy of John Brown: Daniel Mardall signs amongst others.

6th of 11mo 1701: The sufferings of Daniel Mardal are now ordered to be registered.

7th 2mo 1702: Latin certificate for Christopher Meidel of Stratford, West Ham, going to Norway: Daniel Mardall signs amongst others.

7th of 2mo 1702: Thomas Lacy reports that he carried in Daniel Mardals sufferings to the Quarterly Meeting at London 6th of 2mo 1702.

And then some light in the tunnel:

Barking: 4th of 2mo 1704: Daniel Mardal intending to remove his habitation to Shephall Green in the County of Hertford desires a certificate from this meeting for himself and his wife Prudence concerning their conversation at the monthly meeting, to the monthly meeting at Coterred [Hertfordshire]. This meeting doth appoint Elias Woodward and Joseph Jacob to make enquiry and receive information thereabout and to report the same to the next meeting and if they find nothing to obstruct Richard Claridge to prepare a certificate accordingly.

Barking: 2nd 3mo 1704: A certificate was read and signed by this meeting concerning the orderly conversation of Daniel Mardal and Prudence his wife who are removed out of this quarter unto Shephall Green within the Precinct of the monthly meeting at Coterred, and delivered to Elias Woodward for him'.

So Daniel (b.1649) had presumably inherited his father's land under a lease and in April 1704 he went back to Shephall to live on it.

Fortunately the Mardell land was held from the Manor of Shephall and the court records have survived. Here are the extracts which speak for themselves:

Shephall Manor: Court Baron: 1698-1745

[George Nodes, Lord of the Manor: Daniel Mardall appears in the homage]

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Apr 3 1700 (p5) | Daniel Mardall dead and Daniel Mardall is his son and heir. |
| Apr 3 1700 (p5) | Daniel Mardall admitted as son and heir of Daniel Mardall. |
| Apr 3 1700 (p6) | Daniel Mardall surrenders to himself for life reversion to Daniel Mardall his son. |
| Apr 3 1700 (p6) | Daniel Mardall senior admitted for life of surrender of himself. |
| Apr 3 1700 (p6) | Daniel Mardall junior admitted in Tail in reversion of surrender of Daniel Mardall his father. |
| May 19 1701 (p7) | Daniel Mardall presented for letting a cottage for three years without Licence. |

Sep 22 1703 (p8)	Daniel Mardall senior, of Hornchurch, yeoman, admitted in fee of the surrender of Thomas Collings.
Oct 27 1707 (p14)	Daniel Mardall admitted in fee of the surrender of Timothy Humberstone of Cheshunt
May 28 1711 (p18)	Daniel Mardall and others suffer a recovery and surrender to the said Daniel who is admitted.
May 28 1711 (p21)	Daniel Mardall, late of Hornchurch, farmer, dead and Daniel Mardall is his son and heir.
May 28 1711 (p21)	Daniel Mardall admitted in fee as son and heir of Daniel Mardall.
May 28 1711 (p21)	Daniel Mardall and Anne his wife surrender to William Chambers.
May 28 1711 (p22)	Daniel Mardall and Anne his wife surrender to William Farr.
[Court Baron: 1713: Daniel Mardall is not listed].	

So, old Daniel (1622-1699) died and young Daniel (1649-1709) was admitted to the land the following April (1700) and immediately added his son Daniel to the lease. Daniel the father died in 1709; young Daniel was admitted to the land in 1711 and immediately surrendered it (which probably means he sold it). I have already noted that he had two sons baptised at Shephall in 1711. His next son was baptised at Great Amwell in 1715 and he lived there for the rest of his life and died in 1731. Both the Shephall connection and the Quaker connection were over.

Fortunately, when Daniel surrendered the land in 1711 his wife was named as Ann so that ties in with the marriage to Ann Dickenson. The link is firm.

What about Mary Ansell whom Daniel wanted to marry in 1701? Presumably he didn't marry her as he said he was a bachelor in 1709.

Oh, but that's not what she thought - or her parents. William Ansell's will in 1705 refers to 'my daughter Mary, wife of Daniel Mardell' and so does Lydia Ansell's will in 1717 - eight years after

MY MARDELL ANCESTORS			
The umpteenth version but hopefully the last			
John Mardell of Shephall	m	Elizabeth	
Robert Mardell 1581-1670	m	Ann Wilshire 1583-1661 of Shephall	
Daniel Mardell 1622-1699 of Shephall	m	Elizabeth Joyner 1621-1659	
Daniel Mardell 1649-1709 of Harolds Wood	m	Ann Nutting d. before 1686	
Daniel Mardell c1679-1731 of Great Amwell	m	Ann Dickenson d.1721	
James Mardell 1711-1744 of Much Hadham	m	Jane Graves 1717-1761	
James Mardell 1738-1810 of Much Hadham	m	Sarah Mascal 1746-1828	
James Mardell 1773-1827 of Edmonton	m	Elizabeth Schooling 1779-1844	
Henry Mardell c1810-1893 of Tottenham	m	Mary Ann Oakley 1809-1845	
Alfred Mardell 1840-1901 of Tottenham	m	Olive Collins 1842-1925	
Alfred Edward Mardell 1865-1949 of New Eltham	m	Ada Sloper 1866-1958	
Alfred Edward Mardell 1888-1963	m	Lilian Florence Backett 1893-1940 my mother's parents	

Daniel had married Ann Dickenson. Mary Mardell died in 1740 - as Mary Mardell.

So, they did marry - but why did Daniel think he could marry again in 1709 and call himself a bachelor...?

It seems significant that Daniel took out a licence to be married on October 1 1709, married on October 2 - and proved his father's will (in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury) on October 15. Up and down; up and down! I don't have a burial for Daniel senior but presumably he had died in the September and Daniel junior had hardly got back from the funeral before he and Ann were off up to London.

Here I go beyond the facts into speculation. Presumably Daniel Mardell and Mary Ansell *were* married at a Quaker meeting, probably at Barking, but then parted; maybe they didn't get on or maybe there was something wrong with one of them. I don't know of any children for them; perhaps Mary lost the first one and never recovered.

However, it seems more likely that the trouble was caused by Daniel junior ceasing to be a Quaker. Maybe Mary didn't want to give it up. Once Daniel no longer believed in Quakerism he may have told Mary they had to marry again 'properly' in the Church of England - and she wouldn't. He would be saying 'Our marriage isn't valid' and she would be saying 'Yes, it is'. So they parted and he considered himself free - but she considered herself married. Catholics still have that problem.

Daniel might have been free of marriage but he wasn't free of his parents (father and stepmother). They were still Quakers and he was tied to working for his father until he inherited. No doubt his parents would not have accepted him remarrying and bringing a new wife to live with them.

So, the minute his father was dead he was ready to go - with Ann Dickenson who must have been on the scene already, and perhaps for quite a while.

If anybody has a better idea I shall be pleased to hear it but, for the moment, the line is back to what I first thought it was in 1966: James (b.1711), son of Daniel (b.1678/9), son of Daniel (b.1649) and the missing generation turned out to be in Essex.

Daniel and Ann lived in Great Amwell after 1711 but both died fairly young. Their son James, my ancestor, married Jane Graves at Much Hadham in 1737 but died young in 1744. A couple of years later Jane married his brother Emmanuel. Marrying a deceased husband's brother was not allowed so they slipped up to London and were married at the Fleet Prison on October 25 1747. He was called Emmanuel Madle and she was called Jane Marll so it took me a moment to twig that it was the same surname.

However, we have been respectable ever since..!

Michael Gandy FSG

Email: mgandy@clara.co.uk

25 Emanuel Madle Husb: of Muchhadham
in Hertfordshire B: of Jane Marll Widow

25 Emanuel Madle Husb: Hertfordth.
B: of Jane Marll Widow

Two versions of the same marriage but giving slightly different information - one presumably from a day book and the other from a fair copy. Emmanuel is from Much Hadham. The second version of this entry just says he was from Hertfordshire.

JAMES NEIL CAMPBELL – BIGAMIST?

Karen de Bruyne & Rebecca Probert

In November 1912, James Neil Campbell stood trial at the Old Bailey, accused of committing bigamy with Amelia Mildred McGinnity while his wife Alice Maud Campbell was still alive. Despite Amelia being in court to give evidence of the ceremony, along with Alice's aunt, who had been at the earlier wedding, he was acquitted. James had certainly committed bigamy at some point. But his story provides a good example of one of the difficulties in securing a conviction for bigamy, as well as of the alternative sanctions available to punish those who flouted the marriage laws.

James Neil Campbell was born on 27 March 1862 and baptised at Ahmednagar in the Diocese of Bombay.¹ His mother, Sophia, was the daughter of a Devon farmer,² while his father, James, was a descendant of the Campbell clan from Duntroon and the son of Major General Sir Neil Campbell (famous for escorting Napoleon to Elba and failing to stop his escape).³ James the elder served in the 22nd Native Infantry for his whole career, and had been on leave when he married Sophia in St Pancras' Old Church in 1854.⁴

James Neil was James and Sophia's only child to survive infancy, an older brother having died of convulsions aged just two.⁵ By 1871 he and his father were back in England, living in Brentford.⁶ Sophia, meanwhile, was in the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, where she was to remain for the rest of her life.⁷ Five years later, James was dead, leaving 14-year-old James Neil in the care of his father's mistress/housekeeper Sarah Atkinson, also known as "Mrs Campbell".⁸

In May 1879 (just two years after his father's death) James Neil was apprenticed to Robert H Penney Southwick in the Merchant Navy, bound for a term of four years.⁹ At the time of the 1881 census he was still in England,¹⁰ and on 25 July 1881 he arrived in Australia as crew on the *Windsor Castle* from London.¹¹ Less than a year later, on 14

June 1882, he married 17-year-old Caroline Louisa Elvera Corde Lampson at the Congregational Church in Sydney.¹² Two children followed: John, who was born later in 1882,¹³ but sadly died the following year,¹⁴ and Sydney Edward in 1884.¹⁵

No divorce has been traced for James Neil and Caroline, but in 1886 Caroline went through a marriage ceremony with a Cornelius George Hall,¹⁶ and, after his early death, with a Charles Granville Lane.¹⁷ She died in 1896 aged just 32.¹⁸ In the meantime, on 24 January 1887 James Neil went through a marriage ceremony with one Sophia Allingham at St Barnabas Church, Sydney.¹⁹ James Neil and Sophia had three children together: Ivy May born 1887,²⁰ Violet Lily born 1889,²¹ and Myra Periam born 1890.²²

In 1892 James's mother Sophia died in Scotland and he inherited her estate. He must have been in some sort of communication with her or the asylum staff as his address in Australia is on her probate record.²³ This may have been the reason he travelled back to England. In any case, on 2 May 1894 James Neil went through a third ceremony of marriage, this time with 29-year-old Alice Maud Campbell (perhaps a distant cousin) at the Islington Registry Office. This time James Neil gave his status as bachelor and his occupation as 'aeronaut' - a balloonist!²⁴ Four months after their marriage Alice gave birth to a son, Neil Ernest.²⁵

By 1897 this relationship had broken down too, with James Neil being charged with failing to obey a court order to support Alice, the arrears having already mounted up to £30. The magistrates gave short shrift to his attempts to deny that he had married Alice and sent him to prison for three months. His claim that he was in Australia in 1894 - and his mention of a wife there - was disregarded, with the magistrate advising him to say no more about that in case he was prosecuted for bigamy.²⁶

Heedless of this warning about bigamy, on 28 October 1904 James Neil went through a fourth marriage ceremony with Amelia Mildred McGinnity at St Mark's church in Battersea, again claiming to be a bachelor, and knocking 12 years off his actual age of 42.²⁷ Once again, a child made an appearance a few months after their wedding - Irene Mildred, born on 13 February 1905.²⁸ And once again, the relationship ran into difficulties. Amelia left him about 18 months after the wedding, but later returned.²⁹ The family were together in the 1911 census,³⁰ but she left him again the following year. She then learned of his earlier marriage to Alice. James admitted it, but told her "if you will wait I will do the imprisonment and come out and marry you properly again" - perhaps under the mistaken impression that the punishment would free him from his legal wife.

As Amelia admitted to the court, "I continued to live with the prisoner until I could see how things were going". Eventually, however, she gave him in charge to the police. In October 1912 James Neil appeared in the South West London police court where he was sent for trial at the Old Bailey on a charge of bigamy. This time his strategy was not to deny the marriage to Alice but to cast doubt on its validity by muddying the water. He had told the inspector who arrested him that he had married in Australia in 1887 or 1888 and that his wife had died in 1891. But before the court he changed his story: this time she had been "seriously ill" when he left her in 1891 or 1892, but he had continued to receive letters from her up to the end of 1893, before hearing from another correspondent that she was dead. And then he referred to another letter from the India Office that showed his wife to be alive in 1904.

Since the indictment had been framed on the assumption that he had been legally married to Alice when he went through the ceremony with Amelia, the uncertainty about the status of that marriage was fatal to the case against him. Without proof that he was legally married to Alice, James Neil could not be convicted on the charge of bigamy that was before the court.

There was, however, the alternative charge of "feloniously inserting and causing to be inserted in a certain register of marriage a false entry of a matter

relating to a marriage knowing the same to be false". The Perjury Act 1911 had just reformed the law. Under it a person found guilty of making a false statement for the purposes of marriage could be sentenced to penal servitude for up to seven years or to imprisonment for up to two years - exactly the same penalty as if he had been convicted of bigamy. James was convicted and sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the second division (without hard labour), which he served at Wandsworth Prison.³¹

The sentence seems rather light, given his marital history. It may be explained by the evidence of a witness that Amelia knew he was a married man. This was generally regarded as mitigating the offence. Judicial statements as to the "harm" caused by bigamy varied, but sentences were on the whole lower where the second spouse had not been deceived about the status of the marriage.³²

However, this was not the end of James Neil's legal worries, since in December 1912 he was charged with and found guilty of fraud and sentenced to two years' hard labour in Wormwood Scrubs.³³ His next trial in August of 1921 was at Hertford, "obtaining by false pretences from Harry Gardener the sum of £8 with intent to defraud." He was found guilty and sentenced to another 12 months hard labour, this time at Pentonville Prison.³⁴

His children from his various relationships almost certainly never met their half-siblings. Of the four born in Australia who survived to adulthood, all remained in Australia. Both of his sons died relatively young, but his daughters lived into their 80s or 90s.

On 14 August 1926, James Neil Campbell died at St Thomas' Hospital in London of injuries incurred when knocked down by a motor coach whilst crossing Westminster Bridge. The coroner suggested that had he waited a moment, "he would not have lost his life"³⁵ and the driver was exonerated. James Neil was rash to the end.

Notes

1. Parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Bombay, 1709-1948; Ref. No. N-3-36. Folio 87; British India Office Births & Baptisms. 21 April 1862.
2. St Thomas, Exeter, baptisms; Ref. No. P73/Ctc/001; Devon Anglican Parish Registers. Taunton, Somerset. 8 May 1831. She was also the 1st cousin 4 x removed of the first author.

3. HM Stephens, (n.d.) Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900. Vol. 8, Campbell, Neil (1776-1827) p. 90.
4. St Pancras Parish Church, marriages 8 April 1854, P90/PAN1/108.
5. Parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Bombay, 1709-1948; Ref. No. N-3-33. Folio 190, and Ref. No. N-3-35. Folio 137; British India Office Births & Baptisms. 16 February 1859 and 16 May 1861.
6. RG10/1317, folio 123. SN 92. ED 6. p. 18.
7. National Probate Calendar, 1858-1966, 28 June 1893.
8. National Probate Calendar, 1858-1966, 8 February 1877.
9. Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Index of Apprentices; BT 150/13.
10. RG11/1098 FL. 118. SN 172. ED 19. p. 29.
11. Inward passenger lists; Series: 13278; Roll: 447.
12. Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950. Reg. no. 1017.
13. New South Wales Pioneers Index: Pioneers Series 1788-1888. Reg. No. 6633.
14. New South Wales Pioneer Index - Pioneer Series 1778-1888. Reg. No. 4318.
15. New South Wales Pioneers Index: Pioneers Series 1788-1888. Reg. No. 8563.
16. Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950. Reg. no. 6669.
17. Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950.
18. The Age, 17 December 1896.
19. Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950, Reg No. 140.
20. New South Wales Pioneers Index: Pioneers Series 1788-1888. Reg. No. 8187.
21. Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011.
22. New South Wales Pioneers Index: Federation Series 1889-1918. Reg. No. 13184.
23. Testamentary records. England (1893) op. cit.
24. RD Islington, Middlesex. 2 May 1894.
25. Births (CR) England. Islington, Middlesex. 2 Sep 1894. Vol 1b. p. 416..
26. London Evening Standard, 12 February 1897.
27. Marriages (CR) England and Wales. RD Wandsworth, London. 28 Oct 1904. Vol: 1d. p. 953.
28. Births (CR) England. Southwark, London. 13 Feb 1905. Vol 1d. p. 63.
29. The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 5th November 1912.
30. 1911 Census, RD 19. PN 1996. ED 22. SN 235.
31. Calendar Of Prisoners, November 1912, HO 140/298.
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35. 'Life Lost By A Moment,' Liverpool Evening Express, 16 August 1926.

Karen de Bruyne

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Curiosities from the Great Card Index

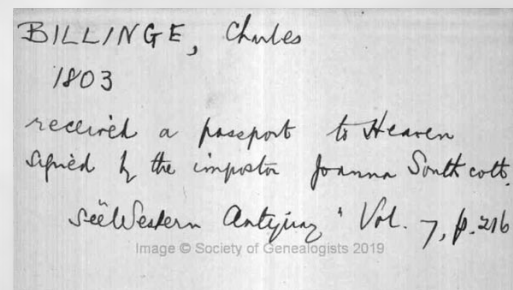
SKETCH OF A LIFE #2

As the Society of Genealogists digitise their historic card archive, the volunteer team is spotlighting curious lives and forgotten notes. This is a peek inside...

Joanna Southcott: An intriguing card notes that Charles Billinge in 1803 received a 'passport to Heaven,' signed by the 'imposter' Joanna Southcott. A Devon-born farmer's daughter, Southcott amassed a large following as a self-declared religious visionary. Despite no formal education and little social standing, her claim that she was the woman mentioned in the Book of Revelation was widely known and believed by many.

Her publications and prophecies grew a following. In turn, as her reputation expanded, so too did the elaborate nature of her ecstatic claims. In 1802, she declared that she would "bring forth to the world a spiritual man, the second Christ". By 1814, at the age of 64, Southcott claimed she was carrying the new Messiah. This pregnancy, which never resulted in a birth, still managed to attract crowds, donations and devotional fervour. The conviction of many of her followers continued even despite her death later that year, which was before the child's prophesied birth. This 'Southcottian' movement continued in various forms after her death.

We can only speculate what exactly Charles Billinge believed of Joanna Southcott's story. What we do know, through the Great Card Index, is that he possessed a seal made by Joanna Southcott, which supposedly ensured the holder's place among the 144,000 people elected to eternal life. Irrespective whether Billinge's belief was sincere or hopeful, through keeping the passport, he became entwined with Southcott's unusual legacy. (Bigh-Bill Image 1216).



For more information on how to join this volunteer team visit: www.sog.org.uk/get-involved/volunteers/

*A Life in Cuttings:*THE LIFE OF FRANCES ANNA
SOPHIA COLCHESTER
(NÉE LEVESON)

Harry Purvis



Scrapbooks were once a common way to store and share family history. In a recent SoG 'Collections Up Close' presentation, which focused on scrapbooks and commonplace books, Else Churchill beautifully articulated how these forms of genealogical record keep capturing the character and emotional truth of lives in a way that raw figures and statistics never can.

One example Else shared was a scrapbook found in a second-hand bookshop, now safely kept in our archives. It was created by Frances Anna Sophia Colchester (née Leveson), born in 1873, the tenth of

twelve children. With extraordinary care, Frances recorded and displayed mementos from her life, crafting a narrative that moves from birth to marriage, from public life to private grief. This results in the creation of a deeply human portrait, not just of herself, but of a family shaped by global movement, service in the Anglican church and devotion.

Birth & Childhood

Each memento within Frances' scrapbook allows our imaginations to picture the moments reflected on paper. A clear example of this is a telegram, sent at 5:21 p.m. by Frances' aunt, Katherine Iveson. The message, "a little girl born at ten minutes to five," was received by her father, Edward John Leveson, just 14 minutes later, at 5.35pm.

More than just marking the facts, this simple message evokes the thrill of a new arrival and the immediacy of communication during a time when the telegraph was still relatively new. One can almost hear the buzzing of the machine and picture Edward racing to receive the freshly printed news.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

No. of Message

Handed in at (the) *Amersley Post Office* at *5-21* p.m. Received here at *5-35* p.m.

From *K. Iveson* To *E. J. Leveson*

Cluney Amersley *38 Gresham House*

London E.C.

A little girl born at
ten minutes to five

Telegram with news that Edward John Leveson had a daughter

Page *185*

Baptism Solemnized in the Parish of *St. Peter in the County of Surrey* in the Year *1878*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>18th June</i>	<i>Frances Anna Sophia</i>	<i>Edward John</i>	<i>Leveson</i>	<i>Cluney Amersley</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Born April 23rd 1878</i> <i>A. D. Williams</i>

The above is a true Copy of the Baptismal Register of the Parish aforesaid, extracted this *6th* Day of *June* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy *Eight*

By me, *Arthur D. Williams*, Curate

The Baptism certificate of Frances Anna Sophia Leveson, 6 June 1878.

Frances was born into a family that embodied the international and professional mobility offered by 19th and early 20th century Europe. Her paternal grandfather, Edward Henry Levyssohn (1795-1849), was a Jewish merchant from Rotterdam. After settling in England where he naturalised, he anglicised his surname to Leveson.

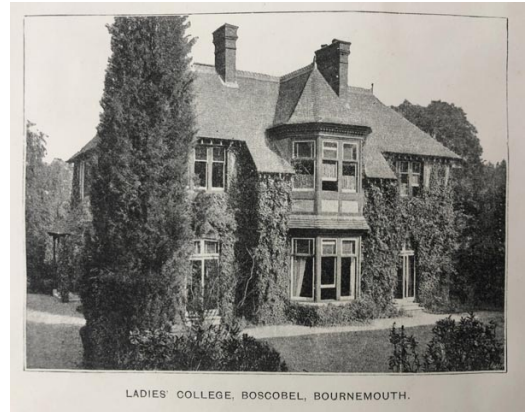
Her father, Edward John Leveson (born Leveyssohn, 1832-1900), was born in Manchester and had a life filled with wide-ranging business enterprises. He was a partner in Reme, Leveson & Co. Singapore, a member of the Singapore Club, a Justice of the Peace for the Straits Settlements and even served as an Italian Consul. He was also active in Freemasonry as District Grand Junior Deacon. Around the time of Frances' birth, Edward John Leveson had a business registered as 'East India Merchants', reflecting the Leveson family's engagement in the commercial heart of the British Empire.

Frances' mother, Mary Iveson (1837-1900), was born in Shepperton, Middlesex. Mary's parents, Edward John Iveson (1802-1862) and Mary Merriman (1803-1855), had both died before Frances was born. Mary and Edward Leveson were married on 4th July 1860, at Christchurch, Wiltshire.

Education & Talent

Much of Frances' early scrapbook is focused on school reports and certificates, providing a glimpse

into the breadth of her education and her personal passions. These mementos from her time at the Ladies College, Boscobel, reveal a young woman with a skill in music and languages.

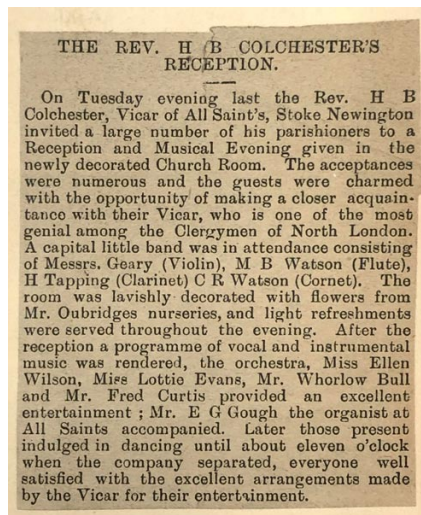
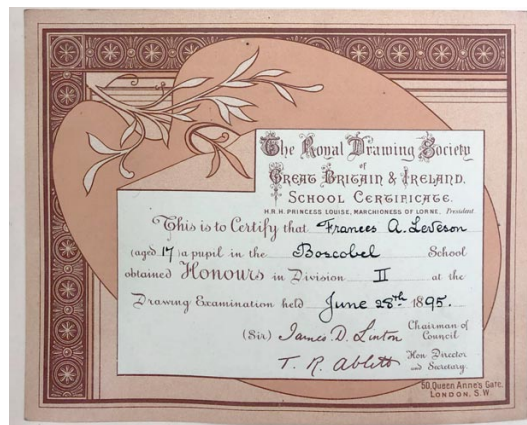


Her school curriculum was impressively broad, including Scripture, Geography, Grammar and Analysis, Arithmetic, Latin, History, Literature and Composition, French, German - and more. One particular report shows her ranking top of the class in French and German, highlighting not only her skill but also the multilingual environment she inhabited.

Some of Frances' siblings were born in Singapore, and many would later settle across the globe. In this context, her language skills were more than academic but instead reflected the lived reality of a family deeply embedded in a globalised world. The



Frances Anna Sophia Colchester (née Leveson) in her childhood



COLLEGE FOR LADIES,
BOSCOMBE, SUFFOLK ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH.

Miss F. Leveson Report for the term ending April 13th 1892.
IIa Class.

Scale—E, excellent; V.G., very good; A, satisfactory; F, fair; L, laudable; W, weak; U, unsatisfactory.

SUBJECTS	Term Marks Max.	Class Grade	Examination Marks Max.	Class Grade	Position	No. in Class	REMARKS
SCRIPTURE	100	68½	100	43	3rd	9	F. B. Barton
GEOGRAPHY	100	72	100	67	3rd	8	S. M. H.
GRAMMAR and ANALYSIS	100	75	100	47	3rd	8	S. M. H.
BOTANY	100	71½	100	82½	1st	8	M. H.
ARITHMETIC	100	78	100	77½	3rd	8	D. G.
LATIN	100	47½	100	46	6th	8	F. B.
HISTORY	100	63	100	47	4th	8	F. B.
LITERATURE and COMPOSITION	100	64	100	58	5th	7	M. H.
SPELLING	100	89½	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
Composition	100	86	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
WRITING	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
FRENCH	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
GERMAN	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
MUSIC	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
VIOLIN	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
SINGING	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
HARMONY and CONTRAPUNT	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
READING	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
DICTATION	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
NEEDLEWORK	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
DRAWING	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.
DEVELOPMENT	100	84	100	80	1st	8	C. M.

Number of times late: about
Marks lost for conduct: 0
Marks lost for examination in rules: 0
Next term begins: May 4th

Progress: Very satisfactory.
Conduct: Very good.
Signed: B. Barton



Top left: The Royal Drawing Society of Great Britain & Ireland for achieving Honours in Division 2 of the Drawing Examination. Top right: A newspaper cutting outlining the warm welcome Rev. Colchester received as he became vicar of All Saints, Stoke Newington. Bottom Left: Frances' school examination results, showing she came top of the class in French and German. Bottom right: Henry Colchester's Admission ticket to the British Museum's Reading Room.

Love & Marriage

Levesons did not only have international roots, but were also international in outlook, navigating and capitalising from networks of business, diplomacy and service.

Music and the arts were another area in which Frances excelled. The many certificates within her scrapbook attest to this. Her aptitude in musical proficiency enabled her to join the Royal College of Music, where she qualified to teach the pianoforte. The care of keeping these reports and certificates, heightened by the delicacy in which they are glued onto the pages, shows someone who takes pride in their achievements.

As childhood faded into adulthood, the school reports and music certificates begin to disappear from Frances' scrapbook. They would be replaced by a new source of devotion, one inspired by love. The remainder of this treasure chest is dominated by trinkets from the man who would become her husband.

Whether it was reading room tickets for the British Museum or newspaper clippings that mention his name, Frances seems to have collected everything she could. The same meticulous care previously used to display academic achievement is now refocused toward a shared future with her husband.

The man behind these cuttings was Rev. Henry Billiter Colchester, then Vicar of All Saints, Stoke Newington. Born 2 September 1860 to Henry Sparrowe Colchester and Jane Billiter, he was already a well-regarded clergyman at the time that they met. Frances and Henry were married on 4th February 1905, in what newspapers described as a lavish and elegant affair. The Court Journal (February 18, 1905) provides a detailed picture of the celebrations:

“The Rev. H. Billiter Colchester and Miss Frances Leveson.

The Rev. Henry Billiter Colchester, M.A., vicar of All Saints', Stoke Newington, was married to Miss Frances Ann Sophia Leveson, daughter of the late Mr. Edward John Leveson, of Cluny, Anerley, in St. George's Church,

Hanover-square, on Saturday, the 4th inst.

The Bishop of London officiated, assisted by the Rev. W. Colchester (brother of the bridegroom), and the Rev. David Anderson, rector of St. George's.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. E. J. Leveson, wore a gown of white mousseline satin, trimmed with Honiton lace, a veil of the same beautiful fabric being arranged over a wreath of orange blossom, while she held a bouquet of narcissus.

Her train was carried by Master Basil Colchester (the bridegroom's nephew) in a white velvet costume.

The four bridesmaids were Miss Mary Kirsteen (niece of the bride), the youthful Baroness Clifton, Miss Alice Jannings, and Miss Ruby Dodwell. Their dresses were of white taffeta and chiffon, the elder bridesmaids wearing white chiffon and velvet hats with red flowers, and the children Dutch lace bonnets. They carried bouquets of red carnations, and wore

ruby pins, the bridegroom's gifts.

Mr. Spencer Colchester supported his brother as best man.

After the ceremony a reception was held at 3, Southwick-crescent, Hyde-park, the residence of the bride's brother, and later in the day the Rev. H. and Mrs. Colchester left for the West of England.

The bride travelled in a smart costume of red cloth, with hat, muff, and stole of shaded velvet.

Miss Leveson (the bride's sister) wore a coat and skirt of mastic velvet. Miss Iveson (the bride's aunt) was in a gown of blue silk, with a bonnet of Parma violets.”

The numerous newspaper cuttings not only give a glimpse into the grandeur of the ceremony but also mark the beginning of a new chapter in Frances' life.

Public Life

After the wedding, the focus of Frances' scrapbook is almost solely on the career of her husband, Rev. Henry Billiter Colchester. Through dedicated archiving and collecting, it seems Francis has preserved nearly every newspaper clipping in

1905 MARRIAGE solemnized at the Parish of in the County of London.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank or Profession of Father.
59	February 4 1905	Henry Billiter Colchester.	Full Parson (deceased)	Gentleman
		Frances Ann Sophia Leveson.	Full E. John (deceased)	Gentleman

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of London.

This Marriage was Solemnized between us, } Henry B. Colchester. }
 } Frances A. S. Leveson. } Mary E. Leveson

I certify the above is a true Extract from the Register Book
 Extracted this 6th of January 1905
 by Francis
 Minister of the Register

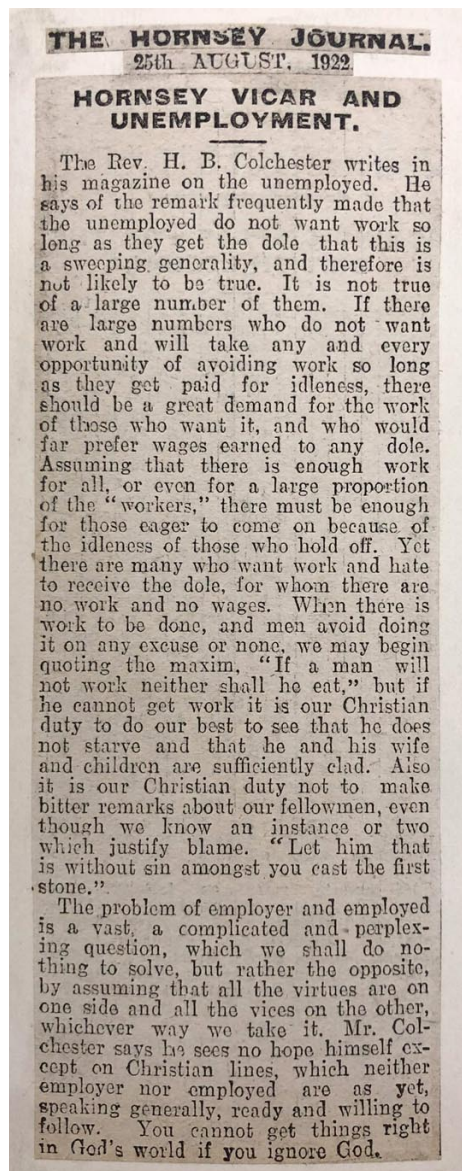
6, QUEEN'S WAY, FINSBURY, 25, NEWINGTON ROAD, N.E.—15.6.05.

Frances and Henry Colchester's marriage certificate



which his name appeared. This wealth of cuttings paints a successful career in the Church of England.

Rev. Colchester's reputation as a clergyman appears to be one marked by the respect of his community. Alongside him, it seems that Frances embraced her role as a vicar's wife, being active in the hosting and community that goes hand in hand with that responsibility. Her scrapbook displays her pride in his accomplishments, suggesting a mutual partnership to further his career.

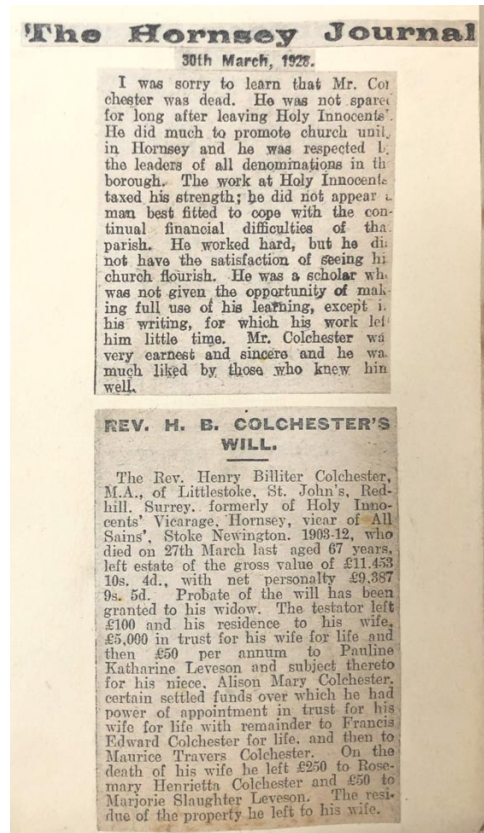
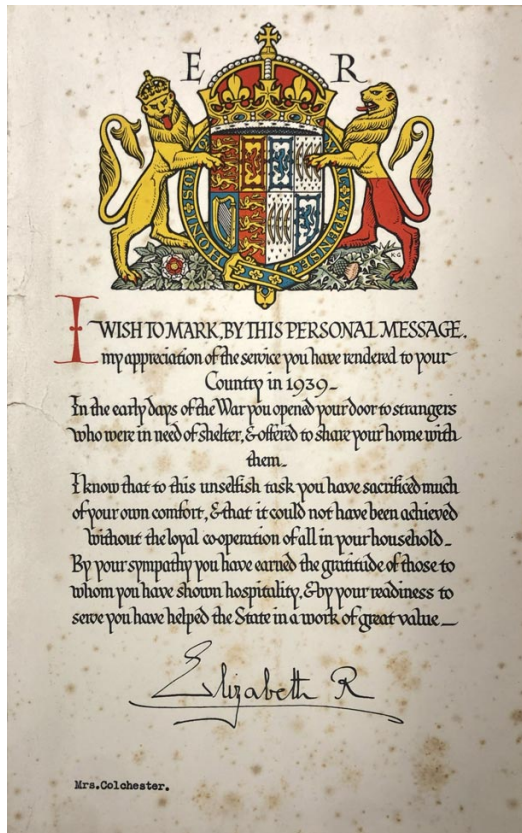


Contrary to the focus on Henry, one notable document that focuses solely on Frances is her induction into the Royal Philharmonic Society as a fellow. This hints that her musical abilities endured after the end of her studies, and also at a life beyond church duties, one within a wider social circle.

Also included amidst the details of Henry's career is their passport (below), filled with stamps from various trips. This acts as a continuation of Frances' family tradition of international travel.



Left: Hornsey Journal, 1922 - Rev. Colchester's views on homelessness. Right: Certificate of thanks - Rev. Colchester; for years of service, 1892



Left: Certificate from the Queen. Right: The death of Rev. Henry Colchester published in the Hornsey Journal

Loss & Memory

One of the most powerful qualities of Frances' scrapbook is its ability to enable the passage of time to be felt so strongly. As you turn the pages, you follow the career of Rev. Colchester, his successes and various appointments, and then his withdrawal from public life as age took its toll. Finally, you are faced with a sombre page of newspaper cuttings of obituaries, carefully cut and arranged.

Reading the obituaries in this context, curated by the hand of a devoted wife, carries a weight that surpasses any stand-alone article or digital archive. Each cutting seems to be a story told by Frances herself, rather than pure record-keeping.

Frances and Henry had no children. After his death, the scrapbook grows quieter. There are fewer entries which means fewer glimpses into her life. Yet one particularly moving addition remains, a certificate from Queen Elizabeth, thanking Frances for opening her home to strangers during the war. Once again, this acts as a testament to her service and dedication to others.

Throughout a lifetime of careful care and curating, Frances created far more than a collection of papers. She crafted a legacy that continues to speak, across generations, through cuttings and clippings.

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PIRATES AND PATRIOTS

- A FAMILY'S EARLY RECORD OF MARTIAL ENDEAVOUR

Peter J. Cooper

In an earlier publication, I had described the experiences of my great, great uncle Samuel Cooper who emigrated from Yorkshire to the U.S. and later fought as a Union artilleryman in the Civil War there.¹ It turns out that my wife's lineage contains a branch of the Chenery family that left Suffolk in 1630 and settled in Massachusetts. A later descendant served as a physician in the Continental Army during the American Revolution (1775-1781) and, in the Civil War (1861-1865), a successor served with the Rhode Island Heavy Artillery.^{2,3}

On my wife's maternal side, the Danns, two sons of David Dann emigrated from Sussex to the U.S. in 1844 and, after participating in the California gold rush, settled in Michigan.⁴ One of them subsequently enlisted as a cavalry trooper in the Union Army and was killed at the battle of Yellow Tavern in 1864 - the engagement in which the famous Confederate general J.E.B. Stewart lost his life.^{5,6} The event was just a day later and less than 40 miles from where Samuel Cooper received the wound that was to end *his* military service.⁷

However, the most interesting, and certainly most notorious, of my wife's family was the pirate, John Dann. John, as well as my mother-in-law's 6x great grandfather William Dann, descended from the marriage of Jasper Dann and Ann Bonnicke in 1621 in Sussex. In 1689 John was pressed into the Royal Navy in Rye, Sussex, and by 1693 was serving in the privateer ship *Charles II*.⁸ In 1694 the crew mutinied under the first mate Henry Every (or Avery, and later alias Benjamin Bridgeman).⁸ The ship was renamed the *Fancy* with Every its captain and John Dann his coxswain.⁸ The *Fancy* then sailed through the Atlantic and Indian oceans during the mid-1690s seeking victims, and in September 1695 made one of the most famous and lucrative hauls in the history of piracy - the Grand Mughal convoy on its annual pilgrimage to Mecca,

that included the treasure ship *Ganj-i-Sawai*.⁸ The *Fancy*, in cooperation with several other pirate vessels, captured precious metals and jewels worth around £600,000 (roughly £120 million in 2025 value).⁸ By 1696 Every had disappeared with a changed name and his share of the loot which has never been recovered.⁸

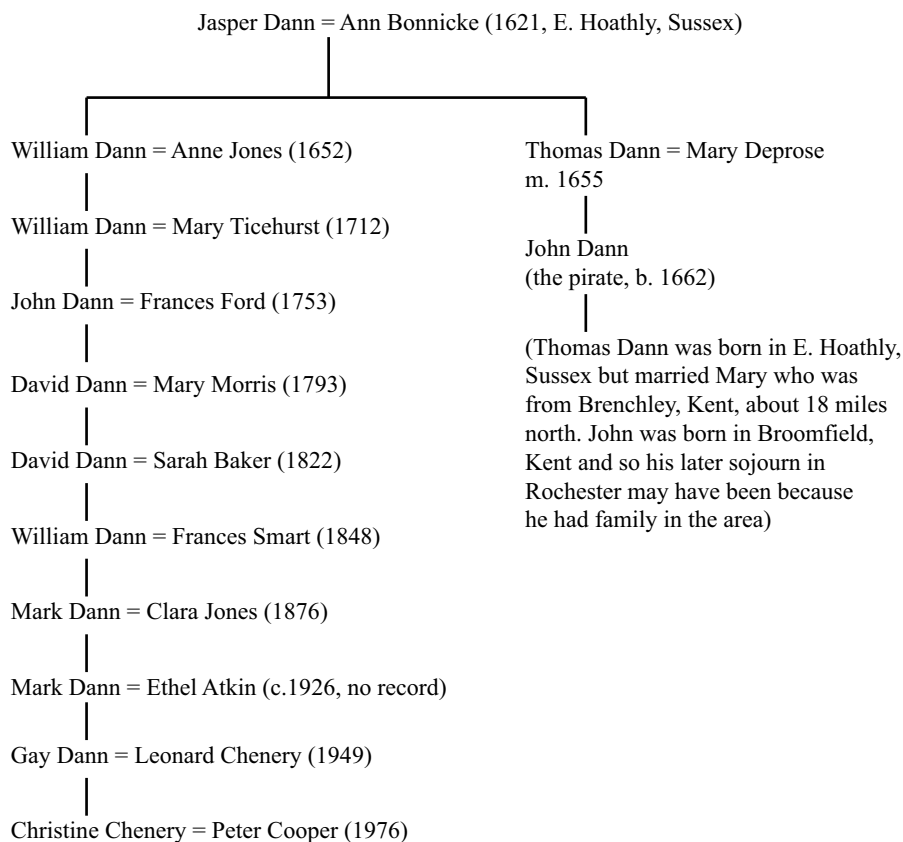
John Dann first took his ill-gotten proceeds to London and then moved to Rochester in Kent, where in July 1696 he was arrested at the Bull Hotel for suspected piracy owing to the discovery by his chambermaid of over £1,000 worth of gold coins sewn into his waistcoat that she reported to the town mayor.^{8,9} In order to avoid trial and potential execution, Dann turned 'King's Witness' and testified against the other members of Every's crew who had by then also been arrested.^{8,9} In November 1696, five of them were executed.^{8,9} John Dann was pardoned and later, in return, gave detailed evidence to the East India Company of the pirate voyage of the *Fancy*.^{8,9} In 1697 the Secretary of State (Sir William Trumbull) ordered that his money be returned to him.¹⁰

In 1699, in an ironic twist, Dann entered into partnership with John Coggs in London as goldsmiths and bankers.⁸ The former pirate was now legitimately collecting other peoples' money. Coggs had been in this profession since 1664 and so Dann was able to join an established and reputable business.¹¹ Coggs and Dann operated using the shop sign of the King's Head in the Strand, over against St. Clement's Church.^{8,11} In January 1700 he married Elizabeth Noble in London, but in 1710 his business partnership collapsed in bankruptcy.¹² John Dann died in 1722.

Members of my and my wife's families have subsequently served in the armed forces from the Boer War through two World Wars. Although for a few years (in my younger days) being in the army



The Ganj-i-Sawai treasure ship (left) and Capt. Every and the Fancy (right). Old engravings; sourced from Wikipedia Commons.



Genealogy of the Dann family



Counterclockwise (left to right): Mary Reed, Captain Henry Morgan, Long John Silver (Treasure Island), Bartholomew Roberts, Edward Teach aka 'Blackbeard'. Centre: Captain Kidd, executed for piracy, 1701, Wapping.

reserve, I have not myself been called up for conflict involvement. And, at age 81, I think it's safe to say I won't be adding to my family's record in this regard.

Acknowledgment

The author wishes to express his thanks to John Dann (the current version!) for his correspondence and guidance regarding the history of the pirate whose name he bears. His book (*Mr. Bridgeman's Accomplice*) provided valuable assistance in uncovering the story related above.

Notes

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2. National Society Sons of the American Revolution; 1901 application for membership from Denal Clare O'Brien, a descendent of Lambert Chenery, giving genealogy and evidence of assistance by Dr. Isaac Chenery in establishing American independence in the Revolutionary War.
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7. Cooper, Peter J., op cit., p. 126.
8. Dann, John: *Mr. Bridgeman's Accomplice* (Peterborough, Upfront Publishing, 2019), pp.14-19.
9. *Henry Every's Crew* at <https://goldenageofpiracy.org/pirates>.
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11. Heal, Sir Ambrose: *The London Goldsmiths, 1200-1800, A Record of the Names and addresses of the Craftsmen, their Shop-Signs and Trade-Cards* (Newton Abbot, David & Charles Publishers, 1972), p.127.
12. Dann, John, op. cit., p.23.

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Curiosities from the Great Card Index

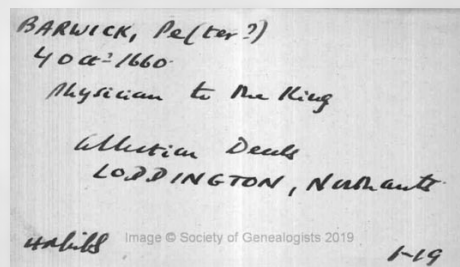
SKETCH OF A LIFE #3

As the Society of Genealogists digitise their historic card archive, the volunteer team is spotlighting curious lives and forgotten notes. This is a peek inside...

Peter Barwick: A Royalist during the Civil War, a physician during the plague and a Londoner through the Great Fire. Peter Barwick stood firm through some of the most volatile chapters of English history. Despite being driven from university because of his loyalty to the crown, his steadfast convictions ensured his support of the royalist cause and the Church of England held firm. In London, Barwick built a successful medical career. In 1665, as plague broke out, he was one of the few doctors to remain in the city and tend to the sick. The next year saw him lose his house in the fire, but not his resolve. He relocated to near Westminster Abbey, and continued to practise, write and do charity work well into old age.

Aside from his steadfastness during these tumultuous events, he is also known for his intellectual legacy. Barwick defended Willaim Harvey's work on the circulation of blood, and he wrote a Latin biography of his brother, the Dean of St. Paul's. Through his marriage to Mrs. Sayon, a kinswoman of Archbishop William

Laud, he has an impressive family legacy through their only daughter, Mary. Through her union with Ralph Dutton, who was later created a baronet by Charles II, Peter Barwick became an ancestor to the Barons Sherborne, the Earls of Dartmouth (3rd creation), the Earls of Lichfield (3rd creation), and the Earls Howe (2nd creation). Peter Barwick's life was one of medicine, loyalty and quiet endurance during the upheavals of 17th century England. (Ban-Bar image no 14970.)



100 YEAR CELEBRATIONS ALL ROUND

Helen Dawkins LRPS

How does that happen? What was a childhood memory is suddenly classed as a moment in history - humbling I think is the word, or maybe ageing! One such memory came to my attention recently as I read of a forthcoming exhibition: '100 Years of the Photobooth'.



Figure 1 - The Photomaton

I think we regard the photo booth as something which only materialised in the 50/60s, a common sight in bus and train stations, shopping centres etc. - and there I was at the tender age of 11 giggling in the photo booth in 'Woolies' with my best friend. Remember the revolving seat to get you to just the right height? Well that was usually when the giggling started! What is amazing is that the photograph is still in excellent condition - quick fix photographs of today i.e. the inkjet print, will only offer us about two years before it begins to fade. Standards certainly do change.

In reality we are looking at almost 100 years since the first 'Photomaton' appeared on the streets and subways in New York - the application was submitted on 27 March 1925 and the patent granted to Anatol M. Josepho, on 7 June, 1927. It would be another 40 years before the photo booth was able to print in colour - mine was in black and white! Of course one of the major uses was for passports and other documents, but I think more often it was for pure pleasure and entertainment, and interestingly

the photo booth has returned as a novelty at weddings, significant birthdays etc. We've come a long way and still the humble photo booth serves to entertain - cameras have evolved hugely but in essence the photo booth remains the same! Or does it? I understand for a mere £2,800 you can acquire a 360 degree 'photo booth' - more technology!

As I mentioned in a previous article we were also subjected in 1932 to the Photoweigh Photo Booth whereby the sitter's weight would be recorded alongside the image - the design didn't last long!

Remembering Leica

2025 also commemorates another anniversary as we celebrate 100 years of Leica. In 1925 the Leica I was presented to the public for the first time at the Leipzig Spring Fair as the first mass-produced 35mm camera. It revolutionised photography with its compact portable format, a camera loved by such street photographers as Henri Cartier-Bresson who bought his first Leica in 1933 and favoured the art of 'capturing the moment' with some wonderful candid images.



Figure 2 - Henri Cartier-Bresson: Image Paris 1954

Now to my work in the studio over the last quarter...

Bringing your history to life with words and pictures

The old saying goes 'a picture tells a thousand words' but we really do need actual words to bring the story to life and more and more of late I hear of customers wanting to bring their family story to print, of course illustrated with some of the family photographs. This should serve as a prompt that many of us, although not having a world-breaking story in the archives, do perhaps have a very important record of social history from a time that has now changed almost beyond recognition. The stalwart nature of our ancestors is very often a story worth telling: to remind us that, within living memory, just how hard they worked to survive.

Close to my heart I have a history, from one side of the family, of poor Irish Catholics coming over to England following the hardship brought about by the famine, and on the other side of my family, the sadness of a great-grandfather being killed on the railways at only 37 years of age leaving behind a young family of three children with a fourth imminent. Three of these children, the two older boys at the ages of 17 and 18 and the youngest, a girl born just five months after the death of her father, were to die within 8 years of their father's death. The remaining sibling, my grandmother, was just 7 years old - my great grandmother was determined never to give in to the Poor House and survived how best she and her daughter could, living in quite dire straits in a very poor area. There is so much more to this story I wish I knew - I have more questions than answers - but she lived to the then grand old age of 63, and I have a beautiful cabinet card depicting mother and daughter. How they were able to afford this photograph I cannot imagine, but I believe it may have been taken in the early 1900s to commemorate my Grandmother's 21st birthday.

This is just a small snapshot of the life of a very ordinary family but its worth as a record of social history is immeasurable during a time of no government handouts and survival purely a result of grit and determination.

My client who wished to put his family's story in print had a family history steeped in a military background, so the story is quite different but the task the same; to tell the story of a challenging family history but with many photographs to illustrate this life. The catalyst to bring this story to print was a wonderfully historic album of a military life spent both in the UK and overseas, and the task was to dismantle the album in order to scan both the full pages to include narrative and individual photographs in order to illustrate the planned book. The photographs included many wonderful photographs of life in India as well as snapshots of life in the Women's Army Corps.

There was a time when it was difficult to publish a small run book, but now with modern technology this task is made much more simple, and I think it is something more of us should consider in order to record the lives of the ordinary family both at the lower and middle sections of the population. Whatever a life has endured it is a wonderful and important record of social history.



Figure 3 - Holden: Poona, India, 1943. By kind permission of Peter Holden

And a further thought on constructing your archive...

Our main thought when it comes to putting together our archives is to amass our collection of family photographs, and to ensure they are in the best possible condition to ensure their longevity. But we do of course need to add the all-important detail; names, dates of birth/death, addresses and the history that surrounds our ancestors - the stories

that bring them to life. It may seem a very incidental thought but we must also consider what medium we use for creating the records.

Very often my clients will tell me their quality of writing is not 'up to scratch' and they would prefer to type the details. Whilst this is perfectly acceptable I do think there is something very personal and sentimental at having handwritten notes - we feel just another small link with that person. But what to use? As a basis we should start with good quality card or paper. In the archival ring binders I provide, I include acid free card to act as an interleave on which to mount photographs, letters etc. and onto which we can add the written detail. Otherwise I would suggest using good quality acid free paper, readily available online and really not that much more expensive than standard copy paper. The next choice, equally as important, is to ensure that written detail does not fade with time, and again the choice is a simple one. The preferred writing implement should be as simple as a soft graphite pencil such as a 2 or 3B grade. This will mean you will not need to use too much pressure but will create a bold easily readable script. The quality of our inks now are not necessarily in the same league as years ago and could also create a problem of smudging/transfer.

I recently listened to a programme about the mighty English oak tree - this might seem a tenuous link but bear with me. As we know the oak tree bears fruit in the form of acorns, and it is into the female oak flower that the gall wasp may lay its eggs, creating a type of tumour which causes a gall to grow in place of an acorn, and it is one of the myriad forms of galls that for over a thousand years was a source of a special

type of ink with which nearly all our historic records were written. The galls were crushed, mixed with iron sulphate, gum arabic and water to create a cheap and incredibly long lasting indelible ink, so indelible that for a correction to be made the surface of the parchment paper would need to be scraped to remove the ink so that correct wording could be added. The National Archives at Kew has many thousands of records dating from the end of the Roman period to the 19th century. It is thanks to a small insect that we can still, to this day, read the words written in the Magna Carta, the American Declaration of Independence, the music of Mozart and Bach, the drawings of Rembrandt and Leonard Da Vinci, Isaac Newton's theories and the letters of Charles Darwin. We are indebted to this wonderful little insect.

Graphite is now our easier, more accessible option and will help you to create long-lasting detail to record our family history.

Happy archiving and, of course, if you need any assistance with how and what to archive, advice on your photographs and the supply of archiving materials, please do get in touch. As ever, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and challenges.

Helen Dawkins LRPS

Email: helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk

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: 07732 642139.



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BEYOND BOOTH

- OTHER BRITISH EARLY 20TH CENTURY SOCIAL STUDIES

Malcolm Smart

Many of us had 'working class' ancestors. In efforts to understand these people's lives, those with families in London and York in the late 19th century may have turned to the pioneering studies by Booth and Rowntree.

What is perhaps less well known is that these studies were not unique. Unofficial assessments of living conditions took place in other cities and even villages from the Edwardian period up to the late 1930s. All were the product either of academics or local committees of concerned residents. They sought, by analysing the extent, nature and causes of poverty, to make recommendations to help alleviate it. Indeed, the understanding gained about the causes of children's poverty contributed, eventually, to the introduction of Child Benefit.

If you had working-class ancestors living in a location shown on the following map then the relevant study may provide insights into their lives. Combining the study's findings with information on your family in the closest census or the 1939 Register (in terms of household composition, how many adult workers there were and what jobs they did) may help you to draw comparisons with your ancestors and the likely economic pressures on them. Most studies also provide useful descriptions of the areas and their local economy.

The studies differ in what they cover. Some apply a broadly standardised survey methodology to assess the extent of income poverty (Northampton, Warrington, Stanley, Reading & Bolton, Bristol and Sheffield (1933)). Others emphasise wider aspects of poverty, such as children's health (Dundee), poor housing (Sheffield, 1931)) or the insecurity facing workers employed by the day (Liverpool). The prospects facing women are considered in Middlesbrough and Oxford. The larger studies (Merseyside, London, York) look both at income poverty and these wider dimensions of deprivation.

While some of the study locations were desperately poor - more than a third of Brynmawr's workers were unemployed in 1931 - not all were. The Bristol study, conducted in the late 1930s as rearmament was creating new jobs, notes that the city was booming. Poverty was also relatively low in Becontree and Dagenham, whose study analysed the impact on its residents of moving to an entirely new council estate, built to ease overcrowding in London's east-end.

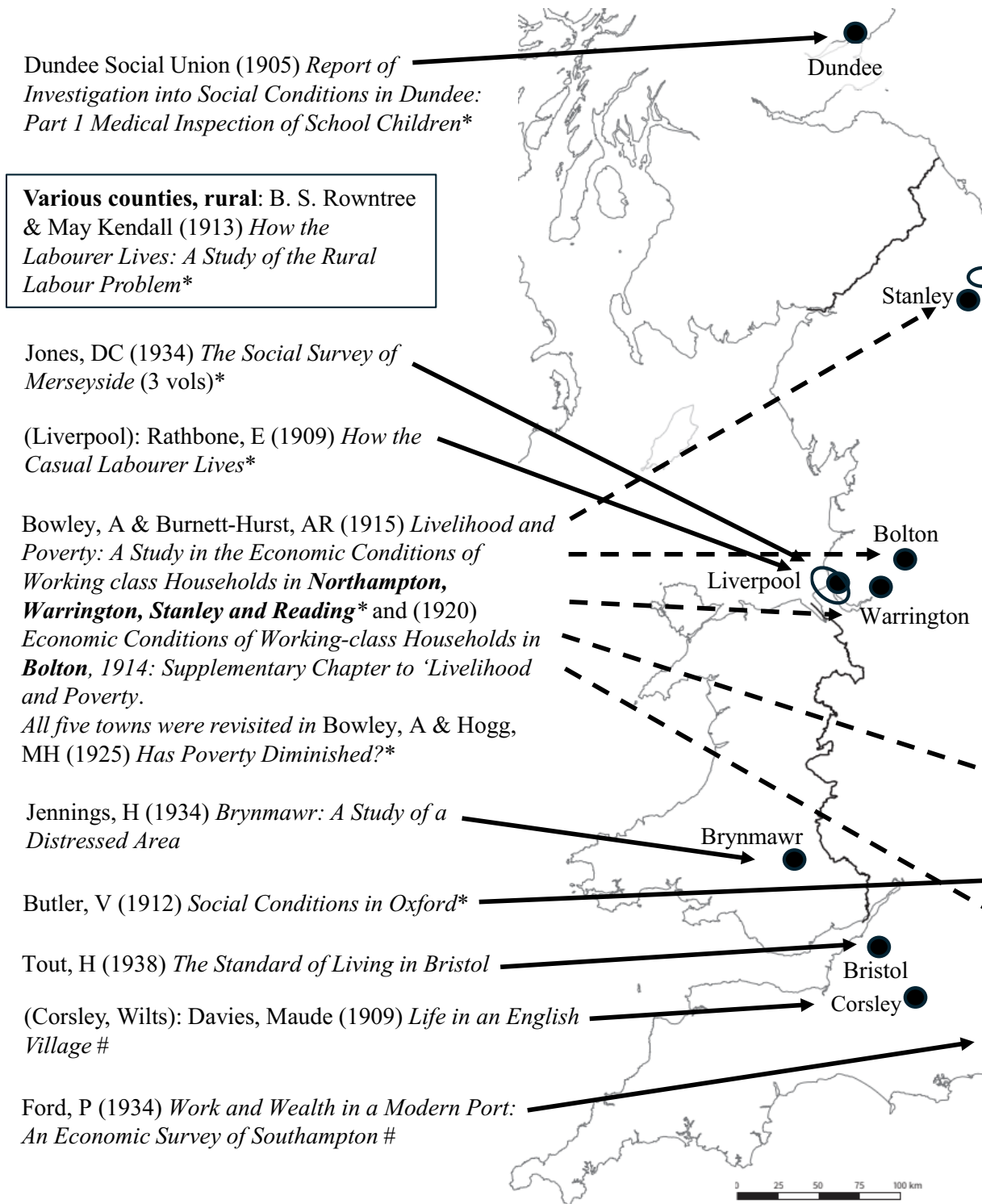
Some studies may be of interest even if none of your ancestors lived there. For example, the study of West Ham details the different jobs done on docks and the challenges the workers faced. The study of Tyneside looks at how house sizes and so overcrowding differed across the UK. Middlesbrough and Warrington (1915) are good on iron working while Stanley and Brynmawr focus on coalmining. Sheffield (1932) describes the types of financial support on offer to low-income households from central and local governments, and the insurance available from private companies or through trade unions and friendly societies. Reading (1915) highlights that poverty could be worse in towns lacking firms employing skilled workers. The study of Corsley shows that the lower earnings of rural labourers could be offset for part of the year where households had access to sufficient land on which to grow their own food.

Notes

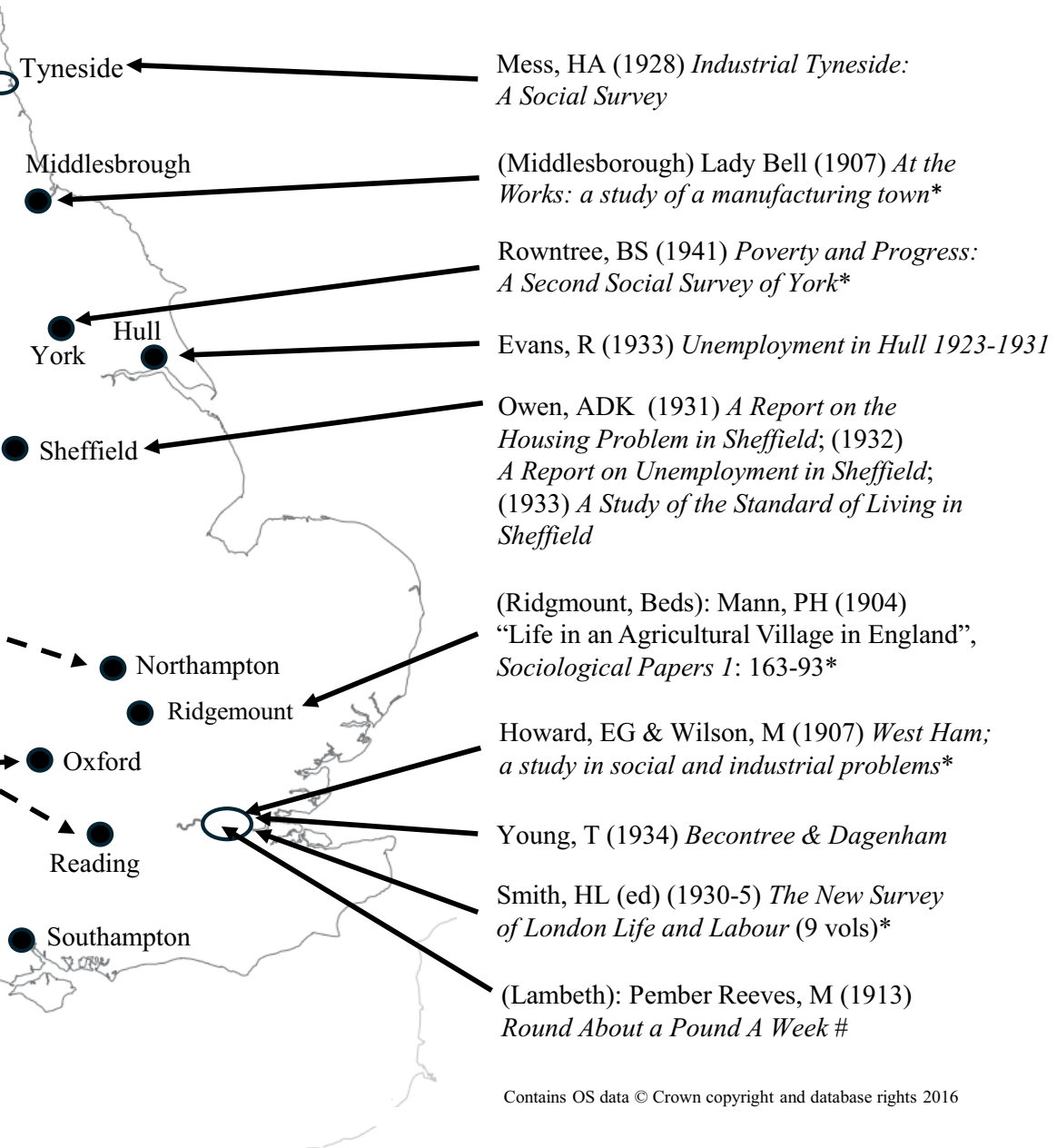
1. The government also studied workers' conditions from the late 19th century onwards. An example is the *Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into Working Class Rents, Housing and Retail Prices, together with the Standard Rates of Wages prevailing in certain Occupations in the Principal Industrial Towns of the United Kingdom* (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101072921875> [accessed 11 July 2025]). Based on a 1905 survey, it provides descriptions of the UK's and Ireland's 89 principal industrial cities.

Malcolm Smart

Email: m.smart.genealogy@gmail.com

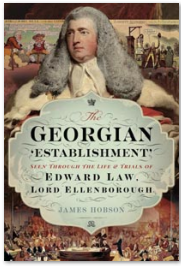


The studies marked * are available in full online. Those marked # have been recently reprinted and so should be available from libraries or booksellers. For the remainder, try the British Library in Boston Spa, London or via inter-library loans. (Only the studies of Hull and Bolton (1920) are neither available online nor held at the British Library.)





BOOK REVIEWS



The Georgian 'Establishment' Seen Through the Life & Trials of Edward Law, Lord Ellenborough, by James Hobson. Pen & Sword History, 2025. ISBN: 978-1-39905-404-1. Hardback, 216pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. £25. An e-book is also available.

Would it surprise you that the law requiring states to care for refugees has its origins in the early 1800s? Did you know that the concept of libel and actions to suppress information are not modern problems but caused headaches in Georgian times? It might sound a bit fanciful, but it's possible to draw lines, starting with some of the big debates of the present day, back to those in Georgian Britain.

Edward Law, Baron Ellenborough of Ellenborough (1750-1818) was a lawyer and a politician. This biography describes how he was involved in many of the contentious issues of his time. It also allows the author, James Hobson, to use Ellenborough's life to present a comprehensive picture of the Georgian 'establishment' that included the Church, public schools, university, law courts, Parliament and the royal family. The concept of 'establishment', a term coined in the 20th century, is used to describe 'the whole matrix of official and social relations within which power is exercised' (Introduction, p.vii).

James Hobson, who was a history teacher for 25 years, has written about the Regency period, the English Civil War, Radicalism and other books on Georgian Britain.

Law's father, Edmund Law (1703-1787), was born in Staveley-in-Cartmel in Cumberland where his father was a schoolteacher and church curate. Arrangements were made for Edmund to attend a grammar school and then study at St John's College, Cambridge. He worked hard and clearly had talent, but he also made influential friends and connections. By the time Law was born, Edmund was a Master at Cambridge and Bishop of Carlisle.

Edmund used his position and influence to send young Law to Charterhouse School and then to Peterhouse, Cambridge. Law went on to have a glittering career. Admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1769, where he worked as a special pleader, he later graduated to the Inner Temple. This book describes the process, the relationships and the legal cases that led to Law becoming Attorney General in 1801. The position made him the government's chief legal advisor, responsible for leading prosecutions for the Crown. In 1802, Law

was made Lord Chief Justice of England, entering the House of Lords and becoming Baron Ellenborough of Ellenborough. The newspapers were, of course, thrilled that a man called Law was now in charge of the law and featured him in cartoons and puns.

Hobson points out that Ellenborough is not an easy character to like, both when he was alive and looking back from the 21st century. He 'was a great person to know well, but more than a pain if you never made it past acquaintance, as he could be rude, dismissive and arrogant' (Ch 2 p.14). However, Hobson certainly did not wish to write a 'character assassination' (Introduction p.vii). In fact, this biography offers a clear view of why Ellenborough was so successful and what his strengths were. His knowledge of common law was superior, as was his knowledge of the legal process, how witnesses should be treated, and historical precedent. It's possible to admire him while, at the same time, cringing a little bit.

The book is full of fascinating glimpses of Ellenborough, found in records, newspaper articles and his legal opinions. The diaries of other students, studying at Peterhouse at the same time, mention him as more interested in his studies than most. At Lincoln's Inn, he joined the Honourable Society of the Bears, a voluntary social club for barristers. There were many associations like the Bears in Georgian society,

'...few of which were very serious and even fewer less serious than the Honourable Society of the Bears, who were neither ancient (founded around 1738) nor particularly honourable...' (Ch 3 p.17).

Most of the Bears' records have survived, including minutes of meetings. Lunch, with many drinks and toasts, was the norm. Wagers were made and records were kept. When a wager was resolved, it was recorded in the minutes. It appeared to be an 'enjoyable, non-improving social event' (Ch 3 p.17). Of course, the more serious outcome was that membership cemented connections between members for life.

In 1789, Law married Ann Towry (1769-1843). Chapter 5 includes newspaper reports covering his wife's social life, her charities, her parties and her clothing, allowing us to see the couple's life outside the law courts.

While at Lincoln's Inn, Law became a special pleader. His job was to draft formal legal documents, give opinions and prepare arguments for court proceedings. It proved an excellent match for his abilities. His focus was on detail, described as forensic. He applied himself to research, developing his knowledge and ability to write carefully. To him, it was essential to follow the law, regardless of the consequences. For example, when

it was suggested that some debtors were just unlucky rather than fraudulent, Ellenborough replied 'the suffering of the rare number of innocents was less important than punishing the clearly guilty' (Ch 8 p.63).

In the law courts, he was known for his bad temper and bullying of juries and witnesses. Later, in the House of Lords, his behaviour made him most unpopular, where the process was slow, measured and polite. He was known as 'the violent judge' (Ch 20 p.149), not because he believed in painful punishments but because of the way he spoke to people. He liked to see proceedings move quickly. When a lawyer was not completely prepared, Ellenborough would strike out the case and sometimes impose a fine. He disliked intellectual pretention and long speeches. In a wonderful example, reported by Hobson, a barrister began his speech with the non-legal phrase 'In the book of nature it is written..'. Ellenborough interrupted him and asked for the page reference (Ch 20 p.151). While not wishing to argue a case for unpleasant behaviour, there are many aspects to Ellenborough's character that appeal.

The book is bursting with legal cases that Ellenborough was involved in, illustrating his attitudes and beliefs. The cases also give insight into day-to-day life in Georgian Britain and range from creating new capital punishments for crimes against individuals, condemning the slave trade as morally unacceptable, defining the concept of libel, to trying a case for manipulating share prices.

One well-known case involved a German national, settled in Seaford and married to a woman from Eastbourne. He became unemployed and the family returned to Eastbourne and applied for welfare. The poor law commissioners of Eastbourne and Seaford disagreed on who should pay. Ellenborough and two other judges published an opinion that 'the law of humanity, which is anterior to all positive laws, obliges us to afford them relief, to save them from starving' (Ch 13 p.91). This requirement that the state has to promote a person's basic right not to starve is referred to as Ellenborough's Law of Humanity. It led to a British Supreme Court ruling and became part of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.

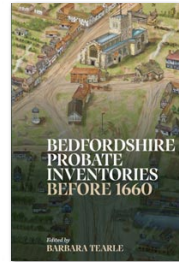
A small but telling case involved a man who pleaded in tears that he had burgled a house in desperation because he was starving. Ellenborough found him guilty but imposed a merciful sentence. He believed that contrition was a good sign as it proved who was in charge (Ch 7 p.56).

Those found guilty of crimes involving property and assets were regularly executed, although pardons were possible. In 1810, there was a bill to change the penalty for shoplifting and robbery, where small amounts were involved, from execution to transportation. Ellenborough objected to transportation as a punishment. It was 'a summer's excursion, an easy migration to a happier and better climate' (Ch 8 p.61). It was also outside of the public eye and served poorly as a salutary lesson.

This is a hugely readable book, covering so many different issues, many of them still being debated. Anyone interested in Georgian life or the evolution of crime and punishment should find Ellenborough a fascinating character.

Sherryl Abraham

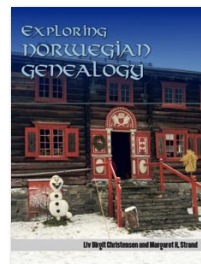
BOOKS IN BRIEF



Bedfordshire Probate Inventories Before 1660, edited by Barbara Tearle. Boydell and Brewer Limited, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-85155-085-5. Hardback, 695 pp., map, glossary, bibliography, indexes. £60, also available as an e-book.

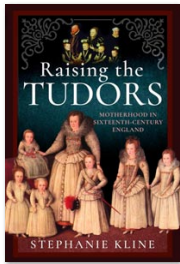
Volume 98, in the series of *Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society*, is a new addition to our library. It holds 432 inventories recently discovered. The earliest in the set is dated 30 November 1497. The others were compiled between 1550 and 1659. All come from the county of Bedfordshire. An excellent introduction describes the general characteristics of inventories at this time and details the typical contents you can expect to find. There is a very good glossary of terms, an appendix providing location details of all the Bedfordshire inventories, and separate indexes for names, places and subjects.

Note: Two sets of inventories were published earlier, in Volumes 20 and 32 of *Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society*. They are available as e-books from Boydell and Brewer Limited. Volume 32 is held in the SoG library.



Exploring Norwegian Genealogy, by Liv Birgit Christensen and Margaret H. Strand. Family Roots Publishing Company, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-62859-386-6. Paperback, 318 pp., bibliography, index. Also available as an e-book.

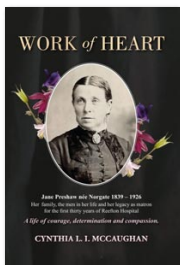
This extremely practical book aims to help family historians find their Norwegian ancestors. It is especially aimed at those whose families migrated from Norway to other countries. The most important online resources are explained, with details on how to use them. It is supported by additional guides at: <https://genealogicalresearchnorway.blog>.



Raising the Tudors: Motherhood in Sixteenth-Century England, by Stephanie Kline. Pen & Sword History, 2025. ISBN: 978-1-39903-937-6. Hardback, 232 pp., references, bibliography. £19.65, also available as an e-book.

This interesting book covers the lives of wives and mothers during the Tudor period, moving from childbirth and education to marriage and old age. It discusses how children were raised, the concept of childhood, and the roles of women. Using a wide range of sources, it includes people who were not very wealthy.

For family historians who are researching this period, there are details about the legal requirements of marriage with witnesses, the Church's permission for midwives to baptise sickly newborn babies, and the practice allowing godparents to give a baby their own first name. A good set of references and a bibliography enable anyone to follow up specific details.



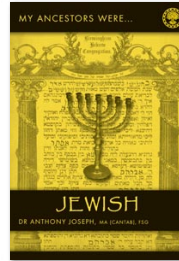
Work of Heart, by Cynthia L. I. McCaughan. Self-published, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-473-71114-6. Paperback, 414 pp., pedigrees, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index.

This book tells the story of Jane Norgate, her family, and her work at the Reefton Community Hospital in New Zealand. Jane left Norfolk in Britain in 1856, travelling first to Melbourne, Australia, and then to Reefton on the West Coast of New Zealand in 1868. A number of chapters describe the early gold rush in this area and the founding of Reefton Hospital.

Other family names: Hole, Preshaw, Sidle, Smith and Walpole.

Sherryl Abrahamart

BOOK OF THE MONTH



My Ancestors were Jewish, by Dr. Anthony Joseph. Published: Fourth edition 2008. ISBN: 978-1-903462-63-8. Paperback, 66pp.

For anyone with Jewish ancestors on their family tree. Dr Anthony Joseph opens with a 'Where to start' chapter, beginning with the emancipation of Jews in England and providing a general history of

Britain's Jewish community.

Dr Joseph gives many in-depth, detailed pointers and advice on the best avenues to research your Jewish ancestors. Chapters cover births, deaths, burials, marriages, censuses, naturalization and communities. A final chapter aims to help you researching your Jewish ancestors who migrated from Britain to other countries. The usual cost of *My Ancestors were Jewish* is £5.95 and it is currently available to SoG members at the discounted price of £4.76 (£5.35 to non-members).

A £3.50 postal charge applies within the UK. This book plus the full range of titles published by the Society are available from our bookshop through our website and onsite. Offer valid until 31 December 2025.

Catherine Hopkins
eventsoffice@sog.org.uk

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EVENT REVIEW

Researching Romany and Traveller Ancestors: an online event hosted by the Society of Genealogists (SoG) in conjunction with the RTFHS: 23 June 2025.



This information-packed free online event featured five presentations exploring resources that can help in the research of Romany Gypsy, Traveller, Fairground and Circus ancestors.

Opening the webinar on behalf of the RTFHS, Dianne Sutton gave an overview of the Romany history of Britain and tips for identifying individuals through names and occupations. Sharon Heppell then gave more details about the different historical records and how Romany Gypsies might be found in them. For example, she explained that while births and marriages might not always have been officially registered, children were usually baptised and virtually all Romany Gypsies were formally buried in a churchyard or cemetery, some with large monuments, a tradition that continues today. The specialist resources available from the RTFHS were, of course, also highlighted.

Katy Hooper (Special Collections Librarian) and Luke Boswell (Archives and Records Management Postgrad) discussed the Gypsy Lore Society Collections at the

University of Liverpool. Luke shared his mixed feelings about some of the historic documents in the Collections. While the language and attitudes of early collectors are often offensive by today's standards, the Collections do include valuable genealogical records and rare photographs, including one of his own ancestor Eldorai Boswell. The Archives aim to improve accessibility to its records for the Romany community itself, and Luke is writing a dissertation for his Master's degree exploring this important topic further.

The National Fairground and Circus Archive (NFCA) at the University of Sheffield is a key resource for researching ancestors involved in fairs and circuses. Although a lot of the history of this community has been lost, the Archive holds an extensive collection of photos, stories and historical records as Arantz Barutia Ezenarro described in her presentation. Arantz explained that the NFCA continues to work with families to preserve their histories.

The presentation from Natasha Kikas of Bedfordshire Archives was an important reminder not to rely solely on the big commercial genealogy websites when looking for original records. Natasha focused on the Registers of Pedlars' Certificates and Chimney Sweepers that they hold. Together they are name-rich resources which include lots of personal details and, in the case of the county's gaol registers, sometimes even photographs. Given that many Travelling people earned a living as pedlars, hawkers and sweeps it's worth checking to see if other county archives hold similar registers for these occupations. To date very few documents of this kind have been transcribed, indexed, digitised or made available online.

Finally, Jen Baldwin of Find My Past gave a demonstration of how to use a new advanced search facility on their site in order to get the most out of their newspaper collection.

Ellen Stuart, Assistant Editor, Romany Routes Romany & Traveller Family History Society | <https://rtfhs.org.uk>

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CORRESPONDENCE

From: William Hancock
Email: whjhancock@virginmedia.com

***Genealogists' Magazine* - back issues sought**

I much enjoyed reading about the Bourne family in the September 2025 edition of the *Genealogists' Magazine* having attended school from age 4 to 9 at the house in Wiveliscombe at which Richard Bourne (d.1594) resided.

My contemporaries imagined a secret tunnel from Bourne's House to the old church, replaced in the 19th century. If anybody has copies of the March and June

2025 editions, I would be most grateful for a chance to acquire them. If you can help, please be in contact.

From: Rose Warren
Email: finches4@outlook.com

Back issues of *Genealogists' Magazine* available

Member Mrs Warren has copies of the Society's magazine from March 1992 to December 2023. If any member would like them she can be contacted by email finches4@outlook.com, or by telephone on 01795 473842.

Printed *Genealogists' Magazine* copies for 2026. Sign up now to avoid disappointment

Our flagship members' publication is over 100 years old. Delivered quarterly to your inbox, our journal provides informative, interesting stories, plus society news.

However, if you prefer to read a hard copy of the magazine, now is the time to purchase your subscription for January to December 2026. Please note that this subscription covers the calendar year and is unrelated to your membership renewal date.



To purchase your subscription for 2026, please visit the shop on our website or at our Research Hub in London, send us a cheque in the post, or give us a telephone call at 020 7251 8799.

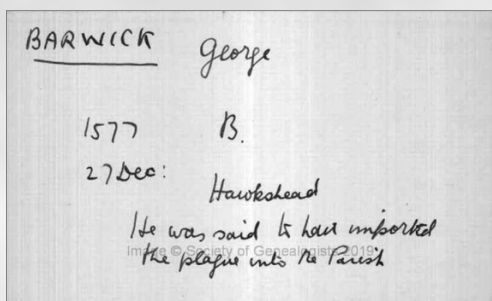
The prices for 2026 will be £15.49 for UK members and £20.99 for overseas members. This fee covers the cost of printing and posting the hard-copies. Each of the four issues will be posted to you upon their publication in March, June, September, and December.

Subscription: <https://societyofgenealogists-shop.myshopify.com/collections/genealogists-magazine>

Oddities from the Great Card Index

ODDITY #2

Infectious personality: He was said to have imported the plague into the Parish; not the kind of impact that you hope to leave behind. (Ban-Bar image no 14839)



Festive Season Opening Hours

Society of Genealogists, 40 Wharf Road, London, N1 7GS

Closing for Christmas - 4pm Friday 19 December

Reopening - 10.30am Wednesday 7 January 2026

Last day for volunteers - Friday 19 December

Volunteers resume - Tuesday 6 January 2026

DECEASED MEMBERS

David Nicholas Allen	2010 – 2025	Alison Clare McMillan	1980 – 2025
Margaret Faragher	1979 – 2025	Robert Clare Naphine	1984 – 2025
David John Haunton	1984 – 2025	Ian Christopher Edwin Purnell	1990 – 2025
Judith Kingsley	2001 – 2025	Anne Ramon	1987 – 2025
Keith John Linder	1970 – 2025	Roger Brian Ward	1988 – 2025

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES 2026

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Monday: Closed • Tuesday: Closed • Wednesday: 10:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday: 10:30am - 4:00pm
Thursday Late Opening (until 7pm): 4 December • 8 January • 5 February • 5 March
Saturday Open Days, 10:30am - 4:00pm (one per month): 6 December • 10 January • 7 February • 7 March



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EVENTS NEWS

Booking details available at: www.sog.org.uk/events

After the success of our 2025 programme, the events team is delighted to share a lively and expanded line-up for 2026 – packed with opportunities to learn, discover new resources, and meet fellow family historians. If you enjoy uncovering hidden histories and walking in your ancestors' footsteps, mark your diary now and head to www.sog.org.uk/events to browse everything on offer.

VICTORIAN LONDON WEEK

London Victorian Week (<https://tinyurl.com/2wuxjek7>) in September proved a real highlight, sparking breakthroughs, friendships and excitement in equal measure:

"My expectations were more than met; it was an excellent and enjoyable week."

"The opportunity to mix online and in-person was great."

"So much information – I'll be re-watching the talks for months!"

"Yes, it should be run again!"

You asked – and we listened.

BY POPULAR DEMAND: POOR LONDON WEEK – IN PERSON

From Monday 21 to Friday 25 September 2026, **Poor London Week** (<https://tinyurl.com/2psj7ncf>) will take place at Wharf Road. While online access will also be available, this event is especially designed for those who relish the buzz of learning face-to-face, sharing discoveries and diving into original records side-by-side.

Confirmed sessions include:

- "The Blackest Streets: The Victorian Slums of Shoreditch" – *Sarah Wise*
- "Life in Barnardo's East End" – *Emma Griffin*
- "London's Old Parish Poor 1700–1834" and "London's Foundlings and Orphans in the 17th & 18th Century" – *Else Churchill*

We'll also explore Young Charlie Chaplin's Lambeth, examine the staff of Amersham Workhouse, walk Smithfields, and visit the Foundling Museum. If you enjoyed Victorian London Week – or wished you hadn't missed it – this is one to book early.

GET OUT AND ABOUT IN 2026

Our programme of archive visits starts with the **Guildhall Library** (<https://tinyurl.com/s9xj4x8n>) on 15 January, with further visits planned to:

- Hammersmith & Fulham Archives
- Freemasons Hall
- Camden Archives
- Southwark Archives
- Imperial War Museum Research Room
- ... And more to be announced.

Following our sold-out Huguenot walking day, 2026 will also see two themed days – **Quaker Ancestors** (<https://tinyurl.com/22ydc3s6>) and Theatrical Ancestors – combining talks, workshops, walks and curated archive time.

"RESEARCHING IN..." – GROWING COUNTY RESOURCES

Our county-by-county collaborations continue to flourish. East Surrey, Devon, Gloucestershire, Powys, East Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Leicester & Rutland, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and the North East are now available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/@SocietyofGenealogists), with Hampshire joining them before the end of 2025.

In the first part of 2026 we will add Cheshire, Suffolk and Lancashire. Join live on Zoom, or come to Wharf Road on the first Thursday of the month to watch the session, meet others researching the same area, and view relevant SoG holdings. And if we haven't yet covered "your" county – encourage your local archive or FHS to get in touch!

FIRST THURSDAYS: STAY LATE, LEARN MORE

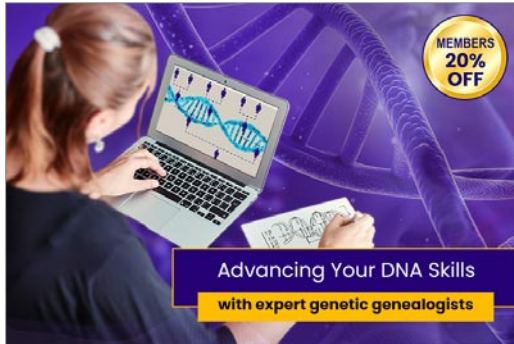
From January (with a one-off delay to 8 January) the library will open until 7pm on the first Thursday each month. A full day of activity awaits:

- 11:00 – Collections Up Close with Else Churchill (FREE Members only)
- 12:30 – Screening of the county-of-the-month talk – why not eat your lunch in the events room (FREE)
- Afternoon Talk – A live in-person speaker
- Complimentary Drinks Reception – Social, friendly, and full of genealogical chat
- Each month also features a themed display from our collections – perfect for browsing between talks and inspiring your research.

BRAND NEW COURSES FOR 2026

Whether you are building skills or branching into new territory, our refreshed course programme has something for every researcher. New topics include:

- **Advancing Your DNA Skills**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1574117>



- **Crime and Punishment for Family Historians**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1605161>
- **English Courts of Law before 1800**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608856>
- **Intermediate Scottish Research**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608874>
- **Manorial Documents**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608879>
- **Decoding Further Documents**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608909>

Much-loved courses are also returning, including:

- **Unexpected DNA Results**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608866>
- **Beginners' Palaeography**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608861>
- **Beginning Irish Research**
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1608869>

And more...

From walking tours to workhouses, from DNA to drama, 2026 promises to be a year of discovery – and we'd love you to be part of it. Browse, book and explore at: www.sog.org.uk/events

FROM THE COLLECTIONS TEAM

- We now have over **30,500 items on the open library shelves**. This means that 20% of all records in our library catalogue now refer to items held onsite and this number continues to grow. We now have library tracts added to onsite collections, as well as items from the former staff reference section formerly known as 'Shelf 9'. We are also continuing to amend the catalogue records of microfiche held permanently

onsite so that it will be easier to see which fiche are in the library, and to know they won't need to be pre-ordered to view in the library.

We are close to finishing the processing of some 60 boxes of uncatalogued library materials. We continue to receive new family histories and other items for the library collection, and we're incredibly grateful for all the support for the library.

- **Resources on SoG Explore:** We are so pleased to report that we have started adding new content to SoG Explore. The monumental inscriptions digitised during lockdown are going into the system at pace, as are library typescripts (digitised by our scanning volunteers) and digital donations received over the past four years.

You will find a list of items added in the Recent Additions to SoG Explore (right after the regular Recent Additions to the Library Catalogue). Information about how to access these items is given in the preamble to the list.

We now have over 1840 items in the record sets list, and this number is growing rapidly.

- Our **Archives Team** has had a busy year with the processing of two large collections (Michael J. Wood and Beryl Crawley) as well as several smaller collections. A summary report of all collections processed this year will appear in the March issue of *Genealogists' Magazine*. Work continues cataloguing our document collections and all new archive items as they are received. There is a big year ahead in 2026 with a large collection recently received awaiting processing and still a substantial backlog to clear in the archives.
- **Information Provision Review:** The report of the Information Provision Review has now been passed to our Board of Trustees for their consideration.
- **Featured Collection:** The Featured Collection Oct-Jan contains over 350 books from the Professions section C-F. As always, the Featured Collection can be found adjacent to the communal area next to the library. If your ancestor worked in the civil service, or was a clockmaker, carpenter, director or engineer there may be something of interest to you. For a full list of items in the Featured Collection, conduct a library catalogue advanced search on the Location field and select Library F. Featured Collection from the drop-down menu. A link to our library catalogue is given at the top of our library page, address below.
- **Collections Corner:** Look out for an article in this issue by Harry Purvis about an amazing scrapbook in our collection - *A Life in Cuttings: the life of Frances Anna Sophia Colchester (née Leveson)*.

- **Internship Student:** We are pleased to be joined by Juliette from Brigham Young University (USA). Juliette is studying genealogy and during her six-week placement will be working on a range of projects to learn about how we prepare and provide genealogical information for SoG members.
- **Events in the Library:** The next events in the library will be the *Researching in East Surrey* (with a library tour and display) on 26 November, *SoG Workshop Lab - searching our collections and finding aids* on 5 December *Researching in Hampshire* on 8 January (with a library tour and display). See the Talks and Courses section of our website or contact events@sog.org.uk for more information.

Christine Worthington

Research Collections Coordinator

collections@sog.org.uk | www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE July - September 2025

FAMILY HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

- Foljambe** Nathaniel Johnston's history of the Foljambe family, part 1 / edited by Philip Riden. (2024)
- Law** The Georgian 'establishment' seen through the life and trials of Edward Law, Lord Ellenborough / James Hobson. (2025)
- Matheson** Alexander Matheson: the railway king of the Highlands / Anne-Marie Paterson and Neil T. Sinclair. (2025)
- Moriarty** The cost of silence: recovering history & culture vol 1 / Eires Moriarty. (2025)
- Mostyn** Mother Margaret Mostyn: discaled Carmelite 1625-1679 / Sister Anne Hardman.
- Neugass** Neugass: biographical notes / Prof. A. Goodhart. (1961)
- Readshaw** Maternal ancestors of Paul Tulley Readshaw / Judy Purkiss, compiler. (2025?)
- Paternal ancestors of Paul Tulley Readshaw / Judy Purkiss, compiler. (2025?)
- Rigg** The line of sixteen: searching for my children's great, great grandparents / John Rigg. (2025)
- Wilson** The blackmailing of the chancellor: some intimate and hitherto unpublished letters from Harriette Wilson to her friend Lord Brougham, Lord High Chancellor of England / edited by Kenneth Bourne. (1975)

RESEARCH AND RECORD GUIDES

- The chief elements used in English place-names: being the second part of the introduction to the survey of English place names / edited by A. Mawer. (1924)
- The Guild of One-Name Studies: Register of One-Name Studies 2025
- Using gravestones to trace your ancestors: a guide for family historians / Amanda Leedham. (2025)

GENERAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

- Can we afford the doctor? / Joyce Holliday. (1985)
- Costumes of the time of George II designed for Her Majesty's state ball by T. & T. Onwhyn.
- Cyclists' Touring Club British road book: new series Vol IV: West Midlands and Wales. (1931)
- Dead end hobby 2: more oddments from the world of family history / compiled by Mick Southwick. (2025)
- The face of Britain: north country / by Edmund Vale. (1937)
- Fifty years ago: memories of the 1930s / compiled and edited by the Age Exchange Theatre Company. (1983)
- In Fox's footsteps: a journey through three centuries [Quakers] / by David and Anthea Boulton. (1998)
- A history of the black presence in London / Greater London Council (E.M.U). (1986)
- The honours & awards who's who 1988: the Queen's birthday honours list / editor John Brant. (1988)
- The house of Tudor / Alison Plowden. (2010)
- The lordship of Canterbury: an essay on Medieval society / F.R.H. Du Boulay. (1966)
- Madmen: a social history of madhouses, mad-doctors & lunatics / Roy Porter. (2004)
- Maternity: letters from working-women collected by the Women's Co-operative Guild / edited by Margaret Llewelyn Davies. (1978)
- The New Peerage of ancient and present state of the nobility of England, Scotland, and Ireland. (1778)
- Raising the Tudors: motherhood in sixteenth-century England / Stephanie Kline. (2025)
- State trials: the public conscience vol. 2 / edited by Donald Thomas. (1972)
- We are witnesses: five diaries of teenagers who died in the Holocaust / Jacob Boas. (1995)
- The year is 1851 / Patrick Howarth. (1951)

BEDFORDSHIRE

- Luton** A short history of Freemasonry and of the Bedfordshire Lodge of St John the Baptist: of ancient, free and accepted masons no. 475 from 1841 to 1891, fifty years / by William Austin. (1891)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

- Buckingham** Buckingham and district in old photographs / Robert Cook. (1994)
- Chesham** Chesham yesterday & today / Colin J Seabright. (1996)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

- Matthew Parker and his treasures: a quatercentenary exhibition handlist of exhibits.
- Doddington** An old manor map: Doddington in the early 17th century / accompanying text by Evelyn Lord, William Franklin & David Edwards. (2024)
- Grantchester** Some pages from the early history of the Parish of Grantchester, Cambridgeshire / edited by Rev. W.R. Harrison. (1928)

CHESHIRE

Cheshire / by Nikolaus Pevsner and Edward Hubbard. (1986)

Cheshire: the county handbook.

Runcorn Runcorn and Widnes Industrial Co-Operative Society Ltd: jubilee history of the society 1862-1912 / by Walter Millington. (1912)

CORNWALL

The Cornish mining industry: a brief history / J.A. Buckley. (1995)

Mevagissey Guide to Mevagissey and district / Frank Baron.

St Stephen-in-Brannel Some old Cornish folk / Salome Hocking. (2002)

CUMBERLAND

Dalston Dalston: the story of a Cumberland parish / David Wilcock. (2018)

Eden Come back to Eden: Lakeland's northern neighbour. (2000)

Whitehaven Whitehaven United Reformed Church: the first three hundred years; the story of dissenting witness in Whitehaven, 1695-1995, with a supplement to 2005 to mark the centenary of worship in the present building / Anne Dick. (2005)

DEVON

Take care of your fire and candle: an account of eleven disastrous fires in small Devonshire towns during the nineteenth century / F.D. Gentry. (1985)

Crediton Church of the Holy Cross / Vivian Summers. (2006)

DURHAM

Blackhill One hundred years: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Blackhill, Co. Durham: centenary 1857-1957.

DERBYSHIRE

Lead mining in the Peak District / by G H Brierley. (1977)

ESSEX

Bardfield, Great Great Bardfield Finchingfield and Wethersfield Essex: a charming corner of England / by Morris W. Hughes.

Barking London Borough of Barking: official guide.

Belchamp St Paul Belchamp St. Paul, Essex / Edward Powell, vicar. (1943)

Burnham on Crouch Burnham on Crouch town guide. (1993)

Burnham on Crouch town map and walks.

Dengie The parish church of St. James, Dengie, Maldon and Dengie Deanery in the Diocese of Chelmsford: information booklet.

Ham, East A history of 75 years of St George's and 50 years of St George & St Ethelbert's Church, East Ham, to commemorate the Church's jubilee / Kenneth C J. Madgett. (1987)

Wakefield Central School: the twenty-sixth annual speech day, Town Hall, East Ham on Monday, 7th Dec. 1936.

Leyton Leyton Orient: a complete record 1881-1990 / Neil Kaufman and Alan Ravenhill. (1990)

Radwinter The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Radwinter / Revd Cecil Gore Brigley.

Runwell St. Mary's, Runwell: a history and church guide / Lester Crook.

Wanstead A history of Park Ward, Wanstead. (1953)

Wethersfield The parish church of St Mary Magdalene Wethersfield: some notes for visitors. (1990)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire county guide & industrial review.

Eastleach Eastleach Martin, Eastleach Turville and Southrop / compiled by W.H.T. Wright. (1968?)

HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire: county handbook & industrial review.

Gosport Gosport including Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay: official guide. (1972)

Ringwood The rural district of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, Hampshire: official guide.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Peterchurch Peter Church, Herefordshire / Rev. John C. de la Tour Davis.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hertfordshire county handbook.

Isle of Wight St. James' Church, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

KENT

Blackheath A history of Blackheath High School / by K.M. Watts and other contributors. (1980?)

Deptford How we went to war: Deptford and Lewisham 1939-1945, the people's story, with reminiscences contributed by Age Exchange Reminiscence Centre / by Lewis Blake.

Folkstone Folkestone '72. (1772)

Greenwich London Borough of Greenwich: official guide.

Lewisham The vanished village: the village of Lewisham / by George H Peters. (1954?)

River The Kentish village of River / by Douglas Welby.

Seasalter Seasalter and the mystery of Robinson Crusoe / by Wallace Harvey. (1989)

Sidcup Queen Mary's Sidcup, 1974-1994: a commemoration / by Andrew Bamji. (1994?)

Queen Mary's Hospital, 1929-2004: a collection of stories and photographs to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Queen Mary's and the 30th anniversary of the new hospital / compiled by Iris Presswell and Andrew Bamji. (2004?)

Sundridge Sundridge Park Golf Club: the first hundred years 1901-2001 / Alan Bellinger. (2001)

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire and the Pennines: a survey of Lancashire, and parts of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland,

Westmorland and Yorkshire / Frank Singleton. (1952)
Lancashire halls / by Margaret G Chapman. (1971)
Barrow Barrow's home front 1939-1945 / by Bryn Trescaheric. (1989)
Blackburn The County Borough of Blackburn the official guide.
Blackpool Blackpool: the international pleasure centre. (1973)
Leesfield A short history of St. Agnes, Knoll's Lane / compiled by Leonard Shaw Bardsley.
Salford Tent ritual: Independent Order of Rechabites, Salford Unity.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicester Leicestershire Progressive Spiritualist Church, Leicester November 11th, 1946: service and remembrance / Hylde N. Watson. (1946?)
 West End as I remember it / edited by Karen Barrow. (1985)

LINCOLNSHIRE

Boston Boston's newspapers / by Lionel Robinson. (1974)
Kesteven A school remembers 1902-1977 [Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls] / edited by Kate Edwards and Elizabeth Venn. (1971)
 South Kesteven: official guide.
Louth The Louth St James churchwardens' accounts 1527-1570 / edited by Dr Brian Hodgkinson. (2025)

MIDDLESEX

Discover your high street: exploring the shared heritage of seven outer London high streets (Ilford, Kingston, Leyton, South Norwood, Tooting, Twickenham and Woolwich) / Daniella Hadley.
Earl's Court St. Philip's Parish Church, Earls Court Road, London, W8 6QH: the story of the church / by Cecil Morton. (1972)
Hammersmith London Borough of Hammersmith. (1971)
Hillingdon The London Borough of Hillingdon.
Hounslow Our Hounslow: Hounslow Communist Party plan. (1945)
London The Priory Church: Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Dominic.
 Historical notes on Lincoln's Inn Fields / by Arthur Houlton Marks. (1922)
 The history of the Painter-Stainers Company of London / compiled by A.P. Arnold and A.G. Ingram. (2 volumes) (1988)
 A king's purchase: King George III and the collection of Consul Smith. (1993)
 London topographical record: volume 33 / edited by Sheila O'Connell. (2025)
 St Paul's School 1909-1959 / by F.R. Salter. (1959)
 The white book, 2015 [City of London] / edited by Jonathan Grosvenor.
Redbridge Redbridge: the official guide and directory. (1972)

Shoreditch On Brick Lane / Rachel Lichtenstein. (2008)
Westminster Sir Edmund Doubleday in Westminster / by Anne Lewis.
Wood Green Saint Saviours Church, Alexandra Park Road, N22; 1900 - 1904 - 1909: fifty years of progress / edited by H.W. de B. Peters.

NORFOLK

Hellesdon The history of St. Mary's church, Hellesdon / compiled by Aubrey and Derek Palgrave.
Swaffham Ribbons from the pedlar's pack / gathered together by Ben Ripper and illustrated with line drawings by the author, Swaffham 1979.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Northampton A shopper's guide to old Northampton / curated by W.N. Terry and Alan C. Cox. (1972)
 A short history of the Jews of Northampton 1159-1996 / Michael Jolles. (1996)

NORTHUMBERLAND

Amble The lifeboat stations of Amble and Hauxley: an illustrated account of the lifeboat stations at Amble and Hauxley and associated life saving services from 1842-1989. (1990)
Tynedale Guide to Tynedale district, Northumberland.
Tynemouth The County Borough of Tynemouth official industrial handbook.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Gringley The Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Gringley on the Hill: a short guide for visitors / Ivon Baker and Ian Robinson.
Nottingham History of Castle Gate Congregational Church, Nottingham, 1655-1905 / by A.R. Henderson. (1905)

OXFORDSHIRE

Banbury Wychwood School Old Girls' Society. (1947)
Oxford The history of the Chatham Club, Oxford, and list of members from 1864 to 1922 [by J G L]. (1922)
 Summary catalogue of manuscripts in the Bodleian library relating to the City County and the University of Oxford: accessions from 1916-1962 / P.S. Spokes. (1964)

SHROPSHIRE

The Shropshire village book. (1989)

SOMERSET

Somerset wills from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1548-1576 / edited by Colin J. Brett. (2025)

STAFFORDSHIRE

Ecton Hill The copper & lead mines of Ecton Hill, Staffordshire / by John A Robey and Lindsey Porter. (1972)
Wolverhampton The County Borough of Wolverhampton official handbook.

SUFFOLK

- Framlingham** Framlingham Castle, Suffolk / F.J.E. Raby and P.K. Baillie Reynolds. (1987)
Yoxford St. Peter's Church Yoxford

SURREY

- Croydon** The Croydon arsenic mystery / Jean Graham Hall and Gordon D. Smith. (1999)
Headley All Saints' Church, Headley.

SUSSEX

- Beckley** Beckley: names & places / by Dennis Ward. (1999)
Brighton Volk's railway, Brighton / Alan A. Jackson.
Chichester Fishbourne: a guide to the site / by Barry Cunliffe, with a resume of excavations at Fishbourne Roman Palace since the 1960s by David J Rudkin. (2003)
 The parliamentary surveys of the city of Chichester 1649-1650 / edited by Danae Tankard. (2025)
Felpham Church of S. Mary, Felpham / William Page.
Glynde The Glynde Butterflies: England's first female sports stars / by Andrew Lusted. (2011)
Hove Encyclopaedia of Hove and Portslade / Judy Middleton. (15 volumes) (2001-2003)
Penhurst Penhurst Church near Battle.
Wilmington Wilmington, Sussex.

WARWICKSHIRE

- Birmingham** Portrait of Birmingham / Vivian Bird. (1974)

WILTSHIRE

- Trowbridge** Bethesda Baptist Church, Trowbridge.

WORCESTERSHIRE

- Lords and peasants in a changing society: the estates of the Bishopric of Worcester, 680-1540 / Christopher Dyer. (1980)
Worcester Worcester County records: the quarter sessions rolls - part 1; Kalendar of the sessions rolls 1591-1621 / compiled by J.W. Willis Bund. (1899)

YORKSHIRE

- Exploring the North York Moors / by Malcolm Boyes. (1989)
 Getting to know Yorkshire / Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby. (1964)
 A month in Yorkshire / by Walter White. (reprint of 1958 edition) (1991)
 The North Yorkshire village book / compiled by the North Yorkshire Federations of Women's Institutes from notes and illustrations sent by Institutes in the county. (1991)
 Town trails: North Yorkshire; a selection of 25 walks through the towns and cities of North Yorkshire / Mark Reid. (2001)
 Victorian Yorkshire / by J R Thackrah. (1979)
Addingham Addingham, from Brigantes to bypass: a history / Kate Mason. (2007)

- Bedale** Vasey's Bedale almanac: contains extracts from Bedale almanacs dated 1875-1912. (1992)
Bradford The City of Bradford official handbook. The Old Bradfordians' Club (London) Ltd. (1996?)
Bulmer St. Martin's Church, Bulmer near Castle Howard, North Yorkshire: a brief guide.
Cornholme Mount Zion Methodist Church, Cornholme, Todmorden: centenary 1854-1954, souvenir handbook.
Eccleshill History of the congregational church at Eccleshill / compiled by H.C. Crapp and Thos Whitehouse. (1889?)
Gisburne The history of Salem Congregational Chapel, Martin Top, Rimington: founded 1816, bicentenary 2016.
Honley Honley through old advertising / Peter Marshall. (2014)
Hornsea The home front: Hornsea and Holderness in the Second World War / by J.E.S. Walker. (1995)
Huntington Huntington Methodist church 1900-2000 / by Joyce Petch. (2000)
Keighley From revival to regency a history of Keighley and Haworth 1740-1820, volume one / by M L Baumber. (1983)
 A Pennine community on the eve of the Industrial Revolution: Keighley and Haworth between 1660 and 1760 / by M.L. Baumber.
Knaresborough The Quaker meetings of Knaresborough and Harrogate / by W. Pearson Thistlethwaite. (1984)
Outwood St Mary Magdalene's parish church Outwood: centenary souvenir 1858-1958: a short history of the church / written by Evelyn Ellis. (1958)
Reeth Bygone Reeth: a history of Reeth in Swaledale from 1066 to 1900 and an account of Methodism in Reeth from 1760 to 1900 / by Margaret Batty. (1985)
Stocksbridge Urban District of Stocksbridge official industrial guide.
Wakefield The red shed: fifty years a socialist club. (2016)
Wetherby Aircraft down: air crashes around Wetherby 1939-1945 / compiled by Brian Lunn and Gavin Harland. (1985)
Worsall High and low Worsall: milestones to the millennium / Worsall Local History Research Group. (2000)
- IRELAND**
- Antrim** Belfast Bowling Club: 175 years.
 The Pioneer Movement in Ballina, 1817-1989. (1989?)
 Revolt in the north: Antrim and Down in 1798 / by Charles Dickson. (1997)
Down Records of the Presbyterian congregation of Magherahamlet, 1825-1981 / by Ann and Cecil Adams.
Dublin Arbour Hill Cemetery / Paul O'Brien. (2012)
Roscommon The registers of Kilgeffin Parish Church, marriages 1845-1863: transcribed and indexed / The Anglican Record Project. (2024)

SCOTLAND

Annals of the disruption; with extracts from the narrative of ministers who left the Scottish establishment in 1843 / by the Rev. Thomas Brown. (1893)

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Most of these new additions to Explore are:

- **monumental inscriptions typescripts** which were digitised during lockdown.
- **unbound library typescripts** on a range of topics and places, which have been digitised onsite at Wharf Road (thanks to volunteers Jo, Suzanne and James).
- **digital donations** received over the past four years.
- **burial indexes** created by home volunteers and added recently.

The raw scans have undergone preparation work, such as checking, page rotation, removal of blank pages, image adjustment and file conversion before uploading them to the database. These first uploads help our data contractor Harry to refine the processes and establish routines for ongoing uploads.

We are excited to be reporting on content recently added to SoG Explore, because we understand how important online access to our collections is to our members, especially to those who can't visit us. We look forward to building upon the 1,840+ resources we now hold in Explore and reporting on further new content in future issues of the magazine. We have so many more digital resources waiting in the wings!

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A genealogical abstract of the MIs of Bedfordshire contained in Add mss. 34366, 34372, 34376 & arranged in order of parishes, BE-M 35, 23755

A list of monumental tombs & inscriptions in Bedfordshire which have been transcribed & illustrated, BE-M 38, 634a

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