

GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

Journal of the Society of Genealogists



Volume 35 Number 2 Jun 2025

5 DAYS | TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Society of Genealogists

London Getaway



Be one of the first to get the details of the 2025 Society of Genealogists London Getaway. Taking place Monday 8th – Friday 12th September.

Join us at the Society of Genealogists for a Family History Getaway Week. The Society is hosting this five-day programme in its Resource Hub in London. Attend talks and workshops to find out how London Victorian families lived and how London's social issues and local history affected their lives.

Then, as part of the programme, explore the books, documents and records in our Library, plus optional extra workshops, walks and visits. Twelve workshops and talks, help using our Library and a sandwich lunch included in the cost.

Spread over the five days, we aim to help you to develop your understanding of how your London ancestors lived and how their lives were affected by the social and local history of London. Everyone researching their family history in London and building a family tree is very welcome.

Do you have the basic details for your London ancestors but wonder why they made certain choices and how they lived? This five-day Getaway programme is ideal for you.

A week-long intensive course with Else Churchill and other speakers to be announced.

Optional visits include:

- The London Archives
- Highgate Cemetery
- Brompton Cemetery

Sign up to be one of the first to know when bookings open, to receive full details of the course when available and receive our monthly newsletters.

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Society of Genealogists

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SOCIETY OF
GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

Michael Gandy's excellent article that opens this magazine takes a canter through the much broader family of Charles II, bringing to the fore the implications of the term 'legitimate'. As the aggrieved Edmund says in *King Lear*; "fine word, legitimate!", although he then closes that speech by crying "Now, gods, stand up for bastards!" - an opinion that perhaps some of the offspring Michael outlines may well have endorsed.

Of the numerous meanings contained within the word 'legitimate', two have a particular genealogical resonance. The more obvious meaning, 'conforming to the law or to rules', is useful when considering family lines. Research, on the other hand, would prefer 'able to defend with logic'. At its heart, genealogy is a ceaseless search for the truth. However, occasionally the documentation to hand is unhelpfully inconclusive. Then, as Guy Hirst says in his article on George Crosland, it may be time to apply Occam's razor; William of Ockham's 14th century philosophy is that if two explanations present themselves, it probably makes sense to go for the one that is simpler.

Occam's razor wouldn't cut the mustard as far as AI is concerned. When it can't determine the right answer, it won't say so but will instead 'hallucinate' an answer - the technical term for when AI, without flagging it, proffers a more creative response to the truth! In the recent *Family Search* conference, RootsTech, Steve Little, the inaugural AI Program Director for the National Genealogical Society, gave a fascinating talk on the development of AI and its emerging role in genealogical research. The increasing effectiveness of any new technology is usually plotted on a graph over a 5- or 10-year period, with improvements shown as an exponential line. Steve's steep-rising graph for AI effectiveness was plotted not over years but over the last 15 months.

Will AI prove to be invaluable to the genealogist? Rather than try to answer that myself, I asked one of the better-known AI platforms, ChatGPT, what it thought. It's first answer was rather long so I asked it to summarise and this is what it came up with...

Pros:

- Speeds up research by analysing large data sets quickly
- Identifies patterns and relationships humans might miss
- Improves OCR and name matching in historical records
- Translates documents in different languages
- Enhances DNA analysis for family matching and ethnicity
- Offers smart suggestions to grow family trees

Cons:

- May suggest inaccurate links due to limited or bad data
- Can lead to overreliance, skipping proper verification
- Raises privacy concerns over personal and genetic data
- Reflects historical and algorithmic bias
- Lacks human understanding of context and culture
- Often costly or limited to premium tools

I couldn't have said it better myself. Which is, I suppose, the point.

One area that will definitely not employ AI is the Society's AGM, which this year takes place on Tuesday 22nd July. I do hope that you will join us either online or, better still, in person so that you can join the reception afterwards.

Philip Spedding
CEO

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

Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 114th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society of Genealogists will be held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 6pm precisely. The meeting shall take place at Society of Genealogists, 40 Wharf Road, London, N1 7GS and online by Zoom.

BUSINESS:

1. The Auditor's Report.
2. The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees.
3. The Annual Accounts.
4. The appointment of the Auditors: In accordance with Sections 485 of the Companies Act 2006 a resolution proposing the appointment of Richard Place Dobson as auditors of the Society will be put to the Annual General Meeting.
5. CEO's report and update.
6. The appointment of Trustees of the Society.
7. To announce awards and Fellowship of the Society.
8. Any other competent business.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

All AGM documents, a proxy voting form, and links to register attendance can be found on our website from 1st June at: www.sog.org.uk/agm2025.

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Cover pictures: Main image: *King Charles II*, c.1675, by Godfrey Kneller. Inset, left to right: *Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine and Duchess of Cleveland*, c.1680, by Peter Lely. *Louise de Keroualle*, c.1670, by Henri Gascar. *'Nell' Eleanor Gwyn (Gwynne)*, c.1670, by Peter Lely. *Lucy Walter*, c.1650, by Peter Lely. *'Moll' Mary Davis*, c.1670, by Peter Lely. Public domain images sourced from Wikipedia.

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THE FAMILY OF KING CHARLES II

Michael Gandy FSG

This ought to be a very short article. As every skuleboy kno Charles II (1630-1685) married Catherine of Braganza in 1662 but they had no children. His heir was his brother James who had converted to Catholicism and, after a short reign, he was replaced by his daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange (who was also Charles's nephew, independent of the marriage). Mary had at least one miscarriage and perhaps more but there were no live births. Queen Anne, who succeeded William in 1702, was already married by the time Charles died. She had had one stillbirth and was pregnant again. She had three live children (who all died young) and many miscarriages and stillbirths but was childless at her death and the Stuart dynasty ended with her.

However, that was not the lived reality and in fact Charles had at least 13 children who were no secret and (though this is an image) ran happily round the court known to everyone. By 1685 two had already died as grown-ups - his daughter Charlotte (1650-1684), Countess of Yarmouth, and his son Charles (1657-1680), Earl of Plymouth. By the time he died (aged only 54) he had had more than a dozen grandchildren, of whom some had died as babies. There are an enormous number of descendants but this article has a cut-off date of February 1685 and I am not intending to give a complete account after that date.

There are two important (but unconnected) points to be made before I start on names and dates:

Firstly. Where there is marriage without love there will be love without marriage. This is a standard piece of wisdom always attributed to the American Benjamin Franklin, and recognises that people who have been obliged to marry but do not jell (though many people in arranged marriages in fact do) must either go without love or look for it elsewhere. The same applies to older married couples where the

love-life has died (even though there may be commitment and affection - as there certainly was between Charles and his wife).

We all know this about royal families and our middle-class lips purse with disapproval, but it is equally true in any small town where respectable people pressure their children successfully to marry 'someone like us' and the boy or girl is in love with someone 'unsuitable' but is defeated and must live with the broken heart. In films the young people often defy their parents and win through. In real-life not so much.

Secondly. Very few of our babies die and we nod sympathetically when someone says: 'I don't know how you could get over the death of a child', but our ancestors endlessly did, and just as every gathering of middle-aged women would have included eight who were pregnant so it would have included four who had lost a child in the previous couple of years. Both pregnancy and child death were too common for the women to be treated as a special case for very long. We lost a 25-year-old in the family some years ago and I was naturally upset, but a woman friend who had obviously used up her sympathy eventually said, "Well, I come from a big family so we have a death every three months". I thought it was callous of her to say so but the genealogist in me accepted that she was right.

The point here, then, is that even royal families - with all the money, the best accommodation and the best medical treatment - still lost babies hand over fist. The same major illnesses killed children equally at all levels of society.

This then is an analysis of the children and grandchildren of Charles II as they stood at his death. It is dominated by the live ones (as it should be) but the dead ones are not forgotten (as they should not be):

Children and Grandchildren

(all years are New Style)

King Charles died on 6 February 1685 aged 54. The simple state of his family at his death was as follows:

James, Duke of Monmouth, aged 35, married with three legitimate children (aged 10, 9, 8) and three illegitimate children (aged 4, 2 and very newborn; her birth date is not certain and she may in fact not quite have been born yet).

Charlotte, Countess of Yarmouth, who would have been aged 34 but had died six months before. She left a daughter of 15 by her first husband and children aged 11, 9, 3 and 2 by her second husband.

Charles FitzCharles, Earl of Plymouth, would have been 27 but had died in 1680 unmarried.

Catherine FitzRoy, aged 26, single and a bit of a mystery. Very probably a Benedictine nun in Dunkirk.

Anne FitzRoy, Countess of Sussex, aged 23, married with three children aged 8, 2 and 1 and pregnant with a fourth. The two-year-old died a month after Charles.

Charles FitzRoy, Duke of Southampton, aged 22, a young widower with no children.

Henry FitzRoy, Earl of Euston and Duke of Grafton, aged 21, married with one son.

Charlotte FitzRoy, Countess of Lichfield, aged 20 with four children (already!) and highly pregnant with another who was born eight days after Charles died.

George FitzRoy, Duke of Northumberland, aged 19 and single.

Barbara FitzRoy, aged 12, might well have been Charles's daughter but was not acknowledged by him.

Charles Beauclerk, Earl of Burford and Duke of St Albans, aged 14

[Another child - **James, Lord Beauclerk** - had died young in 1680]

Charles Lennox, 1st Duke of Richmond, aged 12 and single.

Mary Tudor aged 11 and single.

It seems odd to have to put single by such young children but some had been contracted much younger than 11.

That makes a total of 14 children (including the doubtful Barbara), of whom one had died as a child and two in adulthood. The repetition of Christian names (four Charles, two James, two Charlottes) hardly signifies as they were by different mothers. There were also 19 grandchildren.

The longer account of the children is as follows:

James, Duke of Monmouth, aged 35 and born when Charles was only 18. His mother was Lucy Walters but she died in 1658. He was married to Anne Scott in 1663 when he was barely 14. She was the Duchess of Buccleuch and he took on both her surname and title. However, they cannot have cohabited so early as their first child (Charles) was born in August 1672, ennobled as Earl of Doncaster and died in February 1674 aged 17 months. Two other children also died young and at King Charles's death James and Anne had: James aged 10; Anne aged 9; Henry aged 8.

Those who wanted to exclude Catholic James from the Succession claimed and hoped that Charles and Lucy had been married so that the Duke of Monmouth would be the legitimate and Protestant heir. It would have saved a lot of trouble, including for Charles, if it had been true but Charles repeatedly said it wasn't. It would not have threatened the legality of Charles's marriage to Catherine, as Lucy was dead before Charles came back from exile. Unfortunately James's head was turned by the possibility of being King; he led 'The Monmouth Rebellion' and his head paid the price on July 15 1685. Little Anne died a month later, on August 13 1685 aged 10.

The two boys (surnamed Scott), grew up, married and left descendants. James (b.1674) was Earl of Dalkeith and died in 1705 aged 30: Henry (b.1676) was Earl of Deloraine and died in 1730 aged 54.

James also had three children by a mistress, Eleanor Needham: they were known as Crofts (the name of a man who had been foster father to James). They were:

James, aged about 4; Henrietta aged about 2; Isabel who must have been a tiny baby and may not yet have been born. She died young.

James was a major-general in the Army and died in 1732. Henrietta married Charles Paulet, 2nd Duke of Bolton, as his third wife, and died in 1730. They had a son, Lord Nassau Powlet (1698-1741) an army officer and MP. His only daughter Isabella Powlett married John Perceval, 3rd Earl of Egmont. They had one son, the 4th Earl, and he had one son, Henry, the 5th Earl, who died in 1841 after which the title went to cousins. Wikipedia says of Henry (1796-1841): 'an alcoholic from an early age, he inherited estates heavily encumbered by debt; avoiding writs for debt shaped much of his life'.

Charlotte Jemima Henrietta Maria FitzRoy was born in 1650, another child of Charles's extreme youth. Her exact birthdate is not known but she would probably have been 34 at Charles's death, except that she herself had died six months before. Her mother, Elizabeth Killigrew who later married Francis Boyle, 1st Viscount Shannon, had died in 1680.

Charlotte married first James Howard who died in 1669 so their daughter Stuurta will have been Charles's first grandchild born before he was 40. She married second William Paston, 2nd Earl of Yarmouth, and had four children all living at Charles's death:

Stuurta Werburge (Howard), aged 15; Charles (Paston), aged 11; Charlotte, aged 9; Rebecca, aged 3; William, aged 2.

There may have been others (who died young) between Charlotte and Rebecca. Stuurta was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary. She nearly married William Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, who was 30 years older than her, but the engagement was broken off. That led to a duel between William and Stuurta's father. Stuurta died unmarried in 1706 aged presumably about 37.

Charles, Lord Paston, (b.1673) was of Oxmead Hall, Norfolk, married and had a daughter. He died in 1718 aged 45.

Lady Charlotte (b.1675) married Thomas Herne of Haveringland Hall, Norfolk, and had a son. She died in 1736 aged 61.

Lady Rebecca (b.1681) married Sir John Holland, 2nd Baronet, and had at least three children. She died in 1726 aged 35.

Hon William Paston (b.1682) was a captain in the Royal Navy and died unmarried.

Children of Catherine Pegge

Charles FitzCharles would have been 27 but had died years before in 1680. He was born in 1657, the first of two children by Catherine Pegge. He was made Earl of Plymouth in 1675 but was unmarried.

Catherine Fitzroy aged 26 (b.1658). Her mother does not figure in the later story and nor really does she. She is said to have entered the Benedictine convent at Dunkirk and lived to the age of 101 as Sister Ophelia, dying in 1759. Almost nothing is known of her - leading some to suggest that she died young. There is, of course, nothing counter-intuitive about her being a Catholic. Presumably she was never in England or part of the family circle.

Children of Barbara Villiers

At the time of his restoration and for many years afterwards Charles's mistress was Barbara Villiers (1641-1709), Countess of Castlemaine and later Duchess of Cleveland in her own right. They had five children, all living at Charles's death:

Anne, aged 23; Charles, aged 22; Henry, aged 21; Charlotte, aged 20; George, aged 19.

A later child, Barbara, born in 1672 and thus 12 at Charles's death, was probably not his and was not acknowledged by him.

Anne (Palmer) FitzRoy aged 23. There was some suggestion that Anne may have been by Barbara's husband (OMG!) but Charles acknowledged her as his.

Anne married Thomas Leonard, 1st Earl of Sussex, and died in 1722. She had two sons, who died young, and two daughters who married. She must have been only 14 when the first child was born; three were born before Charles's death:

Barbara aged 8; Charles aged 2 (he died a month after his grandfather); Henry aged 1 died in infancy

Barbara (b.1676) married Charles Skelton, a Lieutenant General in the French Army. They had no children and she died in 1741.

Anne was pregnant with another daughter when Charles died. The baby was also named Anne and grew up to marry (1) Richard Barrett-Lennard (2) Henry Roper, 8th Baron Teynham (3) Hon Robert Moore and (4) Joseph Williams. She had children by three of them.

Charles FitzRoy aged 22. He was born in 1662, created Duke of Southampton in 1675 and inherited his mother's title of Cleveland when she died in 1709. He was betrothed to Mary Wood, only child and sole heiress of Sir Henry Wood, 1st Baronet and Clerk of the Green Cloth. They married in 1679 but she died of smallpox within a few months. He was thus a young widower when his father died.

It was not until 1694 that Charles remarried Anne Pulteney, daughter of Sir William Pulteney of Misterton, Leics. They had six children and he died in 1730.

Henry FitzRoy, aged 21, He was born in 1663, created Earl of Euston (as befitted his station) in 1672 and Duke of Grafton in 1675. He married Isabella, daughter of Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington, in 1679 and they had a son Charles in 1683 who was thus one at his grandfather's death. Henry was brought up as a sailor and was Vice-Admiral of the Narrow Seas from 1685-1687. He supported his uncle James during the Monmouth rebellion but later supported William of Orange (to whom he was related via his mother). He died in 1690 of a wound received at the storming of Cork. His son was the second 2nd Duke of Grafton and Grafton Street in Dublin is named after him as is Grafton, Massachusetts.

Charlotte FitzRoy, aged 19. She was a great beauty and a great match and was contracted to Edward Henry Lee, 1st Earl of Lichfield, in 1674 (when she was nine) and married in February 1677. At Charles's death she already had four children and a fifth was born a week later.

Charlotte Lee, aged 6; Charles Lee, aged 4; Edward Lee, aged 3; James Lee, aged 2; [Francis Lee b. February 14 1685 (Charles died on February 6)].

In 1682 Charles wrote to her: "I must tell you I am glad to hear you are with child, and I hope to see you here before it be long, that I may have the satisfaction myself of telling you how much I love you, and how truly I am your kind father, Charles Rex".

Charlotte and Edward had eighteen children up to 1706. Their eldest daughter married Benedict Calvert, 4th Baron Baltimore, and had six children. However, blood will out. The young Charlotte and Lord Baltimore separated in 1705 and the following year she had an affair with Colonel Robert Fielding, then the bigamous husband of her grandmother the Duchess of Cleveland, and was rumoured to have borne a child by him, born on 23 April 1707.

The Baltimores are of course prominent in the history of Maryland.

George FitzRoy, aged 19, Earl (1674) and later Duke (1678) of Northumberland. By 1685 he had apparently been employed on secret service in Venice (why on earth?) and had become a Knight of the Garter. In 1686 he made what looks like an unimpressive marriage to Catherine Wheatley, daughter of a poulterer and widow of Thomas Lucy of Charlecote Park, Warwickshire (where Shakespeare had allegedly poached). They lived together until her death in 1714 but had no children. After a short second marriage he died in 1716 and his second wife (Duchess of Northumberland after all) lived on at Frogmore House, Windsor, and died in 1738.

Children by Nell Gwynn

Charles Beauclerk, aged 14, Earl of Burford and then Duke of St Albans in 1684.

(A second child, James Lord Beauclerk, had died in 1680.)

Barbara Villiers gets a bad press as an aristocratic slut but Nell Gwynn always gets a good press as a tart with a heart and 'the Protestant whore!' Since Charles is always said to have mentioned her on his deathbed, it is easy to imagine that they were still together, but she had been displaced many years before by Louise de Kerouaille. One imagines that Nell was actually likely to need the money but by Charles's death her son had already been granted an annual allowance of £1000 - quite enough to keep them both in oranges.

It is not clear why Charles had the surname Beauclerk rather than FitzRoy. It harks back to King Henry I who was likewise known as Beauclerc - but why?

Charles became a colonel in the 8th regiment of horse in 1687 (when he was 17). He served with the Emperor Leopold and was present at the Battle of Belgrade in 1688. Returning to England he had a perfectly good career under William of Orange but, being a Whig, was rather in the shade under Queen Anne. He was made a Knight of the Garter by George I but died (at Bath) in 1718 aged 56.

In 1694 (aged 21) he married Diana de Vere, daughter and heiress of Aubrey de Vere, 20th Earl of Oxford. She was a great beauty but yet another of these louche aristocrats with a penchant for taking lovers. She and Charles had twelve children (including an eventual Bishop). The children were fairly young when their father died but she lived until 1742 (when she was still only in her early 60s).

Son by Louise De Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth, (whose family were Breton nobles)

Charles Lennox, aged 12.

Charles Lennox, 1st Duke of Richmond, 1st Duke of Lennox (both 1675) as well as other titles (1672-1723). He was of Goodwood House near Chichester, Sussex, and predeceased his mother so her titles passed to his son. In 1692 he married Anne Brudenell, a granddaughter of the Earl of Cardigan, and they had three children:

Charles Lennox (1701-1750), 2nd Duke of Richmond and 2nd Duc d'Aubigny; Louisa who married James, 3rd Earl of Berkeley; Anne who married William, 2nd Earl of Albemarle.

By his mistress Jacqueline de Mézières, Charles Lennox had a daughter Renée who was the mistress of her sort-of cousin Charles Beauclerk, 2nd Duke of St Albans and the son of Nell Gwynn.

Charles's claim to fame is his enthusiastic patronage of the game of cricket and Goodwood is still famous (though not for cricket). Richmond County, New York, and Richmond County, Virginia, were both named after him.

Daughter by Moll Davis (Wikipedia calls her 'courtesan and actress of repute' which seems to be giving with one hand and taking away with the other).

Mary Tudor aged 11. By 1685 she was already an actress AND had an annuity of £1500.

Mary was born in 1673 and married Edward Radclyffe, 2nd Earl of Derwentwater, who died in 1705. They separated in 1700 and she next married Henry Graham of Levens and then James Rooke.

Edward was a Catholic. He and Mary had four children (James, Mary, Charles and Francis) but James, 3rd Earl of Derwentwater, and Charles, titular 5th Earl, both came out in the Jacobite Risings. James was executed in 1716 and Charles in 1746. Charles's son petitioned unsuccessfully for the return of the Derwentwater estates but succeeded his mother as Earl of Newburgh in 1755.

Conclusion

The point to take home (as they say) appears to be that under James, William and Mary, Anne, and the new Hanoverian dynasty the country was crawling with close Stuart relatives, children and grandchildren of King Charles, and widely married into the peerage. Their royal descent gave them cachet and their titles and annuities made them attractive matches though, Charles being dead, they cannot have produced any political or further financial advantage for their suitors. Nevertheless, they must have been well-known and very visible in London society and the Georges, in particular, must have had a lot of genealogical homework to do.

Michael Gandy FSG

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WORKING WITH CATHOLIC REGISTERS

If you are used to working with Anglican registers it is easy to imagine that the Catholic system worked the same way - with “proper” churches properly set up. But early Catholic buildings were often pretty hole-in-corner and were quite likely to be a rented room or even warehouse space. In the penal period they had to be inconspicuous even in the places where they were tolerated and in the urban expansion of the mid-19th century two different scenarios both produced the same effect. In some areas the new influx of Irish in the 1840s swamped the previous congregation, and both priests and premises had to be found as quickly as possible and with no money to pay for either. In the 1860s it became policy to build schools rather than churches and many missions did not get a separate church building until 20 or 30 years after the mission was established. In other areas there were almost no Catholics, and a keen priest or local family would provide occasional Mass to test the water, as it were, or in the hope of producing a congregation from converts. Sometimes this worked and sometimes it didn’t and a priest who came once a month for a little while to celebrate Mass in someone’s front room found that numbers never got worthwhile and there were just more urgent needs for the moment.

Catholic chapels which grew informally were often not dedicated for many years and chapels sometimes changed their dedication as fashions changed. Thus at one point it must be described as ‘the Catholic chapel at... then it becomes, for example, St Mary’s and later Our Lady of ... or Notre Dame de ... You must check what it was called at the date your specific event took place. Focusing on the fact that there sometimes wasn’t an actual church, you realise that another image we have may well be wrong. We picture our ancestors bringing the baby to the font to be baptised, but in some cases the priest came to the house and the entry was written into the register which he kept at his lodgings. Many family histories contain phrases like “John was born 12 Sep 1810 and baptised 15 Sep at the church of...

” and in Anglican terms that’s probably right but in Catholic terms it depends very much what sort of community we are dealing with. Later custom was for the godparents to take the baby to the church immediately for baptism; the mother didn’t go because of course she was still ‘lying-in’.

Catholic baptisms were written in Latin and that produces some anomalies, e.g. Joanna who might be Jane in England or Jean in Scotland. The most obvious is the large number of Irish-Americans called Eugene. This is not an Irish name and their parents certainly said Owen, but in America the new arrivals used the name on their (Latin) baptism certificate: - Eugenius.

Reverting to England, another error is the use of Anglican place-names to describe Catholic chapels. This is particularly common with those who have ancestors in the old registers of Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire which were deposited at the Public Record Office [now The National Archives]. Since the administrators thought in terms of Anglican parishes, every Catholic chapel is indexed under its (Anglican) geographical location which is technically but not psychologically right. This problem is compounded by the fact that many registers which are *now* known as one thing were known as something quite different when your ancestors’ names were written into them. Missions moved and early registers were often the pocket-book of the priest who took them with him. The registers of Worcester are always said to begin in 1685, and so they do, but they didn’t come to Worcester until 1720 and the entries for 1685-1720 are the personal register of Fr Ignatius Thorpe SJ, with entries in Monmouth, Gloucestershire, Kent, Northants, Essex, Flintshire, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and Dorset, so that any statement that you had ancestors “baptised at St George’s, Worcester, in 1705” would be wrong on three counts - despite a perfectly accurate printed transcript of the original.

Michael Gandy FSG

GEORGE CROSLAND:

THE MYSTERIOUS MINISTER OF MELTHAM

Guy J Hirst, MBE

I first noticed George Crosland's name when transcribing the will of Dame Mary Beaumont (née Burdett),¹ widow of Sir Thomas Beaumont (Sheffield's Royalist Deputy Governor during the Civil War). Though rare, it is not unknown for wills in the early modern period to name a hundred or more individuals. Dame Mary was the matriarch of one of the two families explored in this article and her will included mention of 94. Two names, however, attracted my particular attention:

Also I give to Mr George Crosland's Child which he had by my niece Bannister (now his wife) fifty pounds

Also I give to the Child which my niece Mrs Crosland als Bannister had in her widowhood ye sume of ffive pounds to be paid when ye sd childe attaines to ye Age of ffifteen yeares (in case itt live so long) towards ye putting itt to a Trade or Apprenticeship

This combination of names rang a bell. I realised that I had previously read of this Mrs Crosland in a history of Sandal Magna, my own native parish. The authors record a case in the Church Court at York in 1678 entitled 'Caleb Stockport, Vicar of Sandal Magna, against John Moxon, Parish Clerk, for neglect of duty':

That John Moxon is a man of very lewd life and conversation and hath committed the crime of fornication and adultery with several women and more especially hath in a boasting and bragging manner, declared that he hath had carnal knowledge of the body of Mrs Martha Bannister, now wife of Mr George Crosland, Minister of the parish church of Meltham.²

Martha, through the above will of her aunt Dame Mary, I now identified as a Burdett of Denby near Penistone and thus a member of my family tree. Here was a clergyman stepping in to redeem Martha's respectability and I now wanted to know more about him.

First I need to sketch in Martha's background. The bond for her first marriage in January 1662/3³ gives her age as 22 so it seems she was born about 1640, probably at Denby Hall near Penistone. Unfortunately, Martha was born at a very unsettled time for her family. In about 1642, her father, Richard Burdett, moved the family seat away from Denby. The Burdetts had been Lords of the Manor of Denby for 12 generations since about 1300 and the reasons for their move have never been fully explained.⁴ Shortly before the English Civil War broke out, Richard moved his family to the Levels of Hatfield Chase, a low-lying former fenland district where the counties of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire meet.

Martha spent her childhood at the family home at Austerfield. Her mother died when she was very young and when she was about eight, her father remarried a local lady, a widow with young children of her own. The marriage produced five further Burdett children.

Martha's father, Richard, died in 1661, when she was twenty. Her father's sister, (Dame) Mary, had married five years earlier Sir Thomas Beaumont of Whitley Hall, Kirkheaton, near Huddersfield. Dame Mary Beaumont's only surviving child, Rebecca, daughter of her first husband, Richard Pilkington, had long since married and moved away, and it is almost certain that, after her father's death, Martha went to live with her aunt and uncle until such time as a suitable husband could be found for her. On 24 February 1662/3, she was married at Kirkheaton to Bartholomew Bannister, a widower, 23 years her senior.

The civil war had left deep rifts in gentry society, and it is no surprise that the staunchly Royalist Beaumonts looked with favour on Bannister who, like them, had been fined for 'delinquency'.⁵

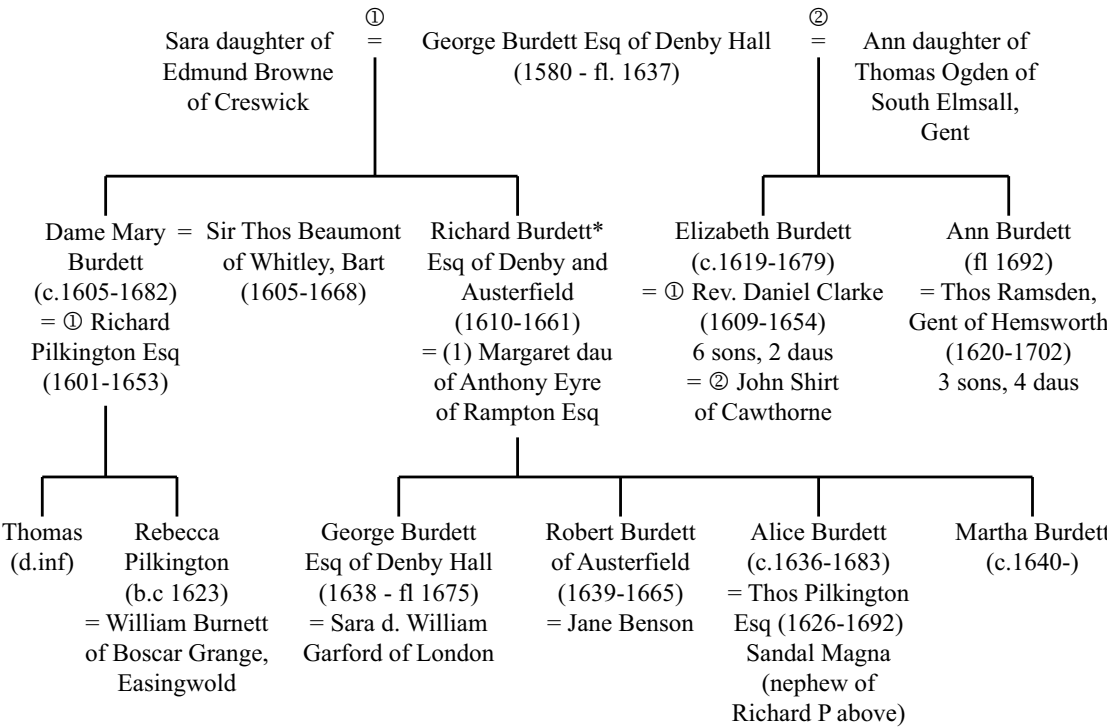
Bannister was a mercer⁶ living in Micklegate, York, and had been educated at St John's College, Cambridge.⁷ He had inherited The King's Head, an inn on York's Castlegate, from his father, Felix, and owned two coal yards in Water Lane as well as property in Coney Street in the same city. He also had connections with the West Riding.⁸

Martha and her new husband settled at Thorne near Doncaster, close to Martha's brother George,⁹ her step-mother and younger half-siblings. Their only child, John, was baptised at Thorne on 22 October 1666. The marriage may not have been a happy one as, when Bartholomew died less than two years later, he made no mention of Martha in his will,¹⁰ an omission most unusual in wills at that period. He willed his personal estate to his unmarried sister in Lancashire and gave guardianship of the infant John to Dame Mary Beaumont.

It may have been the removal of her brother George back to Denby Hall about that time which prompted Martha to leave Thorne. She and young John went to live with her sister, Alice Pilkington, at Daw Green, Sandal Magna, near Wakefield. It was there that she was unfortunate enough to encounter John Moxon, later the parish clerk.

The Scandal

As mentioned above, in 1678 the Vicar of Sandal¹¹ brought an action against Moxon in the Church Court at York¹² for 'neglect of duty'. The charges included insolence to the Vicar, failure to attend services, preaching without a licence at Cawthorne, falsifying parish register transcripts and drunkenness. However, it was the lascivious behaviour noted above that really shocked the local gentry. Not only was Martha's shame noted in open court, but the witnesses were also prominent citizens. Dr William



* [NB Richard Burdett (1610-1661) m secondly Helen (widow of William Benson and of John Smith). They had Richard (1650-1673) of Totteridge, Herts; Henry (1653-?1695) of Virginia; Sarah (1660-1725) wife of Bryan Thompson of York, Mercer(1650-1718); and Mary and Hannah who d. inf.. Helen died in 1690 and was buried at Thorne.]

Fig. 1 - Burdett of Denby

Stapylton,¹³ sometime Headmaster of Wakefield Grammar School, deposed that:

John Moxon hath confessed ... he had the carnall knowledge of the body of Mrs Martha Bannister, now wife of Mr George Crosland ... but he cannot now remember who was p'sent nor the p'ticular place ... but says it was once made by him the said Moxon at this deponent's table.

The other witness was the curate of Chapelthorpe, part of Sandal parish. Richard Milner told the Court that he:

hath heard the said John Moxon frequently boast ... that he had had carnall knowledge of severall women p'ticularly of Mrs Martha Bannister now wife of Mr George Crosland

The arrival of the 'child which my niece Mrs Crosland als Bannister had in her widowhood' confirmed the allegations. The child was born before Moxon became clerk. The parish register records that "On 21 December 1676 Mr Moxon was elected Clerk by Mr Stockport the Vicar".¹⁴ Moxon also kept an ale house, and it was probably there that Martha met him. (It is possible but unlikely that someone other than Moxon fathered the child, but it seems sensible to apply Occam's razor on that point). The name and sex of the child I have not been able to discover although the proposed apprenticeship makes a boy more likely. The child was still alive in 1682, when mentioned in Dame Mary's will, so survived the dangerous early years of infancy.

Sadly, the same could not be said of Martha's legitimate son, John Bannister. Sandal Parish Register records 'John the sonne of Bartholomew Bannister Gent buried' on 9 November 1672 shortly after his sixth birthday. Martha's sister, Alice Pilkington, had a son baptised at Sandal that same day and named him John, perhaps in memory of his cousin.

Martha and Dame Mary had been collecting the rents from Bartholomew Bannister's York and Wakefield properties and from some copyhold land in Thorne since Bartholomew's death, but at that of young John, legally intestate, the property passed to the child's heir at law: his uncle Felix Bannister Junior. Felix was not well placed to learn of his inheritance

as he lived in London and was himself very ill with an ulcer. He survived his nephew by just four months, being buried at St Giles, Cripplegate, on 7 March 1672/3. A year later Felix's widow, Frances, and her eleven year old daughter, Mary, had discovered their good fortune and brought an action in Chancery against Martha and Dame Mary to recover all of Bartholomew's property.

Enter George Crosland the Mystery Man

First appearances certainly favour George Crosland. He stepped in to marry Martha when her name had been blackened in the church courts, she had an illegitimate child to support and was being sued in Chancery for the family property.¹⁵ I was keen to learn more about this chivalrous clergyman. I soon found, however, that others had in the past also sought to sketch out Crosland's life and ministry and had been able to glean almost nothing. In 1866 there appeared the *History of the Township of Meltham near Huddersfield*¹⁶ by the then incumbent Rev'd Joseph Hughes¹⁷ and his wife Catharine. Hughes had a strong interest in the early history of his chapel which claimed to be the only new place of worship in England consecrated by an Anglican bishop during the Commonwealth period.¹⁸

Hughes had probably done preliminary research in 1851, the 200th anniversary of the founding of his church. In January 1852, the *Huddersfield Chronicle* carried a two part 'Historical Sketch of Meltham Church',¹⁹ almost certainly by him or his wife. The article states that 'the first incumbent of which there is any record was the Rev. George Crosland, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge.' The author clearly knew very little about Crosland and fell back on what he conceded was speculation and conjecture about his career. In his *History of Meltham* 14 years later, Hughes admitted that 'of this gentleman and the character of his ministrations, no tradition now exists'.²⁰

Neither could he establish George Crosland's descent:

It is probable that he was related to the Croslands of Castle House, or Castle Hill, of which family two members, George Crosland, and his nephew, John [actually his son], were successively Vicars of Almondbury.²¹

Charles Hulbert in his 1882 history of Almondbury (of which parish Meltham was a chapelry) is even more despairing. When referring to Crosland and his successor, Timothy Ellison, he laments: 'Their Memorial is perished with them.'²² Although I have found good records 'of this gentleman and the character of his ministrations', I must also admit to failing to prove beyond doubt his place in the Crosland family tree.

The Honeymoon Period

The record shows that Dame Mary Beaumont was a strong character and, following the death of her brother in 1661, she became the matriarch of the wider family. She it must have been who sought out George Crosland to rescue her niece. The Croslands and Beaumonts were very well acquainted. Dame Mary's late husband had been one of the Lords of the Manor of Almondbury and sat on the six-man governing body of the local grammar school alongside old George Crosland and then his son John, successively Vicars of All Hallows, Almondbury.²³ Most importantly Sir Thomas had been a liberal contributor to the building of Meltham Chapel in 1651.



Fig. 2 - pulpit reading desk used by George Crosland

The parish register of Meltham records that:

George Crosland, of the Holy and Undivided Trinity College, in the University of Cambridge, B.A., received the cure of souls at Meltham, the 2nd of May, 1669.²⁴

Three of the five sons of Rev'd George Crosland Senior (1572-1636) had gone from Almondbury Grammar School to Trinity College, Cambridge, where their maternal uncle, Nathaniel Taylor, was Senior Dean.²⁵ Theodore, the eldest of the three, joined his uncle as a Fellow and remained such until his death in 1665. It was during Theodore's time that young George Crosland, the subject of this account, studied at the college and he and Benjamin Greaves, a relation and fellow student,²⁶ inherited Theodore's library.²⁷

As with Martha's first husband, Dame Mary would have considered Crosland's politics and religion. Old George Crosland (d.1636) is considered to have had Puritan tendencies on the basis of the names he gave three of his children.²⁸ Theodore, on the other hand, was deprived of his college living at Bottisham in 1644 for his Royalist sympathies and high church practices.²⁹ Also, George Farrand, the Master of Almondbury School under whom young George would have studied, was an ardent Royalist.³⁰ So George would have had little difficulty demonstrating his loyalism to Martha's family.

He had obtained his BA degree in 1665 and remained in the college on a scholarship until 1668,³¹ the year before he was inducted at Meltham. It is likely he was waiting for a fellowship or a college benefice, in both of which he was to be disappointed, the death of Theodore Crosland coming at an inconvenient time. Meltham, a mere curacy in his home parish, was very much a consolation prize and George wasted no time in trying to augment his income. In the first months of his incumbency, he was censured by the Archdeacon, along with 'Richard Scolefield, parish clerk, for performing clandestine marriages at Meltham'.³² This was a misdemeanour for which George was to acquire a decided taste.

George marries Martha

George, in chivalrous guise, took out a licence on 18 July 1674 to marry Martha 'at Sandal Magna or Chapelthorpe', but the ceremony seems to have taken place in Meltham two days later. Dame Mary clearly continued to smile on the couple for some time. In 1675, she donated a silver chalice to Meltham Chapel inscribed:

Deo Sacrum et Capellae de Meltham. Ex dono pientissima D'nae Mariae Beaumonte filiae natu maxima Georgii Burdett de Denbigh Hall Armigeri 1675.³³

Martha, now Mrs Crosland, had in the meantime given answer in the Chancery case³⁴ brought by Frances and Mary Bannister. There was no hope of keeping most of the property, but Martha was able to keep the former King's Head in Castlegate, York as she was able to prove a life-interest under her marriage settlement of 27 January 1662/3. The Trustees of this were Sir Thomas Wentworth of Bretton³⁵ and two of Martha's uncles, Sir Thomas Beaumont and Thomas Ramsden of Hemsworth. It had been in disrepair at Bartholomew's death, but Martha and Dame Mary claimed to have attended to this, and the former inn, now divided into two dwellings, was worth £30 *per annum*.

Shortly afterwards, however, George began to appear in a very different light, one from which his benefactress seems to have preferred to avert her gaze.

The 'Character of his Ministrations'

It is from the Cause Papers of the York Consistory Court that we learn of George's activities in the last five years of his curacy and first six of his marriage.³⁶ Whilst John Moxon was clocking up a series of misdemeanours at Sandal, it seems

George was, if anything, outdoing him in turpitude. Poor Martha now found she had jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. George's conduct had become so unworthy of his calling that the Vicar of Almondbury, Mr Robinson, sought to have him removed from his curacy. It is possible indeed that Robinson only stayed his hand for so long because Mrs Crosland was Dame Mary's niece and the couple by now had young children.

The charges were:

[Being] Weekeley and almost daily drunke ... that you could scarce goe, speake or stand and in such Condition ... continued for [up to] ffive dayes together and ... staid ... in such Taverns, Alehouses and tipling houses att late and unseasonable hours and sometimes whole dayes and whole nights drinkeing, reveling, Quarrelling, fighting and Carousing.

[On 1st March 1675/6] were soe ... drunke ... that ... you would not be p'swaded to goe to bed but walked & staggered about the towne of Meltham all ... night and disturbed your neighbours by wailing and brawling ag't them and knocking att ther doors and breaking of the [illegible] and ... coming to the house of one John Waterhouse, one of your Neighbours, they being all in bed, did disturbe [him]and his ffamily by pulling slates of the house side and breaking them and threatening to goe into the house by force and come into the parlor window where [he] was in bed, you ...

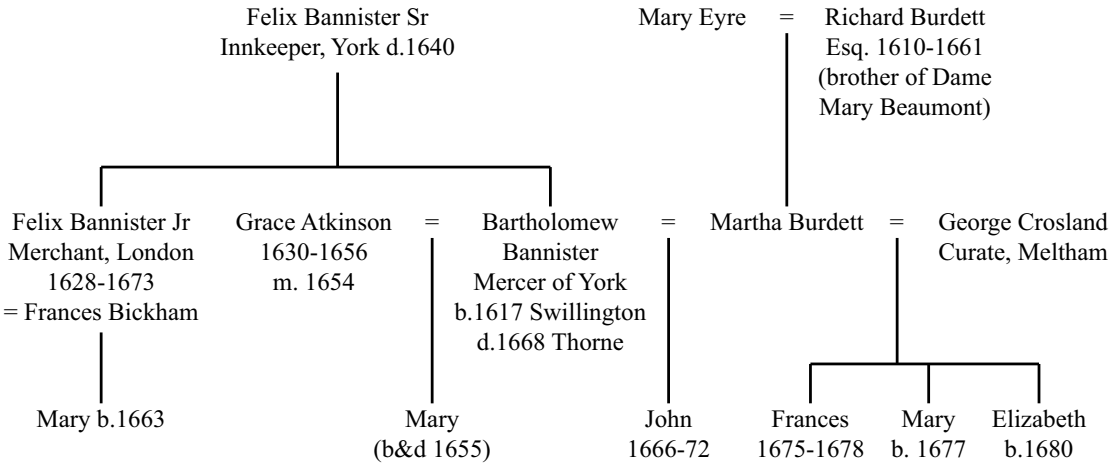


Fig. 3 - Bannister of York

broake the windowe and putt in your Arme and did beate the said John Waterhouse with your stick as he lay in bed

[Been so] drunk ... upon several, Lord's dayes that you could neither goe nor stand and Especially [one] Lord's day ... [came] at Midnight to the house of one John Berrie who kept a tipling house in Meltham and the people there being in bed and refusing to agree to sell you Ale, you broake open the doore by violence and goeing into the Roome where the Ale stood, you swore you would draw Ale your selfe and lett the rest run out if they would not rise to sell you some.

[13 June 1677] did abuse several of your neighbours being met together att an Alehouse in Meltham by throwing of Ale in ther faces and by abusive words, calling them sonnes of whoores and giving them other bad language.

[9 July 1677] so ... drunke ... that you were deprived of your sences and intellectuals and not able to goe on your feete nor stir out of the Chare where you were but was forced to be carried home by two men to Meltham.

That you [are] a contentious, Quarrelsome and litigious man ... brawleing, shouldring, flighting and chideing openly upon Sundayes and other dayes [and came] into the house of ... Godfrey Eastwood [in] Meltham and there did violently beate [him] and his wife ... and that about ffebruary 1676[7] ... being in companie of several of your neighbours ... did ... take up a paire of Tongs in your hands and beate one Henry Wilson then p'sent with the same and struck out two of his teeth and ... have several times ... in your drunken humors fallen upon your wife and beaten her ... especially ... being in Meltham the 29th day of June 1677 in companie of your said wife and some other neighbours did then & there fall a beating your said wife most shamefully until the companie were forced to part you

Other charges included his old practice of conducting clandestine marriages (by candlelight in alehouses in the small hours) and allowing what was supposed to be public penance for the sin of fornication to be performed privately in church and not at service time as required by canon law. Dame Mary would, moreover, have been upset to hear that George was now displaying Republican

tendencies by failing to read the prayers in memory of the Martyrdom of Charles I on 30 January, the Restoration of Charles II on 29 May or the thwarting of the Gunpowder Plot on 5 November. More seriously he:

neglected for all the time aforesaid to Cathechise Children and other p'sons ... in [the] Chappell of Meltham upon Sundayes and to visit [the] sick within [the] chappellrie after due notice

One final offence was relatively harmless and even rather amusing:

[A Saturday in December 1679] in the night time in an alehouse, being hired thereto by your Companions ... with 1s vid ... presumed to preach for some considerable time and would not be p'swaded from it ... and declared that for other 1s vid you would then and there preach another.³⁷

George is sacked

For the sequel we must rely on another Consistory Court case: Timothy Ellison, Curate of Meltham v John Robinson, Vicar of Almondbury, heard in 1681.³⁸ From that case we learn that Ellison was admitted to the cure of Meltham Chapel on 8 January 1681. We also know that George and Martha's youngest child, Elizabeth, was baptised at Meltham on 2 December 1680, so George probably relinquished the curacy around the end of the year. Three parishioner witnesses in the Ellison case speak of their approach to him 'as soon as it was known that the admission granted to Mr George Crosland to serve the cure at Meltham was revoked'.³⁹

Dame Mary, who by this time was living at York within a stone's throw of the Consistory Court, would have known all the details of George's case. Present in court was Dr Henry Watkinson,⁴⁰ Chancellor of the Diocese, whose wife was a personal friend of Dame Mary. Three years later, Mrs Watkinson received rather a valuable bequest in Dame Mary's will namely 'my Coach with its furniture'.⁴¹

Neither the Victorian historians nor I have been able to discover what happened to George and Martha



Fig. 4 - Sketch of George Crosland preaching in the tavern

between 1681 and 1684 but we do know they stayed together. Dame Mary's will of 1682 contains bequests of £50 to George and Martha's surviving daughter and, as we have seen, £5 to Martha's illegitimate child. 'Mrs Crosland wife of Mr Crosland, Clerk' was also included amongst the kinsfolk who received £4 to buy mourning clothes.⁴²

New Directions

George suddenly reappears in the record at Stannington Chapel, a chapel of ease for Ecclesfield parish near Sheffield, in 1684. The last-known previous curate had left in 1676, so George may have been at the chapel from an earlier date, perhaps from as early as 1681. If so, he was there unofficially. In 1685, he was presented at the archdeacon's visitation for officiating in the chapel without a licence.⁴³

The chapel had been founded in the 1650s and endowed under the will of Richard Spooone:

for and towards the maintenance of such a preaching minister... as three of the next neighbouring ministers ... and the feoffees ... should approve of for honesty of life, soundness of doctrine and diligence in preaching.⁴⁴

Crosland's signature (as the incumbent) appears on a terrier or schedule of glebe lands (sadly not dated) from which we learn that there was a house with barn, cow house and garden, three copyhold closes totalling 12 acres, yielding £7.10s. per annum and interest on £15.⁴⁵ Meagre pickings indeed.

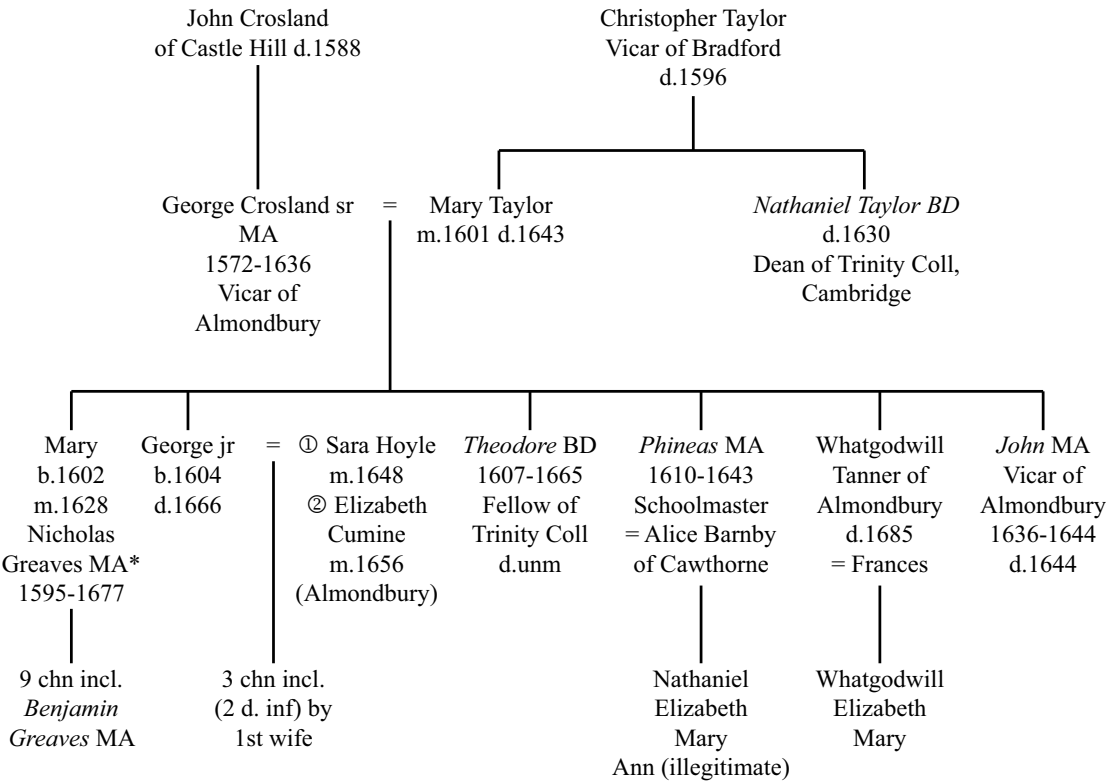
How George managed to persuade the local ministers and feoffees of his honesty of life and diligence is not clear given his record, but Stannington was an isolated moorland chapelry remote from Meltham and from York, perhaps beyond the reach of diocesan news and gossip. However George was soon to give concern as to his 'soundness of doctrine' so far as the Church of England was concerned.

The last notice of him comes from the pen of the great Yorkshire historian Joseph Hunter F.S.A.⁴⁶ In his ‘*Britannia Puritanica, or an Outline of the Various Congregations of Presbyterians and Independents which Arose after the Schism in the Church of England of 1662*’, Hunter discusses the secession of Stannington Chapel from the Church of England. He notes that George Crosland ‘was a minister in the Establishment. By his defection (? word illegible) the Church of England was deprived of this chapel and the endowments belonging to it, I am informed. But his successor,’ Hunter (a Unitarian) concludes with approval, ‘was unquestionably a Nonconformist.’⁴⁷ It seems George was still doing no favours for the Church of England.

What happened to George and Martha?

George seems to have burnt his bridges and to have been lost to history after 1689. Hughes in his *History of Meltham* says of him: ‘It is supposed that he was interred at Almondbury, the burial place of his ancestors, as no tombstone or memorial of any description marks the place of his sepulture at Meltham.’⁴⁸

It is not clear on what basis Hughes makes this statement. Almondbury Parish Register has, under 22 December 1689, ‘Georgius Crosseland villa [ie of the town] sepult’, but there were other local men of that name⁴⁹ and no clerical designation is noted.



[Names in italics denote members of Trinity College, Cambridge]
*Nicholas Greaves was headmaster of King James' Grammar School, Almondbury, from c.1615 to 1640. He was also Rector of Tankersley from 1634 to his death in 1677.⁵³

Fig. 5 - The Croslands

As for Martha, if she survived her husband, it would be reasonable to look for her in York where her jointure property lay. A Martha Crossland was buried on 13 August 1713 at Holy Trinity, Micklegate, and another Martha Crosland was buried on 29 April 1719 at St Helen, Stonegate, but neither has the designation Mrs accorded to people of higher status in those registers. So the mystery of their fate remains. There are no probate records for either of these ladies. There is a burial entry in the register for St John's, Micklegate, York on 18 May 1714 for 'Mr Crosland, a Clargeman' but this turns out to be Thomas Crosland (1661-1714), Rector of Kirk Bramwith (a distant cousin of George).

What then of the mystery of George's origins? John Venn in his *Alumni Cantabrigiensis* cites Hughes' *History of Meltham* on this.⁵⁰ Hughes says, 'It is probable that he was related to the Croslands of Castle House, or Castle Hill, of which family two members, George Crosland, and his nephew [*sic*], John, were successively Vicars of Almondbury.'⁵¹ This, to my mind is convincing. It was this particular family of Croslands that Martha's uncle and aunt knew. Secondly, George's first cure was in a chapelry of Almondbury and, lastly, there is the family connection with Trinity, Cambridge, and George's mention in Theodore's will.⁵²

So who was George?

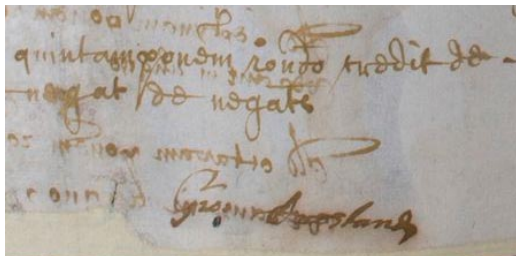


Fig. 6 - George's signature

If George was, as I believe, a grandson of George Crosland sr (1572-1636), Vicar of Almondbury, something can be done by process of elimination. Fortunately the wills of George sr's widow, Mary, and his son, Theodore, have survived and, between them, we can identify and account for all the children of Phineas and Whatgodwill, two of Theodore's brothers. Since Theodore was unmarried and

apparently childless, we are left with George jr and John as potential parents of young George, the subject of this account. George jr's first marriage was too late to have produced young George. If there was not an earlier marriage that I have not found, then John Crosland, Vicar of Almondbury, must have been the father. Unfortunately, nothing seems to be known of his marriage (if any) or children. Had John been the father, he would have died when young George was an infant needing the protection of one or other of his layman uncles in Almondbury.⁵³

The variegated story of the nefarious George Crosland illustrates the limitations of genealogy for the 17th century. I have found neither the details of his birth nor his death, but his career and the 'character of his ministrations' are now no secret to us.

Notes

1. Will dated 7 October 1682, Codicil 2 November 1682. (Borthwick Institute: Dame Mary Beaumont May 1688 York (D/C Vacancy) Will MF 1820).
2. Borthwick Institute for Archives, CPH.3322, cited in B. Andrassy and M. Ingham, *Sandal Magna, A Yorkshire Parish and its People*, (Bradford: Eagle Graphics, 1978), pp.4-5.
3. Borthwick Institute for Archives, Archbishop of York Marriage Licences Index, 1613-1839.
4. See Chris Heath, *Denby and District*, Volume I, (Barnsley: Wharnccliffe Books, 2001), pp.74-75.
5. Yorkshire Royalist Composition Papers, Vol III, *Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series* Vol XX, (London. 1896), p.48. 'Delinquent' was a term used by the Parliamentarians to refer to Royalist sympathisers.
6. Admitted to Company of Merchant Adventurers of York, 1650. See D.M.Smith (ed.), *The Company of Merchant Adventurers in the City of York: Register of Admissions 1581-1835*, (York: University of York, 1996), p.4.
7. J.E.B. Mayor and R.F.Scott, (eds), *Admissions to the College of St John the Evangelist in the University of Cambridge*, (Cambridge, 1882), p.16.
8. *Bartholomaeus filius ffaelicis Bannister* (Bartholomew son of Felix Bannister) was baptised 25 November 1617 at St Mary, Swillington, near Leeds. He also owned property at Northgate in Wakefield.
9. George Burdett only returned to the old family seat of Denby Hall at a later date (see n.4 above).
10. Borthwick Institute, York, Will of Bartholomew Banister 9 October 1668 Thorne, Vol. 49 Fol. 99. Under the Custom of the Province of York, the widow got one third of the personal estate as of right. Bartholomew must have known he could not deprive Martha, so it is particularly odd that he did not mention her.

11. Caleb Stockport (1638-1679). Vicar of Sandal Magna from 1668.
12. Borthwick Institute for Archives, CPH.3322.
13. Rev. William Stapylton DD of Wakefield (1632-1693).
14. In the Cause paper of July 1678, Moxon was said to have been Clerk for 'four years last past & more'. Martha Bannister married George Crosland on 18 July 1674. Moxon survived as Clerk. He married at Sandal on 1 August 1677 to Mary Pearson, with whom according to the Cause paper he lived 'in an unchristian and unbecoming manner'. He was buried at Sandal 29 January 1712/3 as 'Mr John Moxon, Parish Clerk of Sandal'.
15. Frances Bannister's bill was dated 22 May 1674 and Crosland married Martha on 18 July following.
16. Joseph Hughes, ed. with additions by Catharine Hughes, *History of the Township of Meltham near Huddersfield* (London: 1866). Henceforth *History of Meltham*. While Joseph is the named author, his wife Catherine is known to have made a major contribution to the *History*.
17. Joseph Hughes (1803-1868), curate of Meltham from 1843.
18. 24 August 1651 by Henry Tilson, former Bishop of Elphin in Ireland, living in exile near Dewsbury.
19. *Huddersfield Chronicle*, 31 January 1852.
20. *History of Meltham*, p.40.
21. *Ibid*.
22. C.A Hulbert. *Annals of the Church and Parish of Almondbury, Yorkshire* (London, 1882), p.344
23. T. Dyson, *Almondbury and its Ancient School – the History of King James' Grammar School, Almondbury*, (Huddersfield, 1926), p.63.
24. Translation from the original Latin.
25. Nathaniel Taylor (1568-1630), son of Christopher Taylor, Vicar of Bradford.
26. Benjamin Greaves (1644-1723), Vicar of Brodsworth, son of Mary Crosland and Rev Nicholas Greaves (1595-1677), Master of Almondbury Grammar School 1615-1640, and Rector of Tankersley.
27. Cambridgeshire Archives – Will of Theodore Crosland, Vice-Chancellor's Court, Vol. 4 Fol. 66.
28. See G. Redmonds, *Christian Names in Local and Family History*, (Richmond, Surrey: The National Archives, 2004), p.155.
29. M. Spufford, *Contrasting Communities: English Villages in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974), p.236.
30. Dyson *op. cit.*, pp.108-9. Rev. George Farrand was Master from 1640 to his death in 1680.
31. Trinity College, Senior Bursar's Account Books 1664 to Lady Day 1668, held in the library of Trinity College. I thank the current librarian, Adam Green, for providing this information (personal communication 16 Aug 2023).
32. J. Addy, *The Archdeacon and Ecclesiastical Discipline in Yorkshire, 1598-1714: Clergy and Churchwardens*, (York: Borthwick Institute, 1963), p.17.
33. 'Dedicated to God and the chapel at Meltham. The most pious gift of Dame Mary Beaumont, eldest daughter of George Burdett Esq. of Denby Hall, 1675.'
34. The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, Banister v Banister, Court of Chancery, Six Clerks' Office, C 10/125/6.
35. Sir Thomas Wentworth, 1st Baronet died 5 December 1675. He and Thomas Ramsden were alive at the time of the Chancery case had there been need to prove the settlement deed. Ramsden died in 1702.
36. Office v Crosland, 1680, Borthwick Institute for Archives, CPH.4869.
37. Thomas Campinott, the parish clerk, deposed that the text was from Psalms, but he could not recall which!
38. Borthwick Institute for Archives, CPH.3500.
39. *Ibid*.
40. Henry Watkinson LLD (1628-1712), Chancellor of York Diocese for 39 years.
41. Will of Dame Mary Beaumont, 27 October 1682, West Yorkshire Archives, DD/WB/15/56.
42. *Ibid*.
43. J.Eastwood, *A History of the Parish of Ecclesfield in the County of York*, (London, 1862), p. 486.
44. *Ibid.*, p.486
45. *Parliamentary Papers: 1850-1908*, Volume 64, (HMSO, London), 1894, p.86.
46. See J.M.A. Gunn, 'Reverend Joseph Hunter', *Genealogists' Magazine*, Volume 28, Number 5, March 2005, p.196.
47. BM Additional Manuscript 24,484. See W.H.Burgess, *Re Hunter's Manuscript*, (London: Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society, 1943), p.62. His successor Abraham Dawson ministered from 1689.
48. *History of Meltham*, p.41.
49. Baptised 1625, 1629 and 1643 at Almondbury.
50. *Alumni Cantabrigiensis: a biographical list of all known students, graduates and holders of office at the University of Cambridge from the earliest times to 1900*. Part 1. *From the earliest times to 1751*, compiled by John Venn and J.A. Venn, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1922), p.425.
51. See n. 47 *supra*.
52. He is described as 'Sr [Sir] Crosland', Sr designating a BA in the college, and the Trinity librarian confirms that this can only have been our George at the relevant date, he being the only other Crosland in residence other than Theodore (personal communication, 16 Aug 2023).
53. George did name his eldest child Frances in 1675 which was the name of Whatgodwill's wife who had died in 1673, the year before his marriage.

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TEARLE v FOULIS

BREACH OF PROMISE - 17TH CENTURY STYLE

Barbara Tearle

The 16th and 17th centuries are known for a socially upwardly-mobile population. People at all levels of society were trying to improve their families' circumstances through education, royal service in the burgeoning civil service, landholding, trade or marriage. This is an account of Frances Tearle, from a lower gentry family in early 17th century Bedfordshire, who came into contact with Henry Foulis, the son of a Jacobean courtier, and their abortive romance.¹ Frances is only mentioned in three documents and this article demonstrates how much can be reconstructed from an unpromising lack of sources.

Frances Tearle's origins

The Tearles came from Stanbridge, a small village on the outskirts of Leighton Buzzard in south-west Bedfordshire, where they had farmed since the mid-15th century. During the 16th century they had gradually accumulated land and, although calling themselves husbandmen, their status was sufficient for the daughters to have marriage partners at some distance from the village and for some sons in each generation to move away to property elsewhere. They were following the trend of so many ambitious families in the 16th century.

One son who moved away was Thomas Tearle, born about 1540,² who moved to Wootton, a parish near Bedford (part of which in the 20th century became the site of the London Brick Co. and the civil parish of Stewartby). In Thomas's day, Wootton was a parish of dispersed settlements, several manors and good farming land. Thomas married Margaret Stoughton of Wootton in the 1560s. Her family were higher on the social ladder than his, referring to themselves as yeomen and having family connections in Leighton Buzzard (Bedfordshire), St Albans (Hertfordshire) and Huntingdonshire during the 16th and 17th centuries. Thomas was a party to several property transactions during the next forty

years, sometimes with Margaret and later with his son John, including the purchase of the manor of Rowsbery Pilling in Wootton in 1588. Thomas was clearly having success in his upward path through marriage and property.

Thomas and Margaret had at least one and possibly two children. John was baptised in Wootton on 1 February 1567/8; and Ann was buried there on 30 May 1570. The record of her baptism has not survived and the burial does not identify her parents. As there were no other Tearles in the parish, she was probably Thomas and Margaret's daughter.

Margaret's brother John Stoughton died in 1587, leaving 20s to his nephew John Tearle to buy a colt and a gold angel for remembrance to his sister Margaret Tearle, who was one of the witnesses to his will.³ The bequest to John was of far greater value than the usual bequests to children of a ewe and a lamb to start up their own flock: it was a gift to a young man who was going to make his way in the world and indicates the status of the giver and recipient.

Thomas Tearle last appears in the documentary record giving a deposition in London on 21 April 1600.⁴ He is probably the 'Thomas Tarle a stranger' who was buried in St Michael's, St Alban's (Hertfordshire) on 27 April 1600, presumably on his way home from London. Margaret Tearle, a widow, buried at Barnet on 14 July 1612, may have been his widow, as there is no-one else of that name and status with whom the burial can be identified.

Within a few years of the bequest from his uncle, John Tearle married Judith FitzGeoffrey in Wootton on 1 March 1589/90. Judith was the daughter of a lesser gentry family based at the manor of Creakers in Great Barford in north-east Bedfordshire and with connections elsewhere in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and London. The combination of the

FitzGeoffreys' status and John's youth (22), when the average age for men to marry in the 16th century is taken to be 27, suggests that this was an arranged marriage for social advancement on the Tearles' side.

During the 1590s, John is frequently found with his father Thomas in property transactions concerning the manor of Rowsbery. It is not clear where John and Judith and their family lived, although he may have retained land in Wootton after his father disposed of the manor. Possibly they moved from Wootton to Northampton as he and Judith were buried in Northampton in 1617 and their daughter Judith married there a few months later.

The survival of the parish registers of Wootton and surrounding parishes is patchy for this period. From the extant registers together with wills and other documents, it is possible to work out that John and Judith had five children:

- Thomas, baptised in Wootton on 20 February 1590/1;
- Elizabeth, baptised in Wootton on 12 August 1593;
- Margaret, baptised in Wootton on 13 July 1595;
- Judith, whose baptism has not been found;
- Frances, whose baptism has not been found.

Nothing is known of the first three children, although Elizabeth might be the Elizabeth Terle singlewoman who was buried at Woburn on 24 April 1611.

Judith was probably born in the latter half of the 1590s based on the date of her marriage to Samuel Symmonds at All Saints, Northampton, on 10 August 1617.⁵ Symmonds families in and around Northampton were engaged in trade as millers and plumbers, although no connection between them and Samuel has yet emerged. Samuel was described at the baptism of his first child as a bailiff, although for whom is not stated. Samuel and Judith had two children, Henry baptised at All Saints, Northampton, on 8 November 1618 and Margaret at St Sepulchre's two years later.⁶

Frances Tearle of Wootton

The last of John and Judith's children was Frances. Her date of birth is unknown and will be discussed later.

The evidence for her existence comes from two documents: the will of her uncle in 1618⁷ and a case she brought in the Court of Chancery in 1637.⁸ From these documents a tantalising picture of incidents in her life can be reconstructed.

Her uncle was Sir George FitzGeoffrey of Creakers in Great Barford (Bedfordshire), who was knighted in 1607 at Royston, where James I had a hunting lodge.⁹ (His knighthood was not to reward any special service or position in society. He was one of many men who was 'invited' to take up knighthood on pain of heavy fines if he did not.) His will was made in 1618 and proved in 1619.¹⁰ He left a legacy to 'my kinswoman Frances Tearle my sisters daughter' to be paid to her within 6 months after his death. Unfortunately the unit of currency has been omitted in the PCC copy of the will; it was either £20 or 20s. Given its position in the sequence of his legacies, it is likely to have been £20.

Normally, mention in a will like this would merely confirm a person's existence, the amount of the legacy and a relationship within a family group. However, Sir George's will was not entirely standard and more may be deduced. Sir George made substantial provision for three sons, four daughters and his wife and smaller legacies to three other people. The will ignored two other sons (one was dead; the other was a student at Lincoln's Inn), one other daughter (who was already married), his daughter-in-law and his infant grandson, who inherited his lands. He did not even leave them a nominal sum as a token of remembrance, which was normal at that time to show that they were not forgotten when provision had been made for them during the testator's lifetime. The three other legatees were Frances Tearle, his 'kinsman' George FitzGeoffrey 'in respect of his lameness' and Mistress Scroggs. His will could be interpreted as making provision for those people to whom he felt an obligation, i.e. his children for whom no provision had as yet been made, his wife, a lame kinsman and two dependents.

If this interpretation is correct, Sir George felt a duty to Frances. It may mean that she had been left to his guardianship on the death of her parents in 1617 and possibly that she was living in his household at Creakers. It is possible that she

remained in the household of Sir George's widow after his death or went to another household in the FitzGeoffreys' circle of friends or family.

This is speculation. What is fact, based on her bill of complaint in the Chancery case, is that at sometime by the late 1620s Frances had met a young man called Henry Foulis.¹¹

Henry Foulis and his circle

Henry was the son of Sir David Foulis of Ingleby Greenhow in Yorkshire, who had been a Scottish royal court official and politician. David Foulis was sent on missions to England for James VI of Scotland during the 1590s; came south with him in 1603 and was knighted; was naturalized in 1605;¹² was cofferer to Prince Henry and then to Prince Charles (later Charles I); described as a private secretary to the king;¹³ a commissioner of the peace in Yorkshire; member of the Council of the North and deputy lieutenant of Yorkshire. He had connections with the south of England, having married Cordelia, daughter of William Fleetwood of Great Missenden (Buckinghamshire), sergeant-at-law and recorder of London.¹⁴ Their son Henry was born in 1607 or 1608; he matriculated at Magdalene Hall, Oxford, on 28 January 1624/5 aged 17¹⁵ and was admitted to the Middle Temple on 17 February 1626/7, the same day as John Fleetwood son of William Fleetwood of Great Missenden, probably his cousin.¹⁶

According to her own account, Henry courted Frances for about three years and asked her to marry him early in their relationship. She doubted that his father knew or would approve and persuaded Henry to break off his courtship until he had obtained his father's consent. Henry swore he would not marry anyone else. Soon after this, in 1629 or 1630 he was abroad for several months and Frances thought that he had given up his intention of marrying her.¹⁷ However, on his return he renewed his suit, and saw her frequently 'following and pursuing her from place to place', as she expressed it. She alleged that he claimed he would obtain his father's consent. He might get 'a great Lord' to intervene and persuade his father to allow the marriage and to settle lands to the value of £500 pa on him. In time Frances agreed to marry him and

they set a date for the wedding. Henry convinced her not to tell his father until he had persuaded him. Then he went to Yorkshire, promising to return by the date agreed for the wedding.

But Henry did not return and Frances heard that he was to marry someone else. She wrote to him charging him with this and he replied that he only wanted to marry her. However in July 1632 he married Mary Layton, the daughter of Sir Thomas Layton of Sexhowe, North Riding, and sheriff of Yorkshire.¹⁸

It was almost certainly an arranged marriage to cement a local political alliance between the families. Indeed, Henry claimed that he was forced into the marriage and was ashamed of himself. In recompense he offered the amount of the marriage portion, i.e. £500, or an annuity of £100. As token that he intended to fulfil this promise, he sent Frances £40. He asked her 'and her friends' to keep the affair secret, claiming that if she talked about it or brought a case against him, it would 'undo' him.

These negotiations took some time and eventually Henry said he could not fulfil his promise of money or an annuity because his father's lands were under an extent after a case in the Court of Star Chamber but he would make good his promise when he had regained the lands.¹⁹ The case he referred to was a *cause célèbre*, hitting at the heart of the King's personal rule. It was heard on 29 November 1633 when Sir David Foulis, his son Henry, and Sir Thomas Layton appeared in the Court of Star Chamber charged with opposing the king's service, slandering the Lord President of the North (Viscount Wentworth) and treating the court at York with contempt.²⁰ This was the culmination of a long dispute between Wentworth and Sir David Foulis centring on allegations of financial misconduct.

The case was decided on 30 November 1633. The case against Layton was dismissed. Sir David Foulis was ordered to pay a fine of £5000 to the crown and damages of £3000 to Wentworth. He was dismissed from all his offices; ordered to acknowledge his offence in the court of York and at York assizes; and sent to the Fleet prison during His Majesty's pleasure. Henry Foulis was fined £500 and a further £1000.²¹ Sir David was allowed

to leave the Fleet in July 1636 due to plague in London, returning in mid-1637. About this time, in June 1637, fines imposed by the Star Chamber between 1631 and 1637 on several people, including Sir David and Henry, were respited.²² This general order was repeated in July 1640.²³ The first order in 1637 did not include Sir David's release from the Fleet as he wrote to Secretary Windebank on 6 August 1639 asking to be discharged from the Fleet and protesting his loyalty. He was finally released and later testified in the trial of Wentworth (by then the Earl of Strafford) in 1641. Sir David died in 1642.

The dispute *Tearle v Foulis*²⁴

These events help to explain Henry Foulis's delay in making good his promise of financial compensation to Frances. At Easter in (probably) 1635 Henry and Frances's 'friends' met and agreed that in the next law term (Trinity) Henry would pay her £30 and an annuity of £50 in return for which she would return his letters and agree not to litigate. He agreed to bind himself in £500 to do this. Frances alleged that Henry refused to pay the sum and the annuity or sign the bond. In her bill of complaint of 18 November 1637, she claimed that although the lands had been released from the extent for about three years, Henry had still not fulfilled his promise.

Eventually she litigated in the Court of Chancery to obtain the fixed sum and an annuity. She failed to present the bill of complaint in good time and was fined 33s.4d. in November for the delay.²⁵ The outcome of the case is not recorded, as appears to be common with Court of Chancery proceedings. Many were no doubt settled out of court, the case being a catalyst to prompt the defendant to come to terms.

And this is the end of the story of Frances Tearle. There are no surviving records for a marriage, children or death nor for any other events in her life.

Henry Foulis went on to command a regiment of horse in Fairfax's army in Yorkshire on the Parliamentary side in the civil war. He died in 1643, only a year after his father, leaving a widow, several children and debts.

Questions about her life

Can more about Frances and her life be gleaned from these three documents, beyond the statements and allegations, which are her side of the story?

At the beginning of this account of Frances' life it was noted that her baptism has not survived and her date of birth is unknown.

Do the documents throw any light on her possible date of birth? The initial speculation might be that she was about the same age as Henry Foulis, which would give her a date of birth of 1607 or thereabouts. However that would make her a late birth to John and Judith Tearle, nearly ten years after the previous child. It is certainly possible but the wording of Sir George FitzGeoffrey's will suggests that she was older. He refers to her as his 'kinswoman' which is a term more likely to be used for an adult than a child. He also makes the bequest outright, without it being held for her until she reached the age of 21 or married whichever happened first, the usual formula for bequests to minors and females. Taking these two points together, it can be argued that Frances was at least 18 when Sir George made his will in 1618. This suggests a date of birth in 1600 or earlier, which would fit in better with the known or inferred dates of birth of her siblings (1591 to the mid or late 1590s). If this analysis is correct, Frances was about seven or eight years older than Henry Foulis.

The Chancery bill of complaint also prompts questions, if not answers, that might be indicators of Frances' life.

In the bill, she refers to letters, mainly his to her but also sending a messenger to him with *her* letters, indicating that Frances could both read and write and afford to send messengers (or lived in a household that did so). She also refers to her father as a gentleman, probably inflating his position but demonstrating her aspirations to present him as above yeoman status. These tend to confirm her place in an educated section of society.

A young woman of 'good family' (or any background) orphaned at about eighteen would not have been living on her own. With whom was she

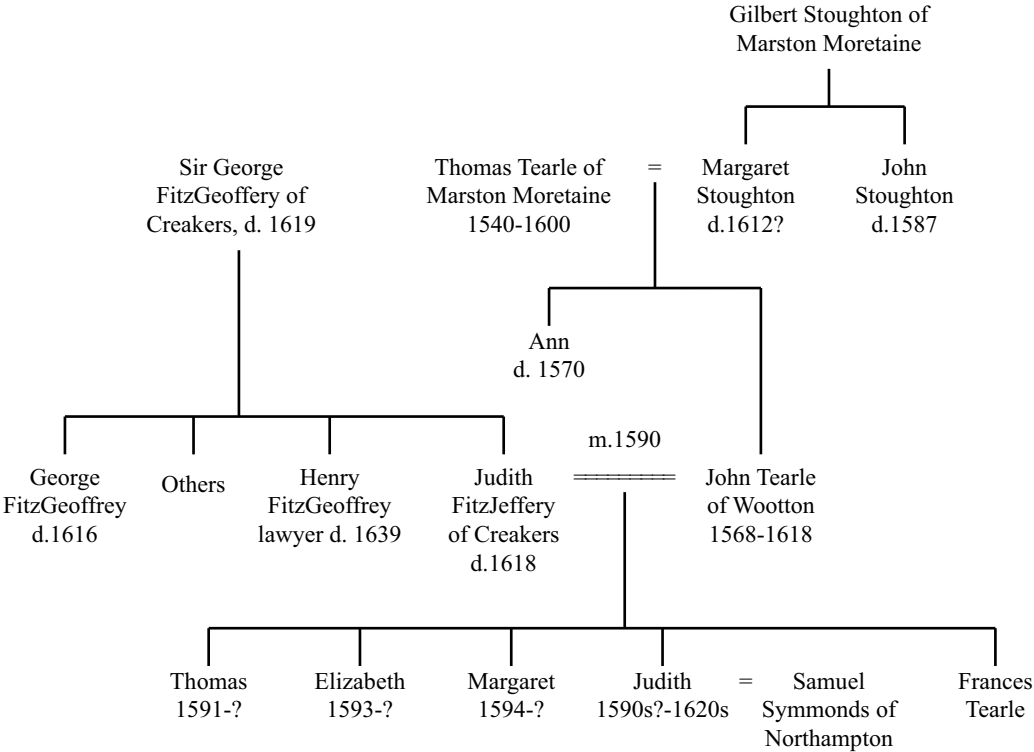


Fig. 1 - Frances Tearle's family

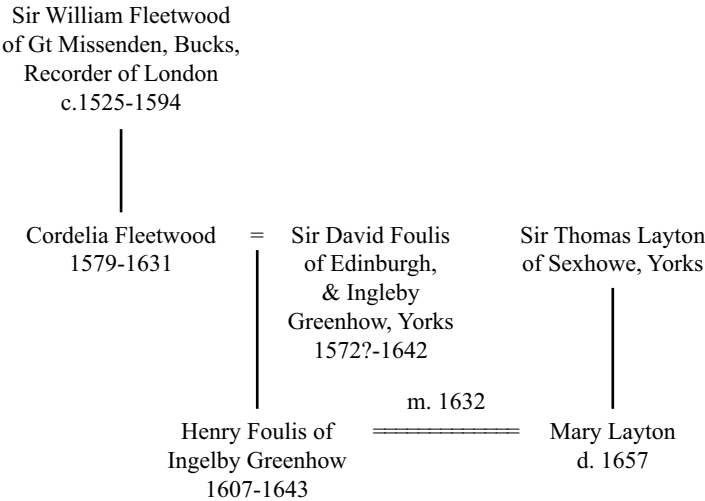


Fig. 2 - Henry Foulis' family

living? In the bill of complaint she described herself as one of the daughters and co-heirs of her father John Tearle, suggesting that one or more of her sisters was alive, although not her brother. Was she living with one of her sisters or a Stoughton relation? Could the bequest from Sir George FitzGeoffrey mean that she was living in his household or that of a FitzGeoffrey connection? If so, where did she go after his death? Did she remain in his widow's household or move to another connection of her parents' families? What social and financial level in society would her hosts or employers have occupied to enable her to meet the son of a senior courtier?

Frances and Henry moved in very different social circles - she was attached to the lesser gentry in north Bedfordshire; he was the son of a royal official and Yorkshire magnate. What was his social circle and who would he have visited in the south of England where he might have met Frances? The nearest geographical connection seems to be through his mother, Cordelia Fleetwood from Great Missenden about forty miles from Wootton and Creakers (both a few miles outside Bedford). Great Missenden or other houses in the area could have been a stopping place for him on his travels to and from London, Oxford and Yorkshire. He might also have visited friends from his time at Oxford University and the Middle Temple and his family would have had many contacts in London. Where was the common meeting point?

What financial band would Frances have occupied to be able to commence an action in the King's courts? The 16th and 17th centuries were highly litigious times and it has been claimed that the cost of commencing an action was not great - 'only a few shillings'.²⁶ If this held good for litigation in Chancery in the 1630s and Frances' social circle was of reasonable means, the cost of the case ought not to have been a barrier. The lawyer whose name is at the foot of the bill of complaint was William South but it is possible that she had expert advice from her cousin, Henry FitzGeoffrey, the son of Sir George FitzGeoffrey, who was a lawyer practising in the King's courts.²⁷ He may well have been one of the 'friends' who negotiated on her behalf.

Conclusion

The story that emerges from the little evidence of Frances Tearle's life together with the questions it raises is intriguing. It presents insights to the reality of social mobility. It adds evidence to the role of women in litigation. It provides a footnote to the careers of Henry Foulis and his father Sir David. Not least, the case in the central courts enables so much information to be added to Frances's otherwise scarcely documented life. Meanwhile the search for documentation to fill in the early gaps in her life and to discover what happened to her after her disappointed matrimonial adventure continues.

Notes

1. The main surnames in this article, Tearle, Foulis and FitzGeoffrey, were spelt in many ways in the 17th century. Standard spellings have been adopted for this article except where they occur as direct quotations.
2. In a deposition in 1601, he is described as 62, crossed out and 57 'or thereabouts' substituted (TNA, Bedells v Bedells C24/273).
3. Will of John Stoughton of Marston Moretaine, proved 1587 (TNA, PROB11/70/437).
4. Bedells v Bedells (TNA, C24/273).
5. Samuel Symmonds should not be confused with the Essex man of that name who went to Massachusetts in the 1620s or 30s.
6. Parish registers of All Saints and St Sepulchre, Northampton.
7. Sir George FitzGeoffrey of Creakers, Great Barford (Bedfordshire) proved 1619 (TNA, PROB11/133/494).
8. Tearle v Fowlis (TNA, C 2/Chas1/T11/30).
9. Knighted at Royston (Hertfordshire) in March 1606/7 (William A Shaw, *The Knights of England* (London, Sherratt and Hughes, 1906), vol. 2, p. 141), where the royal court was in late March (*Calendar of the Cecil Papers at Hatfield House*, vol. 19, 1607).
10. TNA, PROB11/133/494.
11. Her bill of complaint in Tearle v Fowlis, TNA C 2/Chas1/T11/30.
12. Private Act, 3 James I, c.22.
13. Lambeth Palace Library, Shrewsbury Papers, fol. 23, nd.
14. 'Sir David Foulis, first baronet' by Fiona Pogson, 2004, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.
15. *Alumni Oxonienses 1500-1714*, ed. Joseph Foster (Oxford, 1891).
16. *Register of Admissions to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple*, by H. A. C. Sturgess (Middle Temple and Butterworths, 1949), vol. 1, p.118.
17. On 30 November 1629 a pass was issued for Henry Fowles, esq., and one servant to travel for 3 years, provided they did not go to Rome (*Acts of the Privy Council, May 1629-May 1630*, p.193).

18. A marriage licence for Henry Foulis and Mary Layton was issued by the Archdeacons of York during 1632 for them to marry in either Ingleby or Hutton (*Paver's Marriage Licences* (1909). Yorkshire Archaeological Society, vol. 40, p.12). The marriage took place in Hutton Rudby, near her home.
19. A writ of extent was issued by the Exchequer for an inquisition into the lands and goods of a debtor to the Crown.
20. 29-30 November 1633, *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Charles I 1633-1634*, p.303.
21. *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Charles I 1633-1634*, p.306.
22. *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Charles I 1637*, p. 260.
23. *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Charles I 1639*, p.437; *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Charles I 1640*, p.542.
24. *Tearle v Fowlis*, TNA C 2/Chas I/T11/30.
25. TNA, C 33/174 fol. 171 Decrees and Orders. http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no174/bC33no174v/IMG_0174.htm
26. Christopher Wilson Brooks, *Lawyers, Litigation, and English Society since 1450* (London, Hambledon, 1998), p.16, 85-6, talking about the common law courts, not Chancery. Fees listed in William Tothill, *The Transactions of the High Court of Chancery ... with the fees thereunto belonging ...* 2nd ed. (London, 1649) are for a few pence or shillings for each stage of an action.
27. Will of Henry FitzJefferye of London, proved 1640 (TNA PROB 11/182/412).

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GRAVE SEARCH – ELLA SOPHIA RAFFLES (1821-1840)

Martyn Webster

This essay seeks to address a hitherto unaccounted for story in my search for the last resting place of Ella Sophia Raffles. She was the fourth child, second of three daughters and only surviving of the five children of Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles (1781-1826) and his second wife Lady Sophia, née Hull, (1786-1858) the other four having died tragically in early infancy.

She was born on 25 May 1821 at Fort Marlborough, Bencoolen, Sumatra (now Bengkulu, Indonesia) and died on 5 May 1840 at the age of 19 years at 59, The Marina, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, England.

Her father, Sir Stamford Raffles, born at sea on 6 July 1781 off Jamaica, son of a sea captain, was an East India Company administrator and governor of the Dutch East Indies between 1811-1816 at Batavia (now Jakarta) at that time under British control. He is best remembered as the subsequent founder of the port city state of Singapore in 1819. His actions secured British access for trade across the Malacca Straits and nearby seas in the region and was largely responsible for the creation of Britain's Far Eastern empire. For all this he was knighted in 1816. Between 1818-1824 he was lieutenant-governor of Fort Marlborough at Bencoolen which remained, until 1824, a British enclave possession within the Dutch East Indies on the west coast of Sumatra. He was a keen observer, naturalist and explorer writing a definitive *History of Java* in 1817 and founded the London Zoological Society. His collections are held both at the Society and the British Museum. He gave his name to two fine statues, one in Westminster Abbey and the other in Singapore, also of course to the famous hotel in Singapore, and now the newly opened OWO Raffles Hotel at the former War Office, Whitehall, London. He died the day before his 45th birthday on 5 July 1826 at his home Highwood, Mill Hill, in rural north Middlesex and is buried within the

parish church of St Mary, at nearby Hendon where his grave slab has recently been renovated.

Ella Sophia Raffles' mother, Lady Raffles was born Sophia Hull in London on 5 May 1786, a daughter of the large family of an East India Company factor, who together with his wife were of Anglo-Irish background. She married Sir Stamford at the New Parish Church, Marylebone on 22 February 1817. She was 30 years of age, spinster, and he 35, widower and childless, his much loved first wife Olivia Marianne, formerly Fancourt née Devenish, having died on 26 November 1814 aged 43 years and was buried at the Buitenzorg Dutch hill station outside Batavia with an elaborate tomb surviving to this day in the now local botanical gardens. Lady Sophia Raffles survived the death of her husband by 32 years and died aged 72 years on 12 December 1858. She was buried surprisingly not with her deceased husband, but at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, with a large copestone with still legible inscription close by the church walls. The Findagrave website has details and photos of this and Sir Stamford's respective graves.

Both wives of Sir Stamford had been his doughty beloved companions on many challenging expeditions of exploration in Java and Sumatra where they were observed by the local peoples as extraordinary phenomena being the first white-skinned females ever witnessed there in the interior. Even more so when Sir Stamford and Lady Sophia were shipwrecked off the coast of Sumatra on 2 February 1824 by the sinking of their ship the *Fame* following a disastrous explosion and fire which destroyed all of Raffles' irreplaceable archives and history collections, native objets d'art, musical instruments, live plants and animals. Fortunately earlier, similar lesser artefacts had already found their way to England forming the current, but smaller, Raffles' collections, including other items that they were able to muster after their shipwreck.

They and their treasures had been on their final way home to England. Eventually Sir Stamford and Lady Sophia subsequently secured another ship the *Borneo* and left on it with little more to show for all their time in the east other than the clothes they stood up in. It was a disaster for them. And for posterity.

Fortunately however, although having lost four of their five children in infancy all of whom were buried at Bencoolen, their graves later being recorded by BACSA within Fort Marlborough, their surviving daughter Ella Sophia was already safely home in England awaiting their return. She was sent back in 1822, aged 3 years, with her nurse and a servant for the long perilous journey across two oceans around the Cape of Good Hope, and was living in Cheltenham with her paternal aunt Mary Anne (nee Raffles) wife of Captain William Lawrence Flint. The child's hasty despatch was made to ensure her survival after her siblings had all succumbed to the hostile environment that a tropical climate inflicted on European children's health and well-being. The parents' joy on reunion with their only surviving child can only be imagined.

The following list detailing the children lost to them and whose last earthly remains they were obliged to leave behind, thousands of miles away, is quoted directly with the permission of, and my thanks to, the definitive *The Family of Sir Stamford Raffles* by John Bastin and Julie Weizenegger (published by the National Library Board, Singapore and Marshall Cavendish Editions 2016).

1. Charlotte Sophia Tunjung Segara: *Charlotte Sophia* (b. 15 February 1818 - d. 14 January 1822, Bencoolen) was born at sea on the journey to Bencoolen from England. She died before the age of four, just a fortnight after the death of her youngest brother, Stamford Marsden. She had been battling a long bout of violent dysentery. Charlotte had been named after Charlotte, Duchess of Somerset, with whom Raffles had maintained a regular correspondence for the remainder of his life, as well as Princess Charlotte of Wales. At the suggestion of the Javanese Raden Rana Dipura, Charlotte was also given a local name Tunjung Segara, which means 'Lotus of the Sea'. In a letter to the Duchess, Raffles had described Charlotte as a bright child who, at two-and-a-half years of age, could speak English, Malay and Hindustani, translating one language into another.

2. Leopold Stamford: *Leopold Stamford* (b. 12 March 1819, Penang - d. 27 June 1821, Bencoolen) died at age two years and four months after a short illness. He held a special place in his parents' hearts, with Raffles describing Leopold in letters as 'an exceptional child' and 'the pride and hope of my life'.

3. Stamford Marsden: *Stamford Marsden* (b. 25 May 1820, Bencoolen - d. 3 January 1822, Bencoolen) nicknamed 'Marco Polo', died at age one year and seven months from enteritis.

5. Flora: *Flora* (b. 19 September 1823, Bencoolen - d. 28 November 1823, Bencoolen) died at the age of two months.

Much has been written of the Raffles family and further detail need not detain this narrative further with the exception of the one incomplete piece in the jigsaw. Ella Sophia herself.

At her father's death she was only five years old. But what did she remember of her father and her siblings (if anything) and of her life's start, out in Sumatra? Very little, one would think. However her mother would have undoubtedly told her and kept alive for both of them the extraordinary life and exploits of their redoubtable father and husband. To her mother she must have been the sole physical reminder of him. Lady Raffles herself went on to produce and publish a two-volume monumental masterly account of her husband's works based on his writings and letters such as survived elsewhere than from their disaster. Modern reproductions have been published and make compelling reading of such achievements. Yet she spoke little of their children in that account.

Over the subsequent years mother and daughter resided at Highwood, the house that Sir Stamford had bought on their return from the Far East, only for him to die there of an affliction to the brain but two years later. He must have exhausted himself. The house with subsequent blue plaque, still stands. Ella Sophia as a teenager and her mother then undertook continental travels with, and to, family and friends in France, Germany and Italy. In 1837, at 16 years of age, she even had tickets for the coronation of Queen Victoria.

Known as Ella-Bella, Ella Sophia was noted as being small in stature like her father. She had straight chestnut-coloured hair and as she grew she resembled him more and more. She remained seemingly without a governess, educated, one supposes, by her mother whose constant companion she became especially on their various continental excursions with her young paternal cousin Charles Flint. It was on one such excursion in the winter of 1831/2 then aged 12, that while in Rome, her portrait was painted by Antoine Chatelain (1794-1859) and her bust made in marble after a plaster (the current whereabouts of both are unknown).



Fig. 1 - Bust of Ella Sophia Raffles (1821-1840). Bust in marble after a plaster done in Rome 1833.

Despite her mother being in tight financial circumstances she travelled around constantly visiting friends at home and on the continent. It was

on one such visit for recuperation of health that mother and daughter in 1839 stayed with their close friend the Right Reverend Charles Richard Sumner, bishop of Winchester (1801-1876). He had four sons, one of whom was John Maunoir Sumner (1816-1886), later the Rector of Bruriton, near Winchester, and so to this young man Ella became engaged with plans to marry in the summer of 1840.

But fate had by no means finished with its tragic interventions for the Raffles family.

Ella Sophia must have been of delicate health. By all accounts, in early 1840 she 'broke a blood vessel' and may have gone down with consumption. For this reason on medical advice her mother took her for sea air recuperation to St Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex, just then being developed by the renowned architect James Burton, father of Decimus Burton, (1761-1837) as the fashionable society westward extension of Hastings. They took a seafront house at 59 The Marina (which still stands). Her mother subsequently wrote of her: 'the unfavourable symptoms are gradually diminishing but the cough is still unsubdued - and on this hangs life or death - she is reduced to a skeleton and has not a trace of her former blooming self'. Despite a brief rally upon a change of air and different medication in early May spasms returned and there followed a rapid deterioration. She died at 5.30 in the morning on 5 May 1840 in the presence of a nurse called Ann Clifford who registered the death under the cause 'Decline'. Ella Sophia's last recorded words were 'Mother, Mother, where is she?'

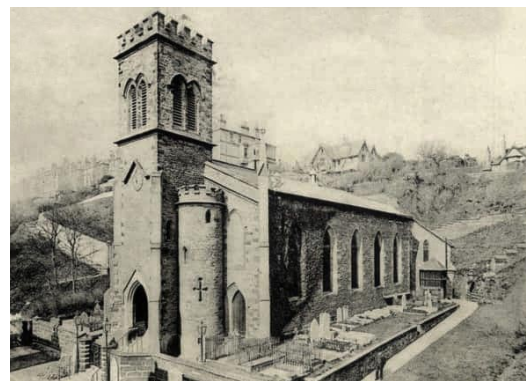


Fig. 2 - St Leonards Church with graves.

Ella Sophia's coffin was placed in the room where she died and her mother sat weeping beside it.

An old friend the Reverend Samuel Wilberforce, (1805-1873) Canon of Winchester, whose family had lived next door to mother and daughter at Highwood, described in a letter to his wife the harrowing scenes before the burial:

'It was an awful time ... the sobbing of poor Lady Raffles and John Sumner (prospective future husband)

was most affecting. Then Lady Raffles had to be removed it was almost too much. She clung to the coffin and kissed its repulsive blackness, saying in a sort of thrilling whisper of agony 'My child, my child, my babe, cannot I keep even this? My child, my babe'. The Bishop took her hand and bid her for love to her who was gone bear this one more struggle, and she rose and left the room with her brother.'

Burial took place on 12 May 1840 in the nearby newly built St Leonard's parish church (the only

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>St Mary in the Castle, Hastings</i>									
Registrar's District <i>St Mary in the Castle, Hastings</i>									
1840- DEATHS in the District of <i>St Mary in the Castle</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i>									
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>209</i>	<i>12th May 1840</i>	<i>Ella Sophia Raffles</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>19 years</i>	<i>Daughter of the late Sir Stamford Raffles Bart.</i>	<i>Decline</i>	<i>Ann Clifford Nurse, present at the death No 39 Marazion St Leonards</i>	<i>12th May 1840</i>	<i>John George Glasbeek Registrar</i>

Fig. 3 - Ella Raffles death certificate

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Saint Leonard's</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year 1840				
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Ann Bell.</i>	<i>St. Leonard's</i>	<i>April 15th 1840.</i>	<i>48 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 137.				
<i>George Lewis Hamsted</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>April 17th 1840.</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 138.				
<i>Robert Shephard</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>April 22nd 1840.</i>	<i>79 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 139.				
<i>Edward Roper.</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>April 23rd 1840.</i>	<i>14 months</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 140.				
<i>Samuel Arkes</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>May 2nd 1840.</i>	<i>2 yrs 8 months</i>	<i>W. Buckitt Off. Min.</i>
No. 141.				
<i>George Kesterman</i>	<i>Saint Leonard's</i>	<i>May 5th 1840.</i>	<i>15 months</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie Off. Min.</i>
No. 142.				
<i>James Smith Brown</i>	<i>Saint Leonard's</i>	<i>May 11th 1840.</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie Off. Min.</i>
No. 143.				
<i>Ella Sophia Raffles</i>	<i>St. Leonard's</i>	<i>May 12th 1840.</i>	<i>19 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie Off. Min.</i>
No. 144.				

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Saint Leonard's</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year 1840				
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Emma Bell.</i>	<i>St. Leonard's</i>	<i>May 12th 1840.</i>	<i>9 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie Off. Min.</i>
No. 145.				
<i>Alfred Henry Graydon</i>	<i>St. Leonard's</i>	<i>May 21st 1840.</i>	<i>6 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 146.				
<i>Elysa Williams</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>June 16th 1840.</i>	<i>20 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 147.				
<i>Francis Scott James</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>July 12th 1840.</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>C. K. Leslie P.C.</i>
No. 148.				
<i>William Lloyd</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>July 25th 1840.</i>	<i>26 years</i>	<i>W. Buckitt Off. Min.</i>
No. 149.				
<i>Elizabeth Freeman</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>Nov. 7th 1840.</i>	<i>9 months</i>	<i>La. L. Murray</i>
No. 150.				
<i>Elizabeth Wilson</i>	<i>St. Leonard's</i>	<i>Nov. 16th 1840.</i>	<i>53 years</i>	<i>La. L. Murray</i>
No. 151.				
<i>Mary Colbian</i>	<i>Saint Mary Magdalen</i>	<i>Nov. 23rd 1840.</i>	<i>9 years</i>	<i>La. L. Murray</i>
No. 152.				

Fig. 4 - Ella Raffles burial record

church ever designed by James Burton), the burial register recording that it was presided over by the Reverend Charles Vernon Holme Sumner (1800-1875), officiating minister (only in this parish for one week), who was presumably a kinsman of the Sumner family but whose exact relationship has not yet been determined. He was domestic chaplain to the Duke of York, formerly rector of Newdigate, Surrey, and latterly of Ringwould, Kent.

The burial register records 'Vault in Church' although it is not clear whether in the nave or the chancel. This vital piece of information pinpoints the search for the grave of Ella Sophia Raffles in a church which at the time of her death was only some six years old. One could scarcely have imagined less for such a well-loved daughter of a prestigious family whose grave surely must have been given either an inscribed flagstone or a memorial wall tablet, or both. No record however can be traced of either despite an exhaustive search through the Chichester Diocesan records in the West Sussex County Record Office, Hastings Borough Council archives at The Keep, Brighton, Hastings Museum and Library, the Burton St Leonard's Society and a whole variety of other local points of reference.

The reason for this absence of information is simple yet tragic. The beautiful new Gothic-style parish church with its high tower, tall flagpole and stepped entrance was unique, as it faced north-south as opposed to the traditional east-west axis for most churches, but so orientated as to face the sea directly in front. Its graveyard (now a closed burial space) was on a small piece of ground to the rear north-east on top of a low-rise crumbling escarpment. Most burials were made there, but for a fee could be made inside the church. The burial register containing 1177 entries between 1834 and 1944 shows that there were 28 interior vault burials between 1834 and 1853, that of Ella Sophia being the tenth.

At 11.40 pm on the night of Saturday 29 July 1944 a German flying bomb (or doodle bug) was intercepted by shore defences on its trajectory from across the Channel. Disabled, it careered out of control at low level over the sea, landed and exploded on the front steps of the church, destroying the interior but leaving standing the side and rear walls.

Subsequent photos show that nearly all of the wall memorials and tablets had survived as did the floor of the nave and the chancel. A number of graves to the east side of the church were destroyed. Thereafter, clearance of the site took place and other photos show that all the wall memorial tablets by then had been removed.

Despite exhaustive research on my part, no reference whatsoever can be found which tells of where those memorials were taken to nor any record made of their inscriptions. There was no faculty for the removal of human remains interred under the floor of the church, nor any record of flagstone inscriptions. All of this suggests they may have been left in situ and built over. Perhaps they were indeed transcribed but the transcriptions lost.

The replacement church was consecrated in 1956 funded by war damage commission payment and was done so on the footprint of the old church. It may well be that human remains from the 28 church vaults are still there. This new imposing church, which is a grade II listed building was deconsecrated in 2018 and is now classified as a disused church, and was put up for sale by its owners, the Church Commissioners, in 2023. It was closed because of significant subsidence of the escarpment to the rear threatening its structural integrity. This is all an immense loss and the lack of record lamentable, all the more so as the very long serving rector (1929-1962) before, during and well after the war, Canon Cuthbert Cyril Griffiths (1889-1965) had been meticulous in recording all other aspects of his church's history, downfall and renewal.

The result therefore of this extraordinary grave search is that Ella Sophia Raffles' remains may well still lie where she was buried in 1840 under the floor of the present church with no memorial to her now traceable. It is impossible to believe that Lady Raffles did not have an inscribed memorial stone or tablet raised for her beloved daughter. Thus it is left to be seen whether at some time in the future, should the present church building be restructured, demolished, or floor excavated, her coffin (over which her mother so grievously wept) may come to light (as exemplified by a surviving identifying lid plate in the same manner as that of

Captain Matthew Flinders' coffin having been found near Euston station in 2018). It should be noted that the Findagrave reference to Ella Sophia's grave being with her mother at St. Mary's, Hendon is incorrect.

If during the rebuild Ella Sophia's vault had by chance been found, there would surely be some record of the fact, as contemporary photographic evidence shows that the doodle bug had seemingly not destroyed anything below ground level? Sadly there are few people today left alive who might know one way or the other.

Will those in the future engaged in any redevelopment of the church be aware of this history and what they might find? Let us hope so.

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Helen Dawkins LRPS

A BUSH CHRISTENING

by *Banjo Paterson*

The poem was first published in *The Bulletin* magazine, 16 December 1893. In Australia 'the bush' is synonymous with any sparsely inhabited region regardless of vegetation. Back in the 1800s homesteads in the outback were often lonely and isolated, so much so that it was sometimes years between the priest's visits as he travelled from home to home on horseback.



Banjo Paterson, c1890. Courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

On the outer Barcoo where the churches are few,
And men of religion are scanty,
On a road never cross'd 'cept by folk that are lost,
One Michael Magee had a shanty.

Now this Mike was the dad of a ten year old lad,
Plump, healthy, and stoutly conditioned;
He was strong as the best, but poor Mike had no rest
For the youngster had never been christened.

And his wife used to cry, "If the darlin' should die
Saint Peter would not recognise him."
But by luck he survived till a preacher arrived,
Who agreed straightaway to baptise him.

Now the artful young rogue, while they held their colloque,
With his ear to the keyhole was listenin',
And he muttered in fright, while his features turned white,
"What the devil and all is this christenin'?"

He was none of your dolts, he had seen them brand colts,
And it seemed to his small understanding,
If the man in the frock made him one of the flock,
It must mean something very like branding.

So away with a rush he set off for the bush,
While the tears in his eyelids they glistened –
"Tis outrageous," says he, "to brand youngsters like me,
I'll be dashed if I'll stop to be christened!"

Like a young native dog he ran into a log,
And his father with language uncivil,
Never heeding the 'praste' cried aloud in his haste,
"Come out and be christened, you devil!"

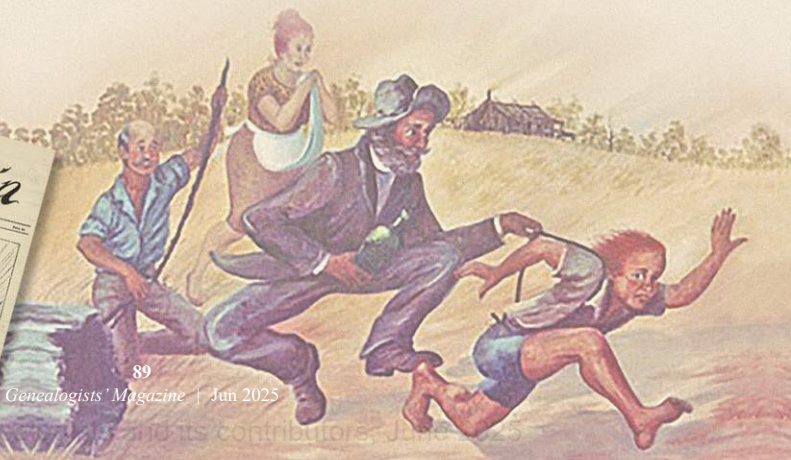
But he lay there as snug as a bug in a rug,
And his parents in vain might reprove him,
Till his reverence spoke (he was fond of a joke)
"I've a notion," says he, "that'll move him."

"Poke a stick up the log, give the spalpeen a prog;
Poke him aisy – don't hurt him or maim him,
'Tis not long that he'll stand, I've the water at hand,
As he rushes out this end I'll name him.

"Here he comes, and for shame! ye've forgotten the name –
Is it Patsy or Michael or Dinnis?"
Here the youngster ran out, and the priest gave a shout –
"Take your chance, anyhow, wid 'Maginnis'!"

As the howling young cub ran away to the scrub
Where he knew that pursuit would be risky,
The priest, as he fled, flung a flask at his head
That was labelled 'MAGINNIS'S WHISKY'!

And Maginnis Magee has been made a J.P.,
And the one thing he hates more than sin is
To be asked by the folk, who have heard of the joke,
How he came to be christened 'Maginnis'!



ARTHUR WARD

(1888-1948)

Graham Ward

Arthur Ward, my grandfather, was born in Northampton in 1888. Before the First World War and after leaving school Arthur worked for his uncle Tom Pack, as a delivery boy, on an old fixed-gear bicycle with an oil lamp, taking fresh yeast to bakers south of Northampton and into north Buckinghamshire. Sometimes he covered 40 miles in a day arriving home late, ready to start another day at 5 am. After the outbreak of war in 1914 there was plenty of work to be had, and Arthur found a job at Abraham Lee's Boot & Shoe factory in Bective Road, Northampton. On 6 November 1915, he married Maud Packwood at St Paul's Church, Northampton, a new Anglican church that stood at the top of Essex Street near the family home. After the outbreak of the War, Arthur was enlisted along with a group of 35 other men of a similar age, most but not all from Northampton. They enlisted between 25 November and 6 December 1915 in Northampton and were assigned to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, but then put on reserve. Based on Arthur's service number (32074) and other men with similar service numbers, enlistment took place on 26 November 1915. The attestation and medical examinations took place at either the Barracks on Kingsthorpe Road (Barrack Road) or the Territorial Headquarters (Drill Hall) in Clare Street.

They were mobilised on 2 January 1917 and moved to Kent and trained at Fort Darland near Gillingham between January and March 1917. Subsequently, this group travelled to France via Folkestone to Boulogne on 31 March 1917.

Movements of 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters (April 1917 - August 1918)

Soon after arrival, Arthur and his fellow soldiers were transferred en bloc to 10th Bn Notts & Derby on 11 April 1917. On the 27 April, they were transferred



Fig. 1 - Pte. Arthur Ward, 3rd Northamptonshire Regiment, shortly after mobilisation, during training at Fort Darland, Gillingham, Kent, 15 Jan 1917 (Photographer: 'Stickybacks' of Chatham and Sheerness)

‘up the line’ to join the battalion. At the time they were billeted at Grand-Rullecourt in Pas-de-Calais. The battalion had suffered losses in the preceding weeks and accommodated 143 new men on 29 April.

For the duration of the war, the 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters remained part of the 51st Brigade within the 17th (Northern) Division of the British Army. The division was commanded by Major General Philip R Robertson from 13 July 1916 until the end of hostilities. Robertson provides an overview of the Division's engagement, and hence that of the 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters:

In March 1917 the Division was attached to the Cavalry Corps for special service with it at the Battle of Arras, its role being to push forward independently in support of the Cavalry should a “breakthrough” be made. It was subsequently engaged in severe fighting about Monchy and on the Scarpe River. Remaining in the Arras sector until September, it moved north to play its part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres and struggle for the Passchendaele Ridge. In the attack on 12th October, it was signally successful, being the only Division to gain all its objectives on that date.¹

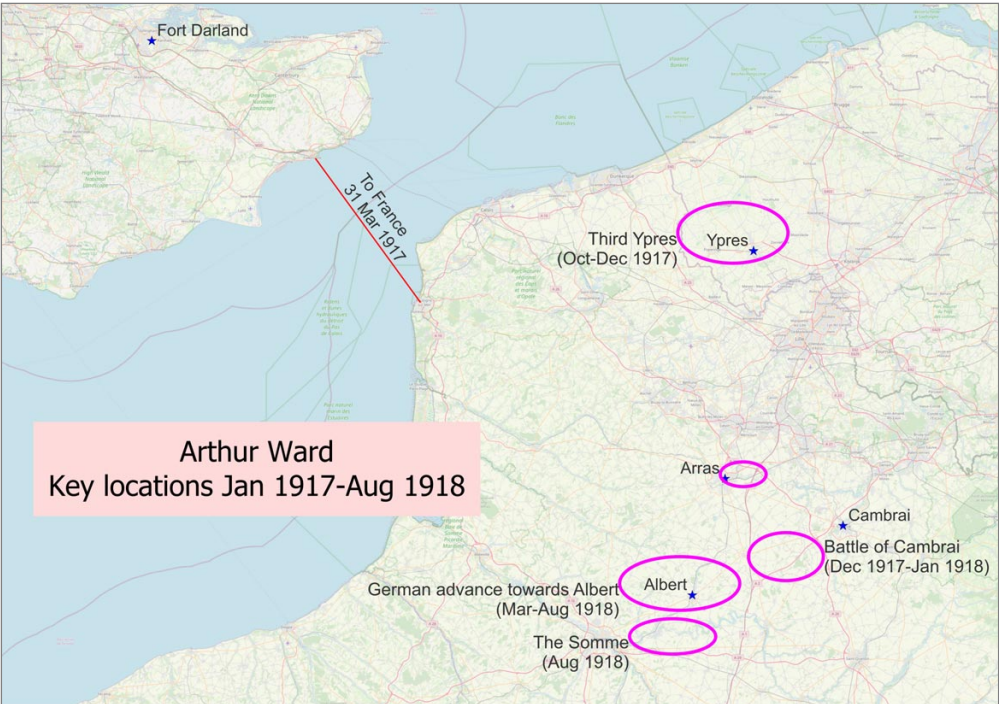


Fig. 2 - Key locations January 1917 to August 1918



Fig. 3 - Pte. Arthur Ward, 10th Bn Notts & Derby Regt. (Sherwood Foresters)

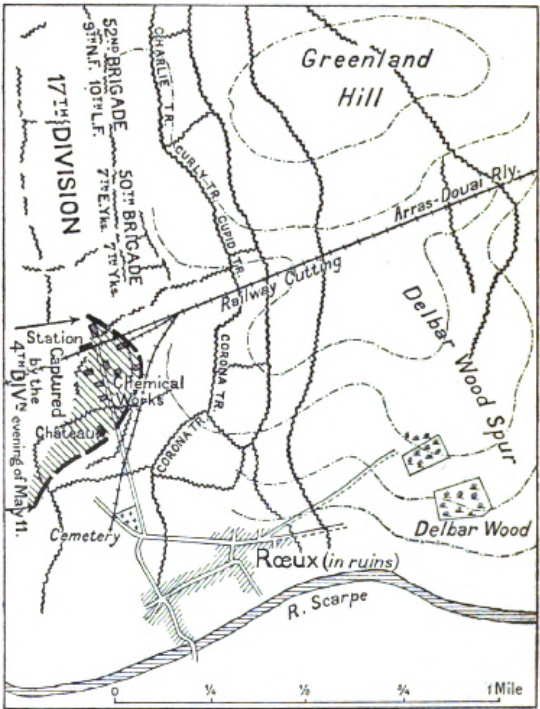


Fig. 4 - Operations East of Arras - Attack of 12 May 1917 (51st Brigade was in reserve at this time)

They were immediately deployed in the area to the north and east of Arras from the beginning of May to the end of September 1917, notably around Gavrelle and Fampoux. This engagement with the enemy was known as the Battle of Arras.

Arthur described the pattern of much of his time on the Western Front. His company would be in the 'line' for about 14 to 17 days before being replaced to man the secondary line of trenches for about another week. These were always prepared and manned in case the forward positions were overrun. After that they were moved to the rear for about three days' rest. This cycle was designed to be repeated over and over, but in reality, more often broken, when there were attacks and counter-attacks by one side or the other meaning that all resting troops were ordered back into the line.

From October 1917 the battalion moved north to Belgium and were based around Ypres taking their turn on the front, notably in the area around Langemark. They continued here until mid-

December 1917. These were the closing stages of the Third Battle of Ypres.

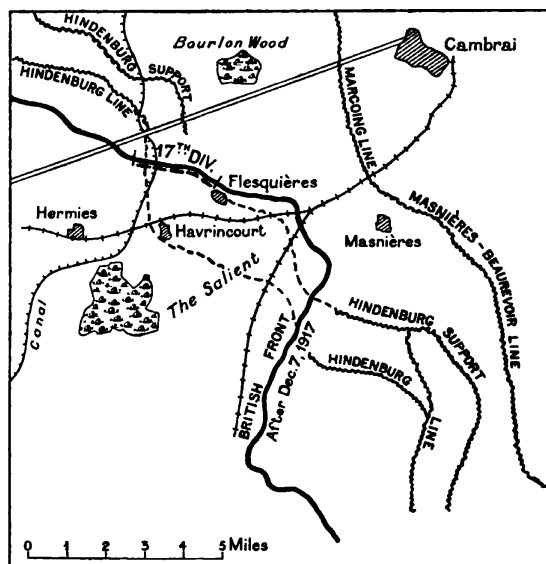


Fig. 6 - Salient towards Cambrai, formed as a result of the Battle and the German counter-attack

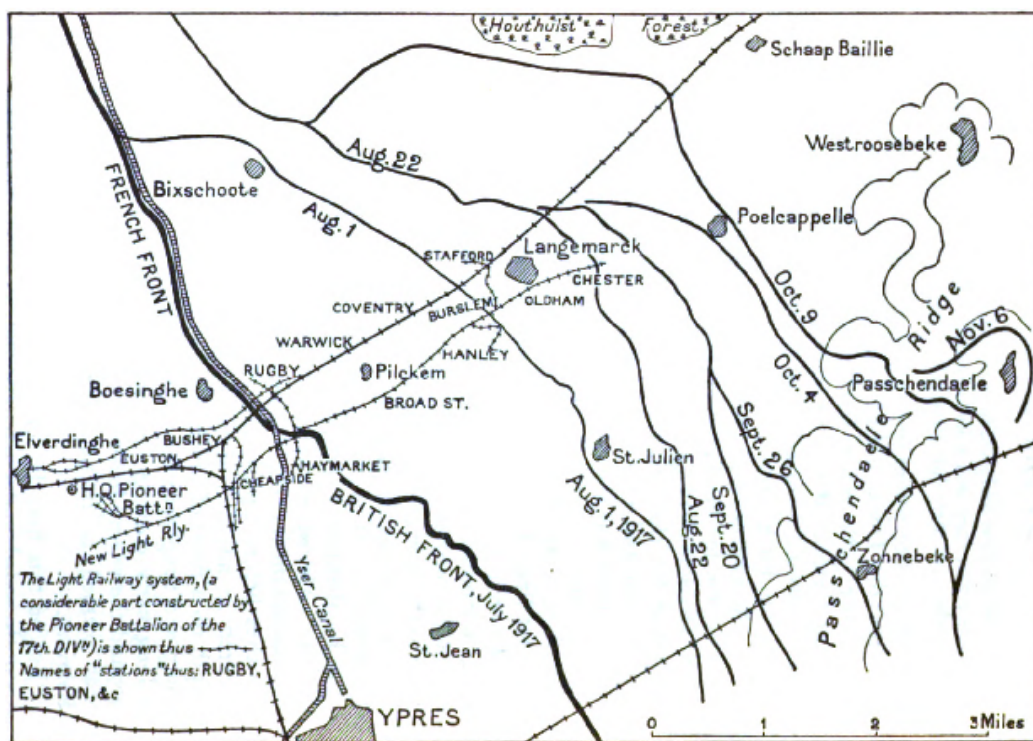


Fig. 5 - The Advance North of Ypres, August to November 1917

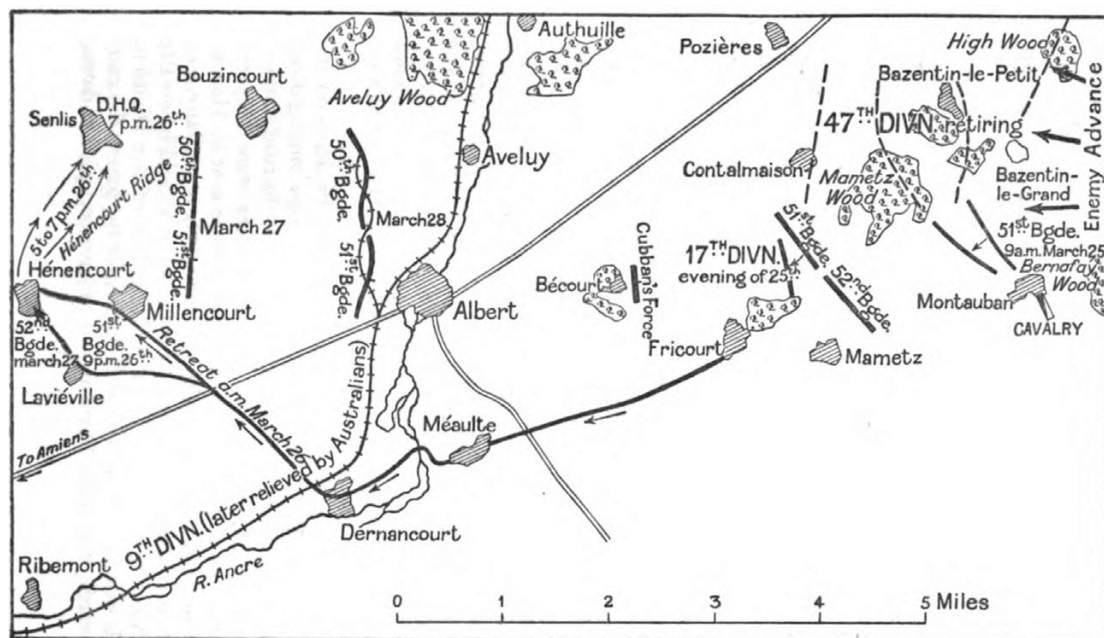


Fig. 7 - Retirement across the Ancre, 25 and 26 March, and operations that followed, 26 March to 3 April 1918

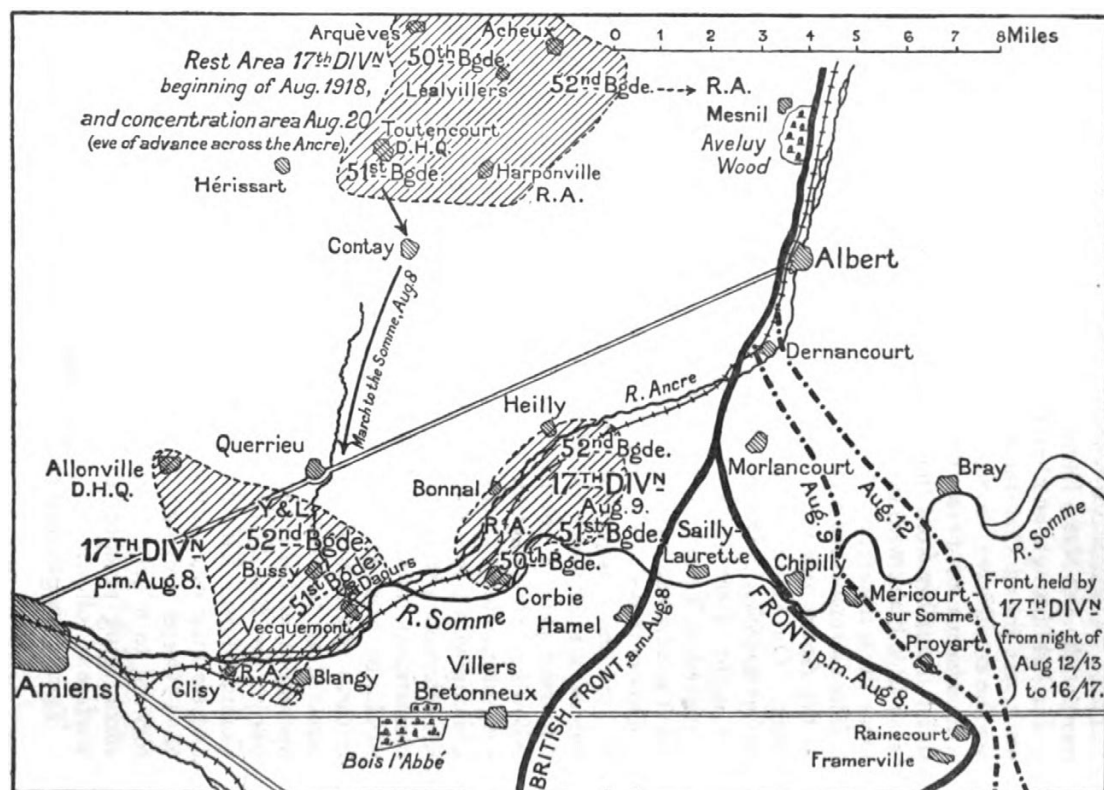


Fig. 8 - Allied Offensive, 8 to 12 August 1918, and operations of the 17th Division, 8 to 20 August

From mid-December 1917 until mid-March the following year the battalion was back in France, west of Cambrai, for what became known as the Battle of Cambrai. Returning to Major General Robertson's narrative:

Transferred in December to the Cambrai Area the Division found itself holding the trenches astride the Canal du Nord on the north shoulder of the Cambrai salient when the Great German Offensive was launched on 21st March 1918. All the enemy's attacks upon the Division on that date were successfully repulsed, but it had to retire at night in order to conform to the general withdrawal of the British Line. Throughout the 22nd March it completely defeated attacks made on it at Hermies and Havrincourt, earning special mention in Field Marshall Lord Haig's official dispatches for its gallant defence.

The summer of 1918 was spent in the trench line directly north of Albert, until in August in the Great Final Advance, it swept forward across the Somme country, capturing Thiepval, Courcelette, Martinpuich, Transloy and other villages en route.¹

Spring 1918 was not a good time for the British Army in this area since a German offensive forced a retreat westwards to an area around Albert. By 28 March the 10th Battalion (part of the 51st Brigade) was located immediately to the west of Albert remaining there until early August. During this period, mention is made in the battalion histories that on 21 April came the turning point when the battalion had the upper hand in the war's progress. The German army was showing signs of fatigue and loss of morale. Finally, the German advance was brought to a halt.

From there it was only a short move south of Albert along the banks of the Somme river, moving eastwards as the fighting progressed until Arthur's time with the battalion suddenly came to an end on the 15 August.

Events of 15 August

On the night of 14/15 August 1918, the Battalion was camped near Mericourt-sur-Somme when they suffered a major gas attack in the early hours of the morning. The events are noted in the unit war diary which summarised the number of casualties.

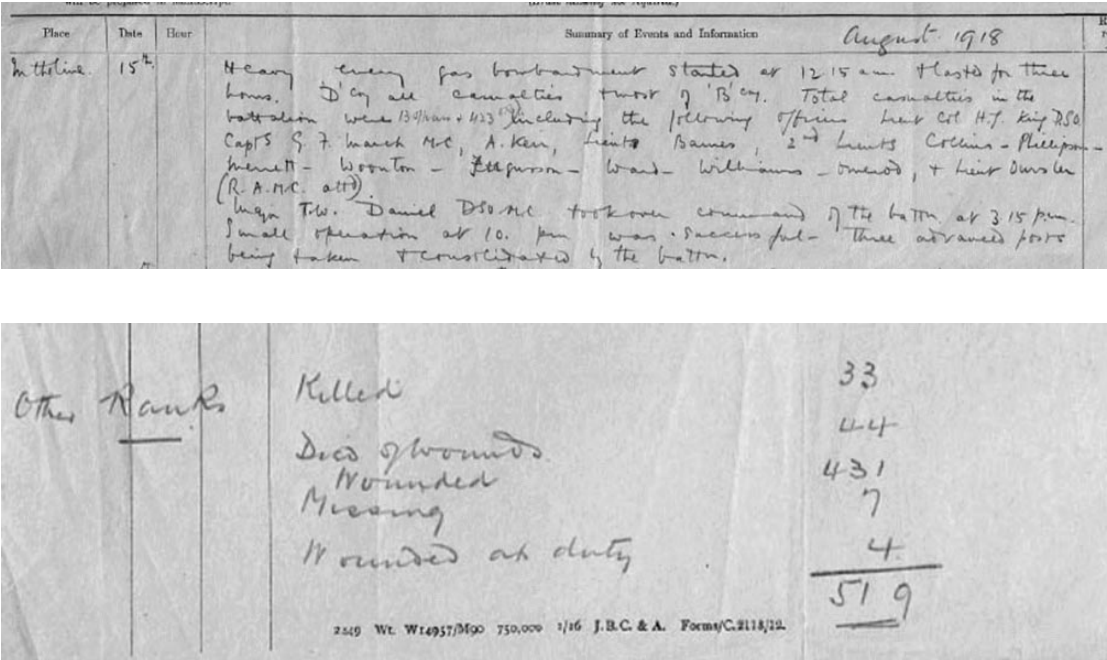


Fig. 9 - Extracts from the Unit Diary, 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters. 15 August 1918 (National Archives: WO 95/2008/2)

A short history of the 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters (written by a serving officer but remaining unpublished until 2003), describes the tragic events of 15 August:

All remained quiet until very early on the 15th. About 12.15 a.m. the enemy started a very heavy gas bombardment on the whole area occupied by the 17th Division; mustard gas predominated. For three hours he kept up a steady stream of shells; he chiefly bombarded the ridges, and as the night was absolutely still the gas floated down into the valleys and clung to the dense undergrowth. The area shelled stretched from our support line some 2000 yards westward, and this all became saturated with the deadly stuff. The sunrise brought with it a ghastly state of affairs; the casualties from the gas poisoning steadily mounted up, and long strings of men with their eyes bandaged, each holding the man in front, trailed slowly backwards down to the dressing station. Lieut-Col King, D.S.O. and Adjutant Capt. G F March M.C. both became casualties, and in all the battalion sustained losses to 18 officers and 519 other ranks; a total which for the moment made it almost cease to exist as a fighting unit; only the garrison of the forward posts escaped the effects of the gas. The large majority of these casualties subsequently recovered, but Lieut B G Barnes and 2/Lt H E Merrett died from the effects - both fine plucky officers. RSM Wain also died; his was an almost meteoric career; in March 1916 he was an officer's servant; from that time forward by his sheer ability for making men do what he wanted, and by wanting the right thing, he had risen steadily through non-commissioned rank until he was made RSM in July 1918. Altogether he was one of the finest products of the New Armies, and his loss was felt intensely.²

A lot of responsibility for the high number of casualties rested with the British themselves as the report concludes:

Searching enquiries were made into the reason for the large casualties which the whole division suffered, and much blame attached itself to a great many people; none of them need be mentioned by name.³

Arthur was one of the gassed casualties and his retelling of events on that early morning to my father concurs with the official record, in particular the way that on a cool, still morning "the gas floated down into the valleys and clung to the dense undergrowth".

He, along with many others, was initially treated by the 51st Field Ambulance and later in the day as his injuries were more significant was transferred to the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station which was located in Vecquemont. Subsequently, he would have been transferred to a base hospital by hospital train until he could be taken back to the UK. Another man from Northampton, Pte. Henry Ronald Eaglestone (32076, 3rd Northamptonshire Rgt. & 73324, 10th Sherwood Foresters), who signed up the same day as Arthur in 1915 and was transferred in the same cohort to the 10th Bn Sherwood Foresters, was wounded in the same gas attack on 15 August 1918. He was transferred to the 6th General Hospital based at Rouen. Sadly he died of his wounds at the hospital on 23 August. Henry Eaglestone lived at 148 St Leonards Road, Northampton.

Evacuation and back in Blighty

Unfortunately, Arthur's service record has not survived in the National Archives. Many of these records were destroyed during the Second World War as a consequence of the bombing and a subsequent fire at a warehouse in Walworth on the night of 7/8 September 1940. Only about 40% of soldiers' records survive from this period. However, it has been possible to reconstruct his whereabouts after 15 August from some of the records of other soldiers who enlisted with him, served in the 10th Battalion, and were injured or died as a result of the 15 August attack. Referring again to other men who were wounded in the same incident on 15 August and tracing their movements, it is likely he was moved to General Hospital 2, 3 or 6 based in Le Havre, Le Treport or Rouen. The hospital ship routes to England were usually via Dieppe-Newhaven and Le Havre-Southampton. From handed-down memories it seems Arthur was dispatched on the Le Havre - Southampton route on a Red Cross ship, and then by train to a hospital near Glasgow on the Clyde.

The War Office published weekly casualty lists throughout the war; extracts from these also appeared in provincial newspapers with names of local men. The casualty lists naming those wounded on 15 August appeared between 19 and 26 September. Four to six weeks was the typical delay for publishing names, allowing time for lists to be collated and not giving more information that might

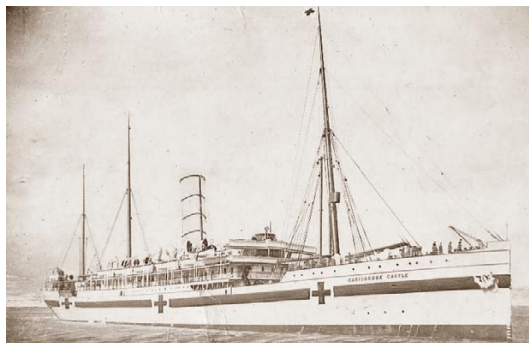


Fig. 10 - HMHS Carisbrook Castle, one of several ships operating between Le Havre-Southampton. Others were HMHS Grantully Castle, Gloucester Castle, and Panama.

assist the enemy. Those who died would usually have a short obituary, often with an accompanying photograph, published in the local press. Arthur's wounding was also mentioned in the *Northampton Chronicle & Echo* on 31 August 1918:

Ward, Lce.-Corpl. A Sherwood Foresters, son of Mrs. John Ward, 56. Essex-street, Northampton, and the late Mr. Ward, was wounded and gassed on August 16 (sic) and is now in hospital in Glasgow: formerly worked at Messrs. G. T. Hawkins; served 17 months in France.⁴

This report confirms a few details that Arthur was hospitalised in Glasgow, but since his service record has not survived it has not been possible to determine precisely where in Glasgow. It is also known from Arthur's handed-down memory that whilst in Glasgow some convalescence was in the form of a cruise on Loch Long, a sea loch directly accessible from the Clyde. G. T. Hawkins was a well-known, mainly boot manufacturer in the town. Sadly during this time Arthur was unable to see due to damage to his eyes caused by the mustard gas, but he did later regain his sight.

He was discharged from the Army on 13 March 1919, by which time he had no doubt returned home.

After the war

After his discharge, as a consequence of his injuries, he was awarded a disability pension from 14 March 1919. It appears payments amounted to 8 shillings for him and a further 2 shillings for his

wife Maud, total 10 shillings per week.⁵ This corresponds to an assessed disability rate of 20%. Payments probably continued until March 1927 when the case was deemed closed.

In the early 1920s there seems to have been plenty of work in the boot and shoe factories. So much, that even with his disability, he found work back at G. T. Hawkins Ltd, in Overstone Road, Northampton. However, during 1922 his health took a turn for the worse. He was often very ill. Finally, in 1923 he entered hospital for an appendix operation which led to an unusually long period of convalescence. It was not surprising that as a consequence he lost his job, as the factories were now finding it difficult to find new orders.

It was probably around 1928 when he found work again. He obtained part-time work for two days a week in the making room at G. T. Hawkins again. This type of employment was known as 'two on and four off' and it automatically stopped the dole money. After a few months, work picked up and his working week increased to 'three on and three off'. The Boot and Shoe Union contributed a small 'top-up' each week through this period.

The early 1930s saw G. T. Hawkins finding many new orders for their footwear, and the workers were put on full-time. Things were at last looking up and the family were able to take a week's seaside holiday to places like Margate (1931) and Hastings (1932) together with many day excursions by train to destinations on the East Coast, Blackpool, North Wales and the South Coast.

Around Easter 1936 Arthur was sent to London for a week to sit in the shoe department of Derry & Toms, an upmarket department store in Kensington High Street, demonstrating hand-sewn footwear. Derry & Toms had quite an interest in footwear as this contemporary poster shows.

His son, Arthur takes up the story:

At half past seven on Monday morning, the usual time for starting work in a Northampton factory, my dad went to Derry and Toms and found the place locked, which was to be expected if he had given it any thought. Anyway, after waiting till the doors opened

RESOURCES AND TIPS

Finding a Regiment and Service Number

- Absent Voter registers - Check both Ancestry and FindMyPast, otherwise held at County Archives (or the equivalent).
- Medals - are usually inscribed with names and service number.
- If the service number is known this can be used in a search on Ancestry and FindMyPast to find matching names and regiments. Note that a service number can be in use multiple times for different soldiers in several regiments.
- Weekly Casualty lists are also available on FindMyPast with a partial search by name and date.
- British Newspaper Archive can quickly determine if the soldier appeared in Weekly Casualty lists as they were often reported in the local press.

Medal records

There are several series, probably most complete on Ancestry.

- Medal Record Cards 'UK, British Army World War I Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920'.
- Service Medal Ledgers 'UK, World War I Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920'.

Service Records

The availability of service records is patchy due to a major fire whilst the records were in store 1940, the main series are:

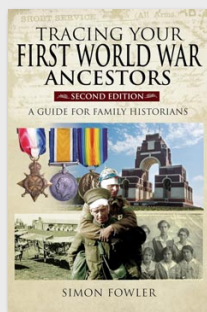
- UK, British Army World War I Service Records, 1914-1920 - Service records (includes the Burnt records) Search both Ancestry and FindMyPast.
- Some additional records have survived with the pension record file if the soldier qualified for a pension.
- Battalion War Diaries have mostly survived and are freely available from the National Archives website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. They rarely mention individual soldiers but do provide contemporary details of events.

Casualty and hospital records

- Only a selected number of Casualty Clearing Stations, Field Hospitals and Hospitals (Overseas and UK) have been archived. (Selected records on both Ancestry and FindMyPast)
- UK, WWI, Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923 'Western Front Association record cards' (available on Fold3.com)

Books

Whilst there are many books on tracing WW1 service personnel, probably the best starting point is:



Tracing Your First World War Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians
(2nd Edition)

by Simon Fowler
ISBN: 978-1-39900-039-0
Pen & Sword Books.

- Pen & Sword also publish a number of other books on different aspects of WW1 research.
- Many battalions have published histories, which may be helpful in giving context to a soldier's service. Knowing the Battalion it is usually possible to identify the Brigade of which it was part. Many Brigade histories were published in the 1920s which are now freely available on the InternetArchive and HathiTrust websites.

Websites

- The Great War Forum www.greatwarforum.org can be extremely useful in expanding your search once you have some basic details by engaging with experts.
- The Long Long Trail www.longlongtrail.co.uk is also extremely helpful in broadening your knowledge of WW1 history.

at nine o'clock sharp, he ventured inside, only to be stopped by the door commissioner. "Tradesmen use the rear door" he ordered. At the rear door he was told to wait here, and wait there, for hours until he was finally shown a spot where he could set up his workbench, but by this time it was nearly five o'clock and the working day was all but over. The problem seems to have been that he was responsible to a Mrs 'somebody or other' for the week, but the footwear department floor manager had not been informed, and he, being a person who poked his nose into everything that went on, even to cancelling the lady's instructions, didn't take to the idea of this working demonstration. The next day the floor manager said that although Dad's working clothes would do, he would prefer him to be dressed to a standard similar to the store staff. What he really meant was "get some new clothes, Mr Ward". So, my dad received a few shillings to help with the cost and went out shopping on Tuesday afternoon. [...] Finally, my dad was told he could go home at noon on Saturday, so the experimental working demonstration in a footwear sales department came to an end. One wonders how many extra orders were taken. I have a feeling that my dad was paid £10 by Derry and Toms for the week, a colossal sum of money for a working man in those days.



Fig. 11 - 'The Daintiest of Leg-Wear at Derry & Toms'.
Artist: F. Gregory Brown c. 1920



Fig. 12 - Arthur Ward at work

In the 1939 National Identity Register Arthur's occupation is described as 'Boot Shoe Operative Welt Sewer'.

Back in Northampton at some point, he returned to work at G. T. Hawkins, specialising in manufacturing boots. Arthur was involved in union and local politics with the fledgling Labour Party. Whilst he continued to work he did not enjoy the best of health suffering extended periods of bronchitis, not helped by the damage to his lungs from the gas incident. He died at home in November 1948 from heart failure.

Notes

1. Atteridge, A. Hilliard. *History of the 17th (Northern) Division*. Robert MacLehose & Co. Ltd, 1929.
2. Hoyte, Lt W. N. 10th (S) *Battalion the Sherwood Foresters; The History of the Battalion during the Great War; The History of the Battalion during the War*. Naval and Military Press, 2009.
3. Hoyte, Lt W. N. 10th (S) *Battalion the Sherwood Foresters; The History of the Battalion during the Great War; The History of the Battalion During the War*. Naval and Military Press, 2009.
4. *Northampton Chronicle and Echo* - Saturday 31 August 1918, p.4 col. 5.
5. Approximately the equivalent of one day's wage in 1918.

Graham Ward

Email: grahams.ward@gmail.com

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS: THE WHO, WHERE AND WHY

Helen Dawkins LRPS

It seemed a long winter and I am sure, like me, you are now enjoying the milder days of Spring going into Summer (I write this at the end of April as some of us are enjoying 23° - maybe Summer has arrived early?!). However, for fellow Family Historians, the winter months have their advantages as we immerse ourselves in the depths of research and the constant quest for more photographs to illustrate our family tree.

Sadly, it is often a family bereavement that brings about a house clearance and more importantly a 'journey' into the depths of the loft revealing new and important treasures. How often I hear the words 'I wish I had asked my mother/father more questions', but we shouldn't admonish ourselves as, thankfully, we were instead getting on with the joys

of sharing life with them, which very often didn't involve discussing the ancestors. Our detective work must begin.

The photographs discovered often bring about the biggest challenge for a variety of reasons including their vulnerable and delicate condition as well as 'Who is it?', as so often, names do not accompany the photographs. The 'Who is it?' therefore involves much delving and discussion with family members to hopefully bring about answers but the condition of the photograph is equally as important to preserve what we have.

This last quarter has seen a beautiful family portrait brought into the studio, cracked/broken in half across the centre so I thought it worth giving a little



Figures 1 & 2: Before and After, by kind permission of the Reid family

insight into the problems - how they are caused and what we should do to prevent them.

The photographs usually presenting with this type of problem are Victorian/Edwardian photographs backed on board. The board backing of the older style photographs, such as Cartes de Visite dating from the 1850s and Cabinet Cards dating from the 1860s, are usually of very good quality but problems are caused when the photographs are stored in an extremely dry climate for a prolonged period. The Cabinet Card shown, dating from around 1900, was otherwise in beautiful condition and featuring perhaps a photographer's prop in the use of the 'sit-on ram?' This prop was certainly a first for me having viewed many thousands of photographs over my 33 years in business! The photograph was first pulled together as well as possible with two pieces of temporary acid free tape affixed to the reverse, in order that as good a scan as possible could be made. After careful restoration the photograph was output to negative and a new copy made.

Earlier photographs such as Cartes de Visite and Cabinet Cards were all reproduced to the same size as the negative due to the restrictions in processing, but from the 1880s photographs may have been enlarged due to the new ability to produce from a negative to a larger size. These enlargements were often of lesser quality but gave a new option to the consumer and as we know, 'plus ça change' - we always want something new, something different. The board used for backing these enlargements was often of poor quality, such as strawboard made from an amalgamation of cereal straw. It is brown/orange in colour and is easily identified by the pieces of straw compacted into the surface.

When photographs are stored in a challenging climate - always present in the loft - freezing cold in winter, unbearable in summer; or perhaps in a cupboard close to a heat source, the cardboard will dry out causing the paper fibres to become rigid making it liable to cracking. If an old photograph is in a frame, no matter how deteriorated the condition may be, it at least has some protection and it is advisable to leave it in the frame until you can get help with however you wish to proceed - re-framing, restoration of the photograph, copies

produced etc., etc. The problems arise when photographs are removed from frames/albums and stored loosely in envelopes etc. awaiting the next challenge to organise them into the compilation of the family history. It will only take some weight put on top of the envelope, perhaps more photographs, family papers etc. and the card may yield to the pressure and crack. I had one customer who had carefully laid a board-backed enlargement on the back seat of his car to bring to me, and then absent-mindedly tossed his heavy coat onto it resulting in the photograph breaking in two. He arrived at my studio presenting more of a challenge than he had hoped.

To summarise therefore, when storing photographs the key is to avoid extremes of temperature and ensure that they are well supported/stored at all times. I think our ancestors deserve the attention to detail.

Identification of the 'where' and 'why'...

I recently worked on two WWI family photographs absolutely coated in black grime and on questioning where the family had lived it transpired that they were first based in Newcastle and then Luton but it was believed the grime was almost definitely caused by being hung over coal fires. They were in good quality oak frames, but as usual from the Victorian/Edwardian era, the frame backing consisted of 1/8 inch thick strips of wood resembling 4/5 inch wide floor boarding, which allowed the ingress of dust and dirt in the environment to leach through onto the photographs.

Extensive but very careful cleaning was carried out to restore the photographs. Apart from light brushing it is not something I would recommend any novice attempting as the introduction of moisture must be carefully tested and limited as far as possible. I then had two important photographs dating from WWI in an improved clean state from which I could produce negatives to enable additional copies to be made for the family as well as a safeguard for the future. The two cleaned photographs were re-assembled in their original cleaned frames with new acid-free backs and hanging mechanisms.



Figures 3 & 4: 2 x WW1 photographs, with kind permission of the Faux family

I was very interested as to where in the country the family had stored/hung the photographs as I was mindful of the Great Smog of London in December 1952, which provided hugely challenging living conditions. Unusual meteorological conditions had given rise to the smog which lasted four days but deaths continued to rise, as people who lived in the most affected areas, mostly the poorer areas, had been encouraged to burn 'nutty slack' on their open fires. This was the dusty, nutty remains of poor quality sulphur-heavy coal. Deaths recorded in one week were over 2,800, but in total over the next 10 weeks this mounted to in excess of 8,000. Unfortunately the government didn't recognise the smog as being the root cause of the deaths, blaming instead a non-existent flu virus. In total deaths rose to 12,000 as a result of the health conditions arising from the smog. Homes were coated in a greasy black grime similar to that found on the photographs. Life certainly has presented some challenges.

'C' Company 5th BN The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, May 1942

An interesting piece came into the studio this quarter and the owner had very little background knowledge, so I thought I would include this and ask if any readers have any knowledge of this Regiment.

The photograph was in reasonable condition and the intention was to attend to the frame it was housed within, as this was in a poor state. The owner was keen to retain the original frame so attention was paid to the quality of the materials in use. The original glass was scratched so replaced and new acid backing etc. was provided to replace the poor quality strawboard. The introduction of acid free spacers would ensure there could be no risk of adhesion of the mounted photograph to the glass, caused by the ever-present changes in humidity. A negative was produced for possible future use.



Figure 5: 'C' Company 5th BN The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, May 1942, by kind permission of Frances Dominy, née Kiely

The owner's father, Thomas Kiely, front row, fourth from the right, was born in 1917 in the village of Feenagh some 40km from Limerick, Ireland and came over to England when he was in his early 20s. It is not known whether he came over specifically to join the army.

When Thomas was born, Limerick would have been entering into the early stages of the Civil War, and by the early 1940s was struggling with overcrowding, inadequate housing and a shortage of resources, so coming to England to join the army may have been a very practical decision. Thomas's younger brother, it is believed, was already in England or arrived soon after Thomas.

Hopefully the Regiment's official history is available, and Thomas Kiely's war records, as there may well be quite a story here to investigate. An intriguing question is why the Regiment is photographed apparently on a suburban street rather than a parade ground.

My client remembers asking her father about the photograph but as he passed away when she was only 20, she recognises that her questions were not so well informed as they might be today. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

... More photographs coming into the studio

The variety of photographs coming into my studio never ceases to amaze and the question I am most asked - 'is it possible do anything with this?'. I recognise that all photographs are precious, whether they be small snapshots or professional portraits, and all are worth doing whatever is possible. As ever I look forward to your thoughts, emails 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: 01234 782265.

SYMPATHY WHERE IT IS DUE

Letter the Second

Miss C. Lutterell to Miss M. Lesley in answer
Glenford
Febry 12 [1792]

I have a thousand excuses to beg for having so long delayed thanking you my dear Peggy for your agreeable Letter, which beleive me I should not have deferred doing, had not every moment of my time during the last five weeks been so fully employed in the necessary arrangements for my sisters wedding, as to allow me no time to devote either to you or myself. And now what provokes me more than anything else is that the Match is broke off, and all my Labour thrown away. Imagine how great the Dissapointment must be to me, when you consider that after having laboured both by Night and by Day, in order to get the Wedding dinner ready by the time appointed, after having roasted Beef, Broiled Mutton, and Stewed Soup enough to last the new-married Couple through the Honey-moon, I had the mortification of finding that I had been Roasting, Broiling and Stewing both the Meat and Myself to no purpose. Indeed my dear Freind, I never remember suffering any vexation equal to what I experienced on last Monday when my sister came running to me in the store-room with her face as White as a Whipt syllabub, and told me that Hervey had been thrown from his Horse, had fractured his Scull and was pronounced by his surgeon to be in the most eminent Danger. "Good God! (said I) you dont say so? Why what in the name of Heaven will become of all the Victuals! We shall never be able to eat it while it is good. However, we'll call in the Surgeon to help us. I shall be able to manage the Sir-loin myself, my Mother will eat the soup, and You and the Doctor must finish the rest." Here I was interrupted, by seeing my poor Sister fall down to appearance Lifeless upon one of the Chests, where we keep our Table linen. I immediately called my Mother and the Maids, and at last we brought her to herself again; as soon as ever she was sensible, she expressed a determination of going instantly to Henry, and was so wildly bent on this Scheme, that we had the greatest Difficulty in the World to prevent her putting it in execution; at last however more by Force than Entreaty we prevailed on her to go into her room; we laid her

upon the Bed, and she continued for some Hours in the most dreadful Convulsions. My Mother and I continued in the room with her, and when any intervals of tolerable Composure in Eloisa would allow us, we joined in heartfelt lamentations on the dreadful Waste in our provisions which this Event must occasion, and in concerting some plan for getting rid of them. We agreed that the best thing we could do was to begin eating them immediately, and accordingly we ordered up the cold Ham and Fowls, and instantly began our Devouring Plan on them with great Alacrity. We would have persuaded Eloisa to have taken a Wing of a Chicken, but she would not be persuaded. She was however much quieter than she had been; the convulsions she had before suffered having given way to an almost perfect Insensibility. We endeavoured to rouse her by every means in our power, but to no purpose. I talked to her of Henry. "Dear Eloisa (said I) there's no occasion for your crying so much about such a trifle. (for I was willing to make light of it in order to comfort her) I beg you would not mind it—You see it does not vex me in the least; though perhaps I may suffer most from it after all; for I shall not only be obliged to eat up all the Victuals I have dressed already, but must if Henry should recover (which however is not very likely) dress as much for you again; or should he die (as I suppose he will) I shall still have to prepare a Dinner for you whenever you marry any one else. So you see that tho' perhaps for the present it may afflict you to think of Henry's sufferings, Yet I dare say he'll die soon, and then his pain will be over and you will be easy, whereas my Trouble will last much longer for work as hard as I may, I am certain that the pantry cannot be cleared in less than a fortnight." Thus I did all in my power to console her, but without any effect, and at last as I saw that she did not seem to listen to me, I said no more, but leaving her with my Mother I took down the remains of The Ham and Chicken, and sent William to ask how Henry did. He was not expected to live many Hours; he died the same day.

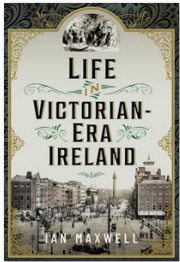
From: *Lesley Castle*, by Jane Austen
(an unfinished novel in letters)

Sourced from:
www.mollands.net/etexts/loveandfreindship/laf17.html



BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS IN BRIEF



Life in Victorian Era Ireland, by Ian Maxwell. Pen & Sword History, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-39904-255-0. Hardback, 248pp., illustrated, index, also available as an e-book. £14.39.

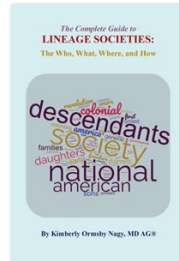
In this book, the author, Ian Maxwell, sets out to describe what life was like for people living in Ireland during the reign of Queen Victoria. It begins with the Queen's coronation in 1838 and describes the celebrations in Ireland and the high expectations many Irish people held for the new monarch's rule. It ends with those hopes dashed, as the Queen made her final visit to Ireland in 1900 before her death in 1901, when Ireland was 'in a more reflective and uncertain mood than had greeted her accession' (Prelude p.xii). This book is a social history of Ireland and the author's aim is to avoid turning it into a political history, although that is challenging at times.

The book covers the extreme poverty that the majority of the Irish population experienced during the Victorian era and describes the Great Famine in detail, and from varying points of view. It discusses the migration of large numbers of people to North America, Australia and Britain, with a focus on those who were left behind in Ireland. Other chapters explore religion, sport and leisure, public health and education.

The immense value of this book for family historians lies in the wonderfully wide range and number of excerpts and quotations from contemporary writers, visitors to Ireland and newspapers of the day. For example, Johann Kohl, a German travel writer, historian and geographer, published *Travels in Ireland* in 1843. Excerpts from his experiences describes the plight of seasonal migrants (Ch. 2 p.33) and a schoolhouse made of mud with no windows (Ch. 9 p.151). Another, Paschal Grousset, a French politician, journalist and writer, published *Ireland's Disease: notes and impressions* in 1888. In passages from his book, he writes of the poverty and smells of Dublin (Ch. 1 p.4), the barracks and fortifications for the English soldiers (Ch. 2 p.27), and Dublin's Gaiety Theatre (Ch. 12 p.205). William Makepeace Thackeray, the British novelist, published *The Irish Sketchbook* in 1843. He thought Dublin was

'very handsome' (Ch. 1 p.2) and appreciated the Irish love of music and dancing in every public house (Ch. 12 p.207).

For anyone wanting to understand more about their Irish ancestors' lives, this book gives a very rounded picture. There is a good bibliography for further reading, including all the contemporary sources and a selection of secondary sources.

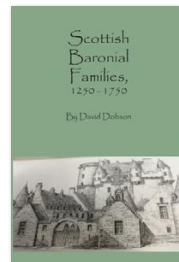


The Complete Guide to Lineage Societies: The Who, What, Where, and How, by Kimberley Ormsby Nagy. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-8063-2134-9. Paperback, 80pp., illustrated. £15.67.

In this book, the author provides help and guidelines for anyone wanting to apply to join a lineage society. It covers only societies in the United States.

A lineage society is defined here as 'a group of individuals who all descend from a specific group of ancestors' (p.9). Examples include the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Descendants of Early Postmasters. An appendix gives information on more than 50 societies, although the author cautions that it is not an exhaustive list.

The book describes what lineage societies do, how to find them, and how to establish eligibility to join. It includes details on the application processes. Interestingly, the process of applying includes submitting the applicant's research, which is vetted and approved by another person or committee, giving a certain level of credibility to the research.

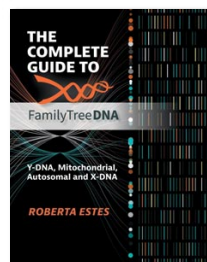


Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750, by David Dobson. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-8063-5974-8. Paperback, 199pp. £26.64.

For anyone tracing their family history back to Scotland, this may be very helpful. The Introduction is detailed and very interesting. It describes a barony as land granted to an individual by a Scottish king. Baronies were normally inherited by the baron's eldest son and/or heir.

The author's principal source of information was the *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*. However, there is a full list of all sources consulted.

The main body of the book is a list of almost 1,000 baronial families, in alphabetical surname order. Each family entry has a brief biography, usually including when the barony was granted, the heirs and the places covered. Some entries have details of family members migrating to North America, their travel dates and arrival locations. An appendix lists some Scots-Irish baronies.



The Complete Guide to FamilyTreeDNA

by Roberta Estes. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024.

ISBN: 978-0-8063-2128-8.

Paperback, 247pp., illustrations, glossary. £31.79.

This book gives clear instructions on how to take FamilyTreeDNA's tests and how to use the tools on their website to develop a family tree.

Many readers may just want to have a deeper understanding of the various DNA tests or want to learn more about how DNA tests can help them with their genealogy. This book contains many chapters offering excellent explanations, helpful graphics and step by step instructions.

Footnotes throughout the book give links to blogs and other learning resources. All the information available on the website dna-explained.com is for anyone to use. There is a wide range of topics covered, from explanations of the basics of DNA testing to articles on the latest technology.

Sherryl Abrahart

BOOK OF THE MONTH



My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman, by Christopher T Watts and Michael J Watts. Published: Second edition 2002.

ISBN: 978-1-903462-51-5.

Paperback, 224pp., illustrated, index.

An essential guide for family historians who want to learn more about the merchant seamen on their family trees. This book offers invaluable information on how to find the records and how to understand them.

During the British Empire, ships provided an essential form of transport and communication between Britain and its colonies. The book covers records such as taxation on imports and exports, the pursuit and settlement of disputes in the law courts, and the registration of ships.

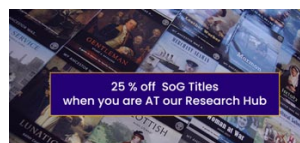
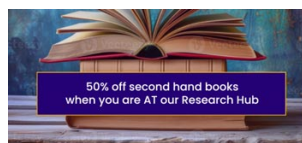
The usual cost of *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman* is £9.99 and it is currently available at <https://tinyurl.com/37zrwrrr> to SoG members at the discounted price of £8.00 (£9.00 to non-members).

A £3.50 postal charge applies within the UK. This book plus the full range of titles published by the Society available from our bookshop through our website. Offer valid until 30 June 2025.

Catherine Hopkins
eventsoffice@sog.org.uk

Visitors' Book Discount

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Further details | Tel: (020) 7702 5481 | Email: Catherine.hopkins@sog.org.uk

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Norma Allum

Re: Nicholas Newington-Irving FSG

I became friendly with Nicholas when I volunteered at SoG in Upper Library in the 1980s. His professional knowledge and good cheer was much appreciated. We were working on the Bank of England Index and his output on 'pink slips' was exceptional.

He was later instrumental in arranging for my daughter to be married at St Bartholomew the Great, London, which at the time was no easy feat. I was able to reciprocate when proposing him as a Fellow. He will be greatly missed.

From: Dr David Wright, FSA, FSG, FHS

Email: daveeastkent@gmail.com

Reader's Query - Kent Depositions Index

In among the genealogical section of the late Duncan Harrington's tremendous library was his (probably unique?) Kent Depositions Index, c.1550-1700, containing thousands of declarations of age and birthplace at very early dates, and notably of clergymen. There are perhaps 25,000 slips needing a good deal of work to bring the index into a searchable form, and written in several different hands. Is there anybody reading this who helped Duncan and can get in touch with me to try and elucidate a number of queries?



Dr Andrea Tanner, FSG

1956 – 2024

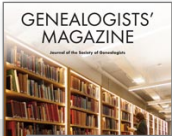
'Dr Andrea Tanner, in-store Historian and first ever female Archivist of Fortnum and Mason published on their Facebook page in celebration of her on International Women's Day 2022'.

(The SoG was unable to publish an accompanying photograph in the previous issue due to publishing schedule.)

We were sorry to hear the news of **Neville Charles Taylor**, Chair of the Fellows. We will include an obituary in the September *Genealogists' Magazine*.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Denis Leslie Barber	1965 – 2025	Christine Hazel Maynard	2001 – 2025
Ann Carol Bassford	2013 – 2025	Paul McFarland	2018 – 2025
Peter Jon Cox	1980 – 2025	Peter Michael Napp	1978 – 2025
Pearl Eileen Farr	1986 – 2025	Sharon Theresa Peppard	2006 – 2025
Martin Jarvis Fitch	1981 – 2025	Christopher Sotheby Pitcher	1978 – 2025
John Ivor Goodwin	2002 – 2025	David Pratt	2001 – 2025
Philip Bernard Haskings	2013 – 2025	Alan Ray-Jones	2006 – 2025
Catherine Ann Johnson	1990 – 2025	Roger Arthur Carbery Sweny	1987 – 2025
Ann Patricia Lillywhite	1981 – 2025	James Roger Tarper	1996 – 2025
Colin Nicholas Linford	1994 – 2025	Neville Charles Taylor FSG	1985 – 2025
Brian Robert Loomes FSG	1987 – 2025	Trevor Charles Tween	2000 – 2025
Paul Arthur Frank Marks	2002 – 2025		



GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

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EVENTS NEWS

SUMMER SOCIAL

We are excited to announce a Summer Social on 21st August. Join us at Wharf Road to hear two talks by Richard Morgan, "Crops in India - tea planters and their lives and records" followed by "Indian Directories". We will also be displaying some examples of these exceptionally useful sources, which provide a remarkably complete picture of British people in India. Following the talks, join us for a drink and social with other SoG members.



Pre-booking is essential visit www.sog.org.uk/events

COLLABORATIONS WITH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES AND ARCHIVES

Now available on our YouTube channel are: Researching in the Northeast (Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear), Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire, and Leicester and Rutland.



On 9th June we're teaming up with Northamptonshire Archives and Northamptonshire Family History Society for a further county-focussed Zoom talk. Following closely on, there'll be a screening of the talk at Wharf Road, starting 2pm on 11th June.

All our series of county Zoom talks will be followed up with an on-site screening and a tour of the SoG library. Each tour will focus on our resources for that particular area. These events provide an ideal opportunity to meet others researching area-specific ancestors. For those seeking hints and tips from the wider SoG community, there'll be a notice board available to post your surname of interest.

Watch out for our upcoming presentations on East Yorkshire, Powys, Gloucestershire, Devon, Surrey and Hampshire later this year.

Booking is essential so visit www.sog.org.uk/events or contact reception.

Another collaboration will be a free Zoom event on 23rd June, in association with the Romany and Traveller Family History Society. It aims to offer a wealth of ideas for researching Romany, Gypsy and Traveller ancestors - including tips from archives and for using newspapers.

COME AND SEE US!

We have an increasing number of events taking place in our Wharf Road Resource Hub. Each month, Else Churchill and Christine Worthington invite you to view our 'Collections Up Close'. On 21st May, the focus was on family bibles in our collections. While these talks can be watched on Zoom, we really do recommend coming into London to get up close if you can!



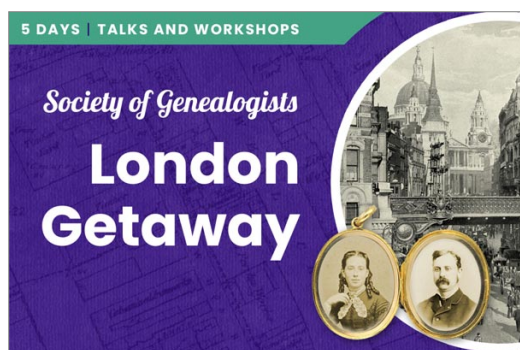
As part of our August theme of 'food' we will be welcoming Peter Ross into the Resource Hub on 14th August to speak about 'From the Saxons to Mary Berry: A Visual History of the English Cookbook'. We'll also have a display of recipes in the SoG collections, and you will be welcome to bring in and share any family recipe books which you have inherited.

SoG is proud to be a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, where you can access images from FamilySearch's digital genealogical collections that are not accessible from home. On Friday 1st August we welcome FamilySearch staff members into the library for a workshop using your own laptop or one of the library computers.

LONDON GETAWAY

Monday 8th - Friday 12th September.

Join us at the Society of Genealogists for a Family History Getaway Week. The Society is hosting this five-day programme in its Resource Hub in London. Attend talks and workshops to find out how London Victorian families lived and how London's social issues and local history affected their lives. Then, as part of the programme, explore the books, documents and records in our Library, plus optional extra workshops, walks and visits. Twelve workshops and talks, help using our Library and a sandwich lunch are included in the cost.



Do you have the basic details for your London ancestors but wonder why they made certain choices and how they lived? This five-day Getaway programme is ideal for anyone at any stage and level who is researching ancestors in London. Get more details here: www.subscribe.com/london_getaway

GENEALOGY FOR LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS

7th - 10th July 2025

Are you a librarian or archivist? Do you know one? This short course aims to help anyone working in a library or archive support family historians. Participants will gain

an understanding of the genealogical community and resources, looking at genealogical research methods and techniques, key resources and best practices for guiding visitors through historical records, archives and digital databases. The course will cover essential topics such as census records, civil registration, parish records and national and local history collections.

Of course, our programme of online talks continues. In June, we'll be discovering more about ancestors who lived and worked on or by the sea with talks about merchant seamen, seafront buildings, maritime sources at the SoG and a visit to the Caird Library at Greenwich Maritime Museum. Our occupation of the month will be shoemakers, and Professional Corner will be examining imposter syndrome in genealogists. Jude Rhodes will be dipping into family history methodology and we learn how to get the most from the Imperial War Museum.

In July, we'll be learning about houses and homes and about making a new home with talks including 'My Ancestor was an Alien', records for house history at SoG and elsewhere and personal stories of British emigrants in the empire. Our occupation of the month is women's work in the home and we learn how to get the most from a one name study.

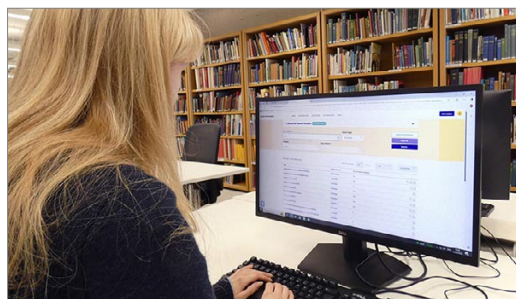
August is all about food from 'Taking Tea on a Summer Afternoon' to baker and confectioner ancestors, from genealogical marshmallows to caffeine addicts, Indian tea planters to the Sainsbury archive and taking a look at the food producers on our annual agricultural labourer day.

Visit www.sog.org.uk/events to find out more and book your place.

Please note that due to the changes in our membership and booking systems not all events mentioned above are currently available to book. Check back at www.sog.org.uk/events to book.

SoG EXPLORE MILESTONE REACHED

SoG Explore now includes over 1 million images - 300,000 more than on our old system (Data Online). Search by name or browse collections in our A to Z, accessible via SoG Explore.



A massive thank you to Alan Pursell and his volunteer team. SoG Explore now includes 17 million names, which is 2.4 million more than Data Online.

The team's work isn't finished yet though, and more records will be added. The latest updates now includes Teachers' Registrations, giving researchers even more to explore.

For a helpful video on how to use SoG Explore and the A to Z please see: www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/sogexploreinfo/

FROM THE LIBRARY

- We now have over 22,900 items on the open library shelves and continue to add tracts for the various categories in the library. We now have tracts for Textbooks, Heraldry, India, Ireland and counties up to Gloucestershire.
- For library visitors, our bookmarks list and subscription databases can now be found as a link on the library computer desktops called **Library Web Guide**. Here you will find links to all the subscription databases and other useful links, including links to the following new resources:
 - We are now subscribed to the **Huguenot Society Journal online**, and as part of the subscription we have access to ALL back issues of the journal. Ask a staff member to log in for you.
 - Three **databases by Prof. Craig Smee (Australia)**. These can be accessed on library computers without needing a password:

Births & baptisms, marriages & de facto relationships, deaths & burials in the colony of New South Wales: 1788-1840

Born in the English colony of New South Wales: 1788-1820

Female convicts transported to the colony of New South Wales: 1788-1820

- The **Ontario Genealogical Society** has very kindly granted us a lifetime membership to Ontario Ancestors with access to its database and resources in the members area of its website. Additionally, the OGS has offered SoG members a discount on membership of CAN\$9 off (£5), making the annual membership CAN\$54 or £31. Contact officeadmin@ogs.on.ca to get a discount coupon which can be used with your online payment.

- **Information Provision Review:** Thank you to those who filled in the questionnaire. We are collating responses now so there is still some time if you would like to have your say (there is a link to it in the May

Update on the library page - www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library#update. For those of you who indicated in your questionnaire that you would like to attend our online consultation meeting, we'll be in touch soon with a date.

- Our current **Featured Collection** contains nearly 450 items relating to professions/occupations beginning with A and B. So if you have an ancestor who was an accountant, actor, artist, author, banker, builder, brewer or broadcaster, there may be something in the Featured Collection of interest to you. To see a full list of Featured Collection items go to the library catalogue Advanced Search, choose Location as your search field, then from the dropdown menu next to it select Library F. Featured Collection and click Search. These items will be in the library, adjacent to the common area, until the end of May. Our next Featured collection June-September will be selections from our Peerage collection.
- We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Neville Taylor, who volunteered in the library for many years. He was particularly keen on library collection care and so many books were labelled, covered and stamped by him, and contain his handwriting on our bookplates. After covid he resumed volunteering at Holloway Road doing book care and helping us to tidy catalogue record barcodes in preparation for the new library. From September 2023 and in the months leading up to opening he attended Wharf Road twice a week to help process books to be shelved in the new library. He was always a complete gentleman, with quiet dedication and helpfulness, and a groanworthy pun now and then that kept us smiling.
- There have recently been some terrific **events in the library**, particularly library tours for county-specific research, the next of which will be for Leicestershire and Rutland on 14 May and Northamptonshire on 11 June and Yorkshire East Riding on 23 July. The next Collections Up Close, showcasing gems from our archives will be held on 18 June and 16 July. The next FamilySearch workshop will be held on Friday 1 August in the library. Keep an eye on the events page of our website for further details and booking information.

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

Christine Worthington

Research Collections Coordinator

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

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Jan - Mar 2025

FAMILY HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY

- Bonathan** A history of the Bonathan family in England and North America / by Anne Bonathan Morris. (2013)
- Bonithon** Les Bonithon dans le Nontronnai / Bernard Bonithon.
- Brand** The Brand family history, 1718-1802 / the Brand family in the 18th century. Part 1: 1718-1752 / By Robin H Brand. (2024)
- Cohen** Changing faces: a memoir of Louisa Lady Cohen / Hannah F. Cohen. (1937)
- Howell** The ledger of Thomas Howell 1522-1528: draper of London & merchant of Bristol and Seville / from the transcript made by John H. Brierley; edited by Heather Dalton. (2024)
- Hynds** The life and times of Len A Hynds: Mind the assegai wounds / Len A Hynds.
- Jenkyn/ Carne/Tresilian** From here to antiquity: a Celtic lineage / by A W Jenkyn. (1994)
- Levis** Histoire et genealogie de la maison de Levis / Georges Martin.
- Mann** Catalogue of the Mann (Cornwallis) MSS (K.A.O. U24) / Kent County Council Archives (1955)
- Marsham** Documents of the Earls of Romney, settled estates (Kent Archives Office: U1644) / catalogued by D. Gibson. (1973?)
- Maudslay** Alfred Maudslay and the Maya: a biography / by Ian Graham. (2002)
- Mayall** The Mayall octad: the family photographs / by Robert Scott. (2024)
- The Mayall octad: the family trees / by John Scott and updated by Robert Scott. (2024)
- The Mayall octad: the narratives / by John Scott and updated by Robert Scott. (2024)
- Mint** Mint, Mind, Mund family history / compiled by Rose Mint.
- Mervyn** Fasciculus Mervinensis; being notes historical, genealogical and heraldic of the family of Mervyn / by Sir William Richard Drake. (1873)
- More** The family and descendants of St Thomas More / Martin Wood. (2008)
- Quinby** Genealogical history of the Quinby (Quimby) family: in England and America / by Henry Cole Quinby. (1996)
- Schwartzel** Schwartzel family history / compiled by Rose Mint.
- Scott** The Scott octad: the family photographs / by Robert Scott. (2024)
- The Scott octad: the family trees / by John Scott and updated by Robert Scott. (2024)
- The Scott octad: the narratives / by John Scott and updated by Robert Scott. (2024)
- Sherwood** The Sherwood research collection: a collection of genealogical materials on a family and

county or area basis in Great Britain, with a slip index / by George Frederick Tudor Sherwood. (1968?)

Toucet Samuel Toucet: a sketch of an eighteenth-century man.

Troll Troll family history / compiled by Rose Mint.

Vowels Vowles of Somerset: baptisms, marriages and burials 1570-1830.

Waleran Waleran, Walerand, Walraund, Walrand, Walrond of Wiltshire / compiled by Robert Dudley Walrond with the assistance of J. Harvey Bloom.

Waller Waller family history / compiled by Rose Mint.

Wight Wight: a family from the Scottish border to Durham County, Ontario 1750-1976 / George A. and Jean H. McClellan. (1976)

RESEARCH GUIDES

- Beginning your family history / George Pelling. (5th edition) (1990)
- The concise guide to tracing your ancestry / Brian Loomes. (1992)
- Dates and time: a handbook for local historians / Lionel M. Munby. (1997)
- Debrett's correct form: an inclusive guide to everything from drafting wedding invitations to addressing an archbishop / compiled and edited by Patrick Montague-Smith. (1976)
- A dictionary of military and technological abbreviations and acronyms / Bernhard Pretz. (1983)
- Discovering surnames / J. W. Freeman. (3rd edition) (2001)
- Family photographs 1860-1945 / Robert Pols. (2002)
- The family tree detective: a manual for analysing and solving genealogical problems in England and Wales, 1538 to the present day / Colin D. Rogers. (1989)
- The family tree guide to DNA testing and genetic genealogy / Blaine T. Battinger. (2019)
- Genealogy online: researching your roots / Elizabeth Powell Crowe. (1998)
- My ancestors moved in England or Wales: how can I trace where they came from? / Anthony J Camp. (1994)
- Palaeography for family and local historians / Hilary Marshall. (2004)
- Reading Tudor and Stuart handwriting / Lionel Munby. (1988)
- Research your surname and family tree: find out what your surname means and trace your ancestors who share it too / Dr Graeme Davis. (2010)
- Some medieval records for family historians: an introduction to the purposes, contents and interpretation of pre-1538 records available in print / Peter Franklin. (1994)
- Storytelling for genealogists: turning family lineage into family history / by Doug Tattershall. (2024)
- Trace your roots with DNA: using genetic tests to explain your family tree / Megan Smolenyak and Ann Turner. (2004)

Tracing your ancestors using DNA: a guide for family and local historians / edited by Graham S. Holton. (2019)

Using manorial records / Mary Ellis. (1997)

The Wordsworth complete guide to heraldry / Arthur Charles Fox-Davies. (1996)

Writing and publishing your family history / John Titford. (1996)

Writing up your family history: a do it yourself guide / John Titford. (2003)

Your family tree online: how to trace your ancestry from your own computer / Graeme Davis. (2009)

GENERAL & SOCIAL HISTORY

Abstract of memoranda rolls L.T.R. [Lord Treasurer's Remembrance]

British music hall: an illustrated history / Richard A. Baker. (2014)

Carrying British mails: five centuries of postal transport by land, sea and air / Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons. (1980)

Cathedrals at work / Canon Gilbert Thurlow. (1967)

Daily Mail yearbook: a handy reference book to questions of the day. (1943)

The diary of Samuel Pepys: a new and complete transcription. Vol.6, 1665 / edited by Robert Latham and William Matthews. (2000)

A directory of the parochial libraries of the Church of England and the church in Wales / edited by Michael Perkin. (2004)

Dissolution of the monasteries / G.W.O. Woodward. (1993)

Edwardian England / by Donald Read. (1972)

Lay Catholic societies in twentieth-century Britain / edited by Maria Power and Jonathan Bush. (2025)

Memories of still more recent Irish Dominicans who passed away between the years 1950-1960 / written and compiled by Raymund M Dowdall. Vol. 3. (1968)

The most excellent order of the British Empire: service of celebration and dedication in St. Paul's Cathedral

Pigot and Co.'s national commercial directory: 1828-9; comprising a directory and classification of the merchants, manufacturers and traders in all the cities, towns, sea-ports, and principal villages in the following counties: Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire. (1828)

The Popish plot / J.P. Kenyon. (1974)

Queen Mary and the cruiser: the Curacoa disaster / David A., Thomas and Patrick Holmes (1997)

Sentences and complete index nominum: probates and sentences for the years 1630-1639 / edited by John Matthews and George F. Matthews. (1907)

Statutes of the most excellent order of the British Empire 1970

The universal British directory 1793-1798 / Clive Wilkins-Jones. (1993)

Victorian and early 20th century baby farming: the darkest business / Eve Bacon. (2024)

Victorian high-wheelers: the early social life of the bicycle where Dorset meets Hampshire / Roger T. C. Street. (1979)

PLACES

BEDFORDSHIRE

Roman Catholicism in Bedfordshire 1700-1900: the other non-conformists / Peter Doyle. (2025)

Ampthill Ampthill Rural District official guide, Bedfordshire.

The Urban District of Ampthill, Bedfordshire: the official guide.

Kempston Kempston Urban District official guide.

Luton County borough of Luton: official street plan.

Sandy Sandy Urban District: official guide and handbook.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bedlow Bledlow charity book, 1720-1830 vol. 1 / transcribed by Barbara Quick.

Eton The official guide to Eton Rural District.

Latimer Latimer, a short history: with a detailed map of the area / Barbara Forwood and Michael Armitage. (1972)

Wendover Wendover, Buckinghamshire: official guide, with map.

Wing Wing Rural District, Buckinghamshire.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely: official county handbook with maps and illustrations.

The Cambridgeshire portion of the chartulary of the Priory of St. Pancras of Lewes / edited by J H Bullock and W M Palmer. (1938)

Babraham Babraham.

Chatteris Chatteris, Cambridgeshire: official guide.

Ely Ely city of the fens: the official guide to the City of Ely / edited by Col. J G A Beckett. (1972)

Sawston The Huddleston documents of Sawston Hall, now with the County Archivist at the Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge / by Traviss Teversham. (1970)

CHESHIRE

Cheshire, a genealogical bibliography / by Stuart A Raymond. (2 volumes) (1995)

The Chester Cambrian Societies, 1760-1906 / Thos Edwards. (1906)

Macclesfield Macclesfield Rural District, Cheshire: the official guide.

New Brighton New Brighton, Wallasey: leisure & recreational centre of Merseyside on the healthy Cheshire coast: official guide.

Northwich Northwich Rural District official guide: commemorative edition / edited by Mrs G.I. Bourne.

Sale Burrow's reference map and street guide of Sale. [Map]

Stockport The green giant: a history of the Stockport Gas Undertaking, 1820-1949 / David Loverseed. (1997)

CORNWALL

China clay: traditional mining methods in Cornwall / Charles Thurlow. (1996)

Falmouth Falmouth. (1972)

St Newlyn St. Newlyn East: a history of the Parish. (2000)

CUMBERLAND

Workington Workington's marsh & quay / by Keith Wallace. (1998)

DERBYSHIRE

Ashbourne Ashbourne, Dovedale and the Manifold Valley: official guide to the urban and rural districts of Ashbourne,

Chapel-en-le-Frith Guide to the High Peak: Chapel-en-le-Frith rural district official guide.

Whaley Bridge Whaley Bridge Urban District Derbyshire: official guide.

DEVON

Exeter Exeter Cathedral bells / Revd. J.G.M. Scott.

Harland Hartland: coast and quay - twelve illustrations with notes on ancient local buildings and documents. (3rd edition)

Plymouth City of Plymouth directory of services / prepared by the Plymouth Corporation. (1973)

DORSET

Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Rural District, Dorset.

Wimborne Wimborne & Cranbourne Rural District: the official guide. (1970)

DURHAM

Brandon Brandon and Byshottles: official guide and street plan. (1972)

Lanchester Lanchester Rural District: the official guide.

Pittington Jubilee history of Pittington Amicable Industrial Society Limited, 1874-1924 / by Arnold B Ross. (1924)

Sunderland The history of the Sunderland cricket and rugby football club: to Ashbrooke and beyond/ by E Watts Moses. (1963)

ESSEX

The early charters of Essex / Cyril Hart. (2nd edition) (1971)

The regimental chapel of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Essex Regiment. (2016)

South east Essex in the Saxon period / by Leonard Helliwell. (1971)

Braintree Braintree Rural District Essex: official guide. (9th edition) (1972)

Brentwood The Essex Regiment Chapel

Brightlingsea Official guide to the Brightlingsea Urban District of Essex (Cinque Port Liberty). (1970)

Buckhurst One hundred years: Buckhurst Hill Cricket and Lacrosse Club centenary, 1864-1964.

Buckhurst Hill The Daiglen School: a short history / by the boys of Form One, 1986.

Chelmsford Chelmsford diocesan directory 2005

Colchester Colchester Royal Grammar School and the Great War / edited by Laurie Holmes and Paul Ma. (2014)

Frinton on Sea Frinton on Sea.

Leigh on Sea Old Leigh / by H.N. Bride. (1967)

Maldon Maldon Rural District: official guide. (1970?)

Rayleigh Rayleigh, Essex: official street plan.

Rayleigh Mount: in hoc manerio fecit Suen suum castellum: (in this manor Sweyn (has) made his castle).

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For those readers that enjoy logging into our online membership services, we have very exciting news. By the time you are reading this, the Society will have moved to a new membership IT provider (Oomi), and our brand-new membership community area will be available online. The new forum is the perfect space for posting questions and sharing your genealogy discoveries. Discuss your brick walls and celebrate your successes with other members in the online community.



This change in systems will bring a series of improvements to the administration of your membership, helping to improve our internal processes and deliver you (our valuable members) a more efficient customer service. There are also lots of improvements planned for the membership area online, making it easier for you to access your many digital membership benefits such as the electronic version of the *Genealogist Magazine*. These will be rolled out gradually across the remainder of the year.

Natalie Pithers | Head of Change & Communications | E: membership@sog.org.uk

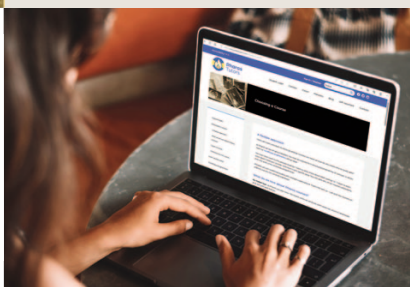


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