

# GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE

**Journal of the Society of Genealogists**



Volume 35 Number 3 Sep 2025

*Journal of the Society of Genealogists and its contributors, September 2025*

5 DAYS | 12 TALKS IN PERSON & ONLINE

*Society of Genealogists*

# Victorian London Week



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SOCIETY OF  
GENEALOGISTS

Founded 1911

I am delighted to welcome you to the Autumn edition of the *Genealogists' Magazine*. Like previous editions, ahead of you is a cornucopia of life stories, from Sir John Bourne, a member of Mary Tudor's Heresy Committee, to Mrs Upsdell, widow of a 19th c. comic actor, who died in a workhouse. Perhaps it is the preponderance of men of cloth in this edition that made me think of the precept that 'all are equal before god', something common to many religions but actually laid down, in large measure, in the American Declaration of Independence. Many bodies, from the judicial to the medical, proclaim that they follow this precept – and I will leave it up to you to decide whether they do – but it strikes me that the genealogical community certainly follow it. We find all lives of interest. We certainly prefer individuals to have made a mark in their lives to ensure their existence is more fully recorded, whether through praise or condemnation - although few can leave quite such tangible marks as the houses Wayne Shepherd references in his article - but we view everyone equally.

Which brings me to a very interesting question that was brought up at our recent AGM, the minutes of which will be made available soon. Was Gold membership designed to infer a level of seriousness or importance to those who joined at that level? I can see how such an assumption might arise but I do want to underline that that was not the case. Gold membership was designed to allow for better access to talk recordings and it uses monthly or annual payment options to make this easier. Gold is ideal for those watching two or more talks a month and we are delighted that so many people find it useful.

Whether you are a Gold member or a Standard member, whether you see yourself as a genealogist or a family historian, whether you seek remuneration for your research or just the joy from discovery (or both), you are an equally important member of the Society.

Having said which, there are a group of members who have had a particular impact on the Society and genealogy and they are accorded Fellowship of the Society, indicated by the initials 'FSG' after their name (whilst remaining paying members of the Society, like everyone else!). At the AGM it was announced that five members were elected (by existing Fellows) to join the group and I want to draw particular attention to our outgoing Chair of the Board of Trustees, Graham Walter. Not only has Graham played a valuable role in the Society for over 6 years volunteering as a Trustee, including his two years as Chair, but he has also brought his specialist knowledge on IT to help resolve innumerable issues and has generously helped genealogists across the country as one of the Society's Census Detectives. We thank you and salute you, Graham Walter FSG.

***Philip Spedding***  
CEO

# Annual General Meeting



**Photographs** (left to right): Treasurer, Ray O'Connell reports on finances following 2024 overview from Chairman, Graham Walter | Philip Spedding, CEO, addresses members and fields questions | Christine Worthington, Research Collections Coordinator, answers questions from the floor | Votes counted both on-site and online | Ann Radmore, the incoming Chair, being introduced | Paul Blake, Chair of the Fellows, announces the names of those recently elected | In all, 39 members attended in person and 61 joined online.

# GENEALOGISTS' MAGAZINE



Volume 35 Number 3 Sep 2025 Editor: Michael J. Gandy, BA, FSG

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**Cover pictures:** Hans Stenger, carpenter, depicted against the backdrop of a half-timbered house under construction. Illustration from *The Book of the Twelve Brothers*, 1607, commissioned by Konrad Mendel (a Nuremberg merchant). Public domain image held at Nuremberg City Library, Germany. The names of very many medieval artisans appear in account books, many of which survive, particularly for large-scale projects and church property.

The Society of Genealogists does not necessarily agree with, support or promote any opinion or representation by contributors to *Genealogists' Magazine*. Please note that some terminology that appears in this publication is the language of the time and is used in the historical context.

# MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP

*Wayne Shephard*

Many of my direct ancestors were involved in the building trades. They also owned and/or lived in a variety of different types of homes constructed over the centuries. The residences in Devon, of course, illustrate the oldest designs, styles and materials used.

Some of the old homes are still in use but have undergone major renovations. I have been able to obtain photographs of the way they looked decades ago as well as the way they are now. Sources like Google maps and Google street-view allow us to see the buildings from all angles.

One house of particular note, located in Cornwood, Devon, is a wonderful example of building styles that have spanned at least four centuries. It also exemplifies the high level of craftsmanship that was available at the time it was built and during later modifications. In the earliest records it was called Notts (aka Knotts); since the 19th century it has been called Woodburn (Fig. 1).

## Defining Ownership

Several old documents record the ownership and probable age of the Notts/Woodburn farm. These



Fig. 1 – Index map (1908 ordnance base) to location of Woodburn/Notts home, Cornwood (National Library of Scotland, 1908 Ordnance Survey, Quarter Inch, Sheet 22).

are of great importance to me in allowing me to compile my family's history in the area.

The lands are referenced in a 1629 Inquisition Post-Mortem (IPM), suggesting the house dates from at least the early 17th century. The abstract taken on 25 September 1629 states that "William Shepherd was seised of 2 messuages, gardens, & Appleyard & 30 acres [one] called Nottes in the parish of Cornwood..." William (c 1575-1628) was my 9x great-grandfather.

We believe that Notts/Woodburn may have been part of the Fardell Manor in ancient times. The manor house is only about a third of a mile to the southeast of Woodburn. No documents have yet been found dated earlier than the IPM that name the property; however it is possible that the structure was in existence by the 14th century.

Several important pieces of information about our family come from the IPM: one, that William was from "Yempston in the parish of Plympton St. Mary"; two, that he died on 28 January 1627/28; three, that the properties went to "Nicholas, son &

heir, then aged 26." Yempston may reference Yealmpstone, which was a farm located just east of the old town of Plympton.

The IPM is the only document that indicates when Nicholas Shepheard (1601-1657), my 8x great-grandfather, was born: i.e. 1601. Nine other children of William Shepheard were baptized in Plympton St. Mary between 1603 and 1626. The register only goes back to 1603 so the record of the birth of Nicholas has not been preserved.

The 1642 Devon Protestation Return (Fig. 3) lists Nicholas Sheapheard [*sic*] as living in Cornwood, the only Shepheard family to be recorded in that parish. Earlier lists of residents that have been found show no Shepheard families lived or owned land in the parish: 1332 Devon Lay Subsidy; 1524-27 Devon Lay Subsidy; 1581 Subsidy.

A lease document dated 5 July 1759 (Fig. 4) recited all the owners of Notts from Nicholas's wife Margerit (Lee) Shepheard (c1603-1685) and their son, John Shepheard (1633-c1684), my 7x great-grandfather, down two more generations, through

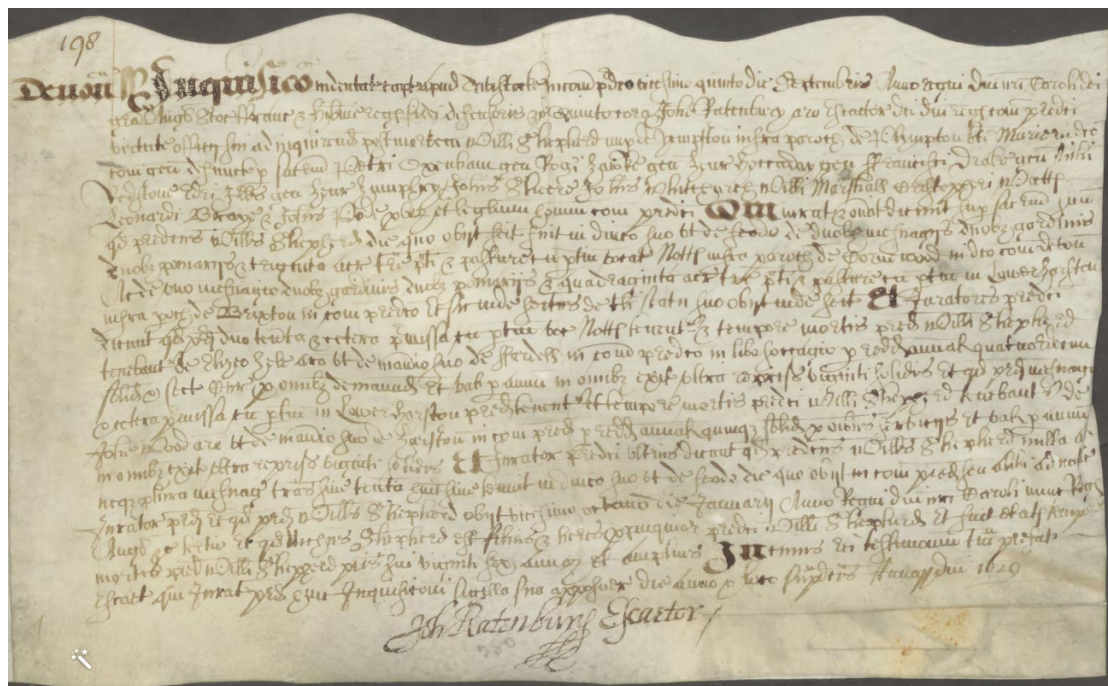


Fig. 2 - copy of original Inquisition Post-Mortem, dated 25 September 1629, for William Shepherd, deceased; names property Notts and son and heir, Nicholas Shepherd, aged 26 (The National Archives, Ref RC7217913).

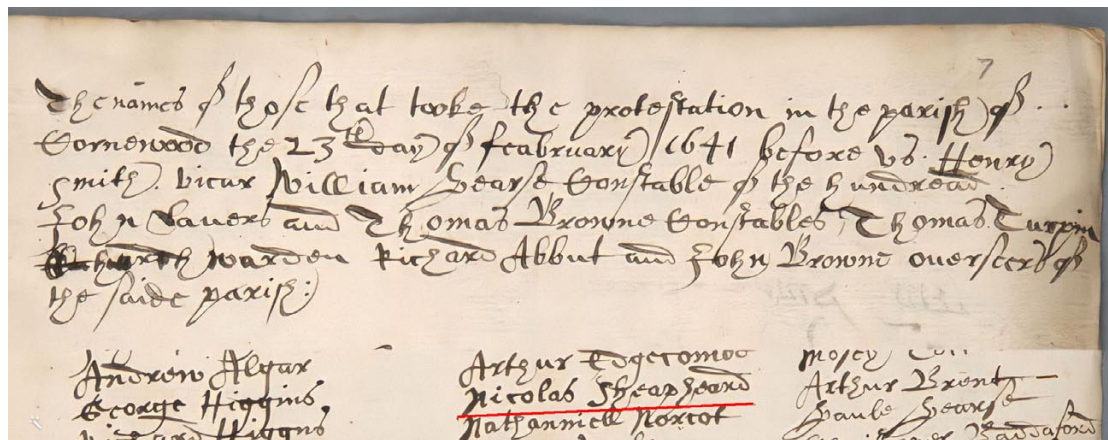


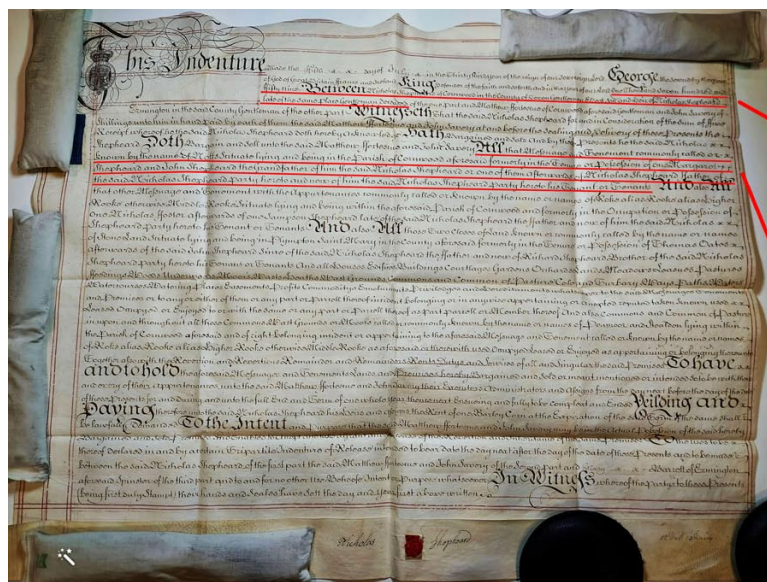
Fig. 3 - copy of the 1642 Devon Protestation Return showing Nicholas Sheapheard of Cornwood (UK Parliament Parliamentary Archives - Protestation Return: Devon: Ermington Hundred: Cornwood, Ref HLJO/10/1/85/4)

Nicholas Shephard (c1675-1756), my 6x great-grandfather, to Nicholas Shephard (1716-1786) and then to his wife, Mary (Barrett) Shephard (1736-1803), my 5x great-grandparents.

Past that date, other lease documents, wills and tax records (Fig. 5) show the property was eventually passed down to Nicholas Shephard (1761-1820), Mary's son, William's 3x great-grandson, and my 4x great-granduncle, who sold it in 1806.

The 1759 lease document listed another major property in Cornwood called Rook, which was acquired by Nicholas and Mary probably just before that date. Rook became the family seat in the parish until 1919 when it was sold.

Nicholas Shephard and Margerit Lee were married in Plympton St. Mary in 1630 but all their children, including John, in 1633, were baptized, and presumably born, in Cornwood. That strongly



One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine Between Nicholas Shephard [1716-1786] of Cornwood in the County of Devon Gentleman Eldest Son and Heir of Nicholas Shephard [1675-1756] late of the Same Place Gentleman Deceased

All that Messuage and Tenement commonly called or known by the name of Notts Scituate lying and being in the Parish of Cornwood aforesaid formerly in the Tenure or Possession of one Margaret Shephard [formerly Lee; -1685] and John Shephard [1633-1685] the Grandfather of him the Said Nicholas Shephard or one of them Afterwards of Nicholas Shephard Father of the Said Nicholas Shephard party hereto and now of him the Said Nicholas Shephard party hereto his Tenant or Tenants

Fig. 4 - copy of a lease document for Notts, dated 5 July 1759, outlining the ownership chain within the Shephard family (Plymouth Archives, The Box, Ref 733/3337/34/1).

*Devon to Wit* An Assessment made in Pursuance of an  
*Examination* *Hundred* Act of Parliament passed in the twenty first year  
Cornwood Parish. of his present Majestys Reigne, for granting an Act  
to his said Majesty, by a Land Tax, to be raised in Great Brittain,  
for the Service of the year 1704. made by W. Wrottesley Esq. Nicholas Shephard

| Names of<br>Proprietors                        | Names of<br>Occupiers       |                                         | Sums<br>applied<br>£ s d |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rob <sup>t</sup> Dalk Esq <sup>r</sup>         | Jm <sup>s</sup> Luxcombe    | for Fardle, landings, Jellins & green   | 17 1 4                   |
| Ditto                                          | Ditto                       | for Collins Denaton                     | 0 12 0                   |
| Ditto                                          | Maty Norton                 | for Little parish                       | 1 9 4                    |
| Ditto                                          | W <sup>m</sup> Hart         | for Harts Upperton                      | 2 16 0                   |
| Ditto                                          | J <sup>s</sup> Luxcombe     | for for Fardle, Mills                   | 1 0 0                    |
| Ditto                                          | Maty Norton                 | for Lower Denaton                       | 2 0 0                    |
| Ditto                                          | Henry Batches               | for Collins Denaton                     | 3 0 0                    |
| M <sup>r</sup> Jean. Williams                  | Ditto                       | for Hougher & Hougher Park              | 4 19 4                   |
| Ditto                                          | Ditto                       | for Hingreen                            | 1 6 0                    |
| Ditto                                          | R <sup>e</sup> Northmore    | for Roundale                            | 1 7 2                    |
| Jm <sup>s</sup> Francis Penger                 | Edgar. Golder               | for Dethell                             | 2 10 0                   |
| Ditto                                          | Rich <sup>d</sup> Northmore | for Thorns Upperton                     | 0 16 0                   |
| <u>M<sup>r</sup> Nich<sup>s</sup> Shephard</u> | Ditto                       | for Rook & Knotts                       | 3 4 0                    |
| M <sup>r</sup> J <sup>s</sup> Goodman          | Henry Batches               | for Brook                               | 1 10 0                   |
| Henry Batches                                  | John Knott                  | for Wheliesmoor & M <sup>r</sup> Keaton | 2 5 0                    |
| M <sup>r</sup> Elford                          | Thos <sup>s</sup> Hart      | for Lower Upperton                      | 1 7 4                    |
| Cornwood East Division                         |                             |                                         | 102 11 4                 |

Fig. 5 - parts of Land Tax listing in Cornwood for 1781 showing Rook and Knotts properties owned by Mr. Nicholas Shephard (1761-1820); Nicholas was also one of the tax collectors (Plymouth Archives, The Box, Ref 4/398/8).

suggests they were the first Shephard family to relocate in Cornwood, and likely lived and raised their family at Notts. That idea is partly supported by the statement in the 1759 lease that Margerit was “formerly in the tenure or possession” of the property. We know from the 1629 IPM that her husband Nicholas inherited it from his father, William.

Some major renovations and additions occurred within the time frame when the various Shephard families owned the property. Perhaps the expansion and improvements were to accommodate growing families, beginning with Nicholas and Margerit.

Plan and Style of the House

I was fortunate to be introduced to Richard, the current owner, who has been involved in a major renovation of the Notts/Woodburn home for the

past few years. He kindly supplied photographs of many of the original features and modifications of the building that he discovered during his work.

Unravelling the history of the house was possible because of these renovations. Richard has literally uncovered its skeletal framework, allowing us to learn how the building was initially constructed and what improvements have been made over the centuries. The style of the additions can help us date when they may have occurred and how that may tie into who owned the property.

Buildings for the Times

Beginning around the early 14th century, the climate changed from a generally warm and bountiful period to a colder and inhospitable one. This was the start of the Little Ice Age. With cooler

temperatures and unstable weather patterns persisting for several centuries across Europe, indeed Earth's entire Northern Hemisphere, there developed a need for more substantial shelters for both people and livestock.

Variations of the byre/dwelling style sprang up across Europe in response to deteriorating climatic conditions. The longhouse in Britain became a popular building choice, with the Dartmoor Longhouse dominating in the higher regions of Devon, Cornwall and Wales.

### ***Longhouse Design***

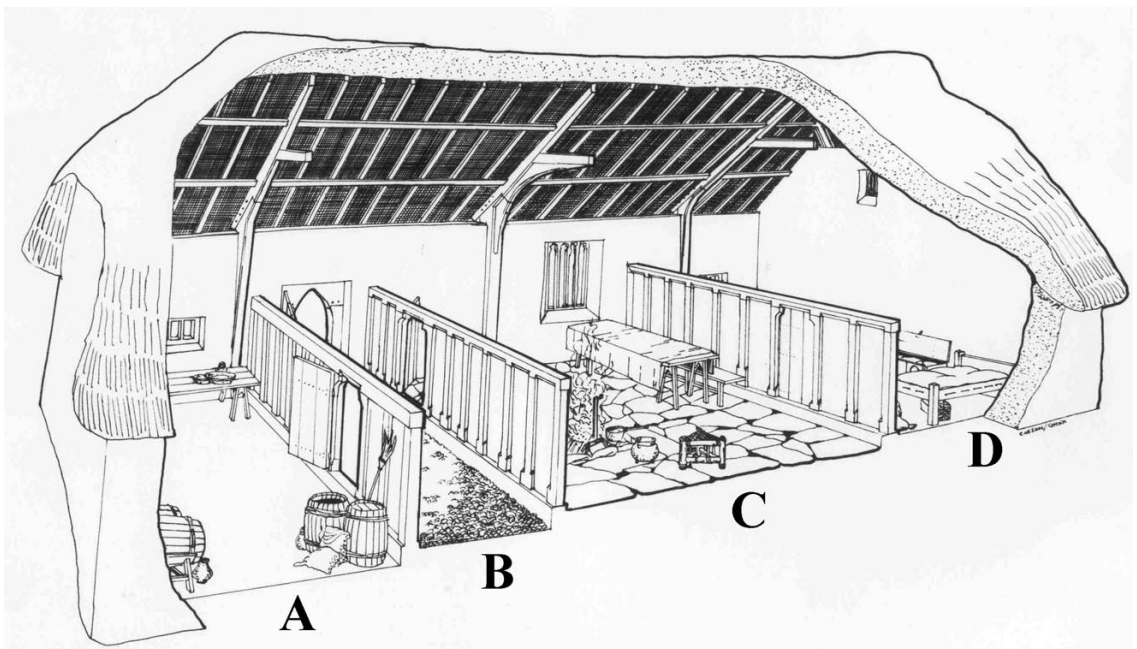
The region's traditional Dartmoor Longhouse design of the late medieval period (primarily from the 14th to 16th centuries) featured a single-storey building comprising three sections (Fig. 6):

- a hall, or living area for people, sometimes with a separate attached inner room
- a shippin, or enclosure for livestock
- a cross-passage for access and separation of the hall and shippin, and perhaps storage.

The buildings were rectangular in shape, generally with gable ends. The interior spaces were two storeys in height, but open and with no ventilation. Exterior walls were made of locally-sourced stone and cob (a clay and sand mixture with straw for a binder). The roof was constructed notably with heavy crucks or cruck trusses: curved or jointed oak beams rising from near the ground and joined at the ridge. Roofs were thatched.

Forming, raising and securing the crucks involved complex and skilled carpentry to ensure they accurately lined up on the foundation and to each other, and could take the load imposed by the roof materials and the environmental conditions in the area in which the house was built (Alcock, 1981).

Interior walls, if there were any, consisted of partitions built of wood stud-and-panel design (plank-and-muttin), to about head height (Alcock, 2016). They consisted of thicker vertical posts with grooves cut along the sides into which the panels were set. Occasionally they might be made of stone. In the absence of glass windows, openings would have been covered with wooden lattice.



*Fig. 6 - plan and shape of a typical Devon longhouse: A - shippin (in most examples a byre; in this sketch shown as a storage area); B - cross-passage; C - hall; D - inner chamber (copyright drawing by Cary Carson, from Alcock, 1978, used with permission).*

Buildings were generally located on sloping land with the shipp on the lower end. A central drainage channel facilitated removal of livestock effluent from the byre.

Living quarters consisted of working and sleeping areas, all within the same hall. If there was an inner chamber, it may have served as the personal or sleeping area. Wood-burning firepits or hearths would have been open with smoke rising to the roofs. Blackened beams and thatch, found in many old buildings, attest to this arrangement. Floors of the earliest structures were likely packed dirt.

Additions and improvements, much later in a house's history, could include a second floor with a staircase, expanded rooms or extensions, fireplaces with chimneys, stone or tile paved floors, porches, attached pens or storage areas, and slate roofs.

These substantial houses were mostly occupied by relatively prosperous, land-owning families. Longhouses in Devon date from the mid-13th century. Carbon dating of the supporting timbers has been done on many of the old buildings. Most of the Devon longhouses appear to have been constructed in the mid-15th to mid-16th centuries.

## The Notts House

### *Original Longhouse Construction (15th century)*

In its original incarnation (Fig. 8), the Notts structure shared the basic Dartmoor Longhouse characteristics of the 3-room single-storey cross-passage plan, cruck framework and thatched roof. The building comprised a combination residence and barn, about 1,300 square feet (sf) in total area (about 21' x 63') with a usable space of about 870 sf (about 15' x 58').

The hall plus possible inner chamber was just under 400 sf. The shipp on was relatively small: about 180 sf. That suggests the farm was primarily under cultivation rather than having a large dairy component, with fewer animals needed for normal farming operations.

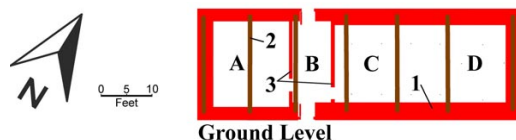


Fig. 8 - floor plan of the original Notts longhouse showing three main rooms: shipp on (A), cross-passage (B) and hall (C), with possible inner chamber (D); exterior stone walls (1); oak crucks (2); inner wood partitions (3).

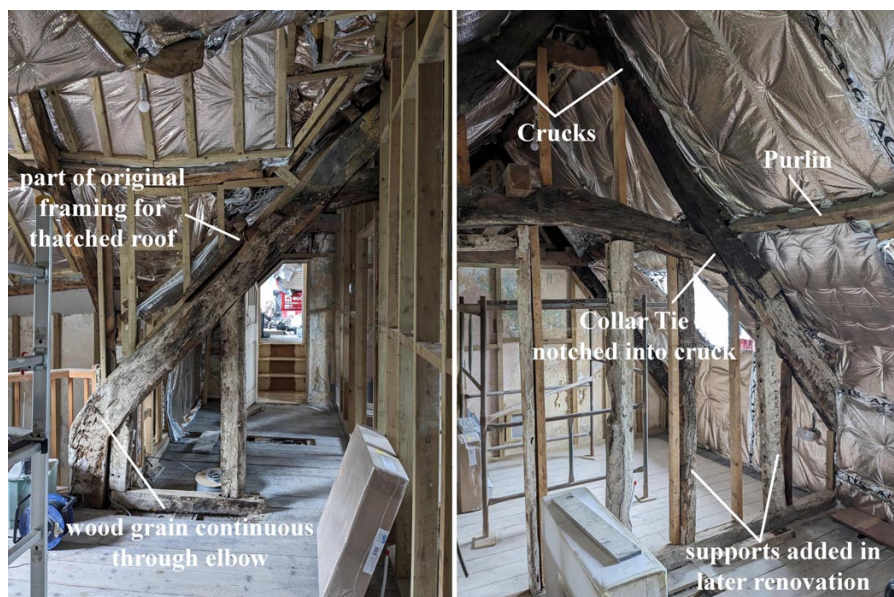


Fig. 7 - cruck timber framing used in the original house; continuous wood grain shown through elbows in timbers: left - showing elbow in cruck; right - showing cruck collar tie, purlins and later vertical support posts.

The roof was framed with heavy oak cruck trusses anchored part way into the stone walls (Fig. 7). The crucks have regular dimensions from top to bottom. Collar ties are firmly attached with precise mortise and tenon joints. Purlins are firmly attached in tight notches.

All features indicate that good material selection and carpentry skills were involved in building the Notts House. Four crucks over the original living quarters of the structure are still present and well preserved. Those in the shippin or byre were removed during major renovations to the home.

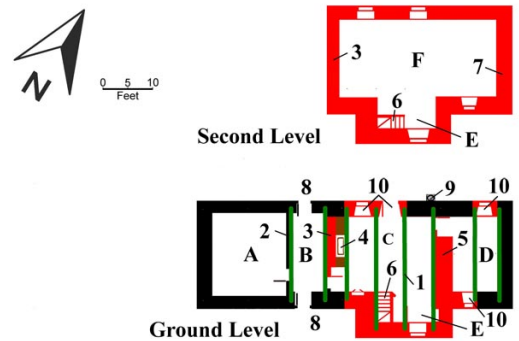
Partitions would have separated the shippin and cross-passage and cross-passage and hall. Another one was possibly present between the hall and an inner chamber.

Much of the higher level, as well as some of the main floor walls were constructed with cob material, extending above the cruck elbows to the eaves. The house would have had a thatched roof. Most of the crucks above the main hall (Fig. 8) appear to be smoke blackened indicating the area was open from the main floor to the roof. Smoke from an open cooking fire would have risen to the highest point but would not have been able to escape as vents were not usually installed.

### ***First Renovation (late 16th to mid-17th centuries)***

During its most significant first alteration, likely several decades, possibly centuries, after the house was constructed, a second floor was added over the living space. This was likely an open area used for sleeping quarters. The floorplan (Fig. 9) was also altered with a new gabled addition added to the south side of the house (E on plan). In Fig. 9 and all subsequent floor plans, components in black are existing structure and red highlights new construction or changes.

Large dimension horizontal oak beams were set on the perimeter stone walls at about 5½ foot spacing (Fig. 10). Where these beams met the wall, some reconfiguring was necessary to secure them, particularly where new windows and doors were added.



*Fig. 9 - floor plan of the Notts residence after the first major renovation, with development of a second floor (F) and gabled extension added (E): shippon (A) and cross-passage (B) still in service divided by wood partition (2); major oak beams (1) supporting second floor; stone wall (3) replacing partition extended to the roof; stone wall (5) constructed on the ground level to form a new chamber (D); stairwell to second level (6); walls raised on second level (7) using stone and cob materials; possible roofed porches (8); water well dug (9); several large windows and a door (10) were cut through the old stone walls.*

A stairwell may have been constructed in the same location as the current stairs, rising in between major beams. No connection was likely at this time between the new space above the old hall and the cross-passage. A platform was also added above the cross-passage, likely to be used for storage as evidenced by beams still in place.

Some bracing was put in place under the crucks on the second floor, sitting on the beam-supported planked floor (Figs. 11 & 14). This was necessary due to changes to the exterior ground floor walls.

Also added during this renovation were additional stone walls in the interior, one between the living area and the cross-passage (#3 on plan) and one to break up the main hall (#5 on plan). There may also have been a covered porch on the north side of the house (#8 on plan).

A series of smaller beams/joists were installed perpendicular to the main beams, into which they were notched, spaced at 18 inches (Fig. 11). Then a deck of wood planking was added on top. A primitive stairway or ladder would have been installed for access. The new space would likely have been for sleeping quarters for the growing family.



*Fig. 10 - part of original exterior wall, modified to accept horizontal beams for second floor construction; lower wall under window and main wall to right of door made from uncut stone generally laid 1 over 2 and 2 over 1; window framing set on wood members set into original wall; wall between window and door and to the right of the door partially rebuilt with masonry or cut stone to hold beam; wood headers installed over window opening to support masonry.*



*Fig. 11 - smaller beams notched into major oak beams to which second floor planking was attached.*

The floor beams and planking were not the precision carpentry later generations of Shepherd men learned to do but were certainly done by competent craftsmen for the time. They show a stylistic finishing of chamfering of the edges which took some skill to accomplish. The cutting and fitting of components illustrates an expertise that normal farmers were not likely to have.

The new gable extension roof was supported with large dimension rafters set on the exterior walls, stabilized with notched collar ties and connected by purlins (Fig. 12). These may have been reused and recut crucks from another building or from over the shippin. If the latter, that would suggest a second floor was added over the byre, with a new roof, at the same time as over the hall. In Fig. 12, one can see the collar tie was later raised above the original notches, probably to gain more headroom on the second floor. The notched beams still observable alongside the cross-passage indicate at least a partial second floor

was present there. The original roof of the shippin may have been lower than over the hall (typical in many longhouses) and needed replacing when the second floor was added, freeing up the crucks for other uses.

It is possible that the thatched roof was replaced with slate at this time as additional roof trusses were installed between at least one pair of crucks, to hold the added weight. Some of the wall extensions in the gable and second floor were constructed of cob material.

As part of this first major renovation, or perhaps in the years following, a fireplace was added on the main floor to serve as a central heating source as well as the main cooking area (Fig. 13). The thick granite lintel and side supports indicate an experienced mason was at work on this element and that it was likely done after other stonework on the walls and partitions was completed.



Fig. 12 - roof framing of new gabled extension showing cut and fitted timber rafters; original cruck in longhouse shown behind more recent framing.



Fig. 13 – fireplace on ground level



## Second Renovation (19th century)

Possibly in the 19th century, the shippon was redeveloped, with a second level added, to provide more living space for people (Fig. 14). By that time, separate structures had been built on the farm for animals and equipment storage.

The original crucks may have been removed in this area at this time or during the first renovation. The (new) second level over the shippon and cross-passage was constructed about two feet higher than the existing second level over the main part of the house, allowing much better headroom for both floors. The second level walls were built using cement blocks.

The cross-passage was enclosed with a new stairwell constructed to join the newly developed areas. The old inner chamber on the ground level was converted into a new kitchen.

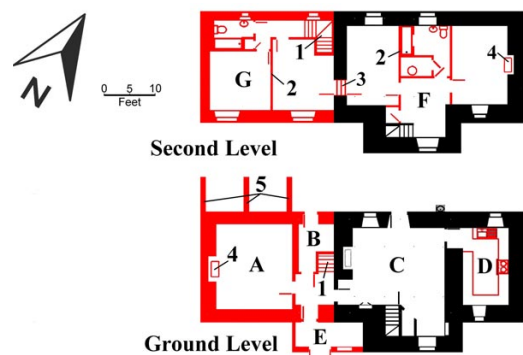


Fig. 14 - floor plan of the Notts residence after the first major renovation; shippon now a parlour (A); new stairwell (1); cross-passage (B) enclosed; kitchen developed (D); walls and floor framed with dimensional lumber (2) with lath and plaster finishing; second levels developed (F & G) stairway (3); fireplaces (4); stone buttresses (5).

Floor joists and walls were constructed with dimensional wood and manufactured cement blocks and the roof framed with conventional wood rafters and planking. Finishing of walls and ceilings was done with lath and plaster (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15 - lath and plaster finishing of wall between parlour and cross-passage.

The extra weight on the west shippon ground level wall necessitated adding stone buttresses at the time or possibly later (Fig. 16). This work may have been done with the assistance of masons who were working on the railway viaduct in the 1840s. Some Woodburn lands had been sold to the rail company for construction of the line. The area between the buttresses was later converted to animal pens.



Fig. 16 - stone buttresses supporting shippon wall.

### Third Renovation (20th century)

In the 1990s, an extension was added to one end of the house, creating wholly separate living quarters (Fig. 17). On the ground level, the area included a large drawing room, bedroom with ensuite bathroom, new kitchen, conservatory and porch. The second level constituted a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom. Another staircase joined the new living quarters.

Enclosed porches were added on each side of the ground level.

The addition was framed with what we know as more conventional, light framing using dimensional lumber. The entire roof may have been replaced at this time with asbestos shingles.

A double garden door was added to the parlour to access a porch with an overhead skylight.

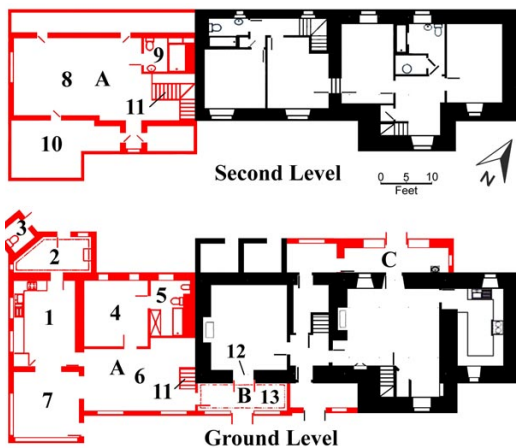


Fig. 17 - floor plan of Notts/Woodburn house after third major modification; ground level (A) with kitchen (1), porch (2), water closet (3), bedroom (4), bathroom (5); drawing room (6), conservatory (7); second level with bedroom (8), bathroom (9), under-eave storage (10); new staircase (11); enclosed porches (B & C); garden door (12); skylight (13).

### Summary

Being able to learn about the construction and renovation history of this property has provided a great addition to our family history narrative.

It is difficult to precisely confirm when construction and renovations were done as there were no building permits or regulations to adhere to. Sales and lease documents also do not comment on the size, shape or location of buildings. The form and style of the structural and finishing elements of the building, in comparison with other properties in the county where dating has been possible, offer strong indications of when major work was done.

The massiveness of the stone walls and dimensions and intricacy of how the timber framing was cut and assembled illustrates what expertise the craftsmen of the day had. The durability of the building attests to the style and workmanship employed in constructing the home.

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# JACQUES DE LA CLOCHE,

## *the first illegitimate child of King Charles II?*

In the June 2025 edition of the *Genealogists' Magazine*, Michael Gandy stated that King Charles II had at least 13 children (none of whom were legitimate). In the list that followed one putative child was omitted; this was not unreasonable as Jacques/James de la Cloche was not conceived in England and never lived there. Charles himself may or may not have even been aware of his existence. Jacques first came to notice when he appeared in Rome on 11th April 1668. In a series of extraordinary letters uncovered in 1861, he claimed to have been born in Jersey where Charles and his brother James had both taken refuge on two occasions in 1646 and again in 1649.

Many authors, including Lord Acton, Monsignor Barnes and Andrew Lang, have researched his claims and some even suggested that Jacques was the 'man in the iron mask', but he has been convincingly proved to be Eustache Dauger.

More recent pieces of research have solidified the validity of Jacques' claims. Giovanni Tarantino (*Jacques de la Cloche: A Pretender in the Seventeenth Century* Archivum Historicum Societatis Jesu, 2004) published further documents from the secret/private Vatican archives and has established the later years of Jacques, including his marriage, death on August 26 1669 and the subsequent birth of his son in November 1669. He also identified a portrait of 1708 of La Cloche's posthumous son, Giacomo/James, who lived in Rome and died there in 1752. He had a certain resemblance to James Stuart, the old Pretender; his son, Giuseppe, is said to have passed for Charles Edward Stuart. Edward Corp (*Stuart and Stuardo: James III and his Neapolitan cousin*. Papers of the British School at Rome, 83. 2015) examined both State Papers, the Stuart papers and Italian archives and discovered letters by Giacomo Stuardo (as he called himself) to James, the Old Pretender, Baron von Stosch and others regarding his true identity. In 1726 he was recognised as the grandson of Charles II by the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples, but never by James. Furthermore he compiled a manifesto setting out his claims and went to court to reclaim his father's supposed inheritance.



Don Giacomo Stuardo, 1708, by Pier Leone Ghezzi.  
Public domain image, courtesy of Albertina Museum (Vienna).

The former Director of the Society of Genealogists, Anthony Camp, M.B.E., discovered that the grandson of Jacques La Cloche, Guiseppe/Joseph Stuart (1722-1783), apparently went to Scotland in the attempted invasion in 1745, returning to France in 1746 where he settled in Brittany; there is a Rue Joseph Stuart in the village of Medrignac, where he died in 1783. (Ogée, *Dictionnaire Historique et Géographique de la Province de Bretagne*, ii (Rennes, 1845) p.29)

The Société Jersiaise will shortly be publishing an article by me which disproves the likelihood of his mother being Marguerite de Carteret. My suggestion is that on Charles' 16th birthday on May 29th 1646, there was great festivity including fireworks, and it is likely that it was that night that a child may have been conceived with an unidentified local girl. The de Carterets' Rector was Reverend Etienne de la Cloche, and it appears likely that the child was named and looked after by his family. Later Jacques claimed to have been raised as Protestant, spoke French and lived in France and the Netherlands, all of which are possible.

This new evidence strongly supports Jacques de la Cloche as the eldest illegitimate child of King Charles II, and not James, Duke of Monmouth as previously believed.

Marie-Louise Backhurst

# A CENTURY OF INFLUENCE OF THE BOURNE FAMILY OF WORCESTERSHIRE & SOMERSET

*Peter Wynn*

## Introduction

In her study of Tudor bishops of Bath and Wells, Phyllis Hembry noted the impoverishment brought about on the Diocese of Bath and Wells by the exploitation of its resources for personal gain by the family of Richard Bourne, the brother of Gilbert, the last Catholic Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>1</sup> Richard (a 12 x great grandfather of the current author) was one of the wardens of the Guild of Merchant Taylors in 1577 and its master in 1581.<sup>2</sup> Hembry recorded that Bishop Bourne's successor alleged that Gilbert Bourne, together with Richard, had schemed to dissipate and spoil the bishopric in order to derive the maximum profit from it. In this article I explore the family more widely than Hembry, aided by the large number of PCC wills available for the family. I describe the family relationships, appointment to offices and property transfers, discussing the extent to which the family weathered the Reformation and maintained its social status.

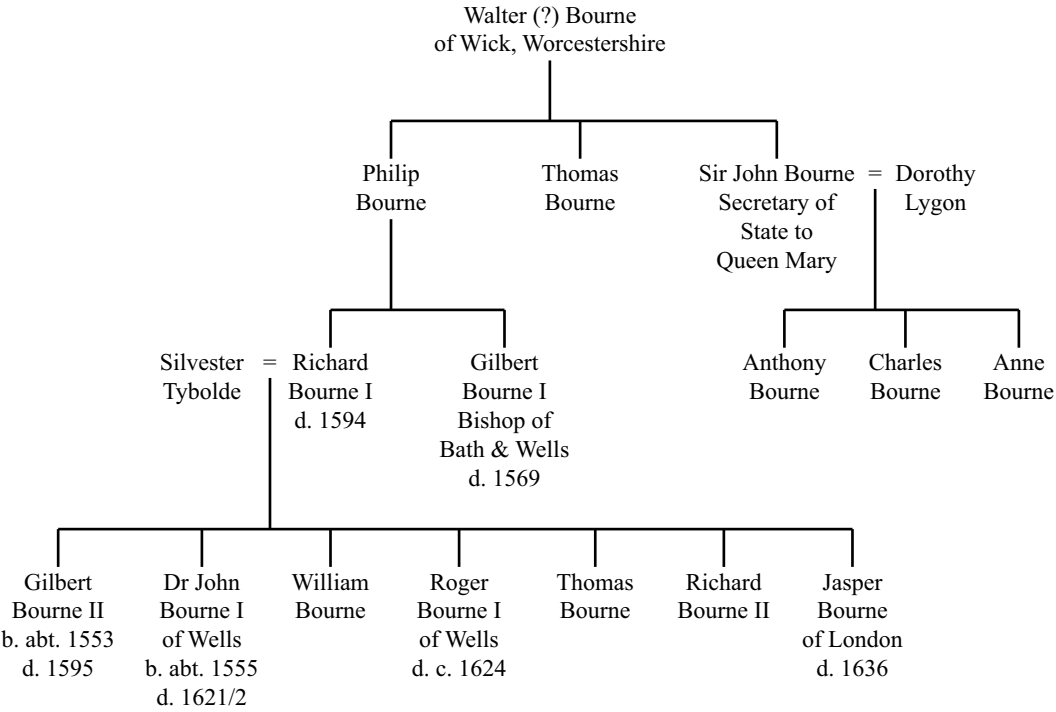
## The Family's Origins

There has been confusion over the early history of the family and the relationship between Sir John Bourne, Secretary of State to Queen Mary I, and Gilbert Bourne, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography shows the relationship to be that of uncle and nephew.<sup>3</sup> This has been disputed by Swales who relied on the use of the word "cousin" by Gilbert to describe his relationship with Sir John Bourne. It should be appreciated that the word was used quite loosely at that time. Indeed within the Bourne family the will of Roger proved in 1624 referred to his "cousin John Bourne of Wells, son of my late brother Mr John Bourne." Swales further used the 1634 Visitation of

Worcestershire to support the argument that they were cousins.<sup>4</sup> However, whilst the Harleian Society's transcript of that visitation does show that relationship, it does not name their respective parents or their common grandparents.<sup>5</sup> I therefore prefer the 1623 Visitation of Somerset, which does name the forebears and supports the DNB entry.<sup>6</sup> Fig. 1 reflects that account supplemented by information on legacies in the PCC wills of Sir John Bourne (1575), Dame Dorothy Bourne (1581) and Richard Bourne (1594/5).

## Sir John Bourne

Sir John Bourne was among those benefiting as a result of the sale of monastic property.<sup>7</sup> In 1542 he was granted the manor of Battenhall from Worcester Priory. He was appointed in 1548 to the Local Commission to discover chantries in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and report them to the Court of Augmentations.<sup>8</sup> He appears to have personally benefitted from that appointment as a century later it was recorded that he had rented the demesne lands of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester.<sup>9</sup> As High Steward of Worcester Cathedral, in 1553, and still in the reign of Edward VI, he was a member of the Commission for the city to deal with confiscated church goods.<sup>10</sup> He became an early member of Mary I's government and was a member of the Heresy Committee in 1557.<sup>11</sup> Sir John was granted the office of surveyor of the manors of the bishopric of Bath and Wells by his nephew, Gilbert in 1554. Sir John's acquisition of property continued under the new Catholic queen: in 1554 she granted him the Manor of Oddingley and the advowsons of a number of rectories.<sup>12</sup> When a new Anglican Bishop, Edwin Sandys, was appointed to the Diocese of Worcester in 1559, Sir John Bourne remained as High Steward



*Fig. 1 - The Early Bourne Family*

of the Cathedral and was a thorn in Sandys side, particularly as the latter was married.<sup>13</sup> Sandys was expelled early in the reign of Mary I.<sup>14</sup> Bourne served in Parliament on a number of occasions both within the reigns of Henry VIII and Mary I.<sup>5</sup>

**Philip Bourne**

Apart from his identification in the 1623 Visitation of Somerset as the father of Gilbert and Richard, I have not been able to discover anything about him.

**Bishop Gilbert Bourne**

Whilst extensive accounts of the bishop have been published before, I give here a brief summary of his known career. He became chaplain to Edmund Bonner, Bishop of London, around 1543. In 1549 he was appointed as Archdeacon of Bedford with the living of High Ongar in Essex.

I am tempted to suggest that William Bourne of Bobbingworth in Essex, who married Margaret Ryse of Potton, Bedfordshire may be associated with the family.<sup>15</sup> My suspicion is strengthened by

William’s 1581 will which included copyhold property held of the Parsonage of High Ongar.

A dagger attack on Gilbert Bourne occurred in 1553, whilst he was preaching at St. Paul’s Cross. A commentator has suggested that this was used by Mary I to take action against a number of Protestants.<sup>16</sup> Gilbert was consecrated as Bishop of Bath and Wells on 1 April 1554.

He was one of the majority of Bishops who refused to take the Oath of Supremacy in 1559 and on 18 June the following year was imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1563 he was placed in the custody of the Bishop of Lincoln and subsequently that of the archdeacon of Exeter. He died at Silverton in Devon on 10 September 1569.

**Richard Bourne, his wife and children**

Apart from the Herald’s Visitation of Somerset showing that he was the son of Philip and brother of Gilbert, I have not found anything about the early life of Richard. The published pedigrees of the Bournes, showing that Richard’s wife was Silvester

Tybolde, did not give any information about her parents or where she had come from. However the unusual use of the forename 'Silvester' for a female led me to suspect that she was the Silvester, daughter of John and Silvester (née Carter) Tybolde (*alias* Tebold *alias* Theobald) of Seal in Kent who appeared in a published pedigree of that family.<sup>17</sup> John Tybolde was steward to Thomas, the father of Anne Boleyn.<sup>18</sup> The association of the first and third husbands of Dorothy, one of the other daughters of John and Silvester Tybolde, with the Bourne family gives more assurance that I have found the correct link for Richard's wife.

Dorothy's first husband was John Croke of London. Dorothy Croke, daughter of John and Dorothy (née Tybolde), married Robert Honywood in July 1569. Honywood recorded that his first child was baptised in December 1572, with his uncle, Richard Bourne, and his mother Manwood being witnesses.<sup>19</sup> Dorothy Tybolde's third husband was Sir Roger Manwood, Sergeant-at-Law.

Silvester was unmarried when her father, John, made his will on 15 June 1546. On 20 October 1554, the same day as he granted the reversion of the office of surveyor of the episcopal manors to his uncle and son, Bishop Bourne made a similar grant for the office of receiver of the same manors to Richard Bourne I and his son, Gilbert I for three lives. Hembry recorded that, according to the later Bishop Berkeley, the Bournes received "great and unreasonable fees" for their services. The marriage of Silvester to Richard Bourne would therefore be expected between those dates but I have not located a record of this.

In 1577 Richard was a Warden of the Guild of Merchant Taylors and in 1581 was appointed as Master of the Guild.<sup>20</sup>

Part of the estate of the bishops of Bath and Wells was the manor of Wiveliscombe in Somerset. Bishops enjoyed the income from the manor as well as having use of the manor house as a 'palace'.

Besides his eldest son, Gilbert II, Richard Bourne named in his will, made 9 February 1593/4, sons John (identified as his second son), William, Roger, Thomas (who was said to be detained in another country), Richard II and Jasper (identified as his

youngest son). Thomas was deceased by 1635 when Jasper made his will, proved the next year. Richard I did not identify any daughters. Gilbert, John and William were stated to be under 21 in a court case brought against them and their father in 1561.<sup>21</sup> Ages on matriculation at Oxford suggest Gilbert II was born about 1553 and John about 1555.<sup>22</sup> William and Roger were admitted as students of Merchant Taylors' School in 1573.<sup>23</sup> William had died by February 1623/4 when his brother Roger made his will, proved a few months later. The will identified William's widow as Bridget.

In his will, proved 1594/5 Richard requested burial in Wells Cathedral, as close as possible to his late wife. Records show that 6s.8d. was paid to the cathedral for the burial.<sup>24</sup>

### **Roger Bourne I, son of Richard and Silvester**

Because of his purchase of the Manor of Gotherney, it is convenient to consider him before his elder brothers. The 1623 Visitation of Somerset showed Roger as the third son of Richard and Silvester. It identified Roger's wife as Jane, the daughter of Richard Tothill. Roger's 1623/4 will made no mention of having any children. It showed him as having extensive landholdings, including a moiety of Bishops Teignton in Devon and the manor of Gotherney in Somerset. The latter had been purchased by him from John Hody in 1622.<sup>25</sup> By Roger's will this was passed to his nephew John Bourne II of Wiveliscombe. The will stipulated that on the latter's death, the manor was to pass to John's son, Roger Bourne II.

### **Gilbert II, eldest son of Richard Bourne, & his descendants**

Richard in his will left to his son, Gilbert II, his leases of the demesne of Wiveliscombe and his dwelling house in Wells. Gilbert was married to Eleanor Smith, daughter of Thomas Smith of Mitcham, Surrey.<sup>26</sup> Thomas held the position of *Clerk of the Green Cloth*, responsible for organising Queen Elizabeth's tours and owned the Queen's Mills in Wandsworth. Gilbert was identified in a deed relating to these as a Doctor of Civil Law.<sup>27</sup> Index Oxonienses recorded him as holding an LL.D. from Orleans University. Gilbert



Fig.2 - Gothelney Hall

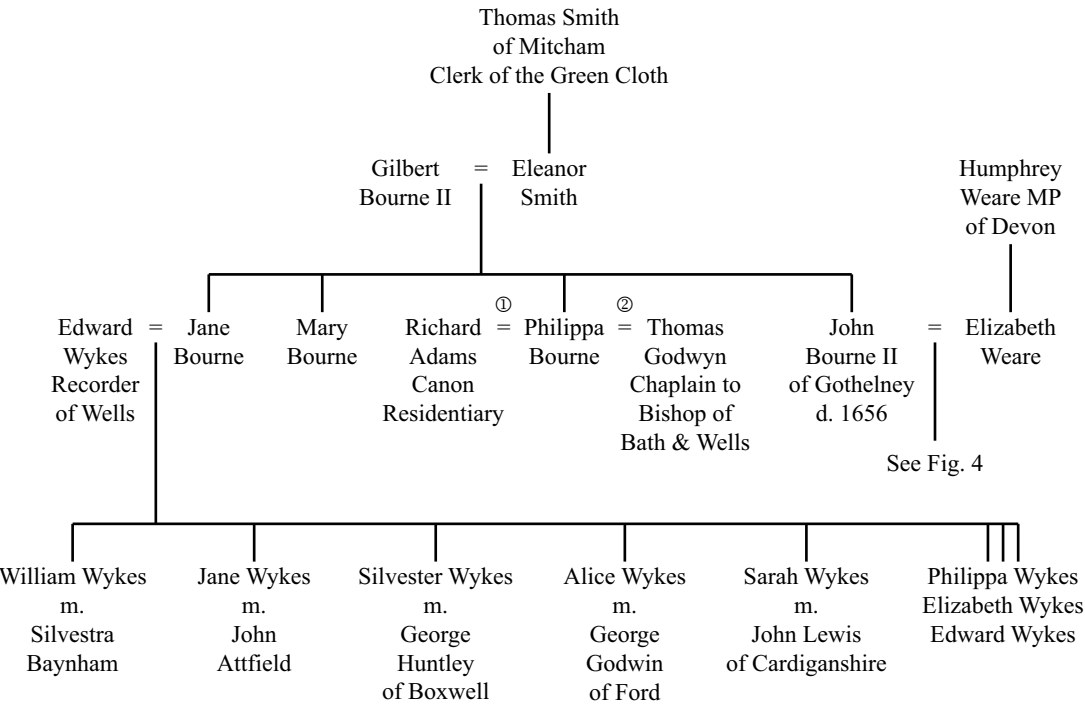


Fig. 3 - Family of Gilbert Bourne II

did not long outlive his father and his will proved in 1595/6 named his son John (II) and daughters Mary, Jane and Philippa. He requested burial near to his wife in St. Andrew's Church, Wells.

I have no reliable information on any marriage of Mary, the eldest daughter of Gilbert and Eleanor.

Gilbert II and Eleanor's daughter Jane married Edward Wykes who was to become Recorder of Wells. At the time of the 1623 Visitation Edward and Jane had three children: Philippa aged 5, Elizabeth aged 1 and Edward aged 2. None of these children were mentioned in Edward's will proved in 1647 which named a son, William, and daughters Jane, Silvester, Alice and Sarah. Edward died on 8 August 1644 at the age of 54 and is buried in Wells Cathedral.<sup>28</sup> His wife was buried there on 8 August 1666. Edward and Jane's son, William, was the first husband of Silvestra Baynham.<sup>29</sup> Silvestra was a daughter of Theophilus Baynham and was herself a descendant of Richard Bourne and Silvester Tybolde. A nineteenth century account of the subsequent history of the property that was left in trust by Edward for his four daughters, identified their spouses.<sup>30</sup> Jane was married to a John Atfield, Silvester to George Huntley of Boxwell, Gloucestershire, Alice to George Godwin of Ford, Wiltshire and Sarah to John Lewis of Cardiganshire.

Philippa, daughter of Gilbert II and Eleanor Bourne married firstly Dr. Richard Adams who had been elected Canon Residentiary of Wells Cathedral in succession to Dr John Bourne. He died in 1633/4 and was buried in St. Andrew's Church, Wells. Her second husband was Dr. Thomas Godwyn who was buried at Brightwell, Berkshire, where he was rector. He was also chaplain to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, head master of Abingdon School and author of several school textbooks on classical studies. A memorial to him at Brightwell has the inscription *Hunc lapidem uxor eius Phillipe Godwyn amoris ergo marens posuit*.<sup>31</sup> The chaplaincy of Thomas Godwyn indicates that the association of members of the Bourne family with the Cathedral continued under the Anglican regime.

John Bourne II married Elizabeth Weare, daughter of Humphrey Weare of Halberton in Devon. Humphrey was appointed as the first Recorder of

Tiverton in 1615 and was its MP in 1624.<sup>32</sup> At the time of the 1623 Visitation, John and Elizabeth had two children: Elizabeth aged three years and Roger aged 2 months. John died in 1656 and Elizabeth in 1660. Elizabeth's will gave more details of their children than did John's. She named their sons as Roger (II), Humphrey (married to Margaret), Gilbert (III), Henry, Thomas, John, Edward, and William (then aged under 21). Daughters mentioned were Ellinor (married to Robert Fleming), Philippa (deceased), Mary, Silvester, Frances and Jane. She also referred to her sons in law, Richard Cross and John Stampe, but it is not clear which daughters were married to them. Presumably Elizabeth, the daughter named in the 1623 visitation had also pre-deceased her mother. These children and descendants are shown in Fig. 4.

Wills of John II (proved 1656) and Elizabeth (proved 1660) both stated that they were of Gothelney in Somerset. John had inherited the Manor of Gothelney by virtue of the will of his uncle, Roger Bourne I. On John's death the manor passed to Roger Bourne II.

During the Civil War John Bourne II of Gothelney and his son, Roger, were declared as Delinquents by Parliament.<sup>33</sup>

Roger II was appointed High Sheriff of Somerset in 1669.<sup>34</sup> His first wife was Ann, daughter of John Malet of Enmore. Malet had been MP for Bath in 1624.<sup>35</sup> Ann died in May 1670.<sup>41</sup> Roger's second wife was Helena Smyth, daughter of Thomas Smyth<sup>36</sup> of Ashton Court, by whom he had his only child, Florence, who inherited the Gothelney estate. Florence Bourne married Edward Baber of Chew Magna. There were no children of the marriage. On her death the manor passed to Thomas Bourne, the son of Edmund Bourne.

Gilbert Bourne III of Gothelney, and later of Rhode, married Susanna Bowyer, daughter of Edmund Bowyer of Beere.<sup>41</sup> The Bowyers holdings at Beere were sold to Edward Colston of London, but closely associated with Bristol, in 1707.<sup>37</sup> Aged 19, Gilbert's son, Edmund, matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford in 1684.<sup>32</sup> He married Ann Gore of Bristol at Wells Cathedral in October 1687.<sup>38</sup> I have not been able to establish

Ann's relationship to the Gore family of Barrow Gurney. Edmund and Ann's son, Thomas, also married an Ann Gore. This Ann was a daughter of Sir Thomas Gore of Barrow Court and his wife, Philippa, daughter of Edward Tooker.<sup>39</sup> On the death of Thomas the manor of Gothelney passed to his brother-in-law, William Gore.

### **Dr John Bourne & his descendants**

John Bourne was the second son of Richard. He entered Trinity College Oxford at the age of 19 in 1574 and was awarded BA in 1575/6, MA in 1577 and DD in 1596. He is recorded as Rector of Withycombe in 1581, Hornblotton in 1587 and Saltford in 1588. He had a longer period at Yeovilton where he served as Rector from 1591 to 1616. In 1621 he was appointed as Vicar of Stogumber.<sup>40</sup> On 2 June 1584 he was made Treasurer and a Canon Residentiary of Wells Cathedral.<sup>41</sup>

Dr John Bourne died in 1621/2 and in his will desired to be buried in Wells Cathedral, alongside his wife and his son Gilbert IV, who had both pre-deceased him. The will mentioned his son, John IV, and daughter Susan Bourne as well as married daughters [unnamed] Baynham, Elizabeth Bishop and Eleanor Carliel. John Bourne IV was born about 1595 and obtained a law degree at Trinity College, Oxford.<sup>42</sup> He married Ann Still (née Baynard). Her first husband, John Still, was the son of Dr John Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>43</sup> John Bourne IV died in 1652 and was buried in Wells Cathedral.<sup>44</sup> The will of Dr John Bourne's brother, Jasper, shows that by February 1635/6 Susan was the widow of John Cross, M.A., that Elizabeth's husband was Thomas Bishop from Minehead and Eleanor's late husband was Francis Carliel. John Cross was appointed as Vicar of Stogumber in succession to John Bourne.<sup>45</sup> Francis Cross, the son of John and Susan, was appointed Rector of Charlinch in 1655 but ejected for his Presbyterian views and refusal to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity in 1662. Under the provisions of the 1672 Declaration of Indulgence he was allowed to preach at the house of Thomas Ford in Pensford, North Somerset.<sup>46</sup> He was succeeded at Charlinch by John Bourne, probably John Bourne III, the son of John Bourne II of Gothelney.<sup>47</sup> At that time patronage of the benefice lay with the Malet family (see link between the families in Fig. 4).<sup>48</sup> The

unnamed daughter of Dr John Bourne was Silvester who married Adam the Elder, son of Thomas Baynham, the Rector of Yate. The eldest son of Silvester and Adam was John Baynham who was Vicar of Stogumber between 1631 and 1689.<sup>49</sup> Besides their son John, Silvester and Adam had a large family. This included Eleanor who was the first wife of William Hutchinson. In 1622 Hutchinson, under the patronage of Adam, had succeeded Thomas Baynham as the Rector of Yate.<sup>50</sup> He was sometime Rural Dean of Hawkesbury Deanery.<sup>51</sup> Eleanor died in 1623.

In his will Dr John Bourne gifted a number of books to the library of Wells Cathedral. It would appear that these may have represented about 10% of the library's collection at the restoration of the monarchy.<sup>52</sup>

### **Jasper, youngest son of Richard and Silvester**

When he made his will in 1635/6 Jasper was of Great Stanmore in Middlesex. He was buried there on 29 April 1636.<sup>53</sup> It is clear from his will that he was not the first husband of his wife Joan, referring to her grandson, John Norwood and it can also be inferred that Joan was not Jasper's first wife.

In the will Jasper described his son, John, as a merchant. No mention was made of this son having a wife or children. Jasper's three daughters were Elizabeth, wife of John Bennett, Silvester, wife of William Hutchinson, and Mary, wife of Edward Bennett, merchant (see Fig.6).

Silvester had previously been married to Henry Fell of Hampstead, by whom she had a son, Jasper Fell. Her second husband was William Hutchinson who had been married to Eleanor, the daughter of Adam and Silvester (née Bourne).

Edward Bennett, merchant and shipowner, was an important player in the settlement of Virginia, establishing the first large plantation there and being responsible for the transport of a large number of early settlers.<sup>54</sup> Many of these, like Bennett, were puritan members of the "Ancient Church".<sup>55</sup> In 1621 he was elected Auditor of the London Company of Virginia. He had been baptised, son of Robert and Elizabeth (née Edney) Bennett, at Wiveliscombe in



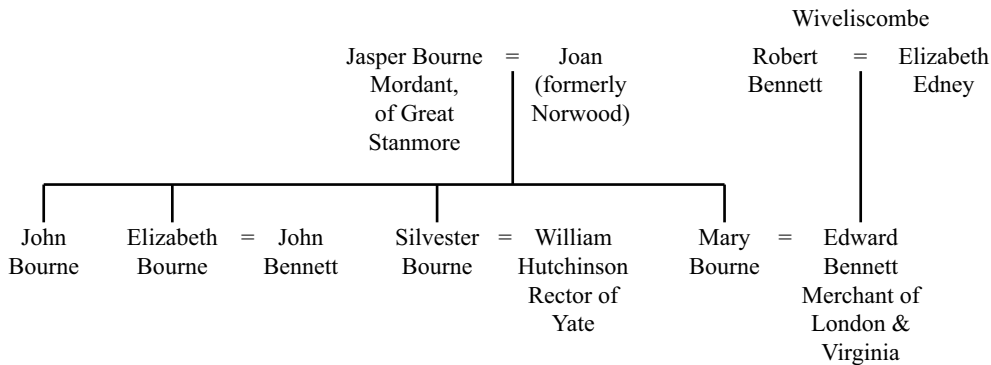


Fig. 6 - Family of Jasper Bourne

February 1577/8.<sup>56</sup> I have not been able to establish whether John Bennett, who married Elizabeth Bourne, was of the same family.

**The Bourne Family and the Reformation of the Church**

Sir John Bourne’s ability to benefit personally from the effects of the Reformation and to be influential during Queen Mary’s Counter-Reformation has been noted earlier in this article. A fuller analysis of his property accumulation under both regimes was made by Hill.<sup>57</sup> He did not lose influence immediately once Elizabeth became queen, remaining High Steward of Worcester Cathedral. However, Hill recorded the gradual demise of Sir John’s activities during 1560s.

There was a clear interplay between Richard Bourne’s in-laws, the Theobalds, and the progress of his brother, Gilbert during the early years of Queen Mary’s reign. Croke, MP and Vicar General to Edmund Bonner, had by 1547 married Dorothy Tybolde, Richard’s sister-in-law, notwithstanding Bonner’s objections to married clergy. Bourne was Bonner’s Chaplain. In 1548 it was recorded that a bill for the union of the parishes of Ongar and Greensted in Essex had been committed after its Second Reading to ‘Mr Croke’. The following year Gilbert was appointed to the living of High Ongar. Bonner was removed from office in that year, but, following the accession of Mary in 1553, was reinstated and Gilbert was in 1554 made Bishop of Bath and Wells. This appointment may have resulted from the influence of Bonner or, as

suggested in the DNB article, that of Gilbert’s uncle, Sir John Bourne.

If the latter, then the favour was reciprocated when on 20 October 1554 Gilbert arranged the reversion for two lives of the diocesan office of surveyor of all the episcopal manors in Somerset to his uncle John and John’s son, Anthony Bourne.<sup>58</sup>

Bishop Bourne also arranged for his brother, Richard, to rent, on favourable terms, the demesne lands of the manor of Wiveliscombe along with Banwell and Westbury for 21 years.<sup>59</sup> This led to several Chancery cases against Richard Bourne.<sup>60</sup>

The influence of the Bourne family within the church did not cease with the re-establishment of the Church of England in Elizabeth’s reign. Richard’s eldest son, Gilbert II, was appointed by the Bishop of Bath and Wells to the office of Vicar-General *in spiritualibus* to hold by himself, his deputy or surrogate, for life, with the accustomed wages and profits on 27 September 1590.<sup>61</sup> Squibb suggested that Gilbert II was Vicar-General to his uncle, Bishop Bourne.<sup>59</sup> However the bishop in 1590 was Thomas Godwin.

As seen above, Dr John Bourne, the second son of Richard, also assimilated himself into the reformed church. His appointment as Treasurer of the Cathedral in 1584 was under the patronage of Sir Roger Manwood, Richard Bourne, Merchant Taylor, and Robert Honywood Esq. showing the continued influence of his Tybolde ancestors, despite the departure of the church from its Catholic tradition.<sup>62</sup>

The acceptance of the new situation is especially apparent in the marriages of the descendants of Dr John Bourne to members of the clergy and continued use of Wells Cathedral as their final resting place.

However the Roman Catholic influence, and its association with the Bourne family at Wells, did not disappear for some time. The will of William Lancaster in 1596 referred to himself as “A member of our Saviour Jesus X’s Catholicke Church”. Whilst it can be argued that this statement could be made by a member of the reformed church, there is evidence of sympathy with, if not adherence to, the old faith. William left to his son, Roger, “the cuppe of silver with the cover to the same, which my Lord Bishop Bourne gave me” and “the delivery of his Patent for the Registrarship of the Bishop of Bath & Wells, wherein he is jointly named with me.” Roger had been ordained as a priest at the English College in Rheims. Thomas Godwin, a successor of Gilbert Bourne as Bishop of Bath and Wells, described William Lancaster and his wife as “lady-matin folk”.<sup>63</sup> The executor of William’s will was James Capp(e)s who had a number of children baptised at Wiveliscombe. Capp(e)s and members of his family were identified as recusants.<sup>64</sup> Whilst I have not found and do not believe there is a family relationship between Capp(e)s and the Bournes, the fact that one of James’s daughters was baptised as Silvester, the same unusual use of that spelling, as Richard Bourne’s wife, suggests a close friendship between the families. Silvester Capp(e)s became the second wife of George Luttrell of Dunster Castle and East Quantoxhead, having previously borne him two illegitimate daughters.<sup>65</sup>

In contrast, it can be noted that the family also spawned the Presbyterian Rector of Charlinch, Francis Cross, a great grandson of Richard Bourne.

### **Richard Bourne and his Descendants: Gentry or Merchant Class?**

Gentlemen in late medieval and early modern times tended to regard a person who had obtained wealth through trade as a parvenu.<sup>66</sup> Starr has discussed how a successful merchant managed to overcome the barriers to acceptance from the

“county set.”<sup>67</sup> The situation with Richard Bourne and his descendants differs as, although a merchant, he was already associated with gentry stock. He described himself as a gentleman in his will and was granted arms in 1591.<sup>68</sup> Many of the marriages of his descendants, such as that to the families of Malet of Enmore, Smyth of Ashton Court and Gore of Barrow Gurney confirm their acceptance as gentry. The culmination was probably the appointment of Roger Bourne II as High Sheriff of Somerset.

Whilst the Bournes had married into families accepted as being of gentry stock, even the gentry were looked down on by some. Helena Smyth who married Roger Bourne was a grand-daughter of Sir Hugh Smyth and Elizabeth Gorges. Elizabeth was daughter of Sir Thomas Gorges and Helena (née Snakenborg), the widow of Sir William Parr. Helena was a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth I and the queen disapproved of the marriage as she considered Gorges to be of inferior status.<sup>69</sup>

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Mrs Victoria Price for giving her permission to use a photograph of Gotherney Hall.

### **Notes**

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## *A Priest's Voice in a Divided England:*

# THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN FEATLEY THROUGH HIS NOTEBOOK

*Harry Purvis*



Within the SoG Archives is a delicately bound, handwritten notebook, penned by an influential priest. It is filled with the prayers, sermons and theological musings of John Featley (1605-1666). This impressive artifact contains 800 handwritten pages, bound together with a rare 1654 edition of the Psalms. The author served as chaplain to King Charles I, chaplain extraordinary to King Charles II, and was potentially the first missionary in the Caribbean.<sup>1</sup> He ministered amid the turbulence of the 17th century, a time marked not only by conflicts between Royalists and Parliamentarians, but also amongst deeply divided Christian factions.

Amidst the liturgy and Biblical academia, John Featley includes a record of his genealogy and a biographical account, which was printed in full in the March edition of the *Genealogists' Magazine* in 1941. Key dates from this section, which go up to 1655, are displayed on the next page. Dates after 1655 have been supplemented from external sources. To provide context, I've added key political and religious events alongside.

Representing more than an isolated personal devotional, this notebook belonged to an influential religious figure during a pivotal chapter in English religion. As a result, this article aims to prove that the contents of this notebook could unlock new insights into the religious landscape of the 17th century.

To appreciate fully the significance of John Featley's notebook, we must first paint a picture of the theological turbulence that the author was born into, and the notable role his uncle, Daniel Featley, played within it.

## The Uncle

Daniel Featley (1582-1645) was born into a time of conflicting Christian groups battling over doctrine. At the beginning of the 1500s, the Catholic Church dominated religious life in Britain and the rest of Europe. This was disrupted by Martin Luther, who, in 1517, sparked the Reformation, bringing in a wave of Protestantism. Henry VIII, seeking an annulment from Catherine of Aragon, declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England, and embraced Protestantism. In the decades that followed, oscillations between Catholic revival and emergent Protestant factions heightened tensions further.



Fig. 1 - Daniel Featley, engraving by William Marshall

Daniel Featley, if anything, thrived within these disagreements. He became a prominent controversialist renowned for his skill in theological debate. The first to adopt the Featley surname, he was the second son of John Fairclough and Marian Thrift. He became a scholar and fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where his father worked as a cook for the president. Here he gained recognition for his preaching and disputation. Featley served as chaplain in Paris (1610-1612) to the English ambassador, where he gained fame for his attacks on Roman Catholicism and debates with Jesuits.<sup>2</sup>

As a respected voice in the post-Reformation upheaval, Featley spoke against Catholicism and sectarianism, while strongly promoting the Church of England. His reputation in religious debate was such that King James I requested a theological exchange, which was later published. His public status made him a target during the Civil War, when he faced violence, robbery, and two assassination attempts. Imprisoned on groundless charges of espionage, he returned to his controversial writing. After 18 months, he moved to Chelsea College, where he died in 1645.<sup>2</sup>

The aftermath of the Civil War saw the reinstatement of the Church of England, and the appearance of many new Protestant groups with differing doctrines. Daniel Featley was close to his nephew, John, and was likely to have been a key support and influence amidst the tumultuous religious landscape.<sup>2</sup> As we explore John's life, it is important to acknowledge the role Daniel played in the era's doctrinal disputes.

## John

Born in the same year as the Gunpowder Plot and amidst the surge of anti-Catholic sentiment that ensued, John Featley (1605-1666) faced an increasingly agitated religious situation. Similar to his uncle, he studied at Oxford, but at All Souls College.<sup>1</sup> After his ordination, John explains through his own words that he travelled to 'Saint Christopher's in the Western Indies, where I had the honor to be the first preacher of the Gospel in the infancy of that Mother-Colony in the year 1626.'<sup>3</sup>

**1605** - born at Charleton, 1 May between 3-4pm

**1605** - Gunpowder plot: a failed Catholic plot to assassinate King James I and blow-up Parliament on 5 Nov

**1611** - King James Bible published, a cornerstone of English Protestantism

**1624** - became master of King's Free School, Chipping-Norton

**1625** - Charles I becomes King, coronation on 2 Feb. Tensions over his religious views ensue

**1625** - ordained deacon by Bishop Field, 12 May

**1625 (end)** - sailed to St. Christopher's as first preacher

**1630** - married Anna Powell, 27 Dec, St. Christopher's

**1632** - sailed with wife to Hamburg in Swedish wars

**1634** - became lecturer at Lambeth, first sermon preached 8 Feb

**1637** - Book of Common Prayer imposed on Scotland, sparking riots and the Bishops' Wars

**1638** - inducted rector of Langar, 22 Dec

**1639** - chaplain to King Charles' Life Guard. Set out the week before Easter, 8 Apr 1639

**1639** - sworn chaplain extraordinary to King Charles, 20 June

**1639** - became lecturer at Acton, Middlesex

**1639-1640** - The First and Second Bishops' Wars

**1640** - Long Parliament convenes: refuses to disband and attacks royal prerogative and High-Church Anglicanism

In the mid-1630s, John Featley was back in England and curate under his uncle, highlighting the role Daniel played in his nephew's career and beliefs. In the build-up to the Bishops' Wars, John Featley became chaplain to King Charles I. A decade later the king would be executed.

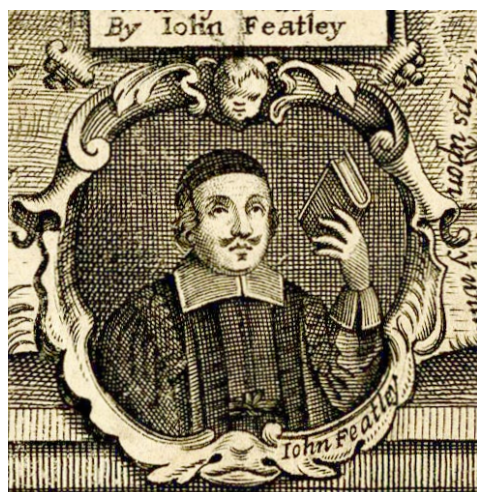


Fig. 2 - John Featley, by Frederick Hendrik van Hove, line engraving, published 1646

Daniel, aware of the danger of the current situation, urged John to return to St. Christopher's, which he did in 1643. Unlike his uncle, or the King, John was able to navigate the Civil War without harm.<sup>1</sup>

After the restoration in 1660, John Featley returned to England and managed to achieve a successful career in the church. He was appointed chaplain extraordinary to King Charles II, was precentor and prebendary at Lincoln Cathedral and rector of Langar in Nottinghamshire. In 1661, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by royal order. In 1666, he died in Lincoln and was buried in the cathedral there.<sup>1</sup>

As far as records show, the life of John Featley does not contain the same level of debate and controversy that his uncle Daniel Featley was famed for. Yet his career, marked by very senior appointments, reflects a steadfast commitment to the Church of England; a success despite danger lurking close throughout his career.

**1641** - Irish Rebellion begins. Catholic uprising against Protestant settlers

**1643** - sailed to St. Christophers with family and servants

**1643** - Solemn League and Covenant signed, an alliance between English Parliament and Scottish Presbyterians; aims to establish Presbyterianism across England

**1649** - Commonwealth of England established.

**1650** - Leased Langar living and moved to Newark in June

**1650** - Blasphemy Act imposes strict Puritan moral code

**1651-1652** - settled as preacher at Southwell, received 100 pounds per annum

**1653** - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector

**1655** - returned to Langar from Southwell after Countess of Sunderland died

**1658** - Oliver Cromwell dies

**1660** - Restoration of the monarch. Charles II becomes king; Anglican Church restored.

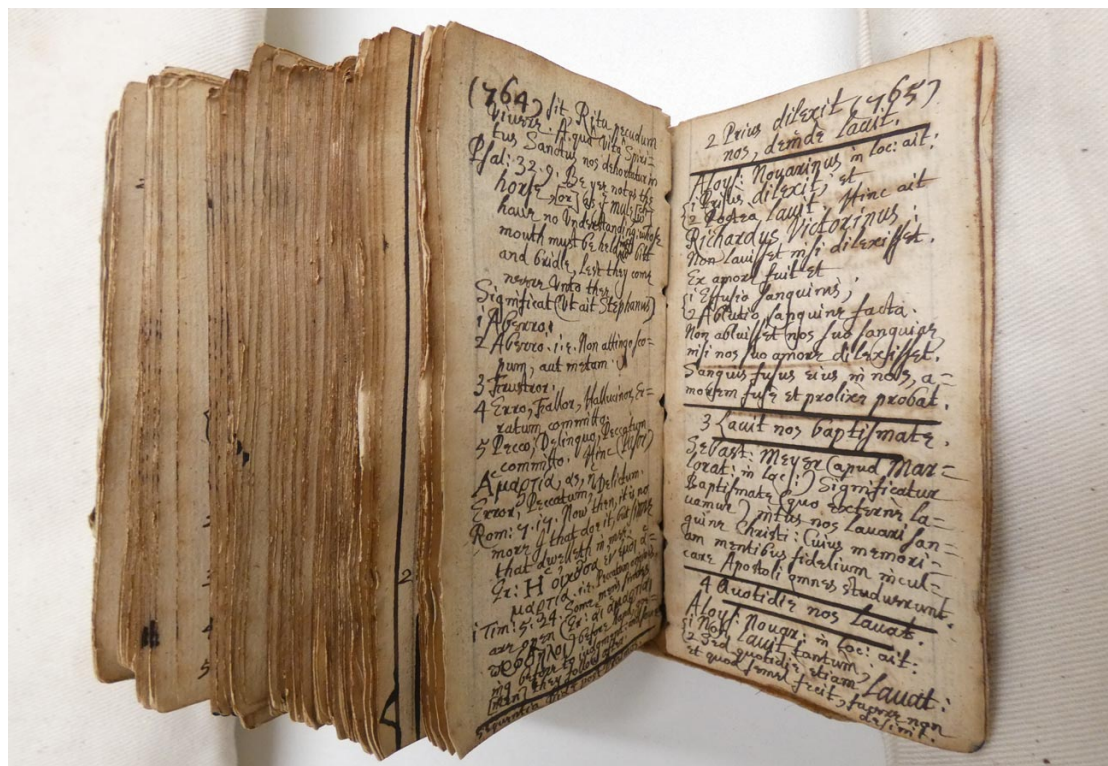
**1660** - appointed chaplain extraordinary to King Charles II on 29 June

**1661** - rector of Langar

**1661** - created by Royal Mandamus D.D. at Oxford on 7 June

**1662** - Act of Uniformity passed where clergy must use the Book of Common Prayer and conform to Anglican rites

**1666** - died at Lincoln, buried in a chapel in the cathedral



Figs. 3 & 4 - Pages from John Featley's Notebook.



*Figs. 5 & 6 - Front cover embossed with leafy emblem incorporating acorn and fleur-de-lis motifs*

## The Notebook

These nearly 800 pages of handwritten notes, meticulously sourced and carefully structured, provide a glimpse into the religious landscape of 17th century England. Arguably, we can't see John Featley's thought life anywhere more clearly than in this rare notebook.

John Featley cites the 125 sources whose knowledge influenced his musings. These range from Jewish scholars (e.g. David Kimchi), to Church Fathers and Saints (Augustine), Classical authors (Catullus), Reformers and Protestant theologians (Luther) and Catholic scholars and Jesuits (Aquinas). This diversity reflects the complexity of the age, when Protestant, Catholic and Jewish traditions were being used to create and refine new doctrine. The linguistic tapestry used, predominantly Latin, with plenty of English and snippets of Greek and Hebrew, underscores Featley's academic prowess but also allows us to see the shifting linguistic practices within Reformation England.

One particularly striking entry within Featley's notebook is his Prayer in Time of Pestilence, likely penned during one of the major plague outbreaks. Using scriptural language, he paints an apocalyptic image: "Houses are shut up, that no man may come in: and all for fears of the terror by night, and the arrow that flieth by day..." The cause is clearly laid out: "All this is come upon us, because we have forgotten thee; and have dealt falsely in thy

covenant." Featley's prayer acts as a theological diagnosis: the plague is divine judgement amidst England's political and religious upheaval.

## The Legacy

John Featley may not have courted controversy like his uncle. He managed to build up a successful career, yet his theological reflections have become forgotten over the centuries.

The archive of the Society of Genealogists does not merely house tools to preserve our ancestry and map family trees, but also reveals the historical worlds in which those families lived. For the scholar willing to dig, Featley's writings are a treasure chest that offer a rare perspective on a nation in spiritual flux.

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# CAPTAIN FRANCIS PENDER

*Paul Blake BA DipGen FSG*

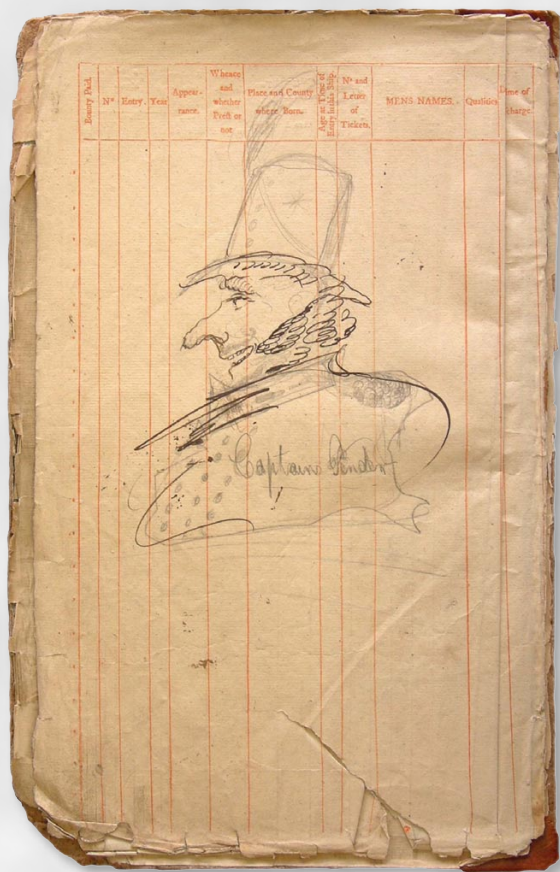
The portrait of Captain Francis Pender was penned in the Muster Book of the *Royal Sovereign* (TNA: ADM 36/15755, 1 October 1805 - 31 January 1806). This was the period covering the ship's presence at the Battle of Trafalgar when she, under the command of Captain Edward Rotheram, was the first ship of the fleet in action on 21 October 1805.

Francis Pender was born in 1748 in Cornwall, the second son of a Falmouth lawyer. He served almost 60 years with the Navy. He was present on *HMS Dolphin* in 1766-1768, when it circumnavigated the globe and was said to have discovered Tahiti. He received his Lieutenancy in 1772, becoming Post Captain in 1787, rising to Vice-Admiral of the Red in 1819. He died the following year and was buried at St Andrew, Holborn, on 28 August 1820.

On 4 October 1805, Nelson ordered a squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Thomas Louis to sail to Gibraltar and Tetuan to collect stores and water. The squadron included the *Queen*, Captain Francis Pender. They did not return in time to take any part in the Battle of Trafalgar as Louis had himself feared.

Who drew Pender's likeness in the muster book of the *Royal Sovereign*, and why? Had he possibly served under Pender on the *Queen* before joining the *Royal Sovereign*? Was Pender therefore his hero or his nemesis?

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"THERE IS ANOTHER AND A BETTER WORLD!"

# THE SAD TALE OF MRS UPSDELL AND MRS COLLIER

*Terry Jenkins*

On one of the last days of July 1832, a London newspaper carried the following report:

"On Saturday, Mrs. Upsell, the widow of a solicitor, and sister of the late Mr. Palmer, the comedian, applied for parochial relief. The unfortunate lady, who was accompanied by her sister, stated that her husband had been recently carried off by cholera, and in consequence of the embarrassed state of his affairs at the time of his sudden and unexpected dissolution, she was left in a state of destitution. Since the decease of her husband, she had been living with her sister, in Gray's Walk, Lambeth, but the expenses of her diet, &c., although small, her sister was not in a condition to bear; the applicant was therefore obliged to apply for parochial relief. If a small weekly sum could be granted her, to enable her to exist, she should prefer it, rather than be obliged to go into the workhouse.

The Magistrate said that a sovereign had been sent to the office that morning, by an anonymous writer, which was to be applied to the relief of an Irishwoman, whose case appeared in the newspapers. That woman, it was supposed, had already left London, and the gift of the correspondent could not be better disposed of than by giving it to the unfortunate lady, whose distresses had reduced her to the necessity of applying for relief.

Mrs. Upsell received the sum, and returned thanks for the interest which her unfortunate case seemed to excite.

The Magistrate directed that the parish officers of Lambeth should take her examination, with the view of sending her to the parish in which her late husband had a settlement".<sup>1</sup>

The situation in which this poor lady found herself was not unusual in a large city like London. People were continually on the move, and did not necessarily live in the parish of their birth, or stay long enough in any one place to establish the rights of settlement. Mrs Upsell could only be given

financial help if she could prove that she was entitled to live in the parish. Otherwise she had to be sent back to some other parish where she, or her husband, did have the right of settlement. That was the law of the land, harsh though it might seem; and might have been the end of this matter were it not for an article printed in several newspapers a few weeks later. This took the form of an open letter recounting what happened next, headed 'Death by Starvation', and it concluded with an appeal for donations to aid the unfortunate lady. After correcting the spelling of her surname to Upsdell, and acknowledging that she was actually a *daughter* of John Palmer, not a sister, the article continued:

"Since that period she has been residing with her sister, Mrs. Collier, who, from a large fortune, has been reduced to the lowest state of wretchedness; she was the widow of the late T. Collier, Esq., of Lloyd's. In addition to their other misfortunes, their brother, Mr. E. Palmer, lately committed suicide. Immured in an obscure lodging, and unable to obtain any employment, these unfortunate ladies have existed for days together on a small quantity of bread and water, and even this they could not always procure. By these means their constitutions have been so completely destroyed, that when, by the charity of strangers, they have sometimes had sufficient for a meal, their bodies became swollen, and they remained in agony for hours. They had made application to a theatrical gentleman, an old and intimate friend of their father, entreating him to bestow even a single shilling, but this was refused; and their attempts proving equally fruitless in other quarters, nature became exhausted. After a dreadfully fatiguing walk, Mrs. Collier returned home, and expired at two o'clock on Thursday morning, just three hours after having been five days entirely without food".<sup>2</sup>

The chronology of these events proves to be somewhat wayward, as Mrs Collier was buried at St Mary's, Lambeth, on 27 July 1832 - before Mrs Upsdell is even supposed to have made her appeal for help. But there are no other burials in the area at the time for anyone called Collier, and this must be the correct person.

I came across this story while researching the private life of the popular and successful actor ['comedian'] John Palmer, nicknamed "Plausible Jack" by playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Palmer was active in the latter part of the 18th century, and his professional career is now well-documented. He merits an entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB), and his career is described at length in the *Biographical Dictionary of Actors* (BDA).<sup>3</sup> However details about his private life and family are much sketchier. He married Frances Burroughs in Norwich on 9 June 1765,<sup>4</sup> and the couple had a large number of children. Palmer was also well-known to be a habitual Lothario - the actress Mrs Gibbs was reputedly his mistress around 1786, and she possibly bore him one, if not two, illegitimate children.



Fig. 1 - John Palmer, 1798, by William Ridley, published by Thomas Bellamy. Courtesy of the National Galleries Scotland.

Palmer's wife died of tuberculosis in February 1798, and was buried at St Martin-in-the-Fields on the 15th.<sup>5</sup> She was 52 years old. A few months later, on 21 July, Palmer also died. He was midway through a performance of *The Stranger* in Liverpool - and collapsed and died on stage. His last words, reputedly, were "There is another and a better world!"<sup>6</sup> The children were left parentless. The ODNB states there were eight of them. The BDA says ten or eleven. Benefit performances were held in various theatres around the country to raise money for the children, and one was held at Drury Lane theatre, where Palmer was a long-established member of the Company. The children could hardly all be called orphans - the eldest, christened Mary in October 1767, was over 30 years old - and it seems the money was shared only amongst those children who were still under 21. The Preface to son John's novel *Like Master Like Man*, published posthumously in 1811, states that he received nothing. He was 25 years old in 1798, and already working professionally as an actor.<sup>7</sup> The same is probably true of daughter Frances, born in 1776, who was appearing at the theatre in Stafford that year.<sup>8</sup> I conclude the beneficiaries were the three youngest still alive: Jemima (b. 1779), Lucretia (b. 1783) and Edward (b. 1788).<sup>9</sup>

It was while trying to establish the true number of Palmer's children that I came upon Mrs Upsdell, and the dire straits in which she found herself as an elderly lady. The BDA recounts the tale, as there is evidence that a daughter of John Palmer with this name appeared a couple of times as an actress at the Haymarket Theatre in 1796, but is unable to identify which of Palmer's children she was.<sup>10</sup>

Mrs Upsdell turns out to have the unusual first name of 'Mechey'. I can only assume this is a childish mispronunciation - there is no child with this name anywhere in the records - but her marriage licence, and other later records, clearly show the name is Mechey. She married the solicitor Peter Upsdell on 12 July 1794 at St Anne's, Soho, and one might imagine her life was thenceforth comfortable and secure. However, her husband was admitted to the Bethlem Hospital with mental problems in August 1820.<sup>11</sup> His case-book states that he "fancies himself very rich", and he was full of the wildest schemes and

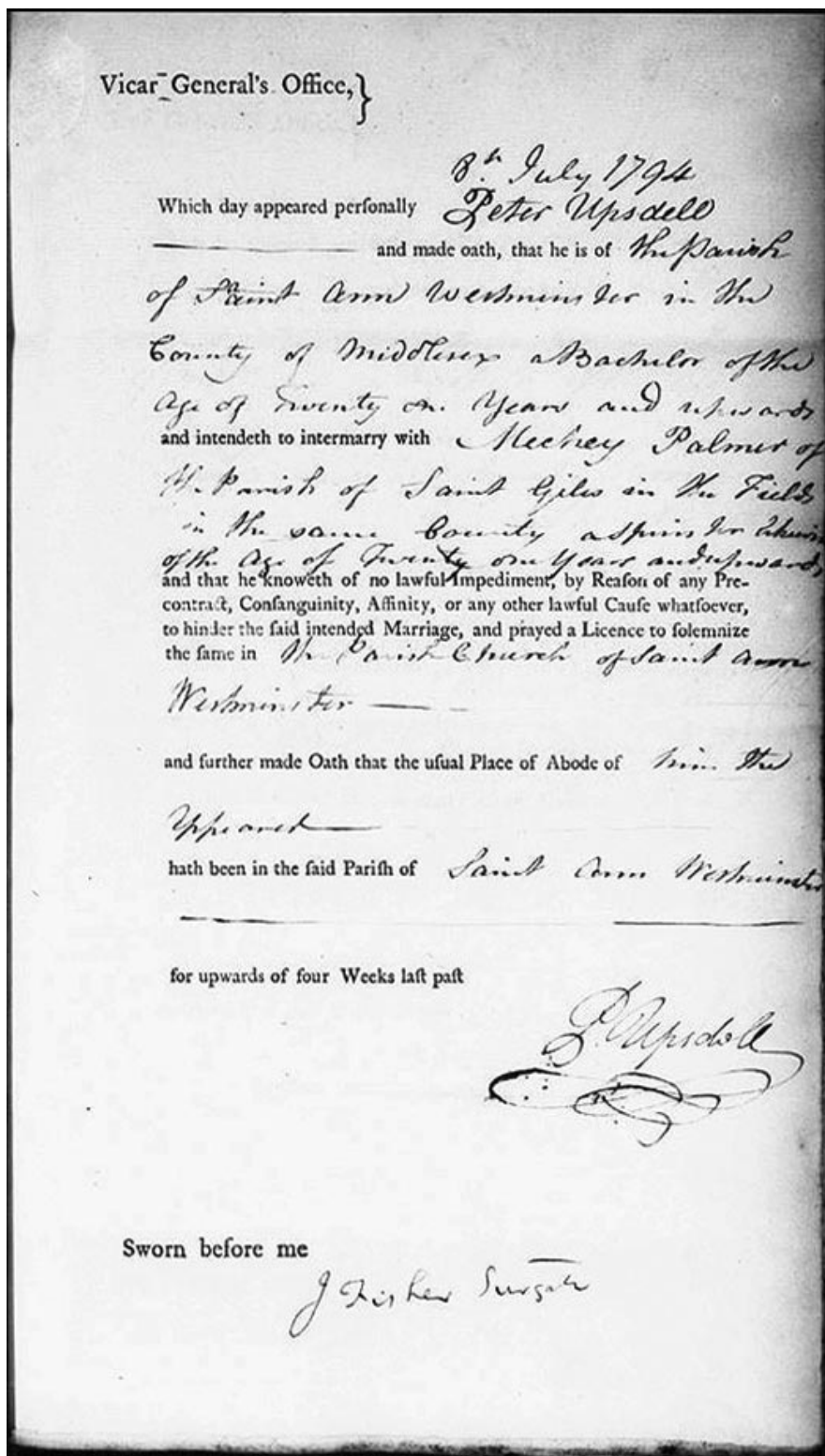


Fig. 2 - The Vicar-General marriage licence for Mechey/Mechy. Courtesy of the Gen. Soc.

speculations. He had recently purchased a “chariot of 4 horses at £95 each” and, if he was not liberated from the hospital, would lose an expected inheritance from an uncle in Hampshire. He was given medication for the “general excitement in his manner”, and was discharged on 12 July 1821, described as being “well”.<sup>12</sup> I assume that life returned to some semblance of normality. The case-book acknowledged that he was married with one child. I have not found a baptism for such a child, and there is no indication that the child was still alive during the events of 1832. Peter Upsdell then died unexpectedly of cholera in 1832 during the epidemic that swept the country, and was buried at St Mary’s Lambeth on 15 March. He was 60 years old, left no will, and had made no provision for his wife.

The newspapers described Mrs Upsdell as nearly 70 in 1832. This is unlikely, as her parents only married in 1765. I suggest that she was in fact Mary Palmer, daughter of John and Frances, christened in October 1767 at St Giles-in-the-Fields, and therefore nearly 65 years old. What becomes clear in this research is that ages quoted in the records are often extremely inaccurate. Luckily it appears that all of John Palmer’s (legitimate) children were baptised, and therefore their dates of birth can be established precisely. After her husband’s death, Mrs Upsdell moved to live with her sister Mrs Collier in Gray’s Walk, Lambeth, close to the Thames and Lambeth Palace. Mrs Collier proves to be Isabella Palmer, born in Liverpool on 22 June 1769, and baptised there on 16 July. The baptismal records of the Church of Our Lady and St. Nicholas describe her father as ‘Drury-lane comedian’. Palmer regularly performed in Liverpool during the summer and, as we have seen, it was where he died in 1798. Isabella was therefore already 38 years old when she married Thomas Collier, by licence, on 23 September 1807 at St John’s, Smith Square. He is described in a newspaper clipping as “of Lloyds”, and this helped to identify him, and pinpoint his death.

Thomas Collier died in September 1809, and was buried at St Luke’s, Chelsea, on the 30th. He was 33 years old, and, in a short handwritten will, left all he possessed to his wife Isabella, née Palmer.<sup>13</sup> The original probate, valuing his estate at under

£1,000, was revised in January 1815, and the figure was increased to £7,500.<sup>14</sup> He was a wealthy man, and I would have expected that, with judicious investment, this was sufficient to support his widow for the rest of her life. The Bank of England inflation index states that it is equivalent to over £½million in 2024. However, it had clearly all gone by July 1832.<sup>15</sup> Her brother Edward wrote in his 1825 letter (quoted later in this article) that he had rendered her “a little assistance”, showing he felt there was already a need to help her financially.

Thomas and Isabella Collier were therefore married for barely two years. The couple do not appear to have had any children, and Isabella had been a widow for over 20 years when she died in 1832. As we have seen, she was buried on 27 July 1832 at St Mary’s Lambeth. She was described in the burial records as Margaret Collier/Collyer aged 76, and her ‘abode’ was given as the workhouse. One might question, therefore, whether this is the correct person - she was not an inmate of the workhouse as we have seen, her name was Isabella, and she was 63 years old. However, there are no other deaths in Lambeth for anyone called Collier/Collyer at the time, and I conclude this is confirmation that her precise personal details were a matter of conjecture to whoever organised the burial.

The newspapers were correct, however, about brother Edward’s suicide. He had travelled to Maidstone to appear as a witness in a case at the Assizes on 31 July 1832, and while at the courthouse stabbed himself in the neck. He was immediately taken to the workhouse for medical treatment, and placed in a strait jacket. The next day he appeared normal and rational. He was freed and allowed to exercise unsupervised, whereupon he seized a knife from another inmate and stabbed himself again. This time he could not be saved, and he died later in the day. An inquest was held on 2 August, which returned a verdict of insanity.<sup>16</sup>

Edward had tried to kill himself before: in 1825. Following this attempt, he was brought before the Lord Mayor of London, the chief magistrate of the City (attempting to commit suicide is a crime - succeeding is a different matter ...). In extenuation, Edward complained that he was unable to find work



Fig. 3 - Lambeth Workhouse in Princes Road, 1825, by G. Yates. Courtesy of the London Borough of Lambeth Archives department

and could not support his wife and daughter. And further, that not all the money raised at the benefit performance for John Palmer's orphan children held at Drury Lane in 1798 had been paid to them. They had received the ticket money, but he alleged that the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan, manager of the theatre, had pocketed the additional donations. The Lord Mayor offered the following advice, full of pompous flummery, saying:

"... he was convinced that the professional contemporaries of Mr. Palmer, the rivals of his fame, particularly, would readily afford some relief to his unfortunate son; that the two gentlemen at the head of the great theatres, who belonged to that distinguished rank of the drama, would be contributors, and much honour would be reflected upon those two prosperous establishments, by giving so humane a testimony of their recollection of an old favourite. — His Lordship then put some money into the hands of Palmer, and desired him to leave his address with Mr. Hobler, whose intentions, we believe it is, to write to the old friends of Mr. Palmer, and amongst the rest to two gentlemen, from whom liberal contributions may be expected, Mr. Munden and Mr. Johnstone, the two most affluent connected with the stage".<sup>17</sup>

Joseph Shepherd Munden (d. 1832) and John Henry Johnstone (d. 1828) were two famous actors of the day. However, the Lord Mayor's expectations did not materialise. Neither of the actors offered to help. Nor was help forthcoming from the Drury Lane Theatrical Fund. Apparently, John Palmer had not been a member, or made any contributions to it. Nonetheless, the publicity surrounding the case raised the sum of £32, which the Mayor was pleased to give him. Furthermore:

"He had caused inquiry to be made as to the truth of the statement by Palmer, the result of which was perfectly satisfactory, and he felt pleasure in stating that a situation had been procured for him, where, he had no doubt, he would discharge his duty faithfully".<sup>18</sup>

Edward's allegation that Sheridan had retained the donations was vehemently denied by his son, and a war of words ensued in the press.<sup>19</sup> Edward defended his allegation in a letter to the above-mentioned Mr. Hobler:

"Sir—I beg leave to make every apology in my power for trespassing on your valuable time, but as I see by *The Times* newspaper of yesterday, my assertion relative to Mr. Sheridan is contradicted, I beg leave to state the following facts—The money paid at the

doors for admission was most certainly received by the family, as stated by Mr. Dunn; but the ticket-money, including presents (one from the present Countess of Derby for fifty pounds), was received by Mr. Fosbrooke, who is still living, and resides within a few doors of the White Swan, Kennington Common, and paid by him into the hands of Mr. Sheridan. I beg leave to state further, that Mr. Sheridan, a few days previous to his death, acknowledged the debt in the presence of my sister Isabella, who, as well as my sister Lucretia, never received the money, and sent his son, who is still living, into the drawing-room of No. 14, Saville-row, Burlington-gardens, to say it should be paid, which I assure you, Sir, never was the case. Shortly after Mr. Sheridan's death, an advertisement appeared in the Papers calling on all persons having any claims on the deceased to make known the same to Mr. Burgess, attorney, Curzon-street, May-fair. My claim was immediately drawn out by an attorney, and sent in, and was not for a moment disputed. I trust, Sir, that you will excuse my taking the present liberty, but I should ill deserve the kindness shewn me, had I commenced my melancholy tale with a falsehood. I have inclosed an account of the manner in which I have laid out the money his Lordship was kind enough to give me, and as it is a well-known fact, that my sister Isabella has been through life a mother to me, I trust I have not exceeded your wishes in rendering her a little assistance. With the most grateful thanks for your kindness, I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble Servant, Edward Thurlowe Palmer.”<sup>20</sup>

Edward described Isabella in this letter as having been a mother to him, and this makes complete sense. She would have been 29 in 1798 when their parents died and, as her elder sister Mechey was already married, took over the role of mother to her younger siblings. I also suggest that she was known as ‘Nell’ within the family, and was the recipient of the letter written by John Palmer just before his death, noted in the *BDA*.<sup>21</sup> ‘Nell’ is not the most obvious diminutive of Isabella, but there does not appear to be any other child to whom the name could be applied. Edward's letter is possibly an indication that Palmer's youngest daughter, Lucretia, born in 1783 and 15 years old when he died, was no longer alive. Otherwise, she could have corroborated his assertion.

As we have seen, after Isabella Collier's death, Mrs Upsdell sought financial help from the magistrates' office at Union Hall in Southwark, and was directed to undergo a settlement examination in Lambeth. She declared there, on oath, that her husband had rented a house in Lambeth Road 14 years previously, which gave her the right of settlement in the parish. Robson's *London Directory* of 1820 lists Peter Upsdell, solicitor, at 16 Lambeth Road. However, Isabella did not stay in Lambeth, but moved across London to St John's Wood. An announcement of her new address, thanking people for their help, was printed in *The Morning Herald* on 22 September 1832.

Her stay north of the Thames was short, and within two years she was back in Lambeth - and admitted to the workhouse.<sup>22</sup> In her settlement examination of 1834, she repeated her claim about her previous residence in the parish, adding “Sophia Hawkins will swear to this”.<sup>23</sup> The 1832 and 1834 examination records clearly show her first name as Mechie. But this has been transcribed on *Ancestry* as ‘Michael’. And, as a final insult, it was as Michael Upsdell that she was buried at St George the Martyr, Southwark, on 25 June 1834. Her age was given as 54 which, considering it was supposedly nearly 70 two years earlier, is quite an achievement! I calculate she was 67 when she died.

Sophia Hawkins was a younger sister, born in 1775, and she too was eventually reduced to seeking help from the parish. In her settlement examination on 13 July 1840, she declared that her husband, Henry Mercer Hawkins, a surgeon, had deserted her in 1815 and she hadn't seen him since.<sup>24</sup> However, she appears to have been given ‘outdoor relief’, and she was still at her home address in Peartree Street for the 1841 census. She was examined again on 19 May 1847,<sup>25</sup> but it seems she was only admitted to the Lambeth workhouse on 14 January 1850.<sup>26</sup> She was there for the 1851 census on 30 March, but died a few weeks later. She was buried at St Mary's Lambeth on 2 May aged 77.

Four children whose lives ended in sad circumstances. They can be seen on the attached family tree, together with brief notes about Palmer's other children. There were eleven in total, of whom nine reached adulthood, and two died in infancy.

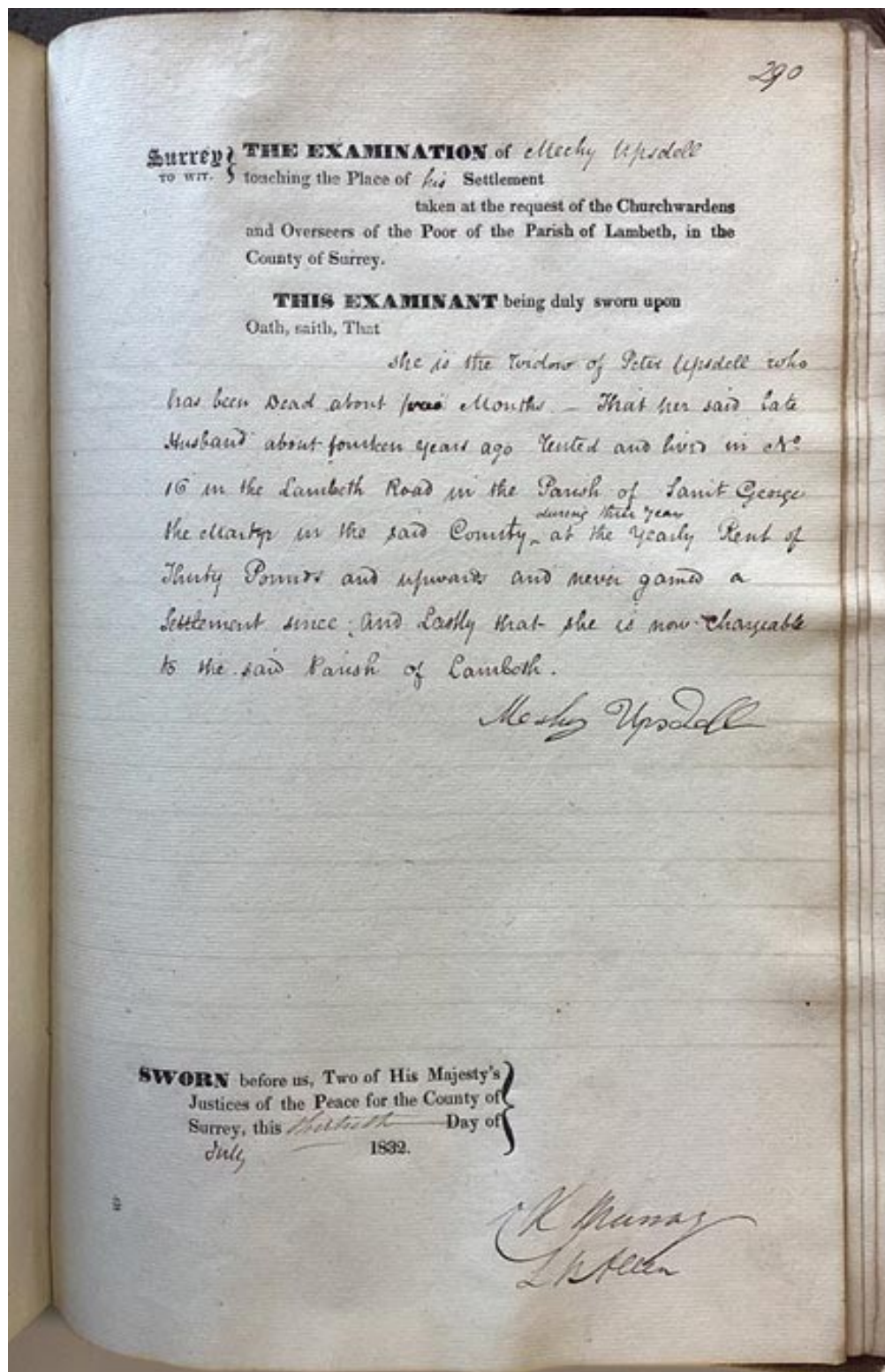


Fig. 4 - Settlement Examination for Mechey/Mechy. Courtesy of the London Archives, ref: P85-MRY1-218.

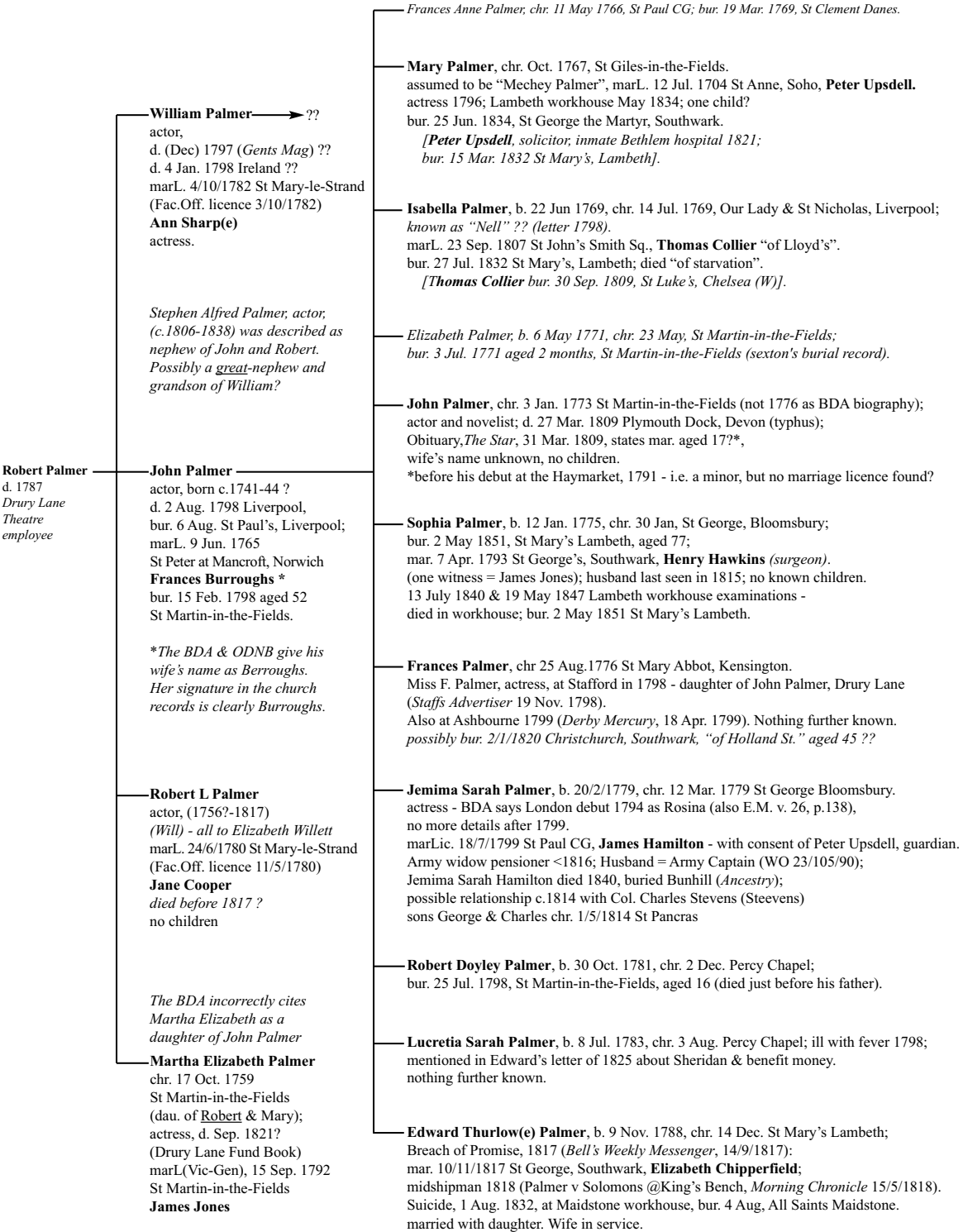


Fig. 5 - The family of John "Plausible Jack" & Frances Palmer

In conclusion, we can appreciate that neither Mrs Upsdell nor her two sisters came from the strata of society that one would expect to find in the workhouse. Their husbands were all members of the professional classes: solicitor, surgeon and member of Lloyd's. And their presence there is a salutary reminder of the problems facing elderly people who had no children or close family to support them. There was great shame attached to being taken into the workhouse, and every effort would have been made to stay independent.

The 1832 letter describing the death of Mrs Collier was written with somewhat unnecessary lurid details, rather in the style of a penny-dreadful, but was clearly intended to make the greatest possible impact on its readers. It brought forth the response "Good God! this in a Christian Country!" in one newspaper.<sup>27</sup> The letter concluded with an appeal for money, and the names of five gentlemen to whom donations could be sent were listed. They all had smart London addresses. One was in Pall Mall, another in Regent's Park, and a third at the Admiralty office in Somerset House. They look like members of a pressure group that was campaigning against social injustice, and I suggest there were political motives behind the publicity given to this whole affair. In February 1832, a Royal Commission into the operation of the existing Poor Laws had been set up, and this publicity looks like an attempt to influence its findings. The recommendations made by the Commission were incorporated in the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834; and one of these confirmed that responsibility for workhouses should be taken away from the parish, and placed in the hands of specially formed Boards of Governors. The area covered by one of these Boards could include a number of small parishes, which were grouped together into a "poor law union". It seems the plight of John Palmer's elderly daughters may have played a small part in bringing about this change in the law.

## Notes

1. *The Guardian and Public Ledger*, Monday, 30 July 1832, p.4.
2. *The Morning Herald*, Saturday, 25 August 1832. This item was subsequently printed verbatim in other London papers.
3. Highfill, Philip H. Jr., Kalman A. Burnim and Edward A. Langhans, eds: *A Biographical Dictionary of Actors, Actresses, Musicians, Dancers, Managers and other Stage Personnel in London, 1660-1800*. (Carbondale, Southern Illinois UP, 1973-91), vol. 11, pp.161-177.
4. The parish records are clearly 'Burroughs'. The *BDA* and *ODNB* give 'Berroughs'.
5. Westminster City Archives: St Martin-in-the-Fields, Sexton's Day Book, Acc 419/241.
6. The line occurs in *The Stranger*, an English version of the play by August von Kotzebue.
7. John Palmer: *Like Master Like Man* (London, W Earle, 1811), p.xix. The *Preface* by George Colman, the younger, gives a surprising amount of details about the family at this time.
8. *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 10 November 1798.
9. The *Newcastle Courant*, 25 August 1798, reported that the money was shared between the four youngest children. Son Robert actually died a few days before his father.
10. Highfill etc. *Biographical Dictionary of Actors*, vol. 15, p.86.
11. *Bethlem Hospital Patient Admission Registers and Casebooks 1683-1932*; ref. ARA-07 & ARA-16 (*findmypast*). He was discharged in October 1820, but readmitted in March 1821.
12. *Bethlem Hospital Patient Admission Registers And Casebooks 1683-1932*; ref. CB-010, p.28 (*findmypast*).
13. TNA: PROB 11/1504/86; the original is in PROB 10/3912.
14. TNA: PROB 30/235; copy in PROB 29/240/1.
15. It would take over 20½ years to spend £7,500 at £1 per day (equivalent to nearly £70 per day in 2024). I suggest Isabella was somewhat profligate with the money.
16. *Maidstone Journal & Kentish Advertiser*, 7 August 1832.
17. *Johnson's Sunday Monitor*, 27 March 1825.
18. *Public Ledger and General Advertiser* 28 March 1825.
19. Sheridan's son by his second marriage was Charles Brinsley Sheridan (1796-1843). He was 2 years old in 1798, and 18 when his father died in July 1816. His rebuttal of Edward's allegation appeared in *The Times*, 29 March 1825.
20. *The Star*, 31 March 1825.
21. No source is given for the present location of this letter.
22. This was the original workhouse in Princes Road, Lambeth, which opened in 1726. A new building was constructed in 1871 in Renfrew Road.
23. LMA: (*Lambeth*) *Settlement Examinations Rough 1834-35*, LABG/140/001, p.33.
24. LMA: (*Lambeth*) *Settlement Examinations Rough 1839-41*, LABG/140/004, p.165.
25. LMA: (*Lambeth*) *Settlement Examinations Rough 1847*, LABG/140/012, p.163.
26. LMA: (*Lambeth*) *Princes Road Workhouse Creed Register, 1850-54*; LABG/163/001
27. *The Satirist, or the Censor of the Times*, 26 August 1832.

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# THE POWER OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

*Helen Dawkins LRPS*

I was intrigued recently to hear a programme on Radio 4 discussing the merits of the use of photographs to 'restore' the memory and it made me reflect on what 'taking a photograph' now actually entails compared with years ago and I think it offers some food for thought.

When I am working with a client on assembling an archive I recommend actually looking to reduce the amount of photographs being used. When considering an archive from Victorian times the number of photographs is very often not an issue because photographs were expensive and usually



*Fig. 1 - Cameras over the years: plate camera, Kodak vest pocket camera, Kodak Instamatic, digital camera, mobile phone*

Photographs are now so easy to take with our mobile phones that many photographs are being taken without making the most of the actual experience, resulting in the moment not being committed to long-term memory. There is a theory that taking a photograph actually reduces the memory we retain of an object - this is not so much the case when we are experiencing a moment, but if we are looking at an object, say in a museum, we almost subconsciously say to ourselves "I'll look at that later". The act of taking a photograph is almost a memory substitute. The number of photographs we are taking now, very often using a mobile phone, are virtually unmanageable and they remain on our phones in a disorganised manner - only ordered by date, and our memories aren't great at remembering the actual year let alone the date of a particular event. I think the best advice I can offer here is to pause a while, enjoy the moment, and only take the photograph if it is going to form an important memory, whilst not ignoring those snapshot moments that only stay with us for a moment.

taken for a specific reason; a life event such as birth, significant birthdays, war time, engagements, weddings etc. Moving into the 20th century and with the arrival of the Kodak Box Brownie, it became possible to be more prolific with the amount of photographs taken. Moving forward to the arrival of the Instamatic in 1963 and the increased availability of roll film, we began to further increase the number of photographs taken. The one area that film did actually reduce the amount of photographs taken was wedding photography. The medium format film predominantly in use in the 70s/80s had only 12 frames to a film so every one of those frames had to count - the average wedding would then have only used perhaps 6 - 7 rolls of film. Compare that to the 1000 - 1500 photographs taken on average at today's weddings - and the number of images does not always reflect the quality of those images - less is more, confidence is everything.

And more thoughts on today's photograph memories ...

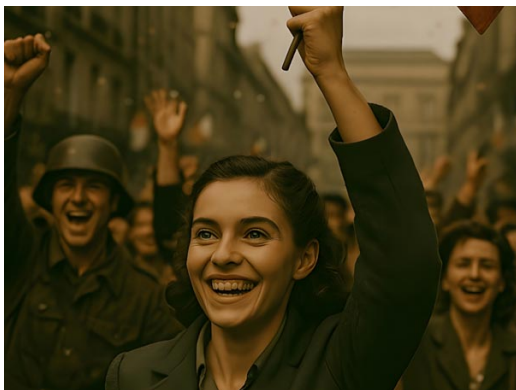
## The Camera never lies

So true to a great extent in the 19th century, when everything that fell on the plate in the camera was depicting the view in front of the lens. But nowadays we must question that.

We are reminded of another disappointing development in Artificial Intelligence (AI) created photographs/videos, with the video released on May 27 by the French Government in honour of National Resistance Day, which commemorates those who resisted German occupation and the Vichy authorities during World War II. Each year the day is commemorated and this year they released a 27-second celebratory video on their Instagram and TikTok accounts. It is heavily retouched/manipulated depicting a woman and crowd in celebratory mood. Unfortunately, the accuracy of content went unchecked and included a soldier wearing a German-style helmet in jubilant mood and, in the background, someone on a balcony waves the flag of Japan, a wartime ally of the Nazis. Being clever with a computer really isn't the answer to everything. With digital formats we are sometimes hard-pressed to tell reality from fiction - BEWARE!!

This short video can be seen at:

<https://images.app.goo.gl/DseG4TmSwuQ8C3Xt7>  
but here you will see a still, from which I think you can see the main inaccuracies!

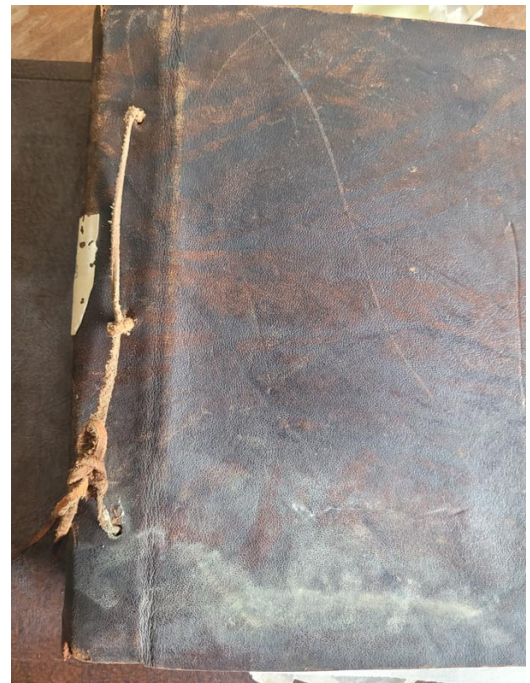


*Fig. 2 - Still of wartime video*

Photography is such a wonderful tool but it does sadden me to realise how memories can now be so easily manipulated. I occasionally get asked to remove someone from a photograph – usually a wedding photograph (!) and I always offer a note of caution because there is a memory in that photograph and the memory will not be erased by digitally removing a part of the image. I would always prefer to suggest that the photograph depicts history and I feel it is far better to accept that fact.

## Arriving in the studio this last quarter ...

Talking of history, a wonderful album arrived in the studio during the last quarter depicting a family 'Grand Tour' in the early 1900s. The album had been subject to the ravages of time including damage caused by it being housed in an 'archive' which was unfortunately a room below a bathroom - a considerable leak had occurred! Sufficient to say there was a huge issue with damp spores both on the photographs and pages, damage to the interleaving pages and considerable wear and tear to the leather cover.



*Fig. 3 - Album*



*Fig. 4 - Album*

My first task was to take the album apart. It was held together by some considerably weakened leather thonging. The leather cover was set aside for later attention as my priority was to carefully treat each page to remove the damp spores.

Despite careful cleaning, some spores may lie dormant within the pages and ideally the album should be stored in a humidity-controlled environment but unfortunately we do not all have access to such a luxury, so as many spores and damaged material as possible must be removed. This included removing the remains of the glassine interleaves and carefully cleaning each photograph. The pages were then left separated in a dry environment to aerate the album.

The photographic content, as well as being of very real interest to the family, also showed some historical content in those illustrating Pompeii in the early 1900s. Pompeii was heavily damaged by Vesuvius erupting in 1944, although just prior to this, significant war damage was caused in the early years of World War II.

During World War II many Allied servicemen enjoyed making the journey to the summit of the mountain on the funicular railway, until in 1943 Pompeii greatly suffered, first as a result of bombing during the war and then catastrophically by a huge eruption of Vesuvius in 1944 when the funicular railway was destroyed and never rebuilt. These two images from the album (Figs. 5 & 6) depict sculptures no longer visible in Pompeii so how wonderful that these photographs survive. Photographs truly are something to be treasured.

Back to the leather album. The photograph at Fig. 3 shows the original condition before careful cleaning, carrying out of some bookbinding repairs to the spine and finally the addition of a protective archival wax coating, as used by the British Museum, which gives protection from finger marks, spillages etc. The leather thong holding the album together was sourced to match the original to create a restoration which reflected the original condition. Replacement acid-free glassine interleaves were held in place within the spine area with an acid-free double-sided tape, and the album reassembled.



*Fig. 5 - Venus*



*Fig. 6 - Mosaic Fountain*

It is interesting to see how the type of work coming into the studio is evolving as I am now seeing many colour images from the 1970s requiring restoration. Colour prints in the 1970s were far superior to those produced today and the more professionally produced are often still visible 50 years on but they are usually fading fast. Today I have colour prints printed for me by a professional studio who still use chemicals, although the lifespan is probably only 15 years, but a good solution as inkjet prints will only offer perhaps a couple of years of life. However, maybe consider having your important colour family photographs reproduced as a black and white darkroom-produced print which can safely be added to your archive for the future 100 years plus, providing good storage techniques are employed.

If I can offer a little advice, it is well worth taking a glance at your own collection of colour photographs from the 70s/80s, for while the facial details, the important aspects, are still vaguely visible, it is possible to restore the photograph. Hold onto those photographs while you can!

As ever, I look forward to your thoughts and challenges.

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***Helen Dawkins LRPS***

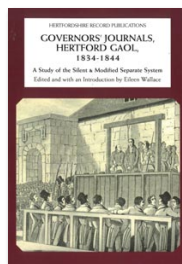
Email: [helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](mailto:helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)

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](mailto:helen@blackandwhiterevival.co.uk), visit [www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](http://www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk) or tel: 07732 642139.

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# BOOK REVIEWS



***Governors' Journals, Hertford Gaol, 1834-1844 – A Study of the Silent & Modified Separate System***, edited by Eileen Wallace. Hertfordshire Record Publications, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-9501741-5-0. Hardback, 393pp., illustrated, appendices, indexes, bibliography. £22.00.

The transcripts in this book, from a set of governors' journals, offer a real life view of a mid-19th century gaol. Hertford County Gaol was built in 1779. A new house of correction was built next to the gaol in 1791. Generally, convicts found guilty of serious crimes were kept in the gaol while those guilty of misdemeanours were placed in the house of correction.

By an Act of Parliament in 1823, governors were required to keep a journal that documented 'punishments inflicted...the day when such punishments had taken place and all other occurrences of importance within the prison' (Introduction p.xc). The transcripts in this book are from the first two of six journals and include all the entries made between 1834 and 1844. During this period, there were three contributors. William Willson was Chief Gaoler from 1825 to 1838. His first entry here is dated 29 October 1834. Lieutenant George Parlbry Duins was Chief Gaoler, and later Governor, from 1838 to 1844. Samuel Hatchard took over as Governor in October 1844 and made the last few entries, ending in November that year.

The first volume of the journal does not have an entry for every day, although every page has been signed by the governor. The second volume has daily entries, signed by the governor, or the turnkey in the governor's absence. For the transcription, spelling has been retained as in the original, capital letters have been reproduced and people's names left as they were recorded. Some words have been modernised, for example 'ye' has been changed to 'the', and punctuation has been added occasionally to help the reader. There is a list of abbreviations to help and a glossary of terms.

For anyone searching for information on ancestors in Hertfordshire, this is a name-rich book that may be very helpful. The entries name prisoners, especially those who misbehaved, staff working within the gaol and visitors. They included a chaplain, a surgeon, a matron supervising female prisoners, a clerk, a turnkey who examined the cells and counted the prisoners, and watchmen who patrolled the gaol at night.

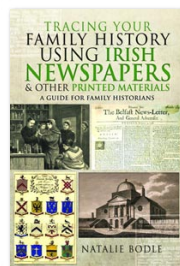
In addition, those hoping to understand more about prisons and the treatment of inmates during this period will find the book very useful. The Editor, Eileen Wallace, is a qualified archivist, history teacher and a

trustee of the Hertfordshire Record Society. In the substantial introduction to the book the Editor describes how the gaol operated, using a 'moderate separate system'. Essentially, this system kept prisoners apart and required them to remain silent at all times. They could be punished for looking at someone, speaking, singing or laughing. The Editor describes how there was a gradual move, during this period, toward managing gaols more efficiently, with better staff. The emphasis in the gaol changed from physical punishment to isolating prisoners and attempting to change their moral behaviour.

In Hertford Gaol, there was little distinction between juveniles and adults. However, boys under 14 years were birched, not flogged, and boys under 18 years could attend education classes. Male prisoners were mostly agricultural labourers, poachers or debtors. Female prisoners were usually guilty of petty theft. Many were on remand. Some, mostly males, were being held awaiting transportation to Australia.

Appendix 3 (p.333) includes extracts from the Second Report of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Prisons, published in 1837. It holds verbatim records of interviews held with seven prisoners and a turnkey. It is fascinating to read these interviews and see the environment from the inmates' point of view.

Note: See also *Transported Beyond the Seas*, published 1997 by the Hertfordshire Family and Population History Society, which lists those sentenced in Hertfordshire to transportation to Australia, 1784-1866. (Available in the SoG library.)



***Tracing Your Family History Using Irish Newspapers & Other Printed Materials***, by Natalie Bodle. Pen & Sword, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-39906-228-2. Paperback, 122pp., illustrated, appendix, index, bibliography. £12.99.

For anyone wanting to develop a fuller picture of their Irish ancestors' lives, this book should be a great help. It aims to describe how to research your family using Irish newspapers, journals and periodicals. It details how to locate printed materials in physical libraries in Ireland, in online repositories, portals and databases, or by consulting publishers' catalogues.

To begin searching through newspapers, the book describes how to access a digitised online catalogue that provides an alphabetical list of newspapers, with dates of publication. The catalogue lists newspapers published in Ireland, plus those aimed at Irish migrants in Australia, the USA and Canada. Included in this book is where to find copies of the newspapers, plus some advice for

subscribing to online newspaper archives.

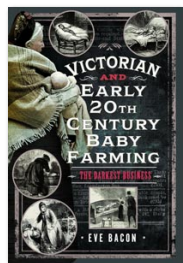
There is a long list of freely available databases, transcriptions and abstracts, many of them less well-known. Examples include *Eddie's Extracts*, maintained by Eddie Connolly, with Ulster-based news clippings and transcriptions, and Nick Reddan's website, holding extracts from Irish papers between 1720 and 1865.

*The Gazette* covers official information on people and companies. A chapter in the book explains the separate versions that were published for Ireland, their dates, and how to access copies online. A separate version of *The London Gazette* was published in Belfast from 1921. Editions of *The Dublin Gazette* between 1757 and 1810 are available on various websites, although there are gaps.

In a chapter covering biographies and genealogies there is information on a remarkable postcard collection held by the Linen Hall Library in Belfast. There are more than 7,000 images, showing cities, towns and remote villages.

Natalie Bodle is a qualified genealogist from County Antrim, Northern Ireland. She specialises in Irish family history research. She begins this book with four contrasting case studies that illustrate how much information about a family can be found in printed material. The case studies use a variety of sources, such as checking a story in a number of newspapers to build a full picture, looking at will calendars to identify relevant dates, and using directories to find neighbourhoods and streets.

The Appendices include physical addresses, contacts and website details for museums, archives and libraries in Ireland.



***Victorian and Early 20th Century Baby Farming*, by Eve Bacon.**

Pen & Sword, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-03611-056-7. Hardback, 226pp., illustrated, index, bibliography. £25.00.

Anyone with a brick wall that involves evidence of a child but no trace of parents may find that this book offers some ideas to explore.

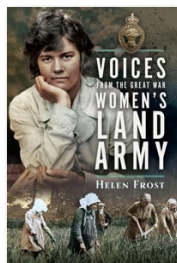
It describes the practice of 'baby farming', which refers to mothers paying someone else to care for their child. The mothers were usually unmarried. The baby farmer was usually another female who was caring for a number of small children. Some baby farmers would agree to adopt the child for a lump sum, although this was rarely a permanent adoption. Most baby farmers agreed to care for a small child and required regular payments.

The reputation of baby farmers has been affected by those who were charged with cruelty or murder, and the author discusses what happened, the court cases and newspaper reports.

However, there were many baby farmers who did the best they could to care for the children. The author also names some of them and describes their lives and the care they offered.

There is a chapter on the role of midwives, who were frequently the person that found the baby farmer for the desperate mother. There is also a description of children's homes in the early 20th century and how they contrasted with baby farms.

The references and the bibliography contain lists of potential sources, books, newspapers and other studies, that could be helpful for any family historian.



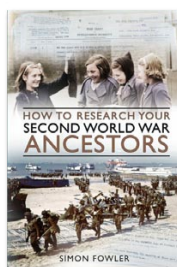
***Voices from the Great War Women's Land Army*, by Helen Frost.** Pen & Sword, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-03610-783-3. Hardback, 231pp., illustrated, index, bibliography. £25.00.

The Women's Land Army in the Second World War, often referred to as the 'land girls', are a very familiar part of British history and feature in many family stories. Perhaps the Women's Land Army of the First World War are not as well known.

This book describes the women who volunteered, in 1917 and 1918, to work for the Land Army. They were desperately needed because food production on British farms had dropped to a point that was close to an emergency. The author, Helen Frost, is a Great War historian and researcher. She introduces us to many of the women. They came from a variety of different backgrounds. Some had grown up in very wealthy families while others were in domestic service and hoping to escape. Most were not used to rural life.

There is a set of very interesting images, showing the women at enlistment locations or working on farms. Almost all the women in the photos are identified. There is also a chapter that lists all the women who received the Distinguished Service Bar, with a small biography for each one.

The Bibliography includes the magazines and newspapers that provided the sources for the book and could be very useful for further research into the lives of any land girls in your family.



***How to Research Your Second World War Ancestors*, by Simon Fowler.** The History Press, 2025. ISBN: 978-1-80399-449-9.

Paperback, 276pp., illustrated, appendices, index. £20.00.

For some family historians, the Second World War may feel like the very recent past, perhaps not relating to *ancestors*. However, almost everybody alive in Britain at the time played a part in the War and their experiences no doubt belong in any family story. This book aims to help you research what your parents and grandparents did in the War. It is

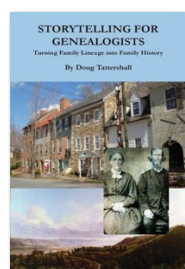
not just about the military, although service in the forces plays a large part.

Simon Fowler is a professional researcher, specialising in the military history of the two world wars and the records of central government. In the extremely useful Introduction to the book, he describes clearly and briefly how the British armed forces were organised. In particular, he unpacks the various parts of the British Army, which is a great help when searching through military records.

Early chapters are aimed at those just beginning their research. There are suggestions for considering your family's papers and photos, and guidance to help you identify where your ancestors might have been stationed or what they were doing. It is fortunate that more than just old records and databases are available for the Second World War. For example, it is worth exploring the British Film Archive, searching *YouTube* for newsreels that have been uploaded, or browsing through the BBC's *Radio Times* and *The London Gazette*. This book explains where to find these resources and how to search for information in them. There is also a section on ordering and understanding military service records.

For those whose ancestors were part of the Home Guard, the author describes what their duties were and how to access the records. This includes the Auxiliary Units, which apparently were the centre of British resistance if the German army had invaded. The Women's Land Army has a section. Although their service records did not survive there is a collection of 90,000 index cards to search, holding basic details for each woman and their civilian occupations.

Many people from other countries arrived in Britain during the War for a variety of reasons, including the desire to join the fighting. In 1942, this group was referred to as 'the United Nations'. There were military personnel, stationed in Britain, for example from the Commonwealth, the USA and some European countries. There were refugees from Europe and survivors of the Holocaust. The book covers a wide variety of these groups and organisations, although briefly, and describes how to begin searching for more information.



***Storytelling for Genealogists***, by Doug Tattershall. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. ISBN: 978-0-8063-2141-7.

Paperback, 84pp., illustrations, worksheet, index. £14.77

This excellent book, recently added to our library, could offer real, practical help to anyone wanting to create a story about their

ancestors that their family will want to read.

The author offers a process to follow as you create your family story. The chapters of the book are organised to lead you through a set of stages in the process. Getting started can sometimes be the most difficult stage of all.

An early chapter covers how to engage readers and keep them interested. It discusses how to identify some of the key elements in your ancestors' lives, for example what motivated them to migrate to a new country or how they faced the challenges of a war.

Further chapters in the book are rich with suggestions for exploring the context of your ancestors' lives and help you develop their personalities. Ideas include using military records, looking for diaries written by contemporaries, and researching newspapers. Of course, a good rumour or legend helps and there is a chapter on how to place family lore within your story.

Practical suggestions on how to plan the structure of the book and how to approach the writing and editing tasks include developing a timeline of events. This may help you to build the plot when you start writing and can be a useful way of keeping you on track as you progress. There are some valuable suggestions for formatting the pages, with text, maps and images, and creating a cover. Plus, there is a worksheet to guide you through the process, if you think that might help.

Sherryl Abrahart

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## BOOK OF THE MONTH

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***Greater London Cemeteries and Crematoria***, by Cliff Webb FSG.

Published: 7th Edition, updated 2005. ISBN: 978-1-85951-704-8. Paperback, 48pp.

Finding an ancestor's burial place, maybe a surviving headstone or plaque, can be a very moving experience. If your 19th century ancestors lived and died in Greater

London, actually finding them can be a difficult task.

During the 1950s burials in inner London were discontinued, at various dates, and the local parishes involved stopped maintaining parish burial registers. The burials moved from inner London out to other areas of Greater London. Non-denominational cemeteries were used, owned by commercial companies or local government bodies.

This book aims to help you find where your ancestors were buried in London. It includes a number of lists, giving you a pathway through the complicated maze of cemeteries, crematoria and records.

You can look up the local authorities in Greater London, as they were before 1965. For each of these, you can see the name of the current authority and the burial places in that area. For extra help, you can see the date that registers started for each burial place. It allows you

to begin to identify where your search could start. A second list shows current non-denominational cemeteries and crematoria. In this list you can find where records are held, the date registers began and whether you can search the records. There are separate lists for the army, the navy and for Roman Catholic burials. If you have Jewish ancestors, this book includes lists for orthodox, reform and liberal burial places.

Originally compiled by Patricia S. Wolfson and revised by Cliff Webb, this is a valuable handbook for family historians and genealogists.

The usual cost of *Greater London Cemeteries and Crematoria* is £5.99 and it is currently available to SoG members at the discounted price of £4.79 (£5.39 to non-members) at: <https://tinyurl.com/3ytt3tys>.

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 Sep 2025.

Catherine Hopkins  
eventsoffice@sog.org.uk

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## VISITORS' BOOK DISCOUNT

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When you visit our Research Hub you can now get 50% off second hand books and 25% off SoG titles. Further details: [Catherine.hopkins@sog.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.hopkins@sog.org.uk)

## NEVILLE CHARLES TAYLOR, FSG

1939 - 2025

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Neville Taylor on 30 March 2025. A dedicated member of the Society since 1985, Neville was a quiet but steadfast presence, especially among the Library volunteers, where his contributions were invaluable and wide-ranging.

Neville brought his formidable skills to bear on countless cataloguing and indexing projects, often leading initiatives to computerise and streamline our records. He edited library guides, developed intricate databases, and prepared the texts for many Society publications. Whether it was processing thousands of books or recovering lost files, Neville could always be relied upon - his technical expertise and unflappable calm made him the go-to person for any computer-related problem.

His deep knowledge of the Society's library and collections, coupled with a particular interest in Anglo-Indian genealogy, culminated in the authorship of *Sources for Anglo-Indian Genealogy in the Library of the Society of Genealogists*. That pamphlet remains the definitive introduction to these resources.

Neville was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1995 and, in 2022, took on the role of Chairman of the Fellows - though true to his modest nature, he never sought the spotlight. He was also a generous and loyal friend to many. Known for his dry wit, kindness, and seemingly endless patience, Neville quietly supported members and staff alike. He often



served as a literary or genealogical executor for others' collections and visited members who were unwell, ensuring they remained connected and cared for.

Born in Rugby, with family roots in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, Neville was the son of an electrical engineer. He moved to London in the 1960s, training as a pharmacist with

Boots and eventually managing their Stratford branch. Even after retirement, he continued working as a locum pharmacist - always ready to help out when needed.

Genealogy was a lifelong passion, and Neville delighted in solving the puzzles of his own family history and those of his friends, often punctuated with his trademark humorous anecdotes. His wide-ranging interests extended far beyond genealogy - he was particularly fond of cats, cinemas, theatres, piers, Victoriana, maps, railways, and buses, all of which reflected his deep love of history and heritage. He was also a long-serving member of the Cinema Theatre Association, where he acted as Membership Secretary and Treasurer, and quietly brought order to their archives through careful digitisation.

Neville's generosity, quiet diligence, and dry humour will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

Else Churchill

# CORRESPONDENCE

From: Rupert Lloyd  
Email: rol.12@yahoo.com

Christian Levi Alvares  
Email: mxsla@yahoo.co.uk

## *Genealogists' Magazine* - lost copies

If anybody has copies of June 2024 and March 2025's editions of the *Genealogists' Magazine* in passable condition, and does not especially want to keep them, an elderly SoG member of nearly 50 years standing would be most grateful for the chance to acquire them. If you can help, please get in touch.

## *Genealogists' Magazine* - back issues sought

I would be grateful to SoG members who have a spare / unwanted copy of *Genealogists' Magazine* for June 2023, September 2024, December 2024, and March 2025. Please let me know under what conditions they would be willing to send them to me.

## DECEASED MEMBERS

|                               |             |                            |             |
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| Peter Micheal Bolton          | 2002 - 2025 | Linda Howard               | 2022 - 2025 |
| Jana Howchin Burt-Jones       | 1995 - 2025 | Linda Joan Kennedy         | 1981 - 2025 |
| Michael David Carlow          | 1994 - 2025 | Beryl Grace Linder         | 1993 - 2025 |
| Michael J Chapman             | 1965 - 2025 | Brian Robert Loomes FSG    | 1987 - 2025 |
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| Beatrice Margaret Dhillon     | 1979 - 2025 | John Gomersall Platt       | 1967 - 2025 |
| Kenneth Duckett               | 2023 - 2025 | Patricia Ann Randell       | 2001 - 2025 |
| Marion Elizabeth Fountain     | 1998 - 2025 | Patricia Anne Sandry       | 1995 - 2025 |
| Roger Charles Goodhew         | 1998 - 2025 | Kevn Eugene Arthur Shivers | 2004 - 2025 |
| Elizabeth Mary Gray           | 1979 - 2025 | Gillian Snook              | 2005 - 2025 |
| Anthony Edward Hardy          | 1993 - 2025 |                            |             |



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Founded 1911

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Monday: Closed • Tuesday: Closed • Wednesday: 10:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday: 10:30am - 4:00pm • Friday: 10:30am - 4:00pm  
Thursday Late Opening (until 7pm): 4 September | 2 October | 6 November | 4 December  
Saturday Open Days, 10:30am - 4:00pm (one per month): 6 September | 4 October | 8 November | 6 December



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# SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS' NEWS...

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## EVENTS NEWS

### DISCOVER THE REAL VICTORIAN LONDON - IN PERSON

From **8 – 12 September 2025**, the Society of Genealogists invites members and family history enthusiasts to step back in time during **Victorian London Week**, <https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1105746> hosted at the Society of Genealogists' Resource Hub. While a parallel online stream is available, this week-long event is specifically crafted for those who love the tangible joy of research, conversation and discovery delivered face-to-face.



Attend talks by experts and seasoned researchers that delve deep into Victorian London's social fabric: census materials, street directory sleuthing, newspapers, maps and more.

Expect lively discussions on Victorian mortality rates, apprenticeships, crime and punishment and the chance to converse directly with specialists.

Bring your research puzzles and work alongside others. Whether you're tracing a forebear from Finsbury Park, an ancestor near Angel or a great-grandparent in Greenwich, you will leave with fresh leads and insights.

Afternoons feature optional heritage excursions such as a Charles Dickens Walk, visits to Highgate Cemetery, Brompton Cemetery and Hackney Archives amongst others.

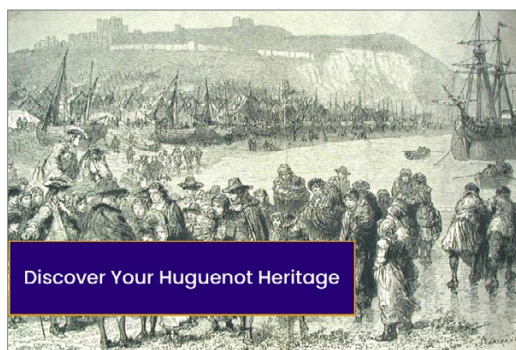
For many genealogists, the essence of discovery lies beyond the digital archive. Victorian London Week's in-person format offers:

- Spontaneous debates and peer to peer learning
- Direct access to staff and specialist guidance
- A community atmosphere that bolsters motivation and curiosity

Whether you're deep into Victorian research or simply curious about unlocking the era's mysteries, join us in September for a week of living history, rich discoveries and in-person camaraderie - the way that genealogy was meant to be experienced.

### DISCOVER YOUR HUGUENOT HERITAGE

Join the Society for an informative day dedicated to uncovering Huguenot ancestry on 24 October 2025. The morning at the SoG Library features in-person talks by **Barbara Julien** and **Micol Barengo** from the Huguenot Library, who will introduce key genealogical resources - from digitised church registers to the Royal Bounty archive. Attendees will also enjoy a demonstration of exclusive digital tools.



In the afternoon, historian **Paul Baker** leads a walking tour through Spitalfields, exploring Huguenot silk weavers and immigrant life in London's East End.

Book here: <https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/1098964>

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

Join us at **Wandsworth Prison Museum** and **Wandsworth Heritage Service** to explore crime, punishment and civic records. Then dive into rich local collections with **Gloucestershire Archives** and **Devon Archives and Local Studies** - perfect for those with West Country roots.



We'll also visit specialist repositories at the **Royal College of Surgeons Archives**, home to historic medical records, and the **Royal Mail Archive**, where postal workers' histories and unique ephemera await discovery.

Each visit offers expert guidance, access to rarely seen materials and the chance to handle history first-hand - an ideal experience for traditional genealogists who prefer the archive to the algorithm.

**Booking details available at:**  
<https://portal.sog.org.uk/event/list>

## FROM THE LIBRARY

- **Changes to opening hours** From August, we'll be opening only one Saturday per month, but introducing one later opening per month.

We'll be opening later on the **first Thursday of each month (10.30am-7pm) then open on the Saturday following it (10.30am-4pm)**. Wednesdays and Fridays remain unchanged (10.30am - 4pm).

All other weeks we'll be open Wed-Fri 10.30am - 4.00pm.

The next late opening weeks will include: Thu 4 and Sat 6 Sep ; Thu 2 and Sat 4 Oct ; Thu 6 and Sat 8 Nov.

Late opening weeks might suit out-of-towners visiting the city for a few days. During late opening weeks, the library will be open Wed-Sat 10.30am - 4.00pm, apart from the extension to 7pm on Thursday.

If you have any questions about our opening hours, let us know [collections@sog.org.uk](mailto:collections@sog.org.uk)

- We now have over **25,500 items on the open library shelves**. We continue to add tracts for the various categories in the library. We now have tracts for Textbooks, Heraldry, India, Wales and counties up to Norfolk. We are also amending the catalogue records of microfiche held permanently onsite so that it will be easier to see which fiche are in the library.

- **Resources on SoG Explore:** Now that the migration from the old database to the new is complete, we are preparing to add new content, commencing with the monumental inscriptions transcripts we digitised during lockdown. There will be more on this in the next library update, with a list of resources processed.
- **Information Provision Review:** Work on the Final Report continues and will be published in the next Library Update on the library page of our website (address below). Thanks to all who participated in the review.
- **Researcher Handbook:** In response to the Information Provision Review, we have produced a 12-page booklet for new (and not-so-new) researchers visiting the library. These can be found on the table next to the photocopier. We also now have one available on the library page of our website. The Handbook is designed to give you a quick overview of our collections, how to find out what is in them and how to access them. This is a first-generation document, and your feedback is appreciated. We'll be updating it three times a year - so let us know if anything could be clearer or if anything else needs to be included.
- **Featured Collection:** The Jun-Sep Featured Collection contains over 250 books from the UK Peerage/Royalty collection. As always, the Featured Collection can be found adjacent to the common area next to the library. With the featured collection, you'll find a printed list of general peerage items recently added permanently to the library shelves (in the rolling shelves next to Heraldry), and information about a link to the recording of Else Churchill's related talk entitled 'Sources for Titled and Landed Families in the SoG's Library'. A link to the video can be found on the Library Web Guide on all library computers, and headphones are kept at the Information Desk in the library.
- **Collections Corner:** Look out for an article in this issue by our volunteer Harry about a special and curious item from our archives: *A Priest's Voice in a Divided England: The Life and Legacy of John Featley Through His Notebook*.
- **Events in the Library:** The next county research event in the library will be the *Researching in Powys library tour* on 13 August, *Collections Up Close: Hidden Gems in Print* on 20 August, *Discover Your Huguenot Heritage* on 24 October. See the Talks and Courses section of our website or contact [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk) for more information.

**Christine Worthington**

Research Collections Coordinator

[www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library](http://www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/library) | [collections@sog.org.uk](mailto:collections@sog.org.uk)

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

### April - June 2025

#### FAMILY HISTORIES AND BIOGRAPHIES

- Biographical treasury:** a dictionary of universal biography / compiled by Samuel Maunder and William R. Cates. (1870)
- Brief lives** / W.F. Deedes. (2004)
- Family trees of European ruling houses** / Brigitte Sokop. (1976) (in German)
- Bagshawe** Hand-list of the Bagshawe muniments deposited in the John Rylands library. (1955?)
- Esterhazy** Esterhazy: a genealogy / compiled by L.F.M. van de Pas. (1998)
- Gant** The Gants of Bristol, London and the South-East 1696-1989: a journey through time / R J Goulden. (2025)
- Henschel** History of the family elect, Henschel, of Hesse: from documents and family news arranged by Oskar R. Henschel of Kassel / edited by Werner v. Kieckebusch (in German) (1931)
- Hovenden** The Hovendens of Queen's County / by Peter Hovenden-Jones.
- Hugill** The history of a Hugill family / Paul A. Hugill. (2025)
- Ivimy** The Linnell-Schuster letters: a Victorian marriage and Ivimy story / by Elizabeth Clarke. (2025)
- Kelly** Seaward: chasing Master Mariners in the golden age of sail / Harold Bradley. (2023)
- Mozharov** About the Mozharov family: material for its history parts 1+2 (1997) (Russian language)
- Parr** The Parr family origins from 1185-1571 / John Parr. (2024)
- Preshaw** Work of heart, Jane Preshaw nee Norgate 1839-1926: her family, the men in her life and her legacy as matron for the first thirty years of Reefton Hospital, a life of courage, determination and compassion / Cynthia L I McCaughan. (2024)
- Rotheram** The Rotherams of Crossdrum / by Patrick Rotheram. (6th edition) (2021)
- Ruskin** The life of John Ruskin: in two volumes / by E T Cook. (1911)
- Sharpe** The journals of Henry Sharpe: city merchant and Hampstead worthy 1830-1847 / edited by Helen Lawrence. (2025)
- Stroganov** The Stroganov Family: a practical guide for historians, regional studies specialists and genealogists. (1990) (in Russian)
- Villiers** Great Villiers: a study of George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, 1628-1687 / by Hester W Chapman. (1949)
- Watts** The diary of Mary Watts, 1887-1904: Victorian progressive and artistic visionary / edited by Desna Greenhow. (2016)

#### GENERAL WORKS AND SOCIAL HISTORY

- The arms of the Bishops of London, 1051-present /

- Roland Symons. (2009)
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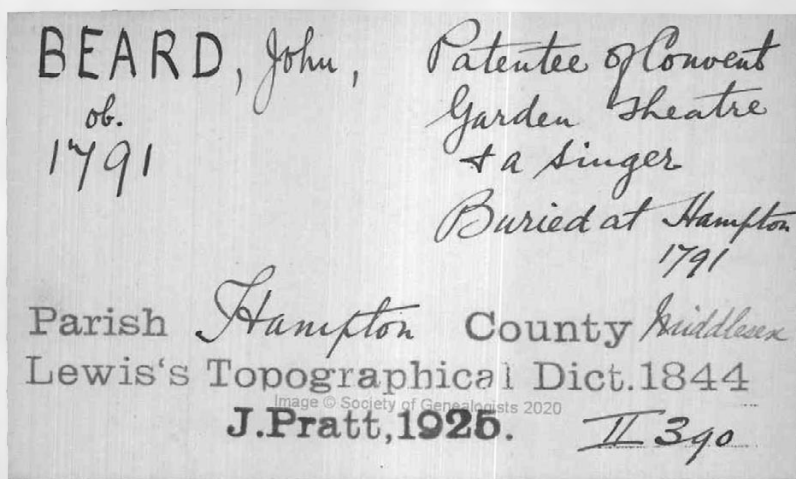
### SKETCH OF A LIFE #1

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



**John Beard:** Both patentee of Covent Garden Theatre and a celebrated tenor. As one of 18th-century England's favourite musical figures, John Beard's career spanned operas, oratorios, patriotic anthems and the concert stage. As a favourite of Handel, Beard created leading roles in Samson, Judas Maccabeus and Jephtha, to name a few. His first marriage connected him to scandal and the

other to a theatre impresario, John Rich. After the death of his father-in-law, Beard found himself not only performing at Covent Garden but managing it. Three years after being appointed 'Vocal performer in extraordinary' by George III in 1764, he retired due to deafness. Not many tenors can claim to have run their own box office. (Bea-Bea image no. 3009)



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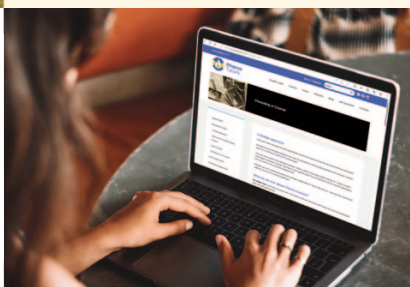


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