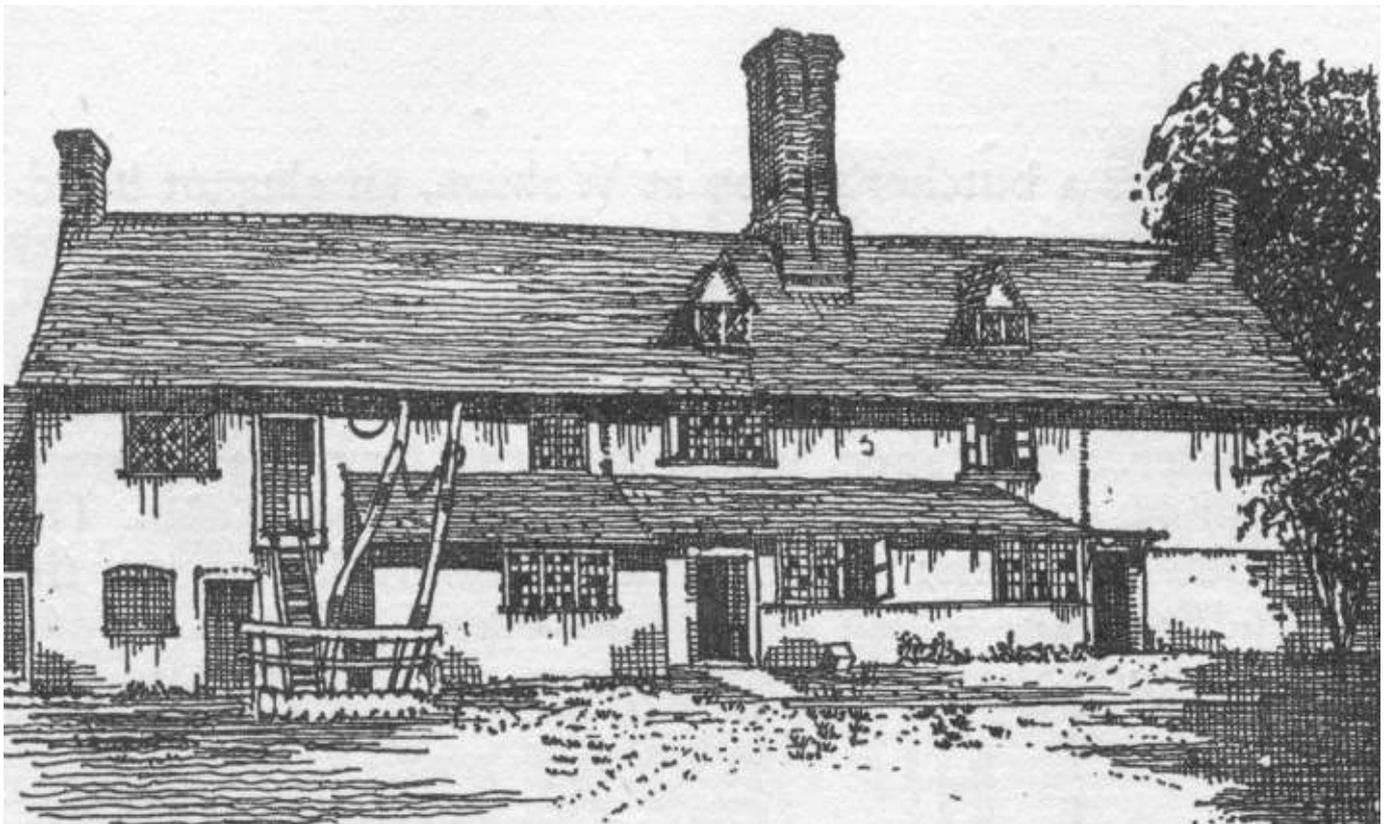


**Bedfordshire  
Family History Society  
Journal**

**Vol 23 No 3 Sep 2021**



The Great Farm - Lidlington

**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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*Registered Charity No. 281677*

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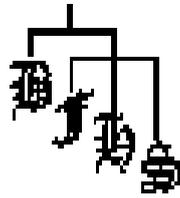
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**BEDFORDSHIRE  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
JOURNAL**



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## **CAN WE HELP YOU?**

We would like to run a question and answer session to be held on Zoom. Nothing is set in concrete, it is all riding on the sort of response that we receive. The idea is that you would send your queries or questions in advance to Mary Wooldridge at [research@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@bfhs.org.uk). We think being able to come up with some sort of answer ahead of time will help the sessions run smoother. So, if you have a burning question or a brick wall that you just cannot get over, here is your chance.

We also plan to run workshops using the Bedfordshire Archive and Records Service Catalogue to 'Find that Little Bit Extra' rather than just dates; 'Find your Ancestor in Plain Sight' where there is illegitimacy; 'Trades & Occupations'; and 'Surname Derivations'. If you have any further ideas yourselves for workshops, do let Mary know.

## **BFHS AGM REPORTS**

The BFHS Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom on Friday 4 June. Reports to the AGM, including Minutes of the 43rd AGM held on 9 October 2020, and the Annual Report and Financial Statements, can be found in the Members Portal of the BFHS website, [www.bfhs.org.uk](http://www.bfhs.org.uk).

If you are unable to access the BFHS website, you can request a paper copy of the AGM reports by writing to BFHS (AGM REPORTS), PO Box 214, BEDFORD, MK42 9RX. Enclosing a large self-addressed envelope would be much appreciated.

## **GENEALOGY AND SOCIAL HISTORY: KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS**

The Register of Qualified Genealogists has announced that their 2021 conference "Genealogy and Social History: Know your Ancestors" will be held online via Zoom on 25 September 2021. Register for **free** at [www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2021-conference](http://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2021-conference)

Main speakers include:

Helen Johnson, Professor of Criminology at the University of Hull, and Professor Heather Shore, Professor of History, Manchester Metropolitan University, speaking on their research into criminal ancestors.

Melanie Backe-Hansen, a historian specialising in house histories who was involved in the recent BBC programmes 'A house through time', speaking on her research on house histories.

David Annal, speaking about his research on the impact of illegitimacy on the records our ancestors leave behind and the ways in which they are recorded.

This is a great opportunity to come together to share good practice and the latest ideas in genealogy.

## A FAMILY MYSTERY - CAN DNA HELP?

Barry Neale

My grandfather used to joke that the ODELL family in Luton, into which he had married, were an odd lot; but I doubt that he ever thought that, sixty years on, the Odells were going to create a mysterious and frustrating brick wall in his grandson's family tree, which still needs demolishing. Will DNA be the answer?

George (aka Archie) Odell, my grandfather's father-in-law, was born in May 1856 in Bedford Road (now Old Bedford Road) in Luton, the son of Sarah Odell; the father's name is not shown on the birth certificate. Sarah was, according to various census returns, born in Luton, but her date of birth is unknown - she is shown variously in the 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 census returns as aged 12, 33, 44 and 52 respectively - so she could have been born sometime between 1826 and 1839. A search of the BFHS Surnames Index does not show a baptism of a Sarah Odell in Luton in that time frame. In 1851, 1861 and 1871 Sarah is shown living in Old Bedford Road with her older sister Hannah WRIGHT, who had been born and baptised in Langford, and had married Thomas Wright, a thatcher, in Luton in 1839.

While she was living with Hannah, Sarah gave birth to (at least) three children, all out of wedlock: John Odell in 1851, George Odell (my great-grandfather) in 1856, and Mary Odell in 1860. None of the birth certificates shows the identities of the fathers. However, intriguingly, when John Odell married in 1872 the name of his father is shown on the entry of marriage as John PLUMMER, who had been an 18 year-old neighbour of the family in Old Bedford Road in 1851 - perhaps his mother had told John of a dalliance with young Plummer? And in 1860, just a few days before the birth of Mary Odell, her aunt Hannah's husband, Thomas Wright, hanged himself in woods near Luton, while "in a state of temporary insanity" according to the coroner's jury verdict. Had, as has been suggested, Thomas seduced his young sister-in-law, and been unable to face the consequences?

John Odell, after a disastrous early marriage and problems with the demon drink, later settled down and, in the 1880s, became an early and dedicated member of the Salvation Army, newly arrived in Luton; and in an article in '*War Cry*' in 1897, when he referred to his early life and his salvation, he described his mother as "*a very wicked woman*". Poor Sarah! But she did, in later life, finally achieve a settled existence when, in 1876, she married Mark SINFIELD, a widower, with whom she lived until her death in Luton in 1896, allegedly aged 67. Mark died three years later in the Luton Union Workhouse, aged 81.

So who was George Odell's father, and therefore my own great-great-grandfather? If the records do not tell us, perhaps science will. I have ordered an Ancestry DNA test-kit, so with luck that annoying brick wall will finally come tumbling down. My fingers are firmly crossed. □

## REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the December 2021 *Journal* is **31 October 2021**

### MY BRICK WALL RESEARCHING FRANCES TEARLE FROM WOOTON

*Barbara Tearle*

Spurred on by Pat Newsham's article 'My brick wall researching ...' in the June issue, it seemed a good idea to share *my* brick wall in the hope that someone might have encountered my elusive family member. This is a tale of breach of promise of marriage and of an unsuccessful 17th century attempt at upward social mobility.

My paternal line ancestors have been firmly rooted in the soil of Bedfordshire since the 1440s (that is another story). During the 16th century some acquired more land, moved away from their home ground of Stanbridge, made better marriages and rose to the edge of the lower gentry. In the early years of the 1600s, Frances TEARLE was born to John Tearle of Wootton and his wife Judith FITZGEOFFREY. Frances appears to have been the youngest of four or five children, although her baptism has not been found because of defective parish registers. Her mother Judith was the sister of Sir George Fitzgeoffrey of Creakers in Great Barford - the connection with the lower county gentry.

Some years later, her parents were in Northampton, where her mother Judith died and was buried in February 1617, followed by her father in July. Within a month, her sister Judith married Samuel SYMONDS there in August 1617. In 1618 or 19, her uncle Sir George Fitzgeoffrey also died, leaving a slightly unusual will<sup>1</sup>. He did not mention his heir (a baby grandson) nor his second son Henry. Beyond his immediate family, he left money to several people who can be seen as in need, one being Frances Tearle, who was left £20. What had gone on here? After her parents' deaths, had Frances, who might have been in her early teens, been taken in by her uncle and his family and been seen by him as requiring a portion?

Her uncle's will is the first evidence for Frances's existence. The second, and only other evidence, is a case she brought in the Court of Chancery in 1637<sup>2</sup>. She was suing for an annuity promised to her by a young man who broke a promise of marriage. Much more is known about this young man than about Frances. His name was Henry FOULIS, born in 1607 in Yorkshire. He was the son of Sir David Foulis, a Scot who came south with James I and was a member of James's court. He became a landowner in Yorkshire and part of the governing class in the county<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> TNA, PROB 11/133.

<sup>2</sup> TNA, C 2/Chas1/T11/30.

<sup>3</sup> See *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

In the court case Frances Tearle alleged that she became acquainted with Henry Foulis in about 1630. He pressed his suite, but she would not agree to marry him until he obtained his father's consent. She alleged that she did not know if he was serious because she did not hear from him for some months. He had been abroad and when he returned they saw each other frequently over about two or three years and he said he hoped to obtain his father's consent. Finally in about 1633, she agreed to marry him and they set a date. He went off to tell his father. Then she heard that he was to marry someone else. She wrote to him; he claimed that it was a forced marriage (to the daughter of a neighbouring landowner in Yorkshire for political reasons) and that he was ashamed of himself. He offered her financial compensation.

The financial offer reduced during their correspondence to an annuity of £50 and he claimed that he could not pay anything at that time because of the political disgrace and financial ruin of his family. He also asked her and her friends to keep the affair secret, claiming that if she talked about it or brought a case against him, it would 'undo' him. Eventually patience wore out and she brought the case for the annuity in the Court of Chancery in 1637.

This is of course Frances's side of the story. Henry Foulis's defence has not survived; he might have told a different tale. However, because of Sir David Foulis's position in society, some facts in the allegation can be verified and young Henry's story can be taken further.

Sir David Foulis was a member of the Council of the North under Sir Thomas WENTWORTH, the Earl of Strafford. They fell out to such an extent that Strafford had Sir David Foulis, his son Henry and Henry's father-in-law Sir Thomas LAIGHTON impeached and tried before the Court of Star Chamber. They were convicted. Sir David Foulis was fined £5,000 and imprisoned, not being released until the early 1640s and dying soon afterwards. Young Henry was fined £500 and Sir Thomas Laighton was also fined<sup>4</sup>. During the Civil War, Henry was a cavalry commander in the Parliamentary forces under Sir Thomas FAIRFAX. He was killed in 1643, leaving a widow and several children.

I have been unable to find any trace of Frances Tearle after the court case. Similarly, there is little information about her brother and sisters. As far as I can tell, that branch of the family died out. However Frances's story is so intriguing that I cannot leave it alone.

---

<sup>4</sup> These events are not at all clear from contemporary sources. A simple account is contained in J. T. Cliffe, *The Yorkshire gentry from the Reformation to the Civil War*, 1969 which also explains the Foulises position in society.

These two documents, her uncle's will and the court case, are the only evidence for Frances Tearle's life. They raise so many questions, not least of which is where could a young woman, who was scarcely on the ladder of gentry status, meet the son of someone from the courtier and political classes in the context where marriage was contemplated. Where and with whom did she live after her parents and uncle died. Was she, as I suspect, older than Henry? Who led whom on? What happened to her after the court case? Did she ever get her annuity? Did she marry? Where and when did she die?

I have scoured parish registers via the Bedfordshire indexes and the online commercial services. I have read dozens of wills of people from related families. I have tried every source I can find. There is no further trace of her. If you find a mid 17th century Frances Tearle, please let me know at [barbara@tearle.free-online.co.uk](mailto:barbara@tearle.free-online.co.uk), I shall be eternally grateful. □

### **MICROFICHE COLLECTION AND READER OFFER**

A BFHS member has advised the Society that he is unable to continue with his family history research due to ill health. Surplus to requirements are a microfiche collection in four metal draws. The first drawer is Ireland and Wales. The other three draws are labelled Bedford/Huntingdon, Kent/Somerset, Stafford/York. In addition there is a box housing Mormon records catalogued alphabetically A/H, H/S, S/Z. There is an accompanying microfiche reader.

All the above is free to anyone collecting in person from the LU2 area. For further details please contact [marie.steemson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marie.steemson@yahoo.co.uk) □

### **DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?**

A few days before we are scheduled to hold a monthly talk via Zoom, I send an invitation, via email, to society members with log-in details for the meeting. If you do not receive these invitations then I do not have your valid email address.

If you would like to start receiving the invitations, please let me know your email by contacting [treasurer@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfhs.org.uk).

Many thanks, Peter Sharp, Treasurer

## TODDINGTON WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

*Mary Wooldridge*

The Women's Land Army was reinstated at the start of the WWII, anticipating the need to recruit women to assist with farming and food production for soldiers abroad and the civilian population at home. Lady DENMAN, director of the Land Army, set up county committees. The WLA set up accommodation in the neighbourhood of farms for the land girls. Young women were expected to take over from experienced male farm workers who were called up into the armed forces, or left for better-paid war work elsewhere.

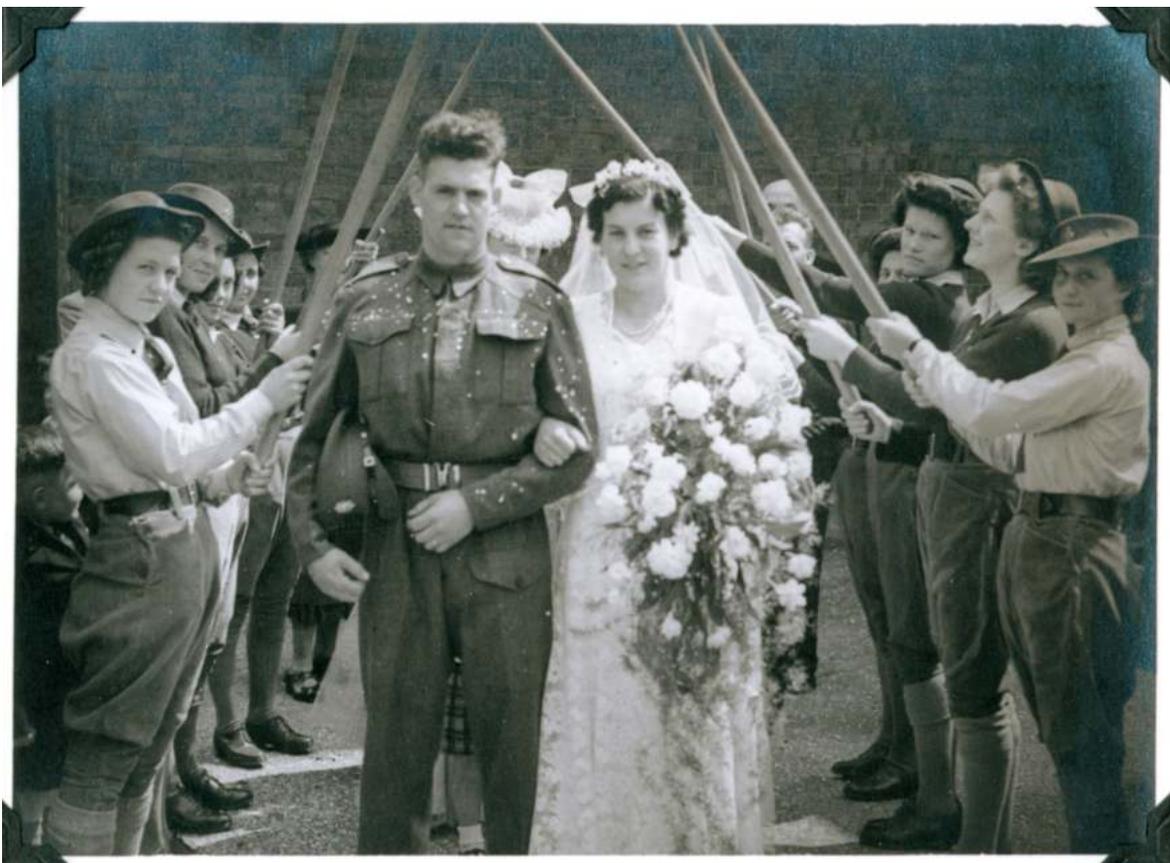
In 1941 there was a requisition of Toddington Park House for the WLA.

As a result of conscription in November 1941, Bedfordshire WLA had 506 land girls by December 1942, 792 by mid-1943, and 1006 in December 1943.

There were three training centres: Luton Hoo, Toddington Park and Ravensden. Some Land Girls attended 4 weeks of induction training in milking, arable work and animal husbandry before being sent to work.

BFHS was the lucky recipient of an album of photographs, featuring girls of Toddington WLA. These are eventually going to be posted on the website for all to see.

The image below and the completed Photo Catalogue form that follows, illustrate how you can submit a photo to the database. See the June *Journal* and the home page of the BFHS website [www.bfhs.org.uk](http://www.bfhs.org.uk) 'Photo Catalogue'. □



# Photo Catalogue Form



By completion of this form you are giving consent to supply digital copies of the image to enquirers and for your details to be held in the BFHS Photo Catalogue in accordance with its Data Protection Policy. Completion of this form should take no longer than 10 minutes. Not all the questions need to be answered.

\* Required

1. DATE: Date of image if known or likely period, eg 1901 to 1905

1940's

2. BUSINESS: Details of any business within the image, eg pharmacy, butchers

Enter your answer

3. EVENT: Details of an event associated with the image, eg cricket match, village fete

Wedding of Rhona Carter

4. ORGANISATION: Details of ant associated organisation, eg home guard, women's institute

Toddington Women's Land Army

5. NAMES: Names and any other details of those pictured identifying their position

nk - not known  
? - uncertain

Rhona Carter with a soldier (details unknown) with a guard of honour formed by Land Army girls (names unknown) holding pitchforks

6. PLACE: Place image was taken, eg building, street, village, parish and county if outside Bedfordshire

Christ Church, Upper George Street, Luton, Beds.

7. IMAGE DELIVERY: I have emailed the image to [photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk) and given it the unique reference as in the box below: \*

For example, your name and a numeric code as the file name: ANOther123

Mary001

8. IMAGE REVERSE: Record any information on the reverse of the image NOT recorded above

Enter your answer

**9. OTHER DETAILS: Any further information regarding the image**

The picture was donated by Angela Hilliard on behalf of her deceased cousin Edith (May) Catchlove

**10. PHOTOGRAPHER: Details of the photographer if known**

probably Edith Catchlove

**11. IMAGE SOURCE: Details of the source of the image, eg donor private collection, website**

A photo taken from an album of photos donated to BFHS from Angela Hilliard on behalf of her cousin Edith (May) Catchlove

**12. COPYRIGHT: Known copyright or any copyright issues**

There are no copyright issues

**13. YOUR NAME \***

Mary Woodbridge

**14. YOUR CONTACT DETAILS (or membership number) \***

email: [research@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:research@bfhs.org.uk)

Submit

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)

## OFFSPRINGS OF ARLESEY

John Partridge

I have recently been transcribing into Ancestry a load of Poor Law Records that are from the Bedfordshire Archives and in one set of images for Relief Order Book I came across an odd first name: *Offspring Devereux of Arlesey*. I had to check for myself via parish register baptisms and censuses that it was correct and it did exist, and also via Google I found the following in a book review:

*'Offspring' is occasionally encountered where a new-born baby is recorded before it has been named, but it appears to have been widely used as a first name among several generations of the Jeeves, Dear & Webb families of Arlesey, the location of a well known lunatic asylum.*

Offspring seems to be a localised first name unique to Arlesey, primarily in the WEBB and DEAR families but through marriages the name has spread to other Arlesey families.

**WEBB:** The earliest 'Offspring' found is the Arlesey baptism on 14 Nov 1781 of Offspring Webb, son of Offspring and Mary Webb. He was buried at Arlesey on 17 Aug 1794 aged about 13 years. Offspring and Mary Webb had baptised 4 other children at Arlesey between 1773 and 1779. I have found a marriage of Offspring Webb to Mary WITHINGTON at St George's, Hanover Square, on 20 Mar 1770, by licence. Offspring Webb senior was buried at Arlesey on 5 Oct 1820 aged 85, thus making him born around 1735, but not in Bedfordshire. His wife Mary was also buried there on 22 Oct 1815, aged 76.

So where did he come from? Using 'FreeReg' I found a baptism of an Offspring Webb on 4 Apr 1735, son of Offspring and Isabel Webb at Navestock, Essex. They also had a son John in 1731 who married Sarah REYNOLDS in 1765, and they also had son Offspring baptised on 27 Oct 1773 at Navestock, Essex. So our Arlesey Webb could have come up from Essex.

Next generation...Offspring and Mary Webb also had a son William, baptised 27 June 1776. William Webb married Hannah/Ann Dear, daughter of Abraham and Ann Dear, at Arlesey on 8 Nov 1796. They baptised 7 children there between 1797 and 1811 including son Offspring on 30 July 1809. The Beds Archives Gaol database have an entry for him in 1834 when aged 24 he was jailed for 3 months in Bedford House of Correction for non-performance of Bond of Filiation. I do not know any further information on this, however Offspring Webb married Mary MILES at Stotfold on 5 Jul 1835. They were living at Church End, Arlesey, in the 1841 census with 3 children, then at White Horse Street in 1851 and 1861, having had 5 more children, the last being Offspring born Dec 1852. Father Offspring Webb died Sept 1861 aged 51, his widow Mary was living in Hitchin Road, Arlesey in 1871 with son 18 year old Offspring, a brick yard labourer.

Next generation...this Offspring Webb aged 24 married Sarah Rebecca FIELDS at Henlow on 22 Feb 1877. Over the next 4 censuses they lived in High Street,

Arlesey next door to his older brother William Webb. They had 5 children but did not name one Offspring. Offspring senior died 23 Jan 1929 at Arlesey, his probate went to widow Sarah Rebecca and son Charles now a farmer. Sarah Rececca Webb died Mar 1934 aged 76.

However it does not end here...next generation...his brother, William Webb born 1846, married Amy ALBON(E) on 17 Sep 1864. In the 1871 census they have 3 children, including Offspring aged 3 months, baptised at Arlesey on 16 July 1871. In the 1881 census, William Webb aged 34 now a brick yard worker, is with wife Amy, son Offspring aged 10 and his 3 sisters. Wife Amy dies June 1882 aged 36, and William Webb marries widow Ruth BARCOCK (nee CROSLEY) in June 1884 and starts a new family with her. In the 1891 census William and Ruth (born in the village of Southill), have 4 new children. I have failed to find son Offspring in subsequent census or a marriage/death for him, but two of his sisters are found as servants in Hackney in 1891. Father William dies on 16 Jan 1913 aged 66, the report of his funeral is in Beds Times and lists the family members who are chief mourners, but he is not mentioned.

However, looking through newspaper reports, in the Biggleswade Chronicle of 3 Dec 1915 headed 'Arlesey Roll of Honour, Wounded' it lists an Offspring Webb, wounded 12 Aug 1915. An earlier report in the Biggleswade Chronicle of 20 Nov 1914 headed 'Arlesey Soldiers Wounded' it mentions "Writing home to his brother, Pte O Webb 'A' company 2<sup>nd</sup> Beds Regt, states he is slightly wounded and is in hospital, but is getting on alright and hopes to be out again soon". I have not found any more WW1 information about him.

**DEAR:** The earliest occasion in this family is Offspring Dear, baptised 7 May 1820, son of Nathaniel Dear and Sarah WILSHER/WILSHIRE who married at Arlesey on 12 July 1804. He is listed in the British Army Index of 1841 as a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards, service number 3765, based in London. The 1841 census has him aged 20, soldier, First Battallion Grenadier Guards, stationed in the Tower of London. There is an Offspring Dear marrying Ann GARRET in Bedford Registration District in Sep 1844, but without seeing the marriage certificate I cannot be sure this is him. However, father Nathaniel Dear died in Bedford RD in June 1844, but was buried at Arlesey on 5 Apr 1844 aged 61. There is then another marriage for Offspring Dear, son of Nathaniel, to Matilda TRIGG at Arlesey on 29 Jul 1850. In the 1851 census Offspring Dear aged 30, sawyer, with wife Matilda aged 32 born Henlow, are living with his cousin, widow Ann KING, who was Ann Dear born 1805, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Dear. They had a daughter Matilda in Sep 1852 in St Luke's, Middlesex, plus son Alfred who was baptised and buried in Highgate in 1856. Then in Dec 1856, they left Liverpool on the 'Admiral Boxer' arriving in Geelong, Australia in Mar 1857. Offspring died in Victoria in Feb 1872 aged 50.

Nathaniel and Sarah Dear also baptised son Frederick on 13 Oct 1821 who went on to marry Mary SEARLE at Stotfold on 21 Sep 1850. In the 1851 census they are in Church Cross, Stotfold. Frederick aged 28, is a journeyman

sawyer, with wife Mary aged 27 and a son Frederick aged 3. They are in the 1861 and 1871 censuses having had 7 children including 13 year old son Offspring. On 5 May 1884, Offspring Dear aged 26, married Mary Ann MOONEY at Camberwell, Surrey. On subsequent 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses they are in Asylum Road, Stotfold, with 3 children and he died in Biggleswade RD in Mar 1938 aged 80.

Nathaniel Dear was baptised 6 Jan 1787 at Arlesey, son of Nathaniel Dear and his second wife Susannah WHITHALL who married 11 Oct 1780. They also baptised son Thomas on 3 Feb 1782 and he married Elizabeth SEABY on 7 Jun 1802. Amongst others they had sons George 1811, James 1814, and John 1820 who all had a son Offspring in their families.

George Dear, baptised 10 Mar 1811, married Mary PRUTTON on 1 Aug 1830 and they had son Offspring, baptised at Arlesey on 11 Sep 1831. He was at home in White Horse Street in 1841 and 1851 censuses, father George was a straw dealer. Offspring married Mary TAYLOR on 5 Apr 1851 and they had 6 children, and he was a farmer of 40 acres over the next 4 censuses. He died 19 Jul 1891 aged 59, farmer of Arlesey, and his probate went to son George.

James Dear, baptised 13 Mar 1813 married Anne HARE at Shillington on 11 Oct 1833. In the 1861 census in Stotfold, James and Ann live with their 7 children including 4 year old son Offspring. James died Dec 1866 aged 55, and in the next 3 censuses widow Ann and son Offspring are living in Asylum Road, Stotfold. Ann Dear died Mar 1894 aged 78 and I have not found out what happened to Offspring after his appearance in the 1891 census aged 34.

John Dear, baptised 2 Apr 1820, married Hannah WEST at Arlesey on 8 Feb 1840, They are in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses. John is a bricklayer and they have 4 children, but not one named Offspring. However there is a birth index for Offspring Dear in Biggleswade RD in Sep 1850 where the mother's maiden name is West, and then there is a death index for him in the same RD in June 1851 aged zero.

**JEEVES:** Offspring Jeeves born 1833 was the son of William Jeeves/Geeves and Hannah Taylor, who married at Arlesey on 24 Nov 1829. William died 1849 aged 44 and in the 1851 census Hannah Jeeves, widow, has 6 children including Offspring aged 18. On 21 Jan 1851 at Arlesey, Offspring Jeeves married Sophia Dear, the daughter of William and Mary Ann Dear. For all censuses from 1861 to 1901, Offspring and Sophia are living in Arlesey with their children. Sophia died Sep 1904 and Offspring died Dec 1909 aged 80. However there is a birth index in Biggleswade RD in Sep 1876 of an Offspring Jeeves, mother's name Dear, but he doesn't feature in the 1881 census, nor is there a death index. I think he is the Charles Jeeves aged 5 in the 1881 census who is the married Charles Offspring Jeeves aged 35 in the 1911 census. There is a marriage at Willesden, Middx on 2 Aug 1897 of Charles Offspring Jeeves age 20, father Offspring Jeeves, to Cora Lavinia PRESLAND age 20.

**DEVEREAUX:** Offspring Devereaux was baptised at Arlesey on 12 Oct 1823, son of Thomas Devereaux and Mary SALMON who married on 17 Aug 1817. In the 1841 census Offspring was aged 13 living in White Horse Street, Arlesey, with parents and siblings. On 16 Nov 1850 he married Sophia CROUCH daughter of Edward Crouch and in the 1851 census Offspring and Sophia are living with her family. In 1861 Offspring is a shepherd and they have 4 children and continue to live in Arlesey for the next 3 censuses, and died in Mar 1898 aged 74.

Offspring's father Thomas Devereaux was baptised 10 Jan 1796, son of Thomas Devereaux and Jane Dear who married at Arlesey on 26 Sep 1792. Jane Devereaux was buried 21 Oct 1830 aged 58, making her born around 1772. She was probably the daughter of William and Mary Dear baptised 13 Dec 1772.

**TOPHAM:** Charles Topham married Ruth Webb at Arlesey on 25 Jan 1862. Ruth, born 1838, is the daughter of Offspring Webb and Mary Miles. In the 1871 census they are in Asylum Road with 2 children including son Offspring, born Jun 1862. In the 1881 census, Charles and Ruth have 3 children and Offspring is now 18, a journeyman baker. On 30 Jan 1890, Offspring Topham married Eliza Ann SOWELL at Arlesey. In the 1891 census, wife Eliza, with 6 month old son Sidney, are visitors to Offspring's brother John and his family in Arlesey, but I cannot locate her husband. In 1901 and 1911 they are in High Street, Arlesey. From Electoral Rolls, Offspring and Eliza Topham are at 10 Davies Row/Road up to 1934. Eliza died April 1935 aged 84 and Offspring died soon after in July 1935 aged 73.

**STREET:** Henry William Street married Sarah Ann Dear on 24 Jun 1873 at Langford. Sarah, born 1853, is the daughter of Offspring Dear and Mary Taylor. Offspring Street was baptised at Langford on 27 May 1877 and in the 1891 census he is aged 14, living with parents and siblings in Cockayne Hatley. In the 1901 census he is a boarder aged 25 working as a contractors carman in Kingston, Surrey. In June 1902 he married Mary Annie RUSSELL in Kingston on Thames and that is where they are living in 1911. In the 1939 register, Offspring Street is a widower born 11 Jan 1877, a coal carter, living in Kingston and he died there 29 Jun 1955 aged 78, probate to his son Frank Alfred Street.

**TAYLOR:** There is a birth index for an Offspring Taylor in Biggleswade RD Mar 1840, mother's maiden name Webb, but I cannot find baptism, burial or census records for him. There is an Edward Taylor, widower, of Henlow marrying a Sophia Webb at Arlesey on 7 Feb 1837. Sophia Webb is daughter of William Webb and Ann/Hannah Dear baptised 10 Aug 1806. In the 1841 census in Henlow is Edward and Sophia, both aged 35, and children Ann aged 3 and George aged one. There is a baptism of George Edward Taylor at Henlow on 10 May 1841, son of Edward and Sophia and he was buried there on 28 Aug 1841 aged one. □

## **GIFT AID DECLARATIONS**

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## **BEDFORDSHIRE**

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66 Sudeley Walk, BEDFORD

Bedfordshire MK41 8JH

England

Tel: (01234) 364956

Email: [colinndavison@gmail.com](mailto:colinndavison@gmail.com)

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## **OBITUARY - DAVE VALENTINE (1945 - 2021)**

*Sarah Valentine Bull*

David VALENTINE passed away at home on the 19 May 2021, an active member of BFHS for many years.

Dad, Dave, Grandad, Sekeru (Zimbabwean for grandfather) Dave, a big man, with a big character and a big heart. Friend to many, supporting people through the tough times and absolutely enjoying the good times and always had something interesting to say or tales to relay.

Born in Bedford in 1945, dad lived the town life but always had an affinity for the countryside. The draw of farming grew and he attended Shuttleworth college 64 to 66, being part of the team who later got everyone back together, publishing the annual journal for old students.

Stories from that era tend to involve being life and soul of the party, missing lessons because he was in London either delivering to Covent Garden or a night bouncing on the clubs, or about his beloved Austin Healey.

His working life was in agriculture, initially an apprentice on the farm, subsequently into 'repping' and then into animal feeds. Whilst working in Stroud for 10 years for Rank Hovis Mills, we had a mini-farm ourselves; chickens, ducks, pigs, a goat, and life had always involved a dog: initially Jip, Battle, Shomba and Bella (with Great Dane/Alsatian pups), followed by Chutney and then Gem and Shona.

As a child I remember spending hours following the Beaufort or Grove and Rufford hunts, often until dusk on a staple diet of mints and ginger biscuits.

We moved to North Wheatley, Notts, in 1985, where he worked for Dalgety and latterly ABN feeds, spending 37 years in the village making some amazing friends and being an active part of the local community, especially the family history group.

He was a sports fanatic, playing rugby - as the 'big bear' - for school and college and I learnt never to interrupt the 6 Nations Rugby Championship. He rowed, swam and did lots of cycling locally, with son John in tow feeding him ginger beer and milk, and as a Tour de France fan, once rode up the Alps. He loved watching motorsport, frequenting Cadwell Park motor racing circuit in Lincolnshire with us, and enjoyed fishing especially on his annual trip to Tenerife.

One thing we all know, he never did anything by halves: hobbies and committees often taking over his focus. Those who remember him keeping koi carp may recall a 6 x 6 pond about 18 inch deep which turned into a swimming pool and nerves for those of us looking after the fish whilst he was on holiday.

In the lead up to and since retirement his passion returned for the countryside, with 21 years working with local wildlife trusts, particularly at Treswell Wood,



near Retford. Eleanor and Kiera, his granddaughters, would spend hours with him and the dogs there and in the nearby Idle Valley Nature Reserve, meeting the bird ringers and learning about nature.

He loved his stamps and his family history, spending hour upon hour at the desk, as part of various family history societies in Wheatley, Doncaster and Bedford. He was a source for many tricks of the family history trade, and we have a family tree that is over 10m long and goes back centuries with lots of connections with Bedford through FAVELLS, GREENs, and RICHARDSONs to name a few.

He loved listening to a wide variety of music, anything from folk to jazz, and Floyd to the 60s. We all remember spending time in the car singing along to sounds of the 60s. He also enjoyed country music and the odd trip to the USA to see the rest of the family.

In the last decade we welcomed Barbra, Andy and the crew to the family, becoming Sekeru Dave to Jermaine and Joshua. Finding much happiness and enjoying some great trips both abroad and in the UK. He certainly lived life to the fullest. □

## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

A joy to the eye is the Great Farm, Lidlington, with its fine, ample, comfortable proportions - the ideal of a prosperous yeoman farmer's house and surely designed by a craftsman who had plenty of time and material at his disposal, and best of all, a love of his subject. Note the graceful Elizabethan chimney stack with moulded caps and base. This resembles in detail the large chimney on the Manor Farm at Husborne Crawley, and maybe, the same architect was responsible for both farms.

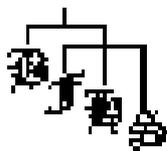
This illustration and text are taken from '*Our Heritage: A Bedfordshire Sketch Book*' drawings by G Alan Fortescue FRIBA, notes by '*Touchstone*', published 1943. □

## THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION AS IT IS TODAY

*Paul Woodcraft*

Having visited Lidlington a couple of times we could not find 'The Great Farm'. All that we could find was a reminder by way of the street sign in the photo. We did find the farm on an old 1882 map, but it looks like this has been replaced by what appears to be the main housing estate today. □





## PROGRAMME

### **The Dangers of DNA: Who's the Father?**

**Dr Nick Barratt**

**Friday 1 October 2021, Via Zoom**

In this talk, Nick explores the challenges of researching an illegitimate grandmother who refused to share any information about her background. Everything they thought they knew turned out to be false, including her place



of birth. Following some tentative clues from family papers and photographs, the quest for her parentage moved from her childhood home in Norfolk across the Channel to Belgium, and then around the world several times as DNA results ripped up the paper trail and revealed an even more remarkable story. Nick uncovers his great grandfather's real identity, and explores the sources that he used to determine the truth.

Dr Nick Barratt is an author, broadcaster and historian best known for his work on BBC's *'Who Do You Think You Are'*. He is an honorary associate professor of public history at the University of Nottingham, the Director of Learner and Discovery Services at the Open University, a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His latest publication, *'The Restless Kings'*, explores the reigns of Henry II, Richard I and John. He concludes his term of office as President of the Family History Federation in June 2021, but remains President of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, sits on the Executive Committee of the Community Archives and Heritage Group, works on the Historians Collaborate network and is part of the Midlands 4 Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Advisory Group.

### **The History of Ickwell Bury including the Harvey Family 1680 - 1924**

**Felicity Brimblecombe**

**Friday 5 November 2021, Via Zoom**

Ickwell Bury is an historic estate in the parish of Northill. John Harvey bought it in 1680 and spent £16,000 building a new property. His will instructed his son to sell everything! Why didn't he sell? The Harvey family were still owners until the 1920s although a school occupied the property for nearly 4 decades. Who else owned Ickwell Bury and what alterations were made to the property, landscape and gardens?

## PROGRAMME (cont'd)



Felicity's initial career as a research scientist provided a good background for a longstanding interest in family history, including discovering several generations in Bedfordshire! After teaching (Maths and Physics), retirement occupations have included volunteering on a project to rejuvenate the walled garden on the Luton Hoo Estate. This resulted in the new challenge of an MA in Garden History. Investigating landscapes for Bedfordshire Gardens Trust is an ideal way of combining family history and garden history.

### **A Plague upon all your Houses Epidemic disease and our ancestors Dr Janet Few Friday 3 December 2021, Via Zoom**



Janet Few is the recently appointed President of the Family History Federation. She is a well-known family and social historian, who has lectured across the English-speaking world and at sea. Her books include several non-fiction titles including the latest edition of *Family Historian's Enquire Within*; she has also written two historical novels, based on true stories. Janet works as an historical interpreter and can, on occasion, be found disguised as her 17th century alter ego Mistress Agnes.

In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are acutely aware of our own responses to a virulent epidemic disease for which we have no effective method of prevention or cure. What epidemics impacted on the lives of our ancestors? How did they attempt to prevent or cure these diseases and how effective were these measures? How did governments and local authorities respond to these threats? This presentation examines the symptoms, prognoses and treatments for a number of well-known and less well-known epidemic diseases from the Black Death to the influenza of 1918. It mentions some of the relevant records and considers how our ancestors might have reacted.

### **The Brooks Family of Flitwick Manor Richard Morgan Friday 7 January 2022, Live at Mark Rutherford School (tbc)**

Richard Morgan has been researching his Brooks and other Bedfordshire ancestors for several decades. He has published *The Diary of a Bedfordshire*

## PROGRAMME (cont'd)



*Squire* BHRS Vol 66, 1987, *The Diary of an Indian Cavalry Officer: John Hatfield Brooks 1843-1863*, Pagoda Tree Press 2003, and *Life Runneth as the Brooks: The Brooks Family in Bedfordshire*, Pagoda Tree Press 2011. He has also written *Henry John Sylvester Stannard 1871-1951*, Beds Local History Association 2018, and contributes to *History in Bedfordshire* and *Family Tree*.

The Brooks family rose from humble origins to own Flitwick Manor from 1789-1934. In that time, they won and lost a fortune, played a prominent part in Bedfordshire, pioneered horticulture, and left copious letters and diaries chronicling their lives.

## LIBRARY NEWS

*John Partridge, Librarian*

### Beds FHS Facebook page

In the June 2021 *Journal* I reported that we had 988 'likes' as at 27 April 2021. We reached the 1000 'likes' milestone on 9 May and continue to attract more people and now have 1016 'likes' and 167 followers as at 21 July 2021. If you have a quick query or anything of interest regarding your Bedfordshire ancestors then why not message us, or drop us a Visitors Post and we will attempt to respond to you with an answer.

Via Facebook, I had a message from BFHS member Pauline Norton who has some four superfluous certificates that do not belong to her family tree and may be useful to other members:

Birth: 10 February 1926 of Edna Elizabeth Bowles, parents Aubrey and Alice Bowles (Osborn), of Evelyn Terrace, Upper Caldecote.

Birth: 11 September 1905 of Frederick Presland, parents Thomas and Ellen Presland (Rogers) of Arlesey.

Death: 14 September 1905 of Frederick Presland (as above) 3 days old. Premature birth.

Birth: 24th December 1875 of FEMALE (no name), parents John and Edith Clark (Rosendale) of Southill, Clifton.

If anyone is interested then contact her on [abbeyfan47@hotmail.com](mailto:abbeyfan47@hotmail.com).

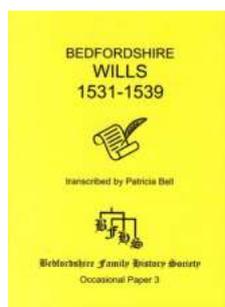
## BEDFORDSHIRE WILLS BOOKS

BFHS have published four Bedfordshire Wills books in paper book format and all four books are now also available as a download from [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com) and [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). The paperback books are also available directly from [www.bfhs.org.uk](http://www.bfhs.org.uk).

To give you an idea of what is in the books, a description of the four books is shown below and further down is an example of sections of the index in book 4 plus an example of one of the wills.

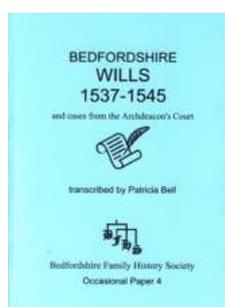
## BEDFORDSHIRE WILLS BOOKS

Transcribed by Patricia L Bell BA FSA, and published by BFHS. Fully indexed by Personal Name, Place and Subject. These books contain abstracts from the Probate books of wills proved in Bedfordshire and, in the second book, other cases brought before the court.



### **Book 1 - Bedfordshire wills 1531-1539**

This publication contains transcriptions of the Probate Registers (books 3, 4 and 5) from the Court of the Archdeaconry of Bedford, held at the Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service. It is fully indexed by personal names, places and subjects. An invaluable aid for Local and Family Historians and students of Tudor England. Contains 353 wills in 230 pages. Yellow cover. Published 2005.



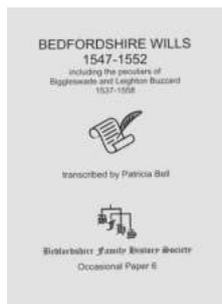
### **Book 2 - Bedfordshire wills 1537-1545 and cases from Archdeacon's court**

This book contains the next batch of records (books 6, 7 and 10) from the Court of the Archdeaconry of Bedford which include a large number of other cases brought before the Ecclesiastical Court as well as records of Probate. These throw light on the practices of late Tudor times, but there are also many wills from this later period, following on from the previous volume. Fully indexed, this book forms an invaluable aid for Local and Family Historians and students of Tudor England. Contains 420 entries, of which 252 are full wills, in 208 pages. Blue cover. Published 2010



### **Book 3 - Bedfordshire wills 1543-1547**

This publication contains transcriptions of the Probate Registers (book 11) from the Court of the Archdeaconry of Bedford, held at the Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service. With full indexes of personal names, places and subjects, this book contains 268 new probate entries in 208 pages, with in addition a lengthy introductory analysis. Green cover. Published 2015.



## **Book 4 - Bedfordshire Wills 1547-1552, including the peculiars of Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard 1537-1558**

This volume is the fourth of the series and contains abstracts from 234 wills. 191 were proved in the ecclesiastical court for the Archdeaconry of Bedford between 1547 and 1551, twenty six in the peculiar jurisdiction of Leighton Buzzard 1537 – 1554, and eighteen in the Biggleswade peculiar, 1540 – 1558. The publication of a group of wills enables us to see similarities, trends and differences over a range of common themes. Grey cover. Published 2017.

### **EXAMPLE OF THE PERSON NAME INDEX**

(Numbers refer to the Will Number)

#### **Mer(i)all, Merell, Meryall, Morell:**

Edw 208,  
Eliz 208  
Jn 208  
Nich 208  
Olyver 105  
Rich 105  
sir Thos 105  
Spenser 208  
Syssey, Sycylle 208  
Thos 105

### **EXAMPLE OF THE PLACE INDEX**

Beeston (Beyston)	92
Biddenham (Bedenham, Bydenham)	87, 113, 119, 133, 175
Great Bridge	87
High Way	87
property in	87
Biggleswade (Various spellings)	91, 136, 191-201, 203-208
Brothirhed Land	204
Bykylward stone bridge	203

## EXAMPLE OF THE SUBJECT INDEX

- cattle 9, 29, 56, 68, 77, 93, 117, 136, 146, 154, 164, 188, 191, 227
- breeder 142
- bulchin 75
- bullock 17, 18, 20, 28-9, 31-2, 34, 37, 39, 44, 46-7, 53, 56, 59, 64, 69, 80-83, 91, 93, 106-7, 112-13, 116, 129, 135-6, 143, 149, 161, 164, 166-7, 170, 172, 178, 182, 191-3, 195-6, 205, 208, 214, 219, 226, 233
- calves 2, 8, 14, 15, 38, 49, 57, 100, 103, 108-9, 124, 143-4, 160, 182, 225
- cow bullock 13, 15, 18, 21, 28, 30, 52, 56, 62, 77, 105, 107, 113, 124, 134, 151, 156, 158, 162, 167, 178
- cow calves 56
- cows 8, 9, 11, 19-23, 25-6, 28, 32, 37, 39, 40, 46-7, 55-7, 61-2, 69, 75, 76, 82, 84, 86, 90-1, 96-7, 102-3, 109-110, 112-3, 116, 118-9, 123, 124, 128-9, 131, 134-5, 142, 144, 149, 157-8, 160, 165-7, 169, 171, 173-4, 178, 183-4, 186, 190-1, 193-6, 201, 205, 208, 210, 214, 216, 224-5, 229, 232

## EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE WILLS IN BOOK 4

208

*John Merell, husbandman of Bekyllyswad, made 12 Oct. 1558, and at the end a date, presumably of probate, 5 Dec. 1558.*

*Soul to God Almighty, to Our Lady St. Mary, and to the blessed company of heaven. Burial in the church or churchyard of St. Andrewe at Bekyllyswad. To the high altar for tithes forgot 12d. To the poor inhabitants of Bekyllyswad 20s. and 20s. at his year's tide to pray for the testator and his friends.*

*To each of the children of his brother Edward Morell of Stratton a quarter of barley. To Rychard Rechewourth's wife 6 quarters of barley. To John and "Nycolle" the sons of Richard Recheforth a quarter of barley each. To his brother Spenser's children at Edworth a quarter of barley each.*

*To his wife Elisabeth his house in Bekyllyswad with the appurtenances where he now lives for the next 10 years, and to her also the house*

*where William Glover dwells, for the next 10 years. To wife also the 2 burgages in the occupation of John Wytthed for 10 years. To her also half his sheep.*

*To son Nycolas a cupboard, a table, a standing bed, also 4 pair of sheets, 10 quarters of barley, a cow, a bullock, half a dozen of pewter, and he to have his legacies at the age of 16.*

*To son Nycolas and his heirs testator's house on the death of wife, and also half an acre of meadow in Hyllmede, and a shod cart.*

*To his son John a cupboard, a table, a standing bed, 4 pair of sheets, and at the age of 20 ten quarters of barley, and a cow and a bullock at the age of 18. To John also testator's house in Bekyllyswade where Thomas Invyn now lives at the end of the 10 years after testator's death, and to John and his heirs also two burgages now in the tenure of John Whythed.*

*To his daughter Syssely/Sycylle a standing bed, 6 pair of sheets, a cupboard, a table, a brass pot, a pan, a kettle and also 6 quarters of barley at the age of 16. To her also half a dozen pewter, a cow, a bullock, and to her and her heirs in 10 years time the house in Bekyllyswade where William Glove dwells.*

*To John [?]Mere... a pair of sheets.*

*To other half of his sheep to be divided between his children Nycolles, John and Syssely.*

*The share of any child dying before he or she has received their legacies is to be divided between the survivors.*

*Wife Elysabett is to keep all the houses in repair and should she remarry, she is to put in sureties for the performance of the bequests, or give them to testator's brother Edward.*

*Executors: wife Elysabeth, son Nycolles and brother Edward, to whom 6s. 8d. Supervisor: Rychard Rechford, to whom 6s. 8d.*

*Witnesses: Thomas Rechford, John Haryson, "Aeme" Bedford.*

*Wife to have the whole occupying until son Nycolles comes of age, when he is to have half with her.*

*Testator has surrendered copyhold property into the hands of Thomas Rechford.*

We hope this article may have stirred your interest in our Wills books. Any queries please contact [bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk). □

## OBITUARY - TONY WESTON (1936 - 2021)

*Mary Wooldridge assisted by Carol Rodgers (daughter)*

It is with regret that I have to report the death of one of the earlier members of The Society, Tony WESTON, on 25 February 2021 aged 84 after a short illness. Recently Geoff SEWELL and I attended his funeral on behalf of The Society

Tony was born in Bognor Regis, followed by his brother five years later. They were keen cyclists and would regularly take day trips to Southsea - a round trip of forty miles. He cycled competitively in his thirties, winning some events. They had another shared interest in motor racing, living only five miles from Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit in the glory days of such as Stirling Moss, Jackie Stewart and Fangio. As an interest, this persisted into the era of Graham Hill and James Hunt and later. A highlight was listening on the radio to James Hunt winning his F1 World Championship in 1976.

Tony was a well-travelled man joining the Royal Navy from school; serving in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Portsmouth, and Lossiemouth; was the postman on the Ark Royal; and later in the military Police. After a period in the police force in Worthing, London and Bedfordshire, he returned to the sea with the Merchant Navy for several years. He learnt to drive in his early 40s and,



following a stint as a weather balloon operator at Cardington Hangers, he became a long-distance lorry driver covering the country from Cornwall to Scotland. Everywhere he went he would talk to people, always interested in what they had to say. His last employment was as the Kempston Library van driver, another opportunity to travel and chat.

Having met Barbara while he was in the Royal Navy they married in May 1958 and went on to have three children, all born in different towns as they moved around with the Navy, five grandchildren and three, soon to be four, great-grandchildren.

Tony always listened to the radio; his Dad was fascinated by radio having spent his spare time when he was in the army in the radio room for fun. This continued throughout his life, listening to jazz and classical music as well as staying in touch with politics and international affairs. He was a regular at the Philharmonic Orchestra concerts

in Bedford Corn Exchange for the last twenty years and when younger played the saxophone. He never wanted to stop learning and continued in Adult Education classes in foreign languages into his late 70s.

He was also fascinated by wildlife, and would record animal visits to their garden, where the emphasis was on encouraging creatures rather than having flowers. A member of the British Arachnological Society and the Bat and Bumblebee Conservation Trust, he was an avid watcher of 'Countryfile', 'Spring Watch', and 'Autumn Watch' - woe betide anyone who rang while they were on. He also owned a telescope for stargazing and watched 'The Sky at Night'.

Tony and his wife Barbara joined the Society in 1981. When they listed their member's interests they said that they were beginners in Family History. Tony soon started to remedy this by compiling articles for the journal. He went on to research his family history, resulting in an extraordinary volume of knowledge and paperwork. He also researched family trees for people around the world. He was thrilled to have his family mentioned in the novel 'The Taxidermist's Daughter' by Kate Mosse, based in Fishbourne where his grandmother's family, the NUTBEEMS, owned the Post Office and local shop.

Tony served on the committee in several roles; in 1983 he was The Honorary Secretary helping to run the one day conference that took place in Lidlington that year.

By 1984 Tony was Chairman of the Society and Barbara was the Membership Secretary. By the time I joined BFHS, Tony and Barbara were running the bookstall together. They made me very welcome to the meetings.

In those days there was no Family History information online, so we had to go a long way to obtain our information. I have great memories of The Society trips to London. Tony would get hold of a minibus. He picked up people from Bedford, Ampthill and Luton. We had great fun on these trips. Because we had a small vehicle Tony could usually drop us off outside the archive office we were visiting. I remember one Christmas when we had an impromptu look at the lights on the way home.

In later years, Barbara suffered from ill health and they could no longer come to meetings. Tony continued to travel by train to research. Unfortunately, a fall on the train put paid to these little outings. I last saw him on a visit by the Society to Kew. We were able to have a chat about the early days of the Society.

The Society gave Tony a great deal - he enjoyed interacting with people, extending his knowledge of his family by learning different techniques, corresponding with people around the world - and also gave a lot back by taking on committee roles, serving as a vice-chairman until his death. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. □

## **Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer**

If you pay your 2021 membership by SO or BT please drop an email to **treasurer@bfhs.org.uk** to advise your name, post code, payment method and membership type.  
Your help would be appreciated.



Bedfordshire Family History Society now has a presence on Facebook for news and discussions visit

**[www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety](http://www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety)**

## CATHOLIC BURIAL RECORDS

During the period of over 200 years from the middle of the 16th century until the late 18th century, when the practice of the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in what is now the United Kingdom, Catholics had no churches and no official burial grounds. Even well into the 19th century this was the case. Many Catholics were buried in the local Anglican churchyard as there was frequently nowhere else. This can make finding burials difficult for family historians looking for the graves of Catholics or even just a record of their deaths.

It was quite common for parish incumbents who were thorough in their work to indicate the religious affiliation of the deceased in their burial registers. The Catholic Family History Society, <https://catholicfhs.online>, has now launched a database of such burials. This can be accessed from the website <https://catholicburials.weebly.com>. It uses Google Sheets so the data can be manipulated and searched or downloaded.

The society hopes that family historians who notice Catholic, Papist or Recusant burials in the course of their research will be able to submit their findings in one of the several ways explained on the 'Contribute' tab on the website. □

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The First Pharmacy in Luton – History of Duberly & White**

Author David White - Published by Oyster Press 2011

*John Partridge*

This book starts off with a brief history of Luton in the 19th century with a good set of old maps and photographs, describing the the beginnings of the Market Hill Pharmacy, said to be the oldest pharmacy in Luton, established in 1825. There follows details of the first three proprietors: Newcombe RUMLEY, then William PHILLIPS and later George GAGE. These can be found over the census years from 1841 to 1871 and also appeared in various Luton trade directories. Then in 1876 the business was transferred to George Smith DUBERLY and he is living on the premises at 5 George Street, Luton as Chemist & Druggist for the 1881 and 1891 censuses. He marries in 1899 and in the 1901 census he is living with his wife in Stopsley, while at 5 George Street is Walter WHITE and brother Harold White, both chemists employed by Duberly. In 1902 the business was transferred to Walter White and continued to trade as Duberly & White, opening a number of shops in the town. In 1911 they were at 3-5 Market Hill/George Street and 105 Park Street, Luton. The next chapter deals with the growth of the business with additional premises at Dunstable Road, New Bedford Road, High Town Road, Bishopscote Road and Cheapside, with a number of photos of these shops.

The latter chapters contain a wealth of information & lovely illustrations regarding the pharmacy business. The first deals with a number of hand-written recipe books for patent medicines including his own 'Lutosan' brand. They cover various cures for both medical and veterinary conditions. The second is a collection of advertisements for Duberly's preparations that appeared in local newspapers: a set of bottle and box labels for the products and a number of testimonials praising the efficacy of some medicines. The next describes the set of ten prescription books associated with the Market Hill shop along with doctors names. This is followed by a chapter that details some of the names of interest that appear in the prescription books, most local but some of national interest.

The book was donated by the author who is a descendant of the White family and will be placed in the BFHS library in due course. □

### SUGGESTION BOX

Your committee is continually looking for ways to improve what is offered to members and following the useful responses from the recent Members' Questionnaire, we thought how could we keep the ideas coming.

So, to encourage more feedback from members at meetings we now have a suggestion box. For members who are not able to use the suggestion box we invite you to email us at [bfhs@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk).

Your committee appreciates any help, ideas or suggestions that you may have regarding any aspect of the BFHS organisation. □

*BFHS Committee*



## BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS

Many new computers do not have CD drives so we are pleased to announce that all our CDs are now available for sale as downloads from Parish Chest and Genfair.

The available downloads include all 128 Bedfordshire Parish Registers, Bedfordshire Nonconformist Registers, Marriage Licences, Poor Law papers, BFHS back *Journals* Vol 1-19 with an index to surnames and subjects, and the four Bedfordshire Will books. BFHS *Journals* volumes 20-23 are available free in the Members' Portal of the BFHS website.

To access the stores directly please visit [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com) or [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk), although the simplest way of accessing a BFHS download is to visit our website [www.bfhs.org.uk](http://www.bfhs.org.uk) then select 'Online Stores'. If you then select Parish Chest the majority of the downloads are to be found in the 'Downloads' folder, but Poor Law, Journals and Wills book are listed under the appropriate folder located down the left hand side of the screen. If you select Genfair, the downloads are listed alongside the CDs in the relevant section. Both stores have a search feature and the content of each product is given. Downloads are the same price as the CDs.

BFHS has produced a resource to help in finding your missing relations. If they were baptised or buried before 1852 or married before 1837 (and in some cases later) in Bedfordshire and appear in the Parish Registers, then they will appear on our Surnames CD, available as a free download on the home page of [www.bfhs.org.uk](http://www.bfhs.org.uk). Alternatively, the CD is available for only £10 including UK P&P, from Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX, enquiries to [bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk).

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes listed below are available from:

Sales, Bedfordshire Family History Society, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX or [bookstall@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@bfhs.org.uk)

Each CD or download contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 (images)

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

Baptisms at least 1813-1851 (some parishes all up to 1851)

Marriages up to 1885; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire (images)

CDs marked † also contain Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) from a graveyard in the parish (church, chapel or cemetery). Those marked \* contain records from the registers or graveyards of Nonconformist chapels in the parish, photographs, and other records are included as available.

‡ Holwell: MIs and Burials only, not Registers (now in Herts).

Prices include UK or overseas post and packing. The cost of a full set of Parish CDs is £1,250.

Any recently revised CDs are indicated by the **issue number in bold**. Please note that CDs will no longer be updated whereas downloads will be updated when more indexes and any new MI listings become available.

Parish	Price	Issue	Parish	Price	Issue
Ampthill † *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	<b>4</b>	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Astwick †	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	2
Barton	£15	3	Elstow †	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Eversholt †	£15	<b>2</b>
Bedford St Cuthbert †*	£15	2	Everton	£10	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Flitton *	£15	<b>4</b>
Biddenham †	£10	2	Flitwick	£10	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Goldington	£10	2
Billington †	£10	2	Great Barford †	£15	3
Bletsoe	£10	2	Harlington †	£10	2
Blunham † *	£15	<b>3</b>	Harrod *	£10	2
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Haynes †	£20	2
Bromham †	£10	3	Henlow †	£10	2
Caddington †	£15	2	Higham Gobion	£10	2
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Hockliffe † *	£10	<b>3</b>
Cardington † *	£15	2	Holwell † ‡	£5	1
Carlton † *	£10	2	Houghton Conquest † *	£15	<b>2</b>
Chalgrave	£15	2	Houghton Regis *	£15	2
Chellington	£15	2	Hulcote †	£10	2
Clapham †	£10	3	Husborne Crawley †	£20	2
Clifton	£20	<b>3</b>	Kempston	£15	3
Clophill †	£15	3	Kensworth †	£15	2
Cockayne Hatley	£10	2	Keysoe † *	£15	2
Colmworth †	£10	2	Knotting	£10	2
Cople †	£10	2	Langford	£15	2
Cranfield † *	£15	2	Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	<b>6</b>
Dean † *	£15	1	Lidlington †	£10	2
Dunstable † *	£15	2	Little Barford †	£10	1

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Issue</b>
Keysoe † *	£15	2	Shelton †	£10	2
Knotting	£10	2	Shillington †	£15	2
Langford	£15	2	Souldrop †	£10	2
Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	4	Southill † *	£20	2
Lidlington †	£10	2	Stagsden †	£15	2
Little Barford †	£10	1	Stanbridge *	£10	2
Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Steppingley †	£10	2
Lower Gravenhurst	£10	2	Stevington † *	£10	2
Luton † *	£30	3	Stotfold † *	£10	2
Marston Moretaine †	£15	3	Streatley †	£10	2
Maulden † *	£15	2	Studham	£15	2
Melchbourne †	£10	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Meppershall †	£10	1	Sutton	£15	2
Millbrook	£15	2	Swineshead †	£10	2
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Tempsford †	£10	2
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Thurleigh	£10	2
Northill †	£15	2	Tilbrook	£10	2
Oakley †	£10	2	Tilsworth † *	£10	2
Odell †	£10	2	Tingrith †	£10	2
Old Warden †	£15	2	Toddington † *	£15	2
Pavenham	£10	3	Totternhoe *	£15	2
Pertenhall	£15	1	Turvey † *	£20	2
Podington	£15	1	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	2
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	2
Potton † *	£20	3	Westoning †	£10	3
Pulloxhill	£10	2	Whipsnade †	£10	2
Ravensden †	£10	2	Wilden †	£15	2
Renhold	£10	2	Willington †	£10	2
Ridgmont † *	£15	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Riseley	£10	2	Woburn † *	£20	2
Roxton † *	£10	2	Wootton	£15	2
Salford †	£10	2	Wrestlingworth †	£15	3
Sandy † *	£15	1	Wymington	£10	1
Sharnbrook	£10	2	Yelden †	£10	2



## Bedfordshire Genealogy, Family and House History

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Specialists in genealogy, family and house history research in  
Bedfordshire.

Our lead researcher is Vicki Manners a qualified genealogist who is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists and an associate member of **AGRA**.

Her qualifications include:

- M.A. in Local History
- P.G. Cert. in Family and Local History
- P.G. Dip. in Archive Management

Vicki has worked for Bedfordshire Archives, The Panacea Museum, and several other heritage organisations in Bedfordshire thus giving her a unique and specialist knowledge of genealogy, family and house history records relating to Bedfordshire.

Vicki also specialises in genetic genealogy. She can therefore advise you on which tests are most suitable for your research aims, as well as help you interpret to your DNA results and matches.

We offer a free, no obligation initial consultation. To find out more telephone: 07976 718624

**[www.bedfordshireresearch.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshireresearch.co.uk)**

## WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE JOURNAL?

Send to [journal@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bfhs.org.uk)

We are always on the lookout for contributions to the *Journal*, any size, short or long. To give you some idea, a *Journal* page in the single-column format takes around 450 words to fill. We would also welcome items shorter than a page.

No need to worry if you are not used to writing, we are here to help. Seeing your own work in print can feel like a real achievement and others will appreciate your effort.

Simply writing down your 'brick wall' can help you see the problem more clearly and, you never know, someone reading it may be able to help you move forward. If you need ideas to get you going or would like to discuss your ideas, please send an email to [journal@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:journal@bfhs.org.uk).

### MEMBERS DON'T MISS OUT!

The Friday night meetings of the BFHS offer members instructive, interesting and often amusing talks on subjects that fascinate all interested in history and genealogy in general, and are usually particularly relevant to those with a Bedfordshire heritage.

We do not know when we will be able to hold our meetings at Mark Rutherford School again, but when we can, we look forward to seeing you in person again.

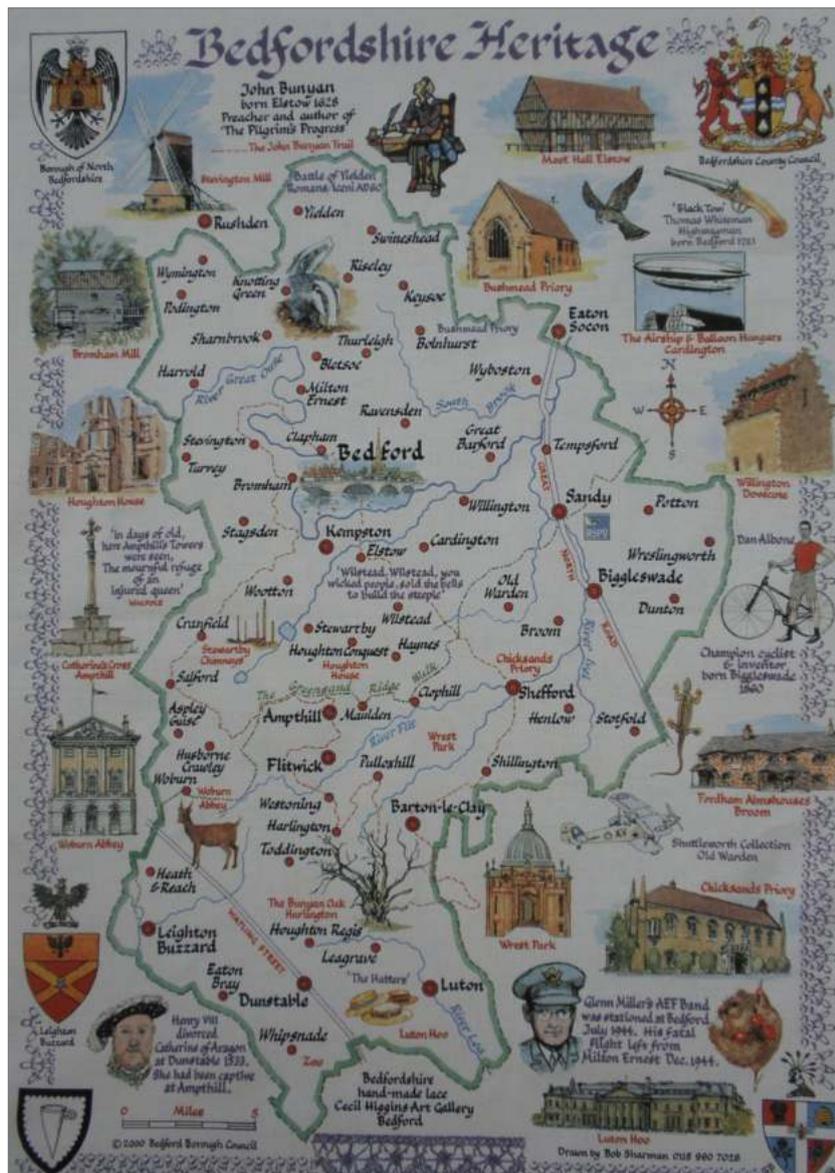


## BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

The Society has had a supply of Bedfordshire Heritage tea towels printed and these are now being sold to raise funds.

These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you do not have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts.

They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at members' meetings, by email to Lynn Manning at:



[secretary@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfhs.org.uk),

or by post to Lynn at:  
38 Risborough, Road, Bedford, MK41 9QW, Tel. 01234 306482.

For UK orders please add postage and packing as follows:

- Up to 2 tea towels add £2.00
- 3 to 6 tea towels add £3.00

For orders from outside the UK please enquire before ordering.

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society.

## A REPEAT INVITATION

In case you missed the announcement in the June *Journal* and on the BFHS Facebook page, with your help, BFHS is planning to create a Photo Catalogue relevant to Bedfordshire family histories that would provide both a repository of images and a searchable catalogue for members.

The need for and feasibility of this undertaking is to be tested by initially inviting members to submit **digital** images to the Catalogue Focal Point along with a Catalogue Form that captures the who, what, where and when. Images will be catalogued using the information provided and included in the overall BFHS Photo Catalogue.

Images and a completed Catalogue Form should be sent to the Catalogue Focal Point, **photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk**. A Catalogue Form can be completed online at the home page of the BFHS website. The BFHS data protection policy applies to all information provided.

Submitted images should relate to some aspect of a Bedfordshire family history. As well as Bedfordshire people, images can include places, events and activities and even people from outside Bedfordshire relevant to a Bedfordshire family. Any image digital format is acceptable and the condition of the original is unimportant. (For the technically minded, ideally images should be scanned into an uncompressed TIFF file at 300 dots per inch or more). BFHS hope to provide a search service of the Catalogue for members free of charge and, when members' meetings return to Mark Rutherford School, a scanning service.

The *Journal* Co-ordinator, Jan Darts, is currently undertaking the role of the Catalogue Focal Point for the feasibility study, which will finish towards the end of October 21 with a decision made in November on whether to continue. For the project to continue, another volunteer from the membership is required to act as the Catalogue Focal Point. If you believe you have the time to offer your service to the Society and to explore further what is involved, please contact the Catalogue Focal Point at the email address above. You should be comfortable working with IT but no special skills are required. You do not need to attend members' meetings but should be resident in the UK.

### **In summary:**

**Donate your family history images to the BFHS Photo Catalogue by email to [photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk](mailto:photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk), along with a completed Catalogue Form.**

**Contact the current Catalogue Focal Point (at the same email address) to discuss how you could become involved in ensuring this project continues.**



## WHERE TO FIND US

Correspondence for the Executive Committee should be addressed to the appropriate person and sent to:

### Bedfordshire Family History Society

<b>PO Box 214 BEDFORD MK42 9RX</b>	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://www.bfhs.org.uk">www.bfhs.org.uk</a> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bfhs@bfhs.org.uk">bfhs@bfhs.org.uk</a>  <b>Web Sales:</b> <a href="http://www.genfair.co.uk">www.genfair.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.parishchest.com">www.parishchest.com</a>
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The following email addresses are also available:

<b>chairman@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>secretary@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>treasurer@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>journal@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>librarian@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>membership@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>bookstall@bfhs.org.uk</b>  <b>publicity@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>research@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>searches@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>photo.catalogue@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>social@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>webmaster@bfhs.org.uk</b> <b>distribution@bfhs.org.uk</b>	Society Chairman & Information Manager Society Secretary Society Treasurer Journal Co-ordinator Society Librarian Membership Secretary All BFHS Publications Sales Enquiries (CDs, Micofiche, Books) Publicity Officer Research Co-ordinator Search Co-ordinator Photo Catalogue Focus Social Events Organiser Society Webmaster Journal Distribution
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Full page	160 mm x 250 mm	250 mm x 160 mm	£20.00
Half page	80 mm x 250 mm	125 mm x 160 mm	£10.00
¼ page	80 mm x 125 mm	60 mm x 160 mm	£5.00

Copy should be on A4 paper, and the above sizes are quoted for an A4 sheet;  
copy should be sent to:

The Journal Co-ordinator, PO Box 214, Bedford MK42 9RX

Cheques should be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society,  
and enclosed with the advertisement.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

(1 January - 31 December)

Each Individual Membership receives one copy per issue of the Journal

Joining Fee	£2.00
<b>Any UK/Worldwide member taking the Journal by email in pdf format</b>	<b>£8.00 pa</b>
UK Individual Membership, with one copy per issue of the printed Journal	£10.00 pa
Family Membership per each additional member at the same address	£1.00 pa
Overseas worldwide membership-printed journal by Surface mail	£14.00 pa
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1. Where it is needed by the independent examiner in his inspection of our financial records.
2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

If you have any questions or concerns over the data held, please contact the Information Manager.

*Printed by* The Colour Shop, 111 Castle Road, Bedford, MK40 3QX

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