

ROOTS and BRANCHES



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ROOTS AND BRANCHES



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COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS

As the Committee has not yet solved the problem of being without a Chairman, I have changed the heading of this piece to a more appropriate one. I hope to use it to keep you up to date with what the Committee are getting up to.

Since the AGM we have held two Committee meetings. The first one was in October when we discussed the problem of lack of numbers and a Chairman. I am pleased to say that Jennie Smith, a member, attended the meeting to see how we operated and whether she would like to join us. She did, so she was co-opted onto the Committee for the year. Steve Deacon who had volunteered at the AGM also attended his first meeting. It was lovely to have two new faces at the meetings, this brought fresh thoughts and ideas for the Society. We have another member who has shown interest and will be joining us at a later meeting.

We also discussed the non or low attendance at the Help Sessions held on the 4th Thursday of every month at Broadway House. It is very demoralising to sit week after week and no-one turns up. So, we are looking at different ways this help can be offered to members.

We have advertised in the last two editions of Roots and Branches for a Programme Secretary after Valerie's retirement, but there has been no response. Valerie has left a wonderful programme right through until July 2020, but we should now be looking at booking speakers for October 2020 – July 21. If you have any speakers you have heard and enjoyed at other events, please let us know.

We also brought up the question of having our annual Christmas meal. After discussion it was decided to change it to a lunch rather than an evening meal, this idea was brought up at the next speakers meeting to go ahead with a lunch. See how it went later in the magazine.

Linda Negus
Membership No: 0620
Secretary

EDITOR'S NOTES

Here is the first edition of Roots and Branches for 2020, may I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We are continuing the story of Cetti's Warbler in which Nick has given good information on how he went about his research and the problems he overcame. It is always interesting to hear how members overcome problems in their research, perhaps you could write an article, it doesn't have to be a long one.

Roger Sutton who has written many articles for the magazine, has this month written about some tips which might help some other researchers.

We have had some very good speakers recently and have some more in the coming months, so do try and join us.

As you know, we try to write up a piece about the Speaker's Meetings to give those who are unable to attend a taste of what went on. If there is anybody out there who would like to do this for us occasionally it would be a great help. It doesn't have to be very long, just give people a taste of what went on.

Linda Negus

Membership No: 0620

CETTI'S WARBLER

This is a continuation from December 2019 issue.

Right then, let's look at the census for 1881

13 Putney Road, Handsworth, West Bromwich, Staffordshire

Charles G Cetti – head of household – Commercial Clerk, age 40, born in Dudley

Mary Cetti – wife, age 39

Charles A Cetti – son aged 5 (implied year of birth 1876), born in Handsworth

Albert V Cetti – son aged 1 (implied year of birth 1880), born in Handsworth

And they had a live-in servant (Florence).

Putney Road is now considered part of Birmingham, on the edge of Handsworth. The area around there, roughly centred on the railway station at Perry Barr, has been allocated over the years to Birmingham, Aston & Handsworth and to West Bromwich (in Staffordshire) and Birmingham (in Warwickshire). This is the area where many of my own ancestors have their roots, so I have a good knowledge of all the ways boundary changes affect the records.

Time for a change of tack. Free BMD shows only one Charles A Cetti dying with an implied year of birth of 1876. 1950 Q3, in Birmingham.

The Probate Calendar shows that Charles Gitanna Cetti died 1925-10-19 in Birmingham, with Probate granted to Albert Victor Cetti, flautist and Adelina Cetti, Spinster. A bit of a change, I thought, from being a stockbroker's clerk to being a professional flautist. It also tied in with a dim memory that my mother was quite a pianist as a youngster and my father played in a jazz band as a youngster - and that is how he met my mother.

Time to talk to my (now deceased) sister, whose memory was failing. She remembered that Albert Victor Cetti was a talented musician and had difficulty finding a music teacher who could help him progress in his musical skills. She also remembered that his wife played the piano (not that I remember her playing the piano, but perhaps by the time I knew her, her hands had lost their suppleness).

The Probate Calendar also shows that Albert Victor Cetti died 1947-03-09, still living at the same address as for 1939. Probate granted to a bank, so no more family information from this lead.

Now to look for Charles A Cetti (brother of Albert Victor Cetti) in the probate calendar. He died 1950-08-08, living at 32 Greswolde Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham. At the time of his father's death, his father was living at 106 Ivor Road, also in Sparkhill.

Now, a look at the 1871 census.

71/72 High Street, Dudley, Staffordshire (at some point, Dudley was part of Worcestershire, so plenty of opportunity for confusion here)

- Charles Cetti, head of household, age 57 (implied year of birth, 1814), Cabinet Maker, born in Lombardy, Italy. a-ha – the link to Italy I've been looking for. Or is it?
- John Cetti, son, age 23 (implied year of birth, 1848), Draper, born in Dudley, Worcestershire
- Kate Cetti, daughter, age 21 (implied year of birth, 1850), born in Dudley, Worcestershire

Cont.pg 6

What about the mother of the family? Not shown in 1871 census. And they had a live-in servant (Sarah). But, no Charles Gitanna Cetti, so where was he in 1871? Indeed, is this the same family line, I now wonder?

Time to look at what's available in Ancestry. Bingo. Someone else has already researched the Cetti line and posted results on Ancestry. More serendipitously, that someone can be contacted through Ancestry. And so I made contact with David, who responded that his 2nd cousin twice removed married Charles Augustus Cetti in 1900.

David's postings on Ancestry show that Charles (presumably Charles Gitanna) Cetti qualified under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 as a First Mate 1867-08-28 and as a Master 1869-04-01. So he would most likely have been at sea when the 1871 census was taken.

Let's see what the 1861 census shows:

Kate Cetti is shown in the 1861 Census as 11 years old, born in Dudley, living with a load of other girls in Aston at Brougham Street, Catholic School, which is attached to the Brougham Street House of Mercy. The Royal Mail website shows that today the St. Francis RC Junior & Infant School is in Brougham Street, not that far from Putney Road, which features in the 1881 census (above). So it all fits together.

The 1861 census for High Street, Dudley, shows

- Charles Cetti, widower, age 45 (implied year of birth 1816), upholsterer, born in Italy
- Mary Cetti, daughter, age 16 (implied year of birth 1843), born in Dudley
- John W Cetti, son, age 13 (implied year of birth 1848), born in Dudley
- Charles Cetti, son, age 8 (implied year of birth 1853), born in Dudley

Now for the 1851 census.

High Street, Dudley

- Charles Cetti, head, age 37 (implied year of birth 1814), cabinet maker born in Lombardy
- Elizabeth Cetti, wife, age 36 (implied year of birth 1815), born in Dudley
- Gitanna Cetti, son, age 10 (implied year of birth 1841), born in Dudley
- Mary Jane Cetti, daughter age 6 (implied year of birth 1845), born in Dudley
- John Cetti, son, age 2 (implied year of birth 1849), born in Dudley
- Carolina Cetti, daughter age 1 (implied year of birth 1850), born in Dudley

Free BMD shows the death of Elizabeth Cetti in Dudley in 1857 Q4. So this fits.

Let's see if the 1841 census can help – it shows High Street, Dudley, and on the basis of the 1851 census I would expect to find Charles Cetti age 27, Elizabeth Cetti age 26 and perhaps Gitanna Cetti as a baby.

What the 1841 census actually shows is

- Charles Cetti, age 20 (implied year of birth 1821), furniture dealer, born in "foreign parts"
- Elizabeth Cetti, wife, age 20 (implied year of birth 1821), born in county
- Charles Cetti, son, age 6 months, born in county.

So I've got Charles and Elizabeth, but with the wrong ages, and Charles Gitanna Cetti with one given name shown in 1851 and another in 1841.

So have I got the right family? Probably yes, because the ages recorded in the 1841 census were rounded down to the nearest 5 years for adults.

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So I am now confident that the people shown in the 1871 census are the family of Charles Gitanna Cetti, and can now add the information from the 1871, 1861, 1851 and 1841 censuses to the family tree of Albert Victor Cetti, the one who married my mother's friend.

But why did Charles Cetti settle in Dudley from Lombardy? Dudley is usually associated with heavy, dirty engineering such as iron making and coal mining, not Upholstery and Cabinet Making.

David also has sent me some information from Baptism Registers and how the family moved from allegiance to one church to another as the years went by. Perhaps enough material for me to write a follow-up article.

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Treasurer

OUR 'CHRISTMAS' LUNCH

On Wednesday, 22nd January 19 members sat down to a lovely lunch at The White Horse, Felixstowe. The idea of having a lunch instead of a dinner in the evening seems to be the right idea, so we will do the same again next year!

Comments made at the lunch was that it was much nicer being able to choose your meal from the menu rather than all having to have the same, such as a carvery. The atmosphere was warm and friendly, everybody was chatting away and the staff were very helpful. It was also great not to have to drive in the dark!

All in all it was a very pleasant and friendly way to pass three hours with friends as seen in the photo below.

Linda Negus

Membership No. 0620



WEBSITE UPDATES

FindMyPast

- Britain, Royal and Imperial Calendars 1767-1973
- Scots Guards officers
- Sussex MI St Andrew's in Alfriston and St Mary the Virgin in Willingdon
- Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Births & Baptisms 1562-1855, Marriages & Banns 1562-1855 and Deaths & Burials 1562-1855
- Lanarkshire School Registers and Records
- US, National Veterans Cemetery Index

Ancestry

- Germany, Bad Doberan, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1876-1981
- US, WWII Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954
- US, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Births, 1839-1911

FamilySearch

- Cumbria Parish Registers, 1538-1990
- Ireland, Poverty Relief Funds, 1810-1887
- Ireland, Treble Almanac, 1822
- Brazil, Minas Gerais, Civil Registration, 1879-1949
- Denmark, Århus Municipal Census, 1936
- France, Loire-Atlantique, Civil Registration, 1792-1960
- France, Marne, Census, 1856
- US, Georgia, Savannah City Jail Registers, 1855-1873
- US, Idaho, Bonneville County, Idaho Falls, Rose Hill Cemetery Records, 1800-2007
- US, Kansas, Swedish Church Vital Records, 1861-1918
- US, Kentucky, Jefferson County, Louisville Children's Home Records, 1866-1938
- US, Louisiana, New Orleans, Slave Manifests of Coastwise Vessels, 1807-1860
- US, Michigan: Grand Army of the Republic Membership Records, 1876-1945 and Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993
- US, Mississippi, Voter Registration, 1876-1967
- US, Missouri, Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops, 1863-1865
- US, Oklahoma: Confederate Pension Applications, 1879-1920 and Deaths and Burials, 1864-1941
- US, South Carolina, State and Territorial Censuses, 1829-1920
- US, Virginia, Bureau of Vital Statistics, County Marriage Registers, 1853-1935

TheGenealogist

- Norfolk Parish Registers

MyHeritage

- UK Index of Burials, 1900–2019
- Republic of Ireland Index of Burials 1900–2019
- France, Military Death Index, 1914–1961
- US Newspapers: Florida 1901–2009, Illinois 1840–2009, Kansas 1869–2009, Minnesota 1902–2009, Montana 1890–2009, Oklahoma 1927-2009, Tennessee 1870–2009, Wisconsin 1884–2009
- US, Texas: Marriages and Divorces and Newspapers 1848–2009

Deceased Online

- Uplands Cemetery in Smethwick and Wood Green Cemetery in Wednesbury

IrishGenealogy.ie.

- Images of Ireland's Civil Registration Marriage registers from 1845 – 1864

Cont next page

Roots Ireland

- Kilkenny: Roman Catholic baptisms and marriages: Transcriptions of registers (baptisms mostly from 1901, marriages mostly from 1911, and all running to 1920) from the parishes of Aghaviller, Callan, Dunnamaggin, Freshford, Galmoy, Johnstown, Mullinavat, Paulstown, Thomastown, Tullaherin, Urlingford, Windgap and Thomastown Workhouse.
- Kilkenny 1821 Carrigan Census and Carrigan Notebooks
- Kilkenny 1662 Hearth Money Rolls
- Kilkenny 1809-1829 Freeholders
- Kilkenny 1914-1918 WW1 Combatants

Fold3

- Militia Attestation Papers, 1806-1915

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Did You Know that a potwalloper (or potwaller) was a person who had their own separate fireplace on which they could cook, and as a result, qualified as an official resident of a town and sometimes, a voter? The word literally means “one who boils a pot” and these householders could include both owners and tenants. In the country, boroughs, it depended on local custom. In some boroughs, all potwallopers had the vote whilst in others, the franchise was restricted to freemen. Potwallopers existed until the reform Act of 1832.

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WHAT IS A TONTINE?

Did You know if.... your ancestor participated in a tontine? National tontines were organised by the Government in order to raise money, and took the form of a joint annuity to which members subscribed. The interest was shared amongst members or their nominees but as they died, the funds were shared between an ever-decreasing number of survivors until the last one drew all the interest. Depending on longevity, they could therefore prove to be a lucrative investment. An English tontine in 1789 had over 8000 subscribers, mainly drawn from the middle classes. Irish tontines (which had mainly English subscribers) were also organised in 1774, 1775 and 1777.

These records are useful genealogically because they provide the name of the subscriber, their address and the name of the nominee, who was often the subscriber’s child. Sometimes, the name of a nominee’s parents was given, together with details of the nominee’s age, the date they died and were buried. Documents such as wills or certificates of baptism might also have been submitted.

The original records are held in The National Archives and the Tontine Collection on www.findmypast.co.uk comprises annuity statements, accounts of deaths, death certificates, and marriage certificates relating to the subscribers and nominees of the English tontine of 1789, the Irish tontines of 1773, 1775, and 1777, and the life annuities of 1766 to 1779

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RESEARCHERS LOCKED OUT OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

These are two letters taken from the Daily Telegraph, 11th January 2020

Sir, the National Archives' new policy of restricting users to 12 documents per day (report, January 8) discriminates against those of us who don't happen to live nearby.

It is often necessary to access many documents just to find which are relevant to one's research, or to take snippets of information from each.

The new rule could leave one having to abandon useful research time after reaching the limit. For those of us who don't live close to the archives it might also mean paying for expensive overnight stays or return visits.

The policy is based on the average number of documents requested. It seems that you will be penalised if you are not "average" enough.

Letter 2:

Sir, Jack Hardy (report, January 8) points out that visitors to the National Archives have dwindles from 5,211 in June 2017 to 4,654 last June. This is due, in part, to car-parking fees of £7 for four hours introduced by Jeff James in January 2019 with no concessions (blue badge excepted).

/The National Archives is digitising its records but has so far put only 5% of them online. The rest can only be seen with a visit to Kew. There is 1,000 years of our history that will only be available to those that can afford to pay £7 a day to park.

I wrote to my MP, Boris Johnson, who agreed that £7 was excessive, but despite his valiant efforts in letter writing he was unable to change these fees.

Ed. I have left off the names of the letter writers.

MY TIPS FOR OTHER FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCHERS

I started to search for my ancestor back in 1965, when I was 23. I remember contacting my grandmother and visiting my great uncle down in Dover. Relatively little was discovered through these contacts because my family has never been interested in family history research. My great grandmother was a Rolls. I subsequently discovered that there was a Rolls Family Bible, with very detailed information going back to 1772. This had been recorded on a regular basis by my ancestor William Rolls (1772-1845). Some of this information could not have been retrieved in any other way.

I managed to unearth several generations of ancestors by obtaining birth and marriage certificates from Somerset House. Each certificate cost just half-a-crown. At 25 I was promoted to Higher Executive Officer and I was so busy that I was not able to continue with my family history research. I was able to take it up again in 1997. In the interim period dozens of family history societies had been formed to cater for a large increase in the number of people interested in family history research.

I chose not to go on a family history course. I joined numerous family history societies because my ancestors are spread over numerous English counties in the South, the Midlands and the North. I was soon able to start making contact with those who were researching the same families as I was. In those early days these researchers were a lot more experienced than I was. I had a lot to learn and I discovered that I was on a steep learning curve. I also made contact with those who, while not my relatives, had a lot of local knowledge about the areas where my ancestors lived. I discovered that most people like to be helpful.

I concentrated on East Kent because that is where the Sutton family come from. I ordered a lot of microfiche, most of which contained transcribed parish registers. I discovered something called the East Kent People Index. Information was available for individual surnames and could be purchased for a few pounds. Soon I was making good progress. I discovered that it was particularly important to remain in contact with other researchers, particularly where they were making progress all the time.

It is particularly important to order whatever wills are available for your ancestors. If an ancestor is a widower, he is likely to name as many as a dozen people in his will, whereas if his wife is still alive she may be the only person named in the will. In the case of my ancestor Thomas Turney (1766-1843) of Westerham, Kent, all attempts to find his marriage had drawn a blank. Fortunately his will dated 1827 mentioned that his father-in-law James Marchant had made financial provision for his Turney grandchildren. I therefore obtained James Marchant's will which was proved in 1812. Altogether, he names eleven relatives in his will, so it enabled me to build a clear picture of the Marchant family. I never did manage to find the missing marriage.

The earliest will I found was for an ancestor John Hever of Cranbrook, Kent. It is dated 8 June 1483. He was an ancestor of the Earls of Thanet, the Earls of Salisbury and the most recent Dukes of Devonshire. He was also an ancestor of the Duchess of Cornwall. I discovered this because I read 'The Daily Telegraph' every day. Newspapers can be useful sources of information on members of your ancestral families. I have found 'The Times' to be particularly useful. My Pickering and Rolls ancestors read 'The Times' in the early 19th century. The earliest references I have found are in editions of 'The Times' dated October 1790.

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A typical discovery is that on 13 December 1836 'The Times' reported that Samuel Pickering had married Charlotte Hart at Folkestone. She was the seventh daughter of the late Richard Hart of Folkestone.

In January 1927 'The Daily Express' said that it had some records which showed remarkable longevity in the fishing village of Kingsdown, Deal, Kent. This is a subject that interests me. My father George Sutton lived to be 91, as did his brother Daniel Sutton. My mother Eileen Pickering lived to be 95 and her brother Arthur Pickering lived to be 92.

The information on Kingsdown was provided by a Mr Pittock who was the village postmaster and therefore presumably responsible for paying old age pensions. Seven members of my Sutton family were shown as being in their 80s (Richard Sutton and Stephen Sutton were both 88). I would explain their longevity by the fact that they would have had a healthy fish diet and by the fact that the sea air would have been free of pollution.

As well as wills, it is important to remember that inventories are often available. My early Pickering ancestors were dairy farmers in Cheshire and my early Sutton ancestors were sheep farmers on Romney Marsh. Their inventories show what kind of farmers they were.

Worthing Reference Library is the largest library in West Sussex. Worthing is the town where I grew up. At one time I used to spend every Saturday morning in Worthing Reference Library. When I first started visiting it, I had no idea that it contained details of dozens of my relatives, including Nicholas Tufton of Northiam, East Sussex who in about 1498 married Margaret Hever of Cranbrook, Kent.

Many of my 19th century ancestors (such as Hale, Pickering, Rolld, Ray and Gerrrett) were business people. Worthing Reference Library has London Commercial directories (on microfiche) which go back almost 200 years. I found these extremely useful in tracing the evolution of these family businesses. When I started work in the City of London in 1961 the Pickering drug broking business was still operating in the City, although at the time I knew nothing about this.

My 2x great grandfather Henry Rolls and his brothers Charles and Joseph Rolls were artist and engravers in the 19th century. I found a book about engravers which provided details of their careers. Before the advent of photography in the middle of the 19th century illustrations in books were provided by engravings. I also found details of the career of my relative Mary Ann Rebecca Alabaster who was an internationally renowned painter in the 19th century. She had been tutored by George Hayter, who had painted Queen Victoria's Coronation.

My father George Sutton and his brother David Sutton had both won scholarships to Varndean School, Brighton. Worthing Reference Library has copies of the school magazine. I was able to discover details of their academic careers. Both did better than I did at Worthing High School for Boys. David Sutton was also particularly good at chess.

It is important for a family historian to build up a library of reference books. I will mention just a few of the many books that I own:

- A Dictionary of English Surnames by P H Reaney and R M Wilson. Published in 1991 for £50

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- The London Encyclopaedia by Ben Weinreb, Christopher Hibbert, Julia Keay and John Keay. Published in 2008 for £50
- The White and Black Books of the Cinque Ports 1432- 1955. Published in 1955. I bought a second-hand copy for £25
- The Surnames of Sussex by Richard McKinley. Published in 1988 for £19. This book is part of a series about surnames in various English counties.

As you make progress with your research, it is very important to document your research in the form of family trees/ancestry charts. I know one researcher who has not managed to write a single family tree. All she has to show for her efforts are bundles of papers in various folders.

Do you have any Edwardian postcards? Millions of these were sent to family and friends, particularly during the period 1904-1910. I have a collection of postcards that my grandmother Florence Gerrett (1877-1967) sent to her sister Louisa (born 1870). The first of these is dated 7 January 1904. Florence reported to Louisa that she had a collation of about 260 picture postcards. Florence had also attended Annette Pickering's 'At Home' day. Annette was Florence's future mother-in-law. 'At Home' days were a middle class convention whereby a lady was available to receive visitors at a certain time on a certain day of the week. In her postcards (where space was at a premium) Florence frequently uses initials to denote individuals, which makes it difficult for me, 115 years later, to discover who she is writing about.

In July 1904 Florence, her brother Charles Gerrett, who was an estate agent in South London, and a friend were spending a fortnight in Suffolk. Among the cards sent during this holiday is one dated 28 July 1904 depicting St Matthew's Church, Ipswich. There is mention of trains, steamers and punctures (mended by Charles). As Charles was an Auctioneer and Estate Agent, his mother (who moved house frequently) used her son to find her suitable properties.

My sister Jane has a scrapbook which shows photos fo the Gerrett homes in the Norwood area. They were all very large. One home was a detached house on three floors, with a a croquet lawn. All missle class people had servants in the Edwardian era. On the other hand, we know from her postcards that my grandmother Florence madeher own clothes and also made jam. On one August day Florence picked 15 and a quarter pounds of blackberries, presumably to be made into blackberry jam.

Roger Sutton
Membership No.1126

DIARY DATES

11th March 2020

Behind the scenes of the TV programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

Gill Blanchard

Gill has been conducting family, house and local history research since 1992, beginning her research career at the Norfolk Record Office where she worked as a researcher and with the public for nearly six years. She has worked behind the scenes of WDYTIA? interviewing Mary Berry and Jonnie Peacock.

8th April 2020

**History of Spoken English - Part 2
Charlie**

Haylock

This is not a talk on split infinitives, and what the differences are between the past participle and the past tense. Definitely not! Charlie shows how the seeds of spoken English were first sown, and how each invading force affected the English language with the different sounds they brought.

**13th May 2020
DUNKIRK**

MEDWAY QUEEN (PADDLE STEAMER) - THE HEROINE OF

Mark Bathurst

Mark is from the Medway Queen Preservation Society and will give a talk on the history and restoration of the paddle steamer 'Medway Queen'.

*Monthly Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Broadway House,
Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD*

*Meetings are free for members, but if you wish to bring a guest the fee is £1.00. Refreshments (tea,
coffee and biscuits) are available at the end of the meeting.*

WW1 CASUALTIES

The Royal Air Force Museum has launched a new website: 'Casualty Forms' that enables visitors to explore the casualty forms of officers of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force who served on the Western Front and in the Middel East during the First World War.

To visit the site go to: <https://www.casualtyforms.org/> The forms include information on casualty details, postings, periods of leave, promotions and decorations. Some may also have information on place of burial and name of the officiant. Much of the information on the forms may NOT be recorded in the personnel files held at the (UK) National Archives.

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My first memory of my great grandmother, born Florence Emily Ward (1864-1953), dates back to the 1940s. I was a small boy staying with my great uncle and great aunt in Lower Kingswood, Surrey. They lived in a detached bungalow at the end of a cul-de-sac. The bungalow had a large garden consisting mainly of an apple orchard. The ground was strewn with large cooking apples which were going rotten and were being eaten by huge slugs. Two ducks (originally owned by my parents) patrolled contentedly around the orchard. Uncle worked in the advertising department of London Transport and so he was in London all day. I was looked after by Auntie Kit. She had thick white hair and much of this had a ginger hue. Auntie was a very heavy smoker. Eventually she gave up smoking after a serious operation for cancer. Her only child was her son Haines who had died when his sports car crashed on an icy road in Kent when he was only 19. I got the impression he was rather spoilt. After all, his parents must have bought him the sports car.

Auntie was a kind lady who looked after me well. I was taken to London several times on the bus. At this time London County buses had two huge eyes in the front of the upper deck. I was also taken to visit Auntie's elderly parents who lived a short bus ride away. My great grandfather was Frederick John Hainsworth (1862-1950) who was born 30 July 1862 at St Pancras, London. My great grandmother was born on 10 September 1864 at Kennington, London. It is amazing to think that both were born before Germany became a united country in 1871.

My great grandparents' cottage was festooned with fly papers, hanging from the ceiling, all of which were covered in dead flies. There was also a stuffed parrot in a glass case. When alive, the parrot would have belonged to 'Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese', the famous City of London pub where my great grandfather had been the restaurant manager. He was a generous man. He used to give gold sovereigns to London's poor. He had retired aged 50, saying that he was exhausted.

Twentieth-century fashion had had no impact on my great grandmother. She was dressed all in black, with her skirt reaching down to the floor. She looked like a character out of Charles Dickens. Her father was James Ward (1837-1915), who was a solicitor's clerk. He married Eliza Boteler (1837-1883) on 21 November 1858 at St Andrew, Holborn. As a result of Eliza's early death, James remarried in 1886. His second wife was a widow, Julia Ann Hudson.

The family secret the subject of this article centres on William Coram Boteler (1801-1884). He was Florence Emily Ward's grandfather. He was born on 1 December 1801 at Clerkenwell. The name 'Coram' provides a clue as to his origins. His father John Boteler was christened on 5 April 1780 at St Pancras Foundling Hospital, which had been opened by Thomas Coram in 1741. Infants were placed in a basket outside the door, which was connected to a bell. No attempt was made to trace the mother.

William Coram Boteler had numerous occupations during his long life: bookbinder, story book maker, songwriter, music master, dancing master and Secretary of the Bookbinders Association. I have been told that in the last role there is evidence he was something of a rabble-rouser. He married Amelia Kendon, who was a Roman Catholic. Their first child Emily Boteler was born in Dublin on 17 April 1826, suggesting that Amelia has family in Ireland. The evidence suggests that Amelia's mother, born Mary Ann Layfield, was probably from Ireland. Several more children were born to Amelia, but by 1841 she was living at 9 York Place, Richmond (now called Richmond Hill) with her children, but not with her husband. Was she, perhaps, being supported by her parents?

William started a relationship with Charlotte Caroline Bridgman, who was 22 years his junior. Had she been one of his pupils in his role of dancing master? Their first child William Stewart Boteler has born on 2 February 1845. Numerous other children were born to the couple. They married bigamously on 19 October 1856 at Bloomsbury Register Office.

The evidence was that Amelia had gone down in the world. By 1851 she was a charwoman living in the parish of St Clement Danes, Westminster with her daughter and granddaughter, both of whom were called Emily Boteler. Amelia spent the latter part of her life with James Ward's family. She died in 1879, so my great grandmother would have lived with her. Not a word about William Coram Boteler's bigamous marriage has come down to me. You find out these things by doing your research methodically and by comparing notes with other researchers.

William Coram Boteler died on 8 December 1884, aged 83, so he outlived his daughter (and my great, great grandmother) Eliza Boteler who died in 1883, aged only 46. His second wife died in 1899 at West Ham.

His first wife, Amelia Kendon, had a brother, Henry Thomas Kendon (1800-1874). He was a Professor of Dancing and Dancing Master to the Royal Family. A Court Circular from 1829 describes a grand entertainment given by the Duke and Duchess of Clarence at Bushy Park to the young Queen of Portugal. Cabinet Ministers and most of the neighbouring nobility and gentry attended. Mr Henry Kendon, Dancing Master to the Queen, officiated as Master of Ceremonies to the juveniles.

An item in the 'Windsor and Eton Express' of 24 May 1834 records how Mr Henry Kendon (Dancing Master to the Royal Princes) had the honour of receiving Her Majesty's commands to direct the Juvenile Ball, which was to take place on 30 May at St James' Palace. In December 1835 Mr Henry Kendon held a Ball at the Bush and Clarence Hotel in Staines, "which was attended by about 100 persons, among whom were nearly all the rank and fashion of the vicinity". It was Mr Kendon's intention to hold another Ball at Easter.

Roger Sutton

Membership No: 1126

MEMBERS' MEMORABILIA & SOCIAL EVENING

Our members' memorabilia and social evening was unfortunately not very well attended, only 18 members attended.

However, those who did attend brought along some interesting articles such as postcards that the soldiers sent home from France and Speedway memorabilia as seen in the photo.

Ipswich Witches Speedway team in the 70's and 80's included local Trimley St Mary boy Nigel Flatman, a close friend of fellow team rider Australian Billy Sanders who tragically took his own life at the age of 30 in 1985. Both boys were close neighbours of Ann and Mick Sanderson who spent many happy hours chatting about and cleaning their bikes.

Some members took the opportunity to do some research as we had two PCs available with Ancestry, FindMyPast as well as the free software. It also gave members time to sit and chat together, not necessarily about family history, just catching up with friends, which was good.



Perhaps the Committee will have to think of an alternative way to spend our January meeting, if you have any ideas please let a member of the Committee know.

Linda Negus Membership No. 0620

SPEAKER'S MEETING - DECEMBER

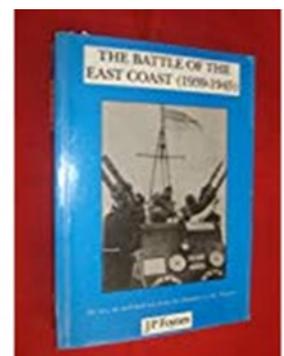
Felixstowe 1939-1945: The Untold Stories

Mr Julian P Foynes

We had a very interesting talk at our December meeting by Mr. Julian P Foynes about his research of stories that happened during WW2 in our area and how Felixstowe was affected.

During WW2 many troops from all the services were billeted in Felixstowe; flying boats, gunboats and torpedo boats were all stationed here. He used a PowerPoint presentation to show us old maps of the area and how various places were used during the war, such as the pill boxes along the coast. He also talked about Bawdsey and the use of radar.

Mr Foynes has had a lifelong fascination for military history, principally world wars, and navies, coast defences, air raids and radar and has written several military history books about the East Coast, Suffolk and Essex. One of these is 'Battle of the East Coast', published in 1994.



FELIXSTOWE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Registered Charity No: 296115

PRESIDENT: The Rt Hon. the Lord Deben

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mrs Gillian Smith

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PLEASE NOTE: All enquiries to be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope

All Officers of this Society are unpaid volunteers who give up their spare time to answer queries and run the Society and, out of respect for this, it would be appreciated if telephone enquiries were not made after 9.30 pm.

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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£14.00 Joint Membership

The subscription year begins on 1st September

Membership enquiries to be sent to the Membership Secretary

Please send contributions for the magazine and any comments regarding the magazine to Gillian Smith or Linda Negus who reserve the right to edit any item.

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