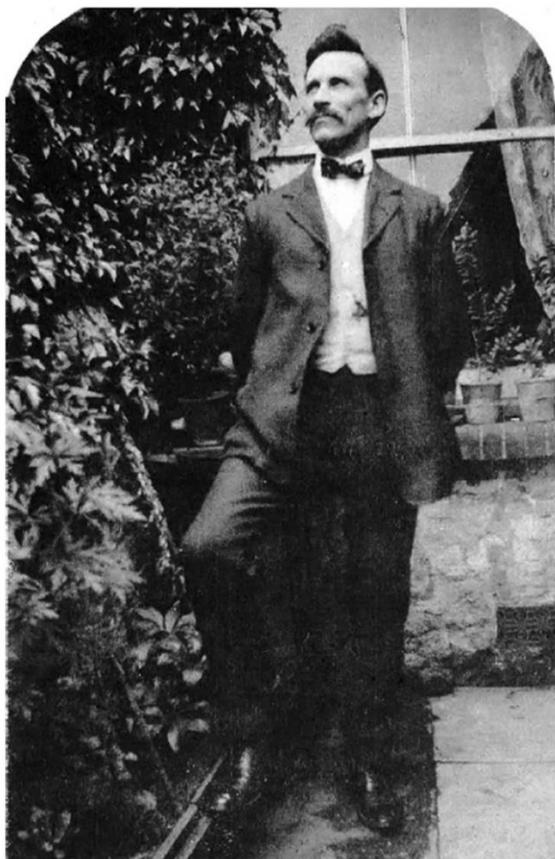


DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

For People in Dorset or People with Dorset Ancestors

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DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 801504

Society Address: Treetops Research Centre,
Suite 5, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, POOLE, BH15 3AJ
Tel: 01202 785623 during opening hours
e-mail: contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Website: www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

Find us on Facebook

****** Due to the current situation see inside for current details for Treetops Opening and Society Services ******

Treetops Research Centre is open for personal research using the Society's library and many records at £3.00 per day.

*

Opening hours

Mon, Wed & Sat 10 am – 3 pm

Those who want to go to Treetops outside these hours, (particularly visitors who are only going to be in the area for a short time) please get in touch and we will do our best to accommodate you.

*

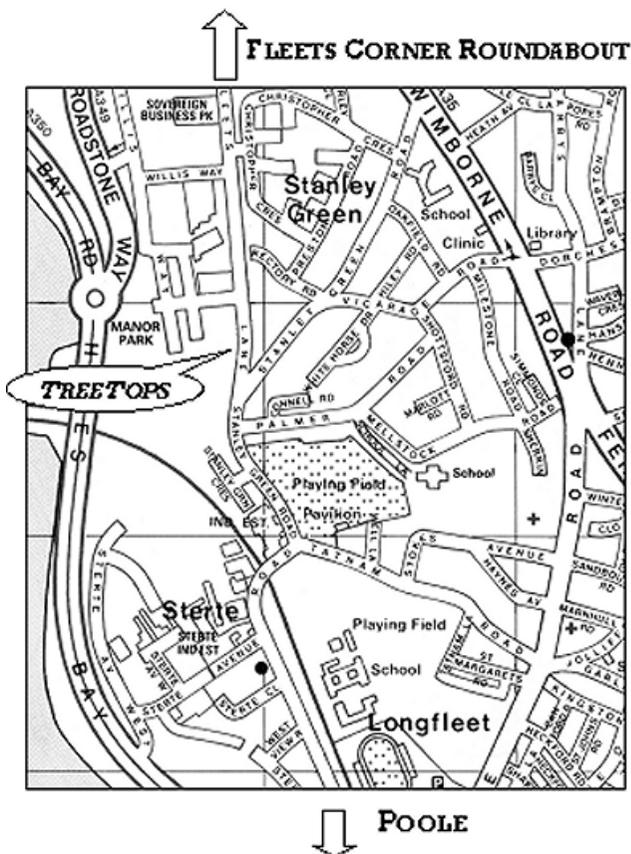
Bookings and research requests are taken by e-mail or by telephoning the Centre during opening hours.

*

Parking is available in residential roads in the local area.

For disabled parking please contact Treetops before travelling.

Wheelchair access is at ground floor level at the rear of Stanley House. Toilets are not wheelchair accessible.



FLEETS CORNER ROUNDABOUT

TREETOPS

POOLE

*

For details of Officers and Committee please see back inner cover

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Quarterly Journal

Volume 34, Number 3 March 2021.

Cover picture: Harry Smith – refer to Article ‘The Four Men of Dorset’ by Richard Smith

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Message from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on our Journal. We enjoy hearing from you. As I put this Journal together, our country is starting to recover from a long national lockdown, meaning we can start to venture out once again, to see family and friends face to face. Thankfully during this challenging time we have various technologies available to enable our Society to continue to provide meetings and talks with our members. Personally, despite having regular calls and video chats, I have missed being with those I cherish. The long months without being able to be together in person with family makes me ponder how my ancestors managed to stay close to other family members living further afield, or even abroad. Did they rely on letters to keep up to date with news of new babies being born, or the sad loss of older family members?

If you have any old letters or an interesting story of families staying in touch, please do get in touch – via email if possible to [<editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>](mailto:editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk) using the following as a guide:

- Articles should be between 500 and 2500 words. There is no guarantee that submissions will be published or in any particular issue. (We hold articles until there is space to include in a future Journal).
- Please include your name and email address (or full postal address) as these can then be printed with your permission.
- If you wish to send a photo to compliment your articles, please scan at 400dpi if possible.

Angie Parker-Harris, Journal Editor

Deadline for September 2021 edition – 15 July 2021

The Editor will be pleased to receive articles for inclusion in this Journal. They can be with or without illustrations. Ideally they should be sent by e-mail to [<editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>](mailto:editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk), but typed hard copy or clear, legible handwriting sent to Treetops is also welcome. The Editor may need to edit, abridge or reject any material submitted for publication and cannot guarantee that an article will be included in any particular edition. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that their submission does not infringe copyright. Items remain the copyright of Dorset Family History Society and the author jointly. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Society. No material may be reproduced without prior written permission.

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Musings from the Chair



“Too Much Information!”

We have all been there. Happily filling the gaps in our family tree; dotting the “i”s and crossing the “t”s; checking related records for missing details and there it is! A piece of information with the potential to distress or shock if not handled carefully ... but far too good not to share!

So what do you do? Well I have a few golden rules and I thought I would share them here in case they are of use to anyone. Each rule is based on a question

The First question has to be “how old is the information?” If we are talking about 19C or earlier it’s unlikely that anyone will be upset by any revelations and, more often than not, they will be fascinated by such an historical snapshot. This was certainly the case when, researching my wife’s (adopted) cousin’s birth family I found a 4x Great grandfather who was transported to Australia after becoming embroiled in the “Swing Riots” of the 1830s. After cautiously broaching the fact that I had found a “black sheep” I shared what I had found....and sparked a hitherto dormant interest in 19C agricultural politics in East Anglia in said cousin’s biological family!

The Second question is to ask yourself “is the information going to have a negative impact on any surviving relatives”? This is one I came across quite early in my research. Not only one of my mum’s grandfathers, but his mother as well were both born “out of wedlock”. By the time I found this out my maternal grandmother and her only sibling had both passed on and I think this was a blessing in disguise as on sharing these genealogical gems with my mum her reaction was “goodness me, if she was around today your grandmother would be turning in her grave!”

Thirdly “is it in fact general knowledge and it’s just me that doesn’t know this” and, more importantly, how can I find out which is the case? Now I had always known that my paternal grandmother had had something of a wild youth born testament to my having an eldest uncle who bore her maiden name rather than the “Goddard” patronym. It came as a surprise however to find out that there had in fact been another child born some years before either marriage to my grandad, or indeed the birth of my eldest uncle. Not only was there this revelation but it was coupled with the fact but that said lad had been a bit of a “wrong un” who, after a series of petty crimes was sent to a young offenders’ institution where he had sadly died of a burst appendix!

Most relevant family members, with the exception of Dad’s youngest brother (who is as I write still alive and well and living in the far North East) had passed on by the time I found this out so I was not sure how I was going to be able to check how widely known this fact was. And then I remembered - my Dad’s best mate and fellow Dorchester lad Pete! In his 80’s but still sharp as a pin his reaction was “Oh, Yes I remember. It was Eric wasn’t it?” There you go. If Dad’s best mate knew so must have Dad and the rest of the family. No can of worms to disturb there then!

A Fourth question, particularly where criminal activity is involved, is “what is the likely response if I do share this information?” This has actually come up quite recently as I was asked by a cousin to do a bit of work on his mother’s line. Suffice to say that I had quite some success in this venture, mostly by tracking their progress though the Petty Sessions records of Taunton, Shepton Mallett, Salisbury and Dorchester...and I’m pretty sure that there are more to find! So how was I to approach sharing this.

Well it was actually a no brainer – just tell him. So I did and the reaction was exactly that I expected – hilarity! And why did I expect this? Well his Dad had spent his entire working life in the Police Force!

Merwe Goddard, Chairman

Zoom Meetings - Computer Group

Richard Yates



The Society online meetings via Zoom have continued to be held with the Monthly Meeting with a speaker and Computer Group each month. The Committee has taken the decision to continue with some online events into the future, as it is evident that this provides a welcome opportunity to connect with members who for reasons of geography or transport are unable to join us in person. The Speakers booked for September and October are planned to give a “Live” Talk, if circumstances permit.

The plan is to maintain an online presence and try to present a “hybrid” meeting. We anticipate using an August Computer Group at Treetops as a trial event. Please keep viewing the Website and E-News for the latest updates, as we still have to work out how to do it! We will also try to update you in each Journal, but as the deadline for submissions is very early, it is difficult to remain up to date. If any member has no access to the website or e-news, please feel free to telephone Treetops (01202 785623), leave a message for Sheila with your telephone number, and I will contact you with details of what we are planning with Computer Group.

We are not charging for meetings, but we do request a donation. Details are always included in the invitation e-mail.

Computer Group Programme

Tuesday 1 June @ 7.30pm via Zoom. Bring an Ancestor. We did two meetings when we were live, where members were invited to give a 10-minute talk about a specific ancestor they have encountered. Now we have a much wider spread of members able to attend Computer Group, more people have the opportunity to share their ancestors.

Tuesday 6 July @ 7.30pm via Zoom. Breaking down your Brick Walls. We will convene a panel to try to suggest ways to break down Members' Brick Walls received in advance. David Gynes has agreed to host another of these if there is sufficient demand. Please e-mail details (a sheet of A4 max) to <liaison@dorsetfhs.org.uk> by 15th June so David can send out to his panel in advance.

Tuesday 3 August @ 7.30pm This will be our Trial Hybrid meeting via Zoom and at Treetops. Depending on regulations, we may have to limit Treetops attendees to 10, but we will keep you updated via E-News and the website. It will probably end up as a Group Discussion punctuated by Technical issues. Book via the usual e-mail.

A Future Date. Technical Queries – One of us will attempt to answer your questions regarding hardware or software issues you have encountered. These need to reach us two weeks prior to the meeting with as much detail as possible. We may try to run this topic just via Zoom, as we think it may allow questioners to share the problem from their computer.

I am trying to update the website as soon as dates are confirmed for the various topics, so keep checking on there. E-News should also pick up those details twice a month.

We will continue to place much of the emphasis on providing support to members and answering questions. Together with the new “virtual research centre”, this is all part of helping you to be more skilled and efficient in your research, and using members' expertise to assist other members. This will continue to be a priority of the Society.

We are currently recording all Computer Group meetings, which are available to view in the members' area of the website. Please forgive the occasional amateurish offer – we are still learning.

Requests for future subjects, or offers to lead an evening, are always welcome.

Richard Yates, Computer Group Coordinator

Meeting Programme and Speakers

Sue and Pete Redfearn



Due to the ongoing Covid challenges, we will continue to meet via Zoom Chat so please keep an eye on our Website and E-News letter for information on scheduled meetings.

We will be requesting small donations if you enjoy the events we have organised. The details to donate are: visit

www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/products/meeting and select 1 or more £3 units before adding to your Basket. If you do not have your own PayPal account, choose the 'Pay by Debit or Credit Card' option to access the PayPal Guest Checkout.

Tuesday 15 June 2021 - "Searching for Irish Ancestors" by Dr Penny Walters - This Will Be a Zoom Meeting

This talk will look at current and historical maps of Ireland. Since the early 17th century there have been four Provinces of Ireland: Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. The Irish word for this territorial division, cúige, means 'fifth part' and indicates that there were once five; however, in the medieval period there were more. There are thirty-two counties in Ireland (twenty-six in the Republic of Ireland and six in Northern Ireland). Many people, perhaps as high as 70 million claim Irish heritage, so many diasporas are keen to research their Irish roots. This talk will look at the information that is available in the absence of a number of key Irish census records. The talk covers Irish place names and surnames; how to order BMD certificates; and which Census fragments are available. The 1837 Lewis' Topographical Dictionary will be revealed, and how to think laterally from clues within the detailed place descriptions. The usefulness of dog licences, railways and Facebook groups will be included. The invaluable census 'substitute,' Griffiths Valuation will be explained. Utilising clues and useful information from Who Do You Think You are? Irish

themed celebrity reveals will be explored. An explanation of DNA testing, with Ancestry's new detailed regions will be explored, along with DNA matching and collaboration. A description of a number of diaspora journeys will be shown with maps, interesting heritage centres and quirky observations. However, could looking for ancestors abroad be seen as cultural appreciation or cultural appropriation.

Tuesday 20 July 2021 - "Treasure that is Newspapers" by Mia Bennett - This Will Be a Zoom Meeting

An insight into the wealth of information that is available within newspapers, including the British Newspaper Archive and The Gazette, as well as hints and tips for getting more out of searching and finding useful articles within the newspapers.

Mia (Amelia) has been researching her family history for over 25 years, and been a Trustee of the Society of Genealogists for over 5, and is also an Associate of AGRA. She has carried out DNA analysis for family history, run "brick wall" workshops, provided advice and volunteered in the SoG library and gives talks on DNA and family history.

TUES. 17th AUGUST - Currently no meeting

TUES. 21st SEPT. 2021 - "Posted in the Past" by Helen Baggott

Helen is a freelance writer and editor from Sturminster Newton, and gives talks to many Societies and Clubs in the area. She has also written articles for many local magazines including Dorset Life. Following on from her book of the same name, Helen uses genealogical skills to reveal the true stories behind post cards sent in the early years of the 20th century, and shares these tales with an illustrated talk. A 10-year-old servant living in Bath, a soldier who died in the First World War, and even a man who helped prepare Lord Kitchener's last meal are all connected through postcards.

Sue and Pete Redfearn, Programme Secretary

Meetings in Retrospect

Angie Parker-Harris

16 February 2021

Bridging the Gap – tracing forwards from 1911 by Jackie Depelle

Jackie Depelle has been teaching Family History since the days of micro-film and fiche and is now fully supporting digital initiatives. A speaker at major events such as WDYTYA - Live and Roots Tech London, Jackie has also run workshops and events for Archives, Country houses, Libraries, Museums and Universities.

In this talk, she reviewed digital documents which will help family historians identify details of our ancestors' lives across the time period.



One of the most exciting recent releases of source material for Family Historians has been the 1939 Register, not only for the information it provides but also its ability to provide links to runs of earlier records.

Whilst we wait for the 1921 Census, there are other documents that can be used to provide details of our ancestors' lives across the time period. This talk reviewed several of them, identifying chronological timelines. Many are obvious, some perhaps unexpected as a sample case study revealed. Working forwards from First World War Internment, we saw what pieces of the jigsaw could be found and how they came together to illustrate the possibilities in researching comparatively recent lives. These included Google Maps, Zoopla, Electoral Registers, Passenger Lists, Military and Service Records, National Probate Calendar etc.

16 March 2021

Murder, Research and Family History by Paul Stickler

Paul Stickler is a retired detective turned criminologist and historian. He is also a member of the Crime Writers' Association. Paul has also

featured in a number of television and radio programmes about his career and his research into early twentieth century murders.



In this fascinating talk, he provided a very informative and entertaining introduction to research into historical murder investigations, including the infamous A6 murder in August 1961. Using these old cases, he explained how this research can help family and social historians to learn more about the times and places their ancestors lived by using primary

sources held by the National Archives in London plus local record offices combined with traditional family history resources such as the National Census. Photographs in case notes, such as these images from 1921 and 1961 show how people dressed in these times as well as the cars driven.



20 April 2021

Searching for Dora by Les Mitchinson



We were entertained by Les who described an ongoing ‘brick wall’ in his own research, and his methods to overcome the challenge. He recommended using combined clues from different sources to match records, for example to study marriage witness names and neighbours of our family members on Census returns.

Les advised us to take family tales with a pinch of salt and instead to plot a timeline of facts for the wider family to help you find your missing ancestor, looking at geographical proximity as well as similar names to those we are researching.

His key recommendations were to

- a) Remember that ancestors often bend the truth with their tall stories of the family past
- b) Keep an open mind as you research
- c) Read between the lines on information on sources such as certificates, census returns etc.
- d) Remember that research innovations can help to refine your research, such as new online GRO indexes etc.
- e) Have patience
- f) If one series of documents does not find your ancestor, look for another route – including researching back and forward in date.

Virtual Research via Zoom/Telephone

Debbie Winter

DFHS are pleased to continue the opportunity for you to discuss your research and seek some assistance from one of our research volunteers by either Zoom or telephone. While we slowly move from Covid-19 restrictions, our volunteers, working from home, will be able to discuss your research with you and use our digital resources to help you move forward. Zoom or telephone sessions, lasting up to a maximum of 1 hour are offered on a 1 to 1 basis.

To take part: Book your Zoom chat or telephone call in advance by using the Email form on Contact Us on our website and choosing Enquiries from the dropdown list. A fee of £3 per session is payable via our online shop. This facility will stay in place until Government guidelines allow us to fully open Treetops safely to welcome you back in person.

Please note that this is not a replacement for our research service.

Debbie Winter, Librarian

Treetops has re-opened!

Lorraine Squires

By the time you read this Treetops should be open on a limited basis - welcoming you back for personal research through access to all our subscription sites. We have completed risk assessments and put an enhanced cleaning regime in place. We do have to have stringent 'rules' for the time being to keep everyone safe. Initially we are open for pre-booked visitors only, two days per week for you to complete personal research. Though our experienced volunteers will be on hand to assist.

At the time of writing there is no access to the Library or microfiche. Our bookshop remains closed but books can be browsed/ordered online. Provided the lifting of restrictions continue as planned in the Government's roadmap it is hoped that we will be fully open and operational around summer. As changes are happening quite fast and so that we do not provide out of date information in the Journal, details of the up to date situation and our visitor guidelines can be found on our website, and in E-News.

You can contact us via the email form on our website Contact Us page or email contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk to find out more or arrange a visit. However, if you do not feel ready to visit us in person yet, or live out of the area - we will continue to offer our virtual assistance either by a Zoom call or telephone.

Education Update

Lorraine Squires

As soon as it is safe to host groups when Treetops is fully open, we will be looking at our education programme and firming up a date for our beginners 3-hour workshop. This is designed to help those early in their family history research journey and will be open to members and non-members. It will also be ideal for those who want to research their family but are not sure where to start! (we've all been there). Visit the education pages of our website for updates.

Lorraine Squires, Education Officer

Society Vacancies

The Society has some key vacancies which need to be urgently filled by members. In the case of the first two vacancies, the applicant must be based within travelling distance of Treetops.

Treasurer – Following a sudden resignation, a new Treasurer and Trustee is required. The role includes regularly attending Treetops to count and then bank monies received, make appropriate payments, maintain the accounts and prepare a regular financial report.

Membership Secretary – Claire will be stepping down from this role in October 2021. If you are interested and have basic Microsoft Excel and Word skills, and can go to Treetops occasionally, please get in touch.

The current Volunteer has held the role for the past 8 years and can unfortunately no longer dedicate the time due to now working on a full time basis again. This is a varied and fulfilling role, ensuring new and existing members of the Society are provided with a friendly and efficient service.

There are busy times of the year of course (October to December) but this balances up with very quiet times between February and May. As it is currently a quieter time of the Membership year, full training and handover will be given.

Please note the following tasks can be/are being currently split between a number of volunteers, and could easily carry on this way.

Requirements

- Basic Computer skills - Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Email, OneDrive familiarity)
- Good written communication skills
- Organisation skills
- Team player

- One Volunteer should be local enough to Treetops Research Centre to attend at least once a month.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Maintain Membership Database including adding new members, changes to personal information, tracking and updating renewal payments, removing leavers;
- Processing new applications sending out a Welcome pack;
- Responding to emailed correspondence;
- Quarterly Journal tasks, such as submitting news, liaising with Editor and Printers;
- Liaising with Treasurer and Volunteers to ensure cheques are banked;
- Report to Committee for their meetings on Membership activity;
- Maintain, prepare and submit Gift Aid Claim annually;
- General manual and electronic document filing.

Please contact Sheila <secretary@dorsetfhs.org.uk> for further details on either of these roles.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I was just reading the latest DFHS Journal of March 2021 and the article about Merve's Great Grandfather Frederick WHEATCROFT and found the description of his period of service in Egypt most interesting.

My grandfather Tewfic Elias SEDNAWI was born in Alexandria, Egypt on the 31st March 1876. His parents died when he was young and he was

looked after by his Grandmother who sent him to live with an Uncle and Aunt in Alexandria, Egypt who had a son of a similar age.

My grandfather was an interpreter (Fluent in Arabic, French, English and a good knowledge of Italian, Spanish, German & Hebrew) for the British Army (Intelligence Unit?) during the Sudan Campaign and was awarded the Queen Victoria Sudan Medal and the Khedive's Medal in Arabic with the Khartoum Clasp indicating he was present at the battle of Omdurman on the 2nd September 1898. The medals are silver which are normally reserved for soldiers in the British or Egyptian armies as non-combatants were given Bronze Medals. I have searched the Medal Rolls but none seem to have been kept of the thousands of Egyptians who were awarded these medals at least not written in English. As I could find no trace of my grandfather in the National Archives records I paid for the Forces War Records to investigate on my behalf and after parting with quite a sum I was rather disappointed to find that the medal rolls and other records did not seem to include foreigners like my grandfather.

The first records I can find of my Grandfather in England are in 1914 when he had two coffee bars in London, one in Oxford Street and the other in Greek Street, for which I have his business card. He exhibited a range of Turkish coffee products at the 1913 International Exhibition of Modern Arts and Industry in London for which he was given a medallion.

I can find no naturalisation records and yet he is listed nearly every year in the electoral registers in London so must have been considered a British Subject perhaps as Egypt was under the influence of the British Empire. He doesn't appear in any passenger ship records anywhere but I now understand that records are only kept for transatlantic or other long shipping routes and not those around the Mediterranean.

My grandfather talked of meeting his two cousins, Selim Sednaoui & Simon Sednaoui, when they came to London. These gentlemen are known for managing the Sednaoui Department Store in Cairo, and together with Khalil JEBBARA, the S & S Sednaoui or Sednaoui & Jebbara Shipping Company in Manchester, England. However, I think that he must have been a very distant cousin as he did not share their wealth

and after his death my grandmother and her children found it difficult to manage.

Many thanks to you and all your committee and officers for keeping the DFHS going during the pandemic. Also for helping with researching my Dorset Coward family which I am now pleased to say I have connected via a couple of marriages to the family of Thomas Hardy so I am not a direct descendant but I can now link his family with mine in my Ancestry Family Tree.

Best regards

Chris J Coward

<cjcoward@btopenworld.com>

Dear Editor,

Last year I did a DNA test through Ancestry. Checking through matches I contacted a person to ask what family names she had in her ancestry and gave her a list of mine, one of which was the name SWEETAPPLE. This lady responded very quickly, she lived in NSW Australia, her grandfather, she said, was born in Adelaide and his stepmother was Annie Elizabeth Sweetapple who was born in England in 1862/3. My first thought was, if I share DNA with you then Annie Sweetapple must have been your grandfathers mother!

I subscribe to FindMyPast and did some research where I found, in the 1871 census, Annie Elizabeth Sweetapple living with her parents and siblings at Tatnam Farm, her father was Isaac Sweetapple, my great great grandfather, who, with his wife Susan had left Lytchett Matravers around 1850 to work at Tatnam farm in Poole. In the 1881 census, Annie is living in Kent working as a domestic/ children's nurse for a family. I then found a record of her being a passenger in 1884 on board a ship bound for Adelaide. She is aged 20 and is described as a nurse. The following years she marries a 40-year-old widower and a year later gives birth to her first son - the great grandfather of my DNA match. The Australian birth records are very informative; not only did they give the full maiden name of the mother but also the name of her father. Annie had another son and was then left a widow when her

husband died. She remarried and stayed in Adelaide until she died. I was amazed to find this 20-year-old girl, travelling alone, halfway around the world in 1884. I wonder what induced her to do this. I emigrated to Australia in 1967 with my husband and 2-year-old daughter, we lived in Brisbane for 9 happy years until Poole pulled me back home again. At the time I believed I was the first person in my family to emigrate - little did I know!

I really do recommend anyone seriously researching their family tree to take a DNA test as it can open so many doors, as well as closing a few!

Yours sincerely,
Sandra Vincent
<robnsandy@talktalk.net>

Dear Editor,

This is a photo of my family taken a few years ago at Studland in Dorset. The young person behind my mother is unknown and when the photo was taken there was nobody else about. We wonder whether anybody else has had a similar experience.

(ED: This is a new take on researching images of ancestors! Do let me know if you have any family ghost stories to share)



Regards,
Christine Kafourous
<christinekafourous@btinternet.com>

Surname Interests

Alan Mead



To help connect Society Members who may be researching the same ancestor, Dorset FHS maintains a database of Surname Interests, which can be searched on the Society's website. These are also included in the database of surnames being researched by

members of other Family History Societies on the Family History Federation's website <<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>>.

The following Surnames have been registered since the last Journal.

Member

No.	Surname	Place	County	Dates
5288	ARGYLE	Dorchester	DOR	Pre 1850
5293	ASHWOOD	Iwerne Minster	DOR	Pre 1870
5288	BAILEY	Cranborne	DOR	Pre 1850
5286	COOMBS	Christchurch	DOR	1700-1800's
5288	DEWLAND	Hinton Martell	DOR	Pre 1850
5288	KEYNES	Poole	DOR	Pre 1850
5288	NOONAN	Poole	DOR	Pre 1850
5288	SIMES	Shaftesbury	DOR	Pre 1850
5286	WEST	Christchurch	DOR	1700-1800's

Contact details are not printed here, or included in the online database, but instructions on how these can be obtained are on the Society Website's Surname Interests page. Members can also check which Surnames they have registered by entering their Membership number in the Search box on that page.

Members can register, or update, their Interests by completing a Surname Interests form, available in the Members' Area. New details

will be added to, or replace any already registered in, the database and published in the next Journal. Minor changes, such as revised place or dates, will be updated in the database but not published in the Journal. Interests of those who do not renew their membership will be deleted from the database.

Members without Internet access should write to Treetops.

Alan Mead, Surname Interests



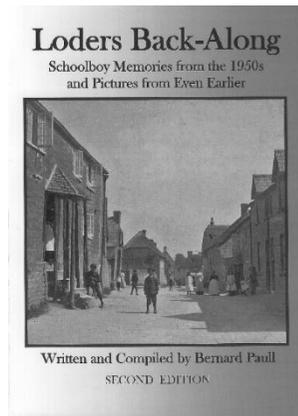
Books that may interest you

***“Loders Back-Along”* – Bernard Paull 2nd Edition November 2020 – reviewed by Merve Goddard**

The villages of Loders and Uploders, linked by the hamlet of Yonderover, lie along the valley of the Asker river to the North of the A35 a few miles East of Bridport.

This collection of photographs, linked and annotated with a combination of schoolboy memories and historical facts, provide a fascinating record of life in these villages from the late 1800’s to the 1960’s.

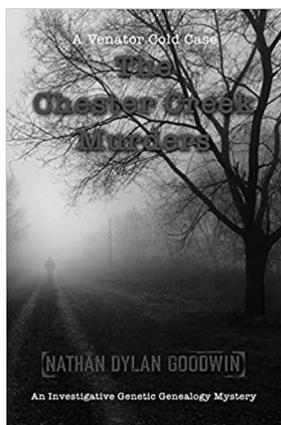
The villages are quite familiar to me, as I was born in the nearby village of Powerstock and Uploders is now home to my sister, and I was delighted to find a photo of our great Uncle Reg in his Home Guard uniform and several of his son, our cousin Tommy, as a very cheeky looking schoolboy!



An obvious labour of love, compiled over some 40 years by Bernard Paull, this book is well worth a dip into for anyone like myself with links to these often overlooked villages.

For Information: The review copy of this publication has been put in the Treetops library and copies are on sale in the society shop

“The Chester Creek Murders” by Nathan Dylan Goodwin – reviewed by Richard Yates



I first read one of Nathan’s books in 2015 when I picked it up at Treetops to review. This encouraged me to go back and read the earlier book in his series about Morton Farrier, the Forensic Genealogist, and all he has written since! I also read the first in a series of Mrs McDougall investigations of which more are promised.

Venator is an investigative genetic genealogy company based in Salt Lake City, run by Madison Scott-Barnhart, which was briefly introduced in one of the Morton Ferrier books. They use DNA from crime scenes and attempt to use genetics and genealogy to uncover the perpetrator in a cold case, for a Police Department.

The Chester Creek murders involve the death of three girls, whose bodies were all dumped in the same place in the early 1980s. The local detectives are all required to be reviewing cold cases alongside their current caseload. Detective Clayton Tyler has read about some of Venator’s other successful investigations and travels to Utah to present them with this one.

The book follows the investigation, and in common with Nathan’s other fiction, jumps back and forth through time and also follows the private lives of some of the characters. There are five members of Venator’s staff, which permits some scope. I was interested by the methodology of the investigation, as you may be if you are into DNA, using more than

one DNA provider, and it touches on some of the controversy over using individuals' DNA uploaded for Family History purposes to search their genetic background for undiscovered criminals.

Nathan's books are published through Amazon, and you will find links to purchase them through his website <www.nathandylangoodwin.com>. This is the first book in a new series, so a good place to start. I can certainly recommend it and would encourage you to think about a purchase – I met Nathan at FTLive a couple of years ago, and it's not easy publishing through Amazon.

Frederick Wheatcroft & the Defence of the Empire

Merve Goddard

Part 2 – Soldiering Takes Its Toll

1896 to 1899 were hard years for Fred WHEATCROFT. Having re-enlisted with the Dorset's as a well thought of ex regular soldier he only lasted for three years in the reserve before being discharged on the 4th January 1899 "having been found unfit for further service" ...and losing all his pension for this term of service. The reason for this is now clear. On the 29th August 1898 Fred was admitted to Prestwich Asylum in Manchester diagnosed as "a person of unsound mind". His home address was given as 1 Nuttal St, Openshaw, (the address at which daughter Louie had been born) but the "sectioning" process was instigated by one Charles Lofas TOMLINSON esq. (Chairman of the Chorlton Union Workhouse Board of Governors) and the medical assessment which took place as part of the process was carried out by a local doctor, Samuel Johnstone Graydon, at the workhouse in Withington. Fred's wife Louisa is only mentioned as "next of kin" ...and even then she is miss-recorded as "Ann" Wheatcroft. It looks as if Fred's estrangement from his family had already started by this time.

Fred's medical records for this period describe a quiet man, lost and confused, hearing voices calling to him at night. Although physically fit

he is described as dull and listless and over the next six months little change is recorded. We do not know the details of what Fred did and saw during his years as a professional soldier but my feeling is that whatever the cause Fred ended up suffering from what we would now define as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and neither its cause nor its treatment was understood in Victorian times.

Prestwich seems to have had, by and large, a reputation as a fair and caring institution (it was the biggest of its kind in Europe at the time) but little more was offered to inmates such as Fred other than food & shelter and the opportunity for work. By February 1899 Fred was doing a little work and then, suddenly and surprisingly, he was discharged on March 3rd that year. Interestingly he was discharged to the “care of friends” rather than to his family. Whether Louisa and the children were still in Manchester at this time I do not know but certainly his mother and a number of his brothers and sisters were all living in the area.

It is, I am sure, this spell in Prestwich that led to Fred’s dismissal from the Army Reserve but despite this a military life still held a strong attraction for him. Again, today this would probably be described as his having become “institutionalised” and somehow, on March 21st 1900, Fred managed to get himself signed up for the 2nd Bn. Royal Southern Reserve Regiment (Private No 827). This doesn’t quite tally with the history of this regiment as the information I have uncovered states that the 2nd Bn was not formed until the May of 1900 but the 1st Bn was formed in Portsmouth on 16th March so it may well be that he spent a short time with this battalion and then transferred.

In total some 24,130 men were enlisted for service with the Royal Reserve Regiments, comprising four regiments of cavalry, and 18 battalions of infantry in 10 regiments, before recruiting was stopped on 10 June 1900. These regiments were raised quickly to relieve regular regiments for service in the Boer War (and were to be replaced in May 1901 by the Royal Garrison Regiments) and perhaps as such were not as careful as they could have been in checking applicant’s history but what is certain is that Fred’s application conveniently bore no mention of his time in and dismissal from the Supplemental Reserve, quoting his time in the Dorset Regiment (time expired) as his previous service.

Fred passed his medical and was signed up in Oxford. How he got here from Manchester I do not know but his occupation is now given as “mechanic” so perhaps work drew him south? What is also clear is that he has his family back with him as his wife Louisa and two children are recorded as living at this time as the Old Bothy, Oxford.

At this point something seems to go very wrong. Based for the most part in Wool Camp, Dorchester and in Portsmouth, in January 1901 Fred spent 6 days in hospital under observation for signs of mental illness. He was discharged with the notes that “He has no appreciable disease” and that he was stating that he was “all right, but only wanted to get out of the Royal Reserve”. The records give no clue as to why he might have been taken into hospital in the first place but might it be relevant that a little earlier, in August 1900, he had also had a spell in hospital for treatment of “ulceration of the penis”. Could this have been Syphilis and if so could this have been a contributing factor in his mental decline?

At this point Fred’s conduct seems to also take a downward turn. Having earned himself Good Conduct pay on recruitment this was forfeited in May 1900 and further reduced in the July. In August that year he is in trouble for insolence and eventually, after his hospital stay in January 1901 he is discharged from the Army on 12th February 1901 as “being incorrigible and worthless.”

This looks like the straw that broke the camel’s back. It must be about this time that Fred and Louisa separate and Fred goes home to his mother as in the 1901 census, on March 31st that year, Fred Wheatcroft aged 35 is with his mother Mary in Openshaw, Manchester. Louisa is at 15 The Grove, Dorchester with Frank & Louie, the house where she spent the rest of her life

Whether or not Fred remained in Manchester for the rest of the year I do not know but he was certainly there in May 1902 as, on the 26th, he was readmitted to Prestwich. On admission this time his occupation was given as “Iron Fitter” but his marital status as single so it seems that the separation from Louisa had become permanent.

This time his condition seems to have been worse. He is described as noisy and talkative and of having delusions of persecution saying that he “has been annoyed with masks and faces and persons have been living in him” and that his “bones have been knocked together” and his “head was hurt when on the rocky road to Dublin”. The diagnosis is stated as “recurrent mania”

Over the next three years his condition fails to show much improvement. He is frequently described as aggressive and threatening and of being noisy and disruptive and it is not until early in 1906 that he appears to calm down and start to be considered safe for work.

I have two photographs of Frederick taken from the Prestwich Asylum records of his admissions in 1898 and 1902 respectively.



In July 1906 the record-keeping system at Prestwich changes and the new record book opens with an enlightening description of Fred as “a tall red-haired man of sparse habit, military bearing, neat & tidy in habits and rather vain” and this, the 1902 photograph, seems to support this.

Comments on his personality reflect what has been stated elsewhere but “tall” seems an unusual description for someone whose military records have always given his height as 5’ 8” - but I guess that’s just a sign of the times.

Fred remained in Prestwich for a further two years but during this period the records show him becoming much calmer but at the same time exhibiting much reduced mental state – often describing him as childish or weak minded.

Nevertheless, on the 20th September 1908 he was released from the Asylum on a month’s trial “at the request of friends” and on the 21st October was formally discharged and a detailed check of the records,

right up to 1918, shows no further re-admission. At this point he was 44 years old.

The next few years are as yet something of a blank. We can surmise that he did not return to his mother or go to live with any of his siblings as I have tracked them all down in the 1911 census and there is no sign of him.

There is a record for a Frederick Wheatcroft “taking the cure” in Matlock in 1911 and it is possible that this is Fred. The gentleman in question is about the right age and Derbyshire born and the only Fred(erick) Wheatcroft registered as born in Derbyshire between 1860 and 1877 is my Great-grandfather. It was certainly the case that the waters of Matlock’s baths were used at that time to treat “nervous disorders” and the record gives the “Industry or Service with which worker is connected” as “Club” – could this have been some sort of charity or similar providing support for the mentally ill? The census codes associated with “occupation” and “industry” certainly lie within those normally associated with hospitals and similar institutions.

What I do know for sure is that in July 1917 Fred was living in what was probably a lodging house in South Manchester as, on the 17th of that month, he appears to have attempted to take his own life by jumping from a second floor window at 49 Ardwick Green North. His attempt was successful and he died in Manchester Royal Infirmary 8 days later on the 25th July. His death certificate states cause as head injuries resulting from the jump and the coroner’s verdict is given as “suicide whilst insane”. A brief item in the Manchester Evening News for 27th July 1917 reporting the inquest adds “He had been ill and depressed of late”.

As a footnote, the certificate of Louie Wheatcroft’s marriage to my Grandfather William GODDARD on the 8th April 1922 states “Father: Frederick Wheatcroft, Soldier, Deceased.

To date, I have been unable to find Fred’s place of burial.

The Waterman Way revisited & Revised Or Great Great Grandpa did NOT die in 1834

Jane Parker

As a Waterman descendant I much enjoyed the article by John GREENWAY in March's journal and I do not blame him for killing off Great Great Grandpa a few years early because that is what it says in a book in Broadstone Library. I have tried hard to get an Erratum added to no avail, but just to be clear he died in December 1840 and was buried in January 1841.

When James WATERMAN died his son, William, was away at school near Bristol. He was most upset at having to stay in school for Christmas and asked for oranges to be sent. Younger brother James was at school in Poole. The brothers had an older sister, Elizabeth Hannah, who was away at school in Hampshire. Subsequently I believe she was sent to live with her Uncle George in Cincinnati in America, as the next time she appears on the radar she is married to her cousin George the younger. [the habit of using the same Christian names in a family over and over again can be very confusing!]

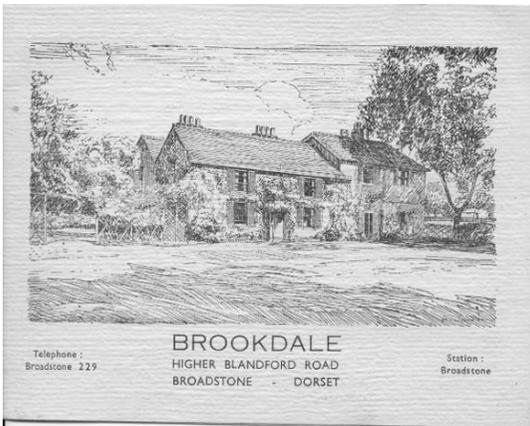
James the elder was indeed married to Jane Cox who had died earlier of consumption. Her mother was a SLADE, a member of one of the Poole Newfoundland merchant families. It is here that the Waterman connection to the Newfoundland trade begins. Young William went straight from school to sea, which initially I suspect was not his choice as in a letter home to his cousin Thomas COX he says “*Fancy yourself with us on a dark windy night holding on by a rope to keep your footing the seas roaring and breaking over the vessel and freezing on you, the masts creaking and the snow and hail beating in your face and then pulling the icy ropes and then I think you would be rather at home in your bed than to have eight hours on our deck such a night as I have described.*”

He goes on to say, “*to make things worse we were short of bread & came on an allowance of two biscuits a day*”

However, he urges his cousin to tell Aunt Cox that *“I am happy and comfortable for when I came away I made up my mind to put up with the hardships.”*

He might have stayed on the American side of the Atlantic if he hadn't fallen in love with his brother's wife's sister, Ann HODGE. However, he did maintain his overseas connection as the pair regularly visited Newfoundland throughout their lives. Ann's younger brother and sister went to live in Newfoundland and took over the running of the trading post out there.

William and Ann had four children but sadly two of them did not survive infancy. Their eldest son William Edward Waterman was apparently first taken to Newfoundland when he was only 7 years old as his father thought it would toughen him up. William and Ann were once more in Newfoundland when their younger son, Frank Hodge Waterman drowned in Poole Harbour aged 11, leaving William Junior to deal with the aftermath. He also continued to visit Newfoundland right into his 80th year.



It was Great Great Grandfather James who first built a small home on what then was Canford heathland. He wanted some shelter for when he walked out there from Poole to shoot. He called this place BroadStone because there were broad stones to cross the little brook beside the home.

(I've often wondered if these are the same stones as those outside the URC church.) He was clearly very fond of this home as his will stated that it was not to be sold until the 3 children had all reached an age of majority and that he hoped one of them would retain it, buying the other two out.

The house was later improved when William and Ann decided to make it their home and they started to farm the land. As the original article indicated this was not their only occupation. In addition to their maritime enterprises and farming, one document indicates he was a “Manure specialist”! Well what else do you do with a boat load of cod from Newfoundland that has gone off due to a slow hot crossing! The diversity continued because a letter heading for William Edward Waterman indicated other occupations such as iron monger, blacksmith, whitesmith, gunsmith coal merchant etc. etc. They were men of many parts and known for their steadfast beliefs, & for being prominent members of the Congregational Church.



It was only when the railway arrived and they called the adjoining station Broadstone, that the house was renamed Brookdale. I can just remember as a child thinking it was really cool that there was a private gate straight on to the platform from the kitchen garden.

Originally I thought that John Greenaway’s article had made a second error, when he said that a son yet again called William took over the running of the farm at Brookdale. However, he was factually correct, but my Uncle’s name was in fact William John, and I only knew him as Uncle John. Broadstone people would also remember him as Councillor John Waterman. His older sister and five brothers all called him Jack. My father was the oldest son but he had taken over a farm in Organford. John kept the dairy farm going as long as he could but finally sold the land for building. He turned Brookdale into a home/hotel for gentlefolk. All the guests enjoyed having their own chores to do and woe betide if the resident gravy maker tried making the custard and vice versa! He was quite a character. All the brothers were known locally for their rugby skills and while no longer in the maritime trade, the joy of sailing continues in the family. Three more generations have first sailed around the harbour in a boat belonging to family while still a babe in arms!

Bringing the story right up to date, the ever expanding Waterman family are now spread right around the world. However, three of us who are still local much enjoyed assisting Mary PETERS, the well-known Olympic athlete to declare the brand new retirement apartments known as Waterman House open in September 2018. The name lives on.

Four Men of Dorset

Richard Smith

This is the story of four “Men of Dorset “who are central to my family, although I have to admit that one was actually born in Wiltshire, but adopted Dorset as “his county “after his marriage and lived and worked here for most of the remainder of his life.

But first I start with my maternal 2x great grandfather Reuben HILLIER who was born in Woolland in North Dorset on 25th May 1818 and who had a varied life and career, much of which was spent in Weymouth. His father Robert Hillier (1791 - 1867) was a Coachman / Gamekeeper who had married Maria MILLER (1793 - 1850) in Woolland in North Dorset in 1816, where they had seven children including Reuben who is missing from the 1841 census for Robert and his family. No separate entry for Reuben in 1841 has been found, so we don't know exactly when or why he arrived in Weymouth. He was though in Weymouth on 4th July 1847 when he married Martha Stone TALBOT (1821 - 1861) at Wyke Regis when he was described as a Shopkeeper.

Soon after, in the 1851 census, the family were living in St Thomas St. in Weymouth, and Reuben was a Tea Dealer and Bacon Factor - maybe this meant that he was still a Shopkeeper running a Grocer's shop? Reuben and Martha had ten children all born in Weymouth before Martha died that September after the 1861 census had been completed, which shows that the children were then all listed as Scholars, and Reuben had become an Inn Keeper - but we don't know where - they were still living at No. 3 St Thomas St. The following year Reuben had changed his occupation again as the certificate for his marriage at Upwey on 24th March 1862 to his second wife Elizabeth SYMONDS (1825 - 1900)

describes Reuben as a County Court Bailiff. They went on to have seven more children so you can certainly say that Reuben had a very busy life! By the census in 1871, he was still a Court Bailiff, but the family had moved to Garibaldi Row, and their oldest sons at home Reuben aged 20 was a butcher and William Jesse aged 16 a Dairy Boy. Those two boys had both left home by the time of the 1881 census when the family had moved to High West St., and again Reuben had changed jobs - now he was a Bill Poster. Twins Joseph and Edward aged 17 living at home were a Brick Maker and a Carter respectively. Reuben Hillier died in Weymouth in October 1888 after a full and eventful life.

From there we move to the second of my “Men of Dorset “and pick up the story with William Jesse Hillier (1854 - 1898) who was born to Reuben and his first wife Martha in Weymouth on 2nd December 1854 - he was the sixth of their ten children. We have already heard that in the 1861 census William was a scholar aged 6, and in 1871 aged 16 he was a Dairy Boy. Then in Weymouth on 28th June 1874 William married Elizabeth Jane HOSKINS (1853 - 1917) known as Emma - the marriage certificate says he was aged 20, but in fact he was only 19, and a described as a Baker living at Garibaldi Row, in Weymouth. Elizabeth was born out of town in Evershott in Mid Dorset, so one does wonder how they both first met. William and Elizabeth went on to have thirteen children in all between 1875 and 1895, so again a very busy life for the two of them. By 1881, the family were living at 5 Franchise St. and William was described as a Labourer - a catch all term. Ten years later, William Snr. and the family had moved to No. 2 Queens Place and he was working as a Brewer’s Man for J. A. Devenish and Co. in Weymouth.

Their eldest son William Charles Hillier (1875 - 1943) was a Boy 1st Class at HMS Boscawen at Portland on 5th April 1891, and then signed up in 1892 for 12 years with the Royal Navy. It appears he had had a distinguished career, losing three fingers on his right hand although no details are given how or when, and leaving as a Petty Officer in March 1919 having served on a variety of ships. Sadly, in 1898 William Snr. died in tragic circumstances aged only 44. William was working with the very big dray horses used for deliveries of beer etc. at Devenish’s Brewery in Weymouth when one day he was kicked in the chest by one of their

horses, and died soon after from his injuries. Times were very difficult then. There was no financial help from the brewery or state in such circumstances for his widow; she had to find work or to go into the workhouse with her children. However, his fellow brewery employees said to Emma, his widow, "if we have a whip round by the men what can we buy you to help"? She said "Buy me a mangle and I will take in other people's washing to help pay to look after my young children "and that is what she did. Emma did apply to the local Parish for some poor relief to help the children, and a Parish Official came around to question her and check on her circumstances. However, when he saw she had some humble pictures on the walls received as wedding presents and suggested she would have to sell those first before her case would be considered, she was outraged and threw the Official out and said in a fury "Get out and I will never trouble you again "so got no poor relief. Difficult times indeed, but Emma lived for nearly twenty more years dying in Weymouth in 1917, and it has to be said she must have had a hard life. Before I move on, I should just mention another of the children of William and Elizabeth, namely Annie Eliza Hillier called Aunty Nance. She was born in Weymouth on 3rd April 1891, and after a very full life, died in Fareham in Hampshire on 9th May 1993 aged 102!



The third of my "Men of Dorset "is their second oldest son - Frederick George Hillier (1878 - 1967) who was born in Weymouth on 4th December 1878. Frederick attended Trinity Primary school in Weymouth, but left school aged 9 and in the 1891 census aged just 12 he was a porter working at the railway station in Weymouth. Before that aged about ten,

he was entrusted by Mr SAMWAYS, the owner of a bicycle shop in Weymouth to deliver a brand new bicycle to the owner of Moonfleet Manor, (now a hotel) some six or seven miles along the coast westwards towards Abbotsbury. Frederick was given strict instructions that the bicycle had to be delivered in pristine condition, meaning he had to carry it the whole way on his back, and that on arrival he must go to the tradesmen's entrance at the rear, to remove his cap, and to be respectful to the person who answered the bell. There were few proper

roads then, so it was likely his route was no more than a cart track. On arrival, he was greeted kindly, given a penny and a piece of cake, but then had to walk the six or so miles back home - he must have been exhausted. In June 1902, Frederick married Rose Julia WHITE (1879 - 1941) my grandmother in Weymouth, and they went on to have eight children all born in Weymouth. He first had developed an interest in bicycles, but in the 1911 census his occupation was recorded as a Motor Car Repairer. He was also thought to be one of the first people in Weymouth to drive a motor car, and it was probably in 1912 that he drove Winston CHURCHILL from the railway station to the harbour quay, when Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty (1911 - 1915) and was visiting Weymouth to review the enormous array of the grand fleet of the Royal Navy in Weymouth Bay with King George V. Churchill is reported to have said to Frederick " Well thank you driver, I have been driven as well before, but never better."

In 1912, Frederick also took up sailing, with a dinghy called Doris named after his eldest daughter. He was then also one of the founders of the newly revived Franklin Sailing Club, after the town's original Corinthian Sailing Club had become defunct in 1910. The Club was renamed as the Weymouth Sailing Club in 1920, and it is still flourishing to this day. His youngest son Frederick H. R. Hillier (1924 - 2004) and his wife Joan BRANTINGHAM (1924 - 2002) were also well known hoteliers in Weymouth, and Freddie Jnr. was also a very keen and successful sailor at Weymouth Sailing Club. He often sailed Gyrfalcon, one of a series of a very successful class of clinker built wooden sailing dinghies called Falcons, which were designed and built in Weymouth for the W.S.C. members. During World War One, Frederick Snr. served in the Army Service Corps and was involved driving and servicing ambulances behind the front lines. He returned to the motor trade in Weymouth after the war, and had a long and distinguished service with Messrs. Crabb and Co. Ford Dealers in Crescent St. Weymouth, ending as their Depot Manager, from where he retired aged 73. When I was young, my family spent many happy school summer holidays staying with Grandpa Fred at his house in Brownlow St. behind the sea front in Weymouth, where he would empty out the jar of old twelve sided three penny pieces that he had saved for my twin brother and I to count out and to share and spend during our holiday. He had lived a long and I think happy life in

Weymouth and died there in 1967, having been cared for in later years by his eldest daughter Doris Hillier (1903 - 1977).

My fourth and the last of my "Men of Dorset "is Harry SMITH (*refer Journal cover image*) my paternal grandfather who was born in Semington, in Wiltshire on 4th July 1878 where his father Henry Smith (1829 - 1922) was a blacksmith like his own father before him. Harry's mother Sarah Ann SPENCER (1844 - 1924) was Henry's third wife, with both of his earlier wives having died soon after marriage before any children were born and survived. Harry and Sarah went on to have three children. In the 1891 census Harry aged 12 was described as an Errand Boy living with his parents in Semington, from where when he was 16, he cycled to Melksham to witness a very early hot air balloon ascent which almost ended in tragedy - the balloon slipped its mooring ropes but took two people into the air. Fortunately, they clung on safely to the ropes and each other until the balloon slowly descended back down to the ground, to the great relief of the watching crowd. Harry had left home by the time of the 1901 census, and was living with a family in Trowbridge, whilst working as a Grocer's Assistant - a career he was to continue for the rest of his life. I have not been able to find out the name of the Grocers for whom he worked there.

Three months later he married my grandmother Augusta Katrina JOHANNSON (1866 - 1941) at West Ashton church in Wiltshire on 3rd June 1901. I do not know how they first met, but it took me fifteen years to unravel the puzzle of how Augusta came from rural Sweden where she was born to be living and working in Wiltshire - the full story is lengthy and will have to be left for another day. There are no family papers to explain why, shortly after their marriage, the couple left his family in Wiltshire and moved to Christchurch where their first son Erik Spencer Downing Smith (1904 - 1985) was born. Had there been a "falling out " in the family - it is a bit of a mystery. I also do not know for whom Harry worked in Christchurch, but it may have been the High Class Grocers W. TUCKER and Sons, who had a substantial double fronted shop at 52 High St. - there is a photo No. 60 in "Christchurch - a Pictorial History " at the Dorset History Centre.

Their stay in Christchurch was short as by November in 1906 they had moved again and were living in a now demolished row of cottages outside Dorchester Prison in Friary Hill, Dorchester - it was there that my father Harry Olaf Smith (1906 - 1989) was born on November 13th. Settling in Dorchester, Harry Snr. continued his work as a Grocer's Assistant, now working for the high class Grocers and Tea Merchants Boons Stores, who had shops at No. 11 Cornhill and at 54 South St. and he continued to work for them until he retired sometime in the 1950's.

The shops are long closed, but I had a very interesting chat with a member of the surviving Boon family, who said sadly that there were no surviving records or photos of staff who worked for the Boon family over the years. Harry knew Thomas HARDY and my father recounted stories that Harry liked his novels, but could not enthuse about Hardy's poetry. On Sunday nights after supper Harry would give readings in the Dorset dialect, including renditions of William BARNES' poems. My father always said Harry should have had the chance to go to University, and that he would have benefitted from the experience, as he had great ability and talent as a writer. He had the distinction of having a true story that he wrote broadcast on the BBC wireless in November 1950, and read in true Dorset dialect by Douglas HORNER. Harry was judged too old to fight in World War One, but in June 1916 he joined the Devonshire and then the Dorset Regiments in support roles, and ended the war in the Labour Corps. This unremembered army cooked and cleaned for, and supported, the fighting soldiers, and helped to build roads and railways, along with carrying the wounded and burying the dead. Harry never owned his own property for all of his life, living in various addresses around Dorchester whilst working at Boons Stores. Towards the end of World War Two he was living at 59 Monmouth Avenue, along with my mother, my two brothers and myself, whilst our father was away serving in the RAF. Later I well remember going to the bottom of his garden to watch the steam trains going in and out of Dorchester South station on the line between London and Weymouth. Harry eventually died in Battle Hospital in Reading in November 1964, but is buried with his wife Augusta in the Weymouth Avenue cemetery in Dorchester.

News from Dorset History Centre

Sam Johnston - Service Manager for Archives

Covid-19 and re-opening Dorset History Centre

At the time of writing (22 April) we have just re-opened our doors 3 days per week after the prolonged period of national lockdown. We are delighted to be able to welcome the public back into the building and to provide access to collections – something we last did in December 2020. Of course, access is carefully managed with appointment booking and a socially distanced regime within the search room. It is really good to see people returning to view the records and a little bit of normality, however limited, returning to DHC. Throughout this third lockdown staff have been coming into work to ensure that collections are safe and that tasks that cannot be completed at home – e.g. conservation, are carried on. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a high level of remote (mainly email) enquiries reflecting the fact that direct access to material has been severely limited.

Preserving archives at DHC

I wrote some time ago about work that DHC had undertaken to make the management of its preservation environment for archives much less energy-intensive. The work completed over a year ago, but we are now able to assess its impact. The headline news is that DHC's electricity consumption has reduced by 80% whilst we are able to ensure that integrity of our collections in exactly the same way as before. You can read more about the work and its outcomes here:

www.lowcarbodorset.org.uk/public-sector-case-studies. We are really pleased with the result of the works and have shared the findings with the wider archive sector as the reduction in costs and carbon can only be a good thing for us all.

The Joint Archives Service – the way forward

DHC is a pan-Dorset service funded by BCP and Dorset councils, hence the 'joint archives' reference. The service has just undergone a major consultant-led review to identify the best way forward. The resulting report (120 pages) can be seen on Dorset Council's website (under Joint Archives Advisory Board). A principal theme was, not surprisingly, digital provision. DHC will be working hard to introduce more digital

content and so provide the best access possible for a wider range of users. It is well understood that remote access is expected as the norm, but this will need to be balanced against the continuing need to provide access to original documents on-site in Dorchester.

Conservation news



It may look like a fish tank, but this object is a useful new piece of equipment to help conserve fragile documents. In March of this year the conservation service took delivery of a new fume cupboard. Three times larger than its predecessor, which had been in place since 1992, the new fume cupboard can accommodate our larger rolled documents that might require treatment. The cupboard has specialised filters that mean our Conservator can safely work on mouldy documents and carry out treatments with solvents with no danger of exposure.

Kickstart Scheme

We are pleased to announce that DHC will be taking part in the government funded Kickstart Scheme that sees 18-24 year olds who are currently unemployed placed with organisations for six months to learn new skills in a work environment. The placement, which will be advertised in July to start in September, will be working with our Conservator, learning the preventive and remedial conservation skills required in an archive setting.

Blogs and newsletters

DHC staff along with some guests have been busily blogging about various aspects of the county's known, and lesser known history. You can read about such varied topics as driving (and driving tests), a WW2 spy (or not?), conservation, our recent purchase of Thomas Hardy

materials, little-known, but highly talented Dorset artist Alfred Stevens, 'pets of the past' and a special contribution from renowned local author Minette Walters on the siege of Lyme Regis which forms the subject of her new, upcoming novel. All these blogs and more can be viewed at: <<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/>>

We are still keen to publish guest blogs from people who have an interesting tale to tell – ideally featuring Dorset's archives. Please get in touch <archives@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> if you'd like to know more.

The best way to stay in touch and to hear about all the current work at DHC is via the e-newsletter. You can sign up for this by following the instructions here: <<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/newsletter/>>.

Sam Johnston, Service Manager for Archives

Dorset in the News

Howard Lambert

Man mistaken for mad dog

The following singular incident happened near Hawkchurch, Dorset. In consequence of several dogs having lately run away mad, the people were full of apprehensions of the mischief they might do, and a labouring man of the name of Bridle, being on his way home from an inn where he got himself intoxicated, fell down asleep by the side of the road, after it was dark. One of his neighbours happening to come by, heard him snore, and it struck him directly that it must be a mad dog growling. He immediately alarmed his neighbours, who armed with guns and pitchforks, came round the supposed dog, but fearful of advancing further for fear of being bit, one of them fired off his gun and the whole contents were lodged in the poor man's side and arm. But proper means having since been taken, the man is in a fair way of recovery.

The Derby Mercury

10 November 1796

Preparing for Invasion

Pikes for arming the Peasantry in the event of invasion were last week deposited in the barracks at Weymouth, Dorchester, Bridport, Wareham and other places along the Southern coast.

The Nottingham Journal

17 March 1798



Membership News

Claire Evans

As I write, Lockdown rules in England are starting to ease slowly, although our Research Office Treetops, is still closed. Administration of our Membership is still therefore affected, so thank you to our new members who waited patiently for their correspondence.

I have been pleased with the number of new members this quarter, especially as it's been that time of year where we've had to lapse quite a few for non-renewal.

Here are the new members to the Society since last quarter and we send a warm welcome to them.

If you are interested in contacting any of them, you can (currently) contact us via the website at <<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/contact-us/>>. Once Treetops reopens, details can be obtained through there also.

I would like to send my best wishes to everyone, continue to stay safe.

5276	Ms	Susan	Sullivan	CHELMSFORD	Essex
5277	Ms	Mary	Gardiner	SOUTHAMPTON	Hampshire
5278	Mr	Stephen	Larard-Young	ROMSEY	Hampshire

5279	Mr	Paul	Grant	WARMINSTER	Wiltshire
5280	Ms	Hilary	Gordon-Wright	AXMINSTER	Devon
5281	Mr	Barry	Sweetman	WAREHAM	Dorset
5282	Ms	Christine	Bueno	STURMINSTER NEWTON	Dorset
5283	Ms	Carrie	Way Botkin	IRWIN	Pennsylvania, USA
5284	Ms	Linda	Hauley	NEWMARKET	Ontario, Canada
5285	Mr	Stephen	Cattell	MINSTEAD	Hampshire
5286	Ms	Sandra	Mitchell	HUDSON	Massachusetts, USA
5287	Ms	Susan	Sudbury	BROADSTONE	Dorset
5288	Mrs	Rowan	Purkis	KENDAL	Cumbria
5289	Ms	Jennifer	Ellingworth	PERSHORE	Worcestershire
5290	Mr	Trevor	Wilkins	RAINHAM	Essex
5291	Mr	Keith	Lawson	POOLE	Dorset
5292	Mr	David	Hounsell	SOUTHEND ON SEA	Essex
5293	Mr	John	Ashwood	YORK	Yorkshire
5294	Mr	Mark	Lindley-Highfield	INVERNESS	Invernesshire
5295	Ms	Helen	Richards	WIMBORNE	Dorset
5296	Ms	Melinda	Goddard	LANE COVE	New South Wales, Australia
5297	Ms	Michele	Furneauux	WARDEN	Kent
5298	Ms	Christine	Penney	SOUTH NL	Canada
5299	Ms	Kaye	Kellaway	BROADSTONE	Dorset
5300	Mr	Steve	Duckett	WIMBORNE	Dorset
5301	Ms	Leanne	Baker	SOUTHAMPTON	Hampshire
5302	Ms	Jan	Pennington	CALNE	Wiltshire
5303	Ms	Collette	Kendall	KINGTON	Herefordshire
5304	Ms	Sue	Lewis	WARMINSTER	Wiltshire
5305	Mr	Kenneth	Baugh	SHANKLIN	Isle of Wight
5306	Mr	David	Nicholls	NORTHAMPTON	Northamptonshire
5307	Ms	Carol	Burbage	LEICESTER	Leicestershire
5308	Ms	Amanda	Clements	GUILDFORD	Surrey

Claire Evans, Membership Secretary

Society Services

Details of the **Research Centre and Office** (Treetops), opening hours, accessibility, website, Facebook page and the costs of **Personal Research**, are shown on the front inside cover of this Journal. **Contact** details of Officers are on the back inside cover.

Our **Services & Sales Catalogue** includes the Terms and Conditions of Business that apply when making a purchase by post or telephone. E-mail Treetops for an electronic copy or, for a printed copy (UK only) send a self-addressed C5 sized envelope (i.e. sized for A5 contents) bearing a 2nd class stamp to Treetops. Product details and these terms may also be found on our website.

Payment for subscriptions, goods, and (postal) search services may be made by cash (at Treetops or meetings only), sterling cheque or, for many purchases, credit or debit card on the online shop on our website.

Transcriptions and Indexes

The Society has transcribed a large number of records relating to Dorset, which may be accessed at Treetops in the form of booklets, fiche, CD-ROMs or through our search service. Some are available on the Internet.

Facilities for visitors to Treetops

In addition to the Transcriptions and Indexes: -

- Access to The Genealogist, Fold3 from Ancestry (military records), Ancestry.com, Findmypast and the British Newspaper Archive
- Assistance with your research, if needed
- Reference and lending library
- Sales Area

Members Only

E-News. The Society circulates information by e-mail to Members who have given consent to receive Society emails. This includes reminders of forthcoming meetings, education courses or local family history events that the Society will be attending.

Forum: Available from the Menu bar of the Society's website, Society Members can apply for Forum membership and then post, and answer, family history questions (this is not intended to replace the Society's full research service).

Member's Area: There is a password protected area on the website containing additional information just for Members. The password is shown on E-News.

General Data Protection Regulation

The Society retains and processes personal data in accordance with its Data Privacy statement, which can be viewed at <<https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/data-privacy/>>
A paper copy is available from Treetops.

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

President – David Gynes

Vice President - June Clist

Executive Committee

Chairman – Merve Goddard, e-mail: chairman@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Secretary - Sheila Martin, Tel: 01202 785623 (please leave a message on answerphone)
e-mail: secretary@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Treasurer – Vacant, e-mail: treasurer@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Committee

Chris Chuck, Cherry Fisher, Sue Redfearn, Shirley Robinson, Lorraine Squires, June Taylor, Debbie Winter, Richard Yates

Officers

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Assistant Treasurer – Chris Chuck

Coach Organiser – Cherry Fisher, e-mail: coachtrips@dorsetfhs.org.uk

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Monumental Inscriptions Coordinator – Theresa Dobbs, see under Research

Project Coordinator - Vacant

Programme Secretary – Sue & Pete Redfearn, e-mail: peterredjohn@gmail.com

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Research Coordinator-Theresa Dobbs, e-mail: contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Sales Coordinator – June Taylor, e-mail: sales@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Strays Coordinator - Lindsey Dedden, e-mail: lindsey.dedden@gmail.com

Surname Interests – Alan Mead, e-mail: interests@dorsetfhs.org.uk

Webmaster - Alan Mead, e-mail: webmaster@dorsetfhs.org.uk

*Unless otherwise indicated, all postal correspondence to be sent c/o
Treetops Research Centre at the address shown on the front inner cover*



**TREETOPS RESEARCH CENTRE
NEEDING RESEARCH ADVICE?**

Our experienced volunteers are here to help

Contact us by

- Visiting our Centre
- Via our website: www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

Recycle your Printer Cartridges

Recycle4Charity will make a donation to the Society for every printer cartridge received.

They can be left at Treetops, but please note that not all cartridges are accepted - see the list on their website <<http://www.Recycle4Charity.co.uk>>.

Freepost envelopes can also be ordered for the return of print cartridges by following the link from our website and registering as a donor.

Envelopes will be stamped with your ID number and the name of the Society. To order more, log into the site as an existing donor. Why not hand the envelopes around to family and friends to raise more for the Society?