



**Bedfordshire
Family History Society
Journal**

Vol 21 No 8 Dec 2018



Stone and Thatch

BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

*A member of the Federation of Family History Societies
Founded 1977
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BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



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THE FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Souldrop is a small and quiet village on the Northamptonshire border, rather off the beaten track, as they say, but it has strength and solidity in its character and its buildings. The stone which is so largely used for its walls and farmhouses tends to give that impression of endurance and stability, and this is illustrated in the drawing of the “ Bedford Arms” Inn

shown here, which has a fine old stone wall on the side of the pleasant drive in. The inn itself is a comfortable, good-looking house, with roof of sound thatch, and whitewashed walls, which make a pleasing contrast.

EDITORIAL

Can it be nearly Christmas already ? Perhaps our wonderful summer has helped create the feeling that we’ve had a short autumn.

I am once again indebted to everyone who has contributed something to the Journal; in this edition as well as throughout the year. We really couldn’t produce the *Journal* without your contributions. We are sincerely grateful that you take the time to share your stories, however big or small. Please please please take the opportunity to share your stories, research, enquires, photographs, memories and notes. We all enjoy reading them. To set a good example I’ve written a little piece myself this time about the Christys in Bedfordshire. I hope you like it.

Looking back to the anniversary issue last year I note that with this present issue I climb to joint third in

the all time editor ranking with a tally of 23 issues. I have three more issues to overhaul George Ruscoe’s tally and make it to second place !

Once again we have a packed programme for 2019 covering a diverse range of topics.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and health and happiness for the New Year.

journal@bfhs.org.uk



Geoff Young
Journal Co-ordinator



**The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the
March 2019 *Journal* is 15 January 2019
If possible, please supply by email (to journal@bfhs.org.uk)**

Bedfordshire has its own mailing list for genealogy in and around the area. To subscribe send an email to:
BEDFORD-L-request@rootsweb.com
with ‘subscribe’ in the BODY of the email



PROGRAMME

7 DEC	MY FIFTIETH GREAT GRANDFATHER	NORMAN HOLDING
11 JAN	FAMOUS CONNECTIONS – FLITTON CUM SILSOE	MARGARET BUTT
1 FEB	FROM ERIC THE BALD TO NIGEL DE AUBIGNY: BEDFORDSHIRE AND THE DOOMESDAY BOOK	BRIAN KERR
1 MAR	UP WITH THE LARK – AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS	IAN WALLER
5 APR	HOW FAR DID YOUR ANCESTORS TRAVEL BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE RAILWAYS	CELIA HERITAGE
3 MAY	BEDLAM AND MENTAL HEALTH	COLIN OAKES

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2019/20

2019: 7 JUN, 5 JUL, 6 SEP, 4 OCT, 1 NOV, 6 DEC

2020: 10 JAN, 7 FEB, 6 MAR

MEETING VENUE

MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
WENTWORTH DRIVE, BEDFORD MK41 8PX (by Mowsbury Park)

Doors open at 19:00, talk commences at 19:30

Bookstall and library also available



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

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireFamilyHistorySociety

THE MUSGRAVE FAMILY IN BEDFORDSHIRE

I have been researching my Musgrave family for many years now, as they had been living in London from at least the 1740s. It was therefore fantastic to suddenly find a connection back in time to Bedfordshire!

It appears that our earliest known London ancestor, John Musgrave, was born in Bletsoe, Bedfordshire in 1720 and served an apprenticeship as a dyer in Bedford in 1735 under Jonathan Hilton of Spitalfields. On the completion of his apprenticeship, John arrived in London, the earliest record showing his marriage in 1743 at St Anne's Church, Limehouse to Elizabeth Wise, shortly before the birth of their first child. The family then lived in Frying Pan Alley, Spitalfields for at least the next 20 years, and after this, continued to live in the North and East London area for many generations.

Our Musgrave family could possibly have come to England with William the Conqueror, and were given land in the Cumberland and Westmorland areas. Here they became a very dominant family, holding land also in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Yorkshire, Derby and other places. Their original place of settlement was in the villages of Great and Little Musgrave near Kirkby Stephen in Westmorland. There are a lot of early and continuous records of the Musgraves of Cumbria, but so far no direct link with our own ancestors has been found.

The first indication of an association with Bedfordshire was in 1313, when Sir Richard de Musgrave became

Lord of the Manors of Shelton and Knotting. (He would have obtained this through marriage to Joan de Soulby, whose family had owned the manor). The manor was owned by the Musgraves for a short period of time, until about 1346.

However, Musgrave records do not show any further association with Bedfordshire until 1584. According to the document "Freeholders in Bletsoe in 1624", our direct ancestor, Robert Musgrave (d. 1620) married to Joan (d. 1617), purchased land in Bletsoe from John Smythe in 1584. The survey lists all the Freeholders in Bletsoe in 1624. Robert Musgrave's eldest son, Edward Musgrave owned an extensive property, now Bourne End Farm, and younger son, Michael Musgrave (our direct ancestor), land at Church End.

What we really want to find out is where did our Musgrave family come from? Had they been living in Bedfordshire for some time? Church records appear in 1598, which have been helpful in tracing the family. It appears they lived firstly in Harrold, probably from 1584 as burial records are listed there until 1620. In fact, Michael Musgrave, our direct ancestor was married in Harrold in 1601 to Sarah Blott/Blewitt, daughter of John and Elizabeth, and their first child Margaret was born there. After this all church records, wills etc are from Bletsoe.

Other immediate ancestors are as follows:

- Robert Musgrave 1604–1657 married Christian Peet
- Mr Robert Musgrave 1628–1672



*Bourne End Farm, Bletsoe, bought by Robert Musgrave in 1584.
Original house demolished, and present house built in the 1800's.
Photo taken by Marian Crew, April 2018*

married Lydia

- Mr Robert Musgrave Sen 1654–1719 married Elizabeth

Our next Ancestor, John Musgrave who was born in 1688 married Elizabeth Levett at St John's Church in Bedford. The first three children, John (b. 1720), Elizabeth (b. 1722) and Robert (b. 1724) were all born and baptised in Bletsoe. The next two, Hastings (b. 1725) and Michael (b. 1727) were baptised at St Mary, Bedford, possibly indicating a move out of Bletsoe into Bedford where the father, John Musgrave worked as a maltster. (The Christian name of "Hastings" had been used in the previous two generations, maybe named after Hastings, 9th Duke of Bedford.)

Most of the above families had between six to eight children. Church records show a smattering of

Musgraves living in other towns such as Riseley, Elstow, Tilbrook, Shelton, Swinehead etc., but the families do not appear to tie in with our line. In fact, by the 1700s there were relatively few Musgraves at all still living in Bedfordshire.

My brother, Peter Musgrave and I spent a delightful few days in Bedfordshire recently. We visited the areas where our ancestors had lived, and spent a day in the Bedford archives, where the staff were very helpful. Any help therefore finding out more about our family would be much appreciated.

Sources

- Notes on the Ancient Family of Musgrave by Percy Musgrave. Leeds 1911
- Dyers company: List of Apprentices 1706-1829 (Guildhall



The Church of St Mary, Bletsoe in process of being renovated

Photo taken by Marian Crew, April 2018

Library)

- London Apprenticeship Abstracts 1442–1850; Find my past, A–Z record sets of UK
- Parish registers: St Anne's Limehouse, and Christ Church Spitalfields, in London
- The Battle Abbey Rolls: Duchess of Cleveland, Victoria County History
- Sir Richard de Musgrave, Lord of Shelton Manor – “A History of Bedfordshire”: Bedfordshire Archives
- “Freeholders in Bletsoe in 1624”: Bedfordshire and Luton archives *online*
- Church records of Harrold and Bletsoe: Bedfordshire Family History Society

- Musgrave Bedfordshire wills 1610–1710: Bedfordshire Archives



Marian Crew

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THE FINE OLD ENGLISH FARMER – A CHRISTMAS TALE

I was born just outside Bedford about 80 years ago on the 6 January, which is, of course, the Feast of Epiphany, sometimes known as Old Christmas Day (due, no doubt, to losing 11 days in 1752 when we changed over to the Gregorian calendar) – and it was also a Sunday! My father, Patrick Masterson, who was Irish, had come over to England as a young man and was working for the India Tyre Company, managing their Bedford branch when he met my mother, Eve Jones, at a dance in Flitwick. They married at the Catholic Church of the Holy Child and St. Joseph, Midland Road, Bedford, in 1934.

It was not long after my birth that they moved down to London, first to a rat-infested basement in Highbury and then to a newly created housing development in Hanworth, Middlesex, in what at one time, must have been a part of Hounslow Heath. Here they bought their first house. By the end of 1938 I had a sister, Ann, but by then, the following year, war broke out and it was thought best to take me back to Bedford to live with my grandparents and two of my cousins in Pembroke Street, at number 24. Presumably, this was to dodge the Blitz in London, although, of course, Bedford also had its fair share of bombing; one bomb, as I recall, falling on Pembroke Street, killing the lady next door as she sat with her back against the wall through which the bomb fell.

I had a couple of stints in Bedford and, I supposed, it allowed my mother to devote more time to her new infant. Sometimes they joined us for short periods, especially after my

father enlisted into the Army in January 1941. In spite of the war I enjoyed my time in Bedford. “Oh, he did run wild!” my grandmother told my mother when she came to reclaim me when the war was over. Being on the edge of the countryside I had the opportunity to roam the fields with my older cousin, William, bird-nesting, fishing, collecting frogspawn in jam-jars, to watch them develop, via tadpoles, into frogs; and generally to live a much more natural and carefree life than I could have expected in London. It was undoubtedly the best part of my childhood.

My grandmother Sarah Augusta Jones (née Rowles), always known as “Gussie”, was a great cook, not surprisingly, as she had been a cook in service, which is how she met her husband, Charles Joseph Jones, a baker’s assistant, as he delivered the bread from his father’s bakery to the house where she worked. They married on the 12 June 1898 at the Bunyan Meeting House, Mill Street, Bedford.

One day my grandmother said to me, “There’s a poem about my father”. I can’t remember if she showed me the actual card it was printed on but years later I was to acquire two, one from my mother and one that had belonged to my aunt. They were printed on buff-coloured card, 7 inches wide by 9 inches deep, the title, “The Fine Old English Farmer”, in Gothic lettering. It was the sort of thing one used to see framed on a bar room wall in an old country pub. I’ve no idea how many were originally printed (see photo) but, clearly,

several family members had copies. The words were as follows:

*I'll sing you a good old song, and
a story I'll relate*

*Of a fine old English farmer, who
tills his own estate;*

*Who lives in Barford village, near
pleasant Bedford town,*

*And who is, I must inform you, a
man of some renown,*

*Is this fine old English farmer,
"and so I tell you plain."*

*This farmer's name is William
Rowles, known to both great and
small,*

*His homestead's old and furnished
round with comforts pleasing all;*

*It's here he welcomes all his
friends, and smiles on all around,*

*And the first one to rejoice is he, I
will be bound.*

*Is this fine old English farmer,
"and so I tell you plain."*

*When winter's frost has bound the
land in dreary solitude,*

*By the farmside's cosy fire he's
there in jolly mood,*

*With pipe in hand and foaming
glass, he laughs the chills away;*

*And all who call at his old gate are
gladly bade to stay,*

*By this fine old English farmer,
"and so I tell you plain."*

*His household's small, but loving
hearts make up for numbers few;*

*His wife, his daughter, sons and
all, are like himself most true.*

*In them he lives his life again, and
him they all adore;*

What better Bank could any man

place all his loving store?

*Says this fine old English farmer,
"and so I tell you plain."*

*His hair is grey, but young his
heart, his cares are few and light,*

*If this you doubt, my dear good
friends, why look at him tonight !*

*His face is fill'd with radiant bliss
to see you all about him;*

*He spares no pains to give good
cheer, why who is there can doubt
him?*

*This fine old English farmer, "and
so I tell you plain."*

*God bless his soul! And all that's
his, say I with all my heart,*

*May many years enrich his brow,
nor joy from him depart;*

*His hearth-stone ever happy be—
nor e're have cause for tears;*

*And now my friends, I give you all
"Will Rowles" with many cheers!*

*This this fine old English farmer,
"and so I tell you plain."*

The first thing I noticed was that it wasn't just a poem but a song to be sung to the well-known tune of "The Fine Old English Gentleman", clearly indicated in brackets under the title. Secondly, it could not have been about my grandmother's father, the fourth verse stating quite planning that his 'household small' consisted of wife, one daughter, and sons, whereas my grandmother was the eldest of seven girls only. It was dated Christmas 1872 and had the initials W.D.W., which I assume were those of the author, but whose identity I have been unable to discover.

In the 1960s and '70s when I started

The Fine Old English Farmer.

(AIR: "The Fine Old English Gentleman.")



I'll sing you a good old song, and a story I'll relate
Of a fine old English farmer, who tills his own estate;
Who lives in Barford village, near pleasant Bedford town,
And who is, I must inform you, a man of some renown,
Is this fine old English Farmer, "and so I tell you plain."

This Farmer's name is William Rowles, known to both great and small,
His homestead's old, and furnished round with comforts pleasing all;
It's here he welcomes all his friends, and smiles on all around.

researching my family in earnest, I soon realised that my grandmother's father was named after his father and that this one commemorates my great-great-grandfather, William Rowles, farmer, of Great Barford, Bedfordshire, the fifth of eight children of George and Elizabeth Rowles. He was baptised, along with his sister Lucy Whitwell Rowles (who may have been his twin) on 27 September 1812 at Great Barford, but was probably born much earlier, since the 1871 census describes him as 61 years old and farming 130 acres and employing six men and two boys. His wife is named as Sarah, 41, born in Stow, Buckinghamshire. This is probably a mistake on the part of the enumerator, since we know that his wife was Elizabeth (née Infield), born at Stow, Huntingdonshire (Not Buckinghamshire). He had four children: William (my great-grandfather); Owen John (born ca. 1857); Sarah Augusta (after whom my grandmother was named), born 21 May 1858; and Edwin, all, apart from William, born in Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire, but not

baptised until 6 December 1863 in Great Barford. William, the eldest, was born 13 June 1852 in Great Barford and baptised there on 11 July. He married Emma Daniels on 6 February 1872 at the Congregational Church, Luton. Their first child, my grandmother Sarah Augusta, was born at Great Barford on Christmas Day 1872. Since this is also the date of the song, this must have been a terrific Christmas, celebrating not only the life of William Rowles, 'The Fine Old English Farmer', but also the birth of his first grandchild!

Since I have been a folk-singer for most of my life, I am proud to say that this song has been a constant feature of my repertoire. □

T. Masterson

GLEANINGS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Commitments to the Bedford Gaol

The following extracts from the *Bedford Mercury* just give outline details of persons committed to the County Gaol for various offences. The *Bedfordshire Times and Independent* report the same cases on a nearby date but with a little bit more detail, plus there are articles regarding many of the trials mentioned. The majority of these persons are recorded on the Gaol Database provided by Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service.

Bedford Mercury 18 January 1858

William BARKER, Ampthill Union. Pauper, for 21 days, for disorderly conduct in the Ampthill Union;- George COX, Westoning, labourer, for 2 months, for unlawfully shooting two partridges at Flitton on the 28 ult; Joseph SHORT, Westoning, labourer, for one month, for assaulting James JONES at Pulloxhill; John PAYNE, Ridgmount, labourer, for one month, for assaulting police constable MAYES in execution of his duty, on the 27 ult; Robert TEBBET and Abraham MARTIN, labourers of Raunds, Northants, shoemakers, for re-examination at Bletsoe Petty Sessions, for stealing a quantity of linen and wearing apparel, at Dean on 23 ult; Joseph IMPEY, Luton, labourer, for 3 months, for assaulting

his wife Mary IMPEY at Luton on 19 August last.

Bedford Mercury 1 March 1858

Aaron BONNER, Toddington, labourer, for one month, for stealing at Toddington, a quantity of white thorn bushes, value 2d; Mary Ann COOPER and Sarah LOW, Dunstable, prostitutes, for one month each, for stealing 2 tin cans, a loaf of bread and other articles; Charles WOOD, tramp, for 14 days, for stealing some pork at Leighton.

Bedford Mercury 31 May 1858

Thomas SMART of Bedford, hawker, for 3 days, for hawking goods for sale without a license at Aspley on the 24 ult; Margaret RENNY and Dennis RENNY, tramps, for 14 days each, for begging at Wilstead on the 25 ult; Samuel PRENTICE, Sharnbrook, labourer, for trial, for stealing 3 bushels of potatoes on the 19 inst, value 9s, and also stealing one bushel of potatoes on the 21 inst; Joseph YOURBY, Potton, hawker, for 7 days, for hawking goods for sale, without a license.

Bedford Mercury 12 July 1858

Ruth SMITH, Maulden, plaiter, one week for stealing at Ampthill, in December last, a mantle, value 4s, the property of George WELSH; Edmund CLARK, Flitton, labourer, two months for assaulting Joseph

FENNEMORE of Flitton; John DEAR, Arlesey, labourer, one month for trespass in search of game on 8 November last; James WELLS, deserter, from H.M. 64th Regiment of Foot, to await orders from the War Office; Samuel SAMUELS, Southill, labourer, three weeks, for deserting his wife and family, whereby they became chargeable to the parish on 30 April last.

Bedford Mercury 2 August 1858

Edward McDONALD, tramp, for three weeks, for being found on the inclosed premises of John THOMPSON, at Biggleswade on the 14 July, supposed for an unlawful purpose; Newman COOK and William TITMUS, Luton, labourers, to await orders from the War Office, for deserting from the Beds Militia; Joseph SMITH, tramp, for 28 days, for being found sleeping in the open air, at Toddington on the 25 July; Samuel PACEY, Sharnbrook, labourer, for seven days, for becoming chargeable to parish of Sharnbrook, he being able to work and support himself; Titus CHAPMAN, a deserter from H.M. 51st Regiment of Foot, to await orders from the War Office.

Bedford Mercury 13 September 1858

John HYDE, labourer, three weeks, for deserting his wife and family at Biggleswade on the 7 of May last; John PAIN, for three months, for deserting his wife and family at Luton on the 28 May last; James LOWEN and George WATSON, labourers, three months each, for being found in the enclosed garden of Charles FUNNELL at Luton, on the night of 23 ult; John THOMPSON,

tramp, one month, for begging at Luton; William ARCHER, tramp, two months, for stealing a pair of shoes, at Luton.

Bedford Mercury 15 November 1858

Joseph WHITE, labourer, for two months, for game trespass at Westoning on the 29 ult; Martha ROWING, sewer, for six weeks, for stealing at Luton, 6s the property of Thomas COX; Vincent HAWKINS, labourer, for two months, for absconding from the service of John HOWE of Luton; Samuel BAILY, labourer, for one month, for resisting police constable HAYNES in execution of duty, at Poddington; John DUNCOMB, labourer, for 14 days, for stealing at Eaton Bray, one bushel of turnips, the property of William DOBSON; John THOMPSON, tramp, for seven days, for assaulting superintendent CLOUGH at Leighton; James BARKER, labourer, for two months, for game trespass at Heath and Reach.

Bedford Mercury 13 December 1858

Edward MARKHAM, labourer, for six weeks, for assaulting police constable BEADLOW, in execution of his duty, at Eaton Socon, on 12 June last; Thomas LIDDELL and James BOTTOMS, sailors on tramp, for one month each, for stealing at Eaton Socon, one and a half pounds of pork, value 9d, the property of Henry EVANS; James FISHER, labourer, for one month, for game trespass at Higham Gobion; Thomas SPRING, labourer, for trial, for stealing at Cranfield in May last, a quantity of lead, value 5s, the

property of Rev.G G HARTER; George STOKES, labourer, for trial, for stealing at Ampthill, three bushels of potatoes, value 5s, the property of Thomas ABBIS; Elizabeth KEEN, shoe binder, for ten days, for stealing at Dunstable, a pint measure, the property of David BROWN; James DONLEY, hawker, for two months, for stealing at Luton on the 2 inst, a dog value £5, the property of Charles JONES.

Bedford Mercury 31 January 1859

William BRADSHAW, labourer, for re-examination, for killing a sheep with intent to steal the carcass, at Odell on the night of 18 inst; Thomas HORN, labourer, two months, for trespass in search of game, at Ridgmount on 31 ult; Thomas SINFIELD, labourer, one month, for deserting his wife and family, at Maulden on 9 December last; Solomon HORRELL and Milton SMITH, labourers, six weeks each, for game trespass at Little Barford; John FOSTER, labourer, two months, for game trespass at Ridgmount; Mary EDDY, sewer, six months, for stealing a ham on the 17 inst. and a dress on the 15 inst. at Luton; James HOW, labourer, six months, for an assault at Luton; James GREEN, labourer, 21 days imprisonment and three years at the Reformatory, for stealing a hare-skin at Dunstable.

Bedford Mercury 28 March 1859

William Kent SMITH, labourer, for one month, for assaulting Ann WEBB at Houghton Conquest on the 19 ult; Thomas DAVIS, labourer, for trial, for stealing 28 fowls value £3, the property of Thomas Deacon SMITH at Streatley; Thomas KING

and Mary JAMES, tramps, for trial, for knowingly uttering a counterfeit florin at Houghton Regis; John ROBERTS, sergeant in the Beds Militia and David JACKSON, labourer, for trial, for stealing two pairs of stockings, value 2s, the property of John DUFFY of Dunstable; John William CLAYTON, blocker, for one month, for stealing 21 hats, value 30s, the property of Henry WYSE at Luton; Richard BARNETT and Thomas ADDIS, sawyers, for three months, for night poaching at Keysoe on the 12 ult.

Bedford Mercury 2 May 1859

John Robinson SALE, Stotfold, for 3 week, for non payment of 13s, arrears of bastardy order for 13 weeks due to Edith BROWN of Stotfold; Robert CURRINGTON, tramp, for 21 days, for begging at Luton; William HEADLAND, labourer, for 3 weeks, for negligently omitting to exhibit a danger signal, on the Midland Railway at Souldrop, on the 20 inst thereby endangering lives of persons travelling thereon; James BYGRAVE and William STEIR, labourers for trial, for stealing 7 bushels of split-beans, value 20s, the property of Frederick TOMSON, farmer of Sandons Elizabeth PETTIT, 3 months hard labour, for stealing a quantity of cotton prints, value 11s, the property of George SIMONS, shopkeeper of Hinwick; Thomas HOPKINS, grocer, one months hard labour, for stealing 3 elm boards, value 4s, the property of Abel STEVENS, timber merchant of Chalgrave; John WILLIAMS, tramp, for 14 days, for assaulting police constable CHAMPKINS at Leighton.

Bedford Mercury 8 August 1859

William WATTS and John WILSON, tramps, for trial, charged with stealing from the person of Sarah SHAW at Toddington, on the 28 ult, 2s 6d in money, the property of William SHAW, victualler of Toddington, her husband; also further charged with stealing from the person of Ann ATTWOOD at Toddington, on the same day, 7s in money, the property of Richard ATTWOOD, farmer of Toddington; George YEOMANS, tramp, for 7 days, for stealing a brass cap, value 1s 6d at Toddington, the property of John ROBERTS, wheelwright; William STACEY, labourer, for 21 days, for stealing a box, value 6d, at Milton, the property of Thomas BAMWELL, labourer of Milton; John JOHNSON, tramp, for 1 month, in default of paying £2 fine and costs, for an assault at Leighton on the 27 ult; John TIMMS, baker, for 10 days, for deserting his wife and family, at Ampthill; Richard BRANDON age 14 and James SCRIVENER age 13, for 14 days, and at the expiration of that time to be sent to the Reformatory School for 3 years, for stealing two cloth caps at Luton on the 9 ult, the property of Mr John DEVERILL, hatter of Luton.

Bedford Mercury 17 October 1859

Amos FOWLER, Harlington, for trial, charged with stealing a pair of leather leggings, on the 4 inst, also further charged with stealing a rabbit trap; William CARTER, tramp, for one month, for begging at Luton; William PARKER, Bedford, for one months hard labour, for wilfully cutting and damaging under-wood; George KING, for one months hard labour, for stealing ten apples; Sarah

COCKERILL, for 14 days, for stealing three pieces of a dress, on the 8 inst at Biggleswade; John MASON, for 7 days, for stealing a pound of pork.

Bedford Mercury 21 November 1859

Jesse GREEN, labourer, 2 months hard labour, in in default of paying £2 fine and costs, for trespass in search of game at Bletsoe; Thomas COULSON, tramp, for 7 days, for begging at Toddington; Thomas BUSBY, labourer, 3 months, in default of paying £5 fine and costs, for using a trap for the purpose of taking game at Clophill; John FISHER, painter, six weeks, for deserting his wife and family since the 19 ult; Sarah AUSTIN, for 21 days, for disorderly conduct while an inmate of the Biggleswade Union. □

John Partridge

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Fellow members, by the time you read this in December I will have been your chairman for 6 months. I am honoured that you have been elected me. Tributes have already been paid to Geoff Sewell who has retired as chairman after 22 years' service, (see the minutes of the AGM printed in the September 2018 Journal). I'm glad to say that Geoff is continuing to work as programme secretary for the time being. The remainder of the committee is unchanged so I am confident that the business of the Society will continue smoothly.

What do you want from your Society? More data is still being added to the parish register CDs but we have all the data we expect now (except Memorial Inscriptions at some graveyards) so the end of that project is in sight. What next? If you look at the list of appointments within the society you will see that the post of Projects Coordinator is vacant. If you have an idea for a new society project let us (the committee) know. Better still, join the committee and come and talk over your idea(s) with us.

Which brings me to my next point: we need more committee members. Geoff has said this at Society meetings many times and now he has retired as chairman the committee has one less member. We need a

committee with diverse backgrounds and not all experts in family history; we need some beginners too. (Sometimes we need someone to say, "What does that mean?") Although committee members have been elected at the AGM, the committee can co-opt additional members. If you think that you may be interested you will be welcome to attend some committee meetings as an observer before agreeing to be co-opted. The committee meets on the third Friday of each month (usually) but not in August. We meet at 7:30 pm and we usually finish about 9:15 pm. From January to April 2019 the committee will be meeting at Kempston Indoor Bowls Club.

If you read the list of Society Appointments inside the front cover of this journal you will see that some of the roles are marked 'Vacant'. You will also see that some of us wear more than one hat! New names to fill these roles would be very welcome. Taking on one of these tasks does not necessarily mean joining the committee. If you feel that you have the ability and the time to take on one of these roles please contact me.

A little of my own family history background. At the suggestion of Marjorie, my late wife, I started researching my family history in approximately 2000 and we joined

BFHS soon afterwards. My father's family history is almost entirely in a few parishes of Monmouthshire (I gave a talk on part of it last year, later summarised in the Journal). My mother's is in the Monmouthshire valleys, Bristol, (going back in time), Gloucester, Portsmouth, Norwich and the Isle of White. As far as I have found, no branch of my family tree touched Bedfordshire until we moved here in 1975.

Finally, as I told those of you who were at the AGM, I am 76 years old. I think there's a good chance that my health will let me complete this 3 year term, it may even be so good that I could accept a second term if offered but it would be wrong of me

to continue after that. Soon you should be considering who will replace me when the time comes.

Although, as I write this, it is now only October, the deadline for the December Journal is approaching so I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and successful researching in 2019.

□

Noel Evans

LIBRARY NEWS

Again not much news to report this quarter.

Bedfordshire FHS Facebook page

In September's journal I reported that we had 696 'likes' as at 21 July and were on our way to the 700 mark

which we achieved by end of that month. We are now at 728 'likes' and 744 'followers' as at 11 November 2018.

□

Thanks

John Partridge, Librarian

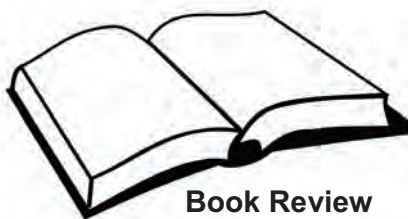
Vicki Manners
BA (Hons), BSc (Hons)

***For the repair and preservation of
family history documents***
Tel: 07976 718624

TO THOSE WHO ARE
TO MARRY.

on contemplate taking a very
You are about to bind
together 'till death us do
e you will need in your
y and think earnestly about
to help you. In a word—
g on your marriage.
and read over the service

SECRET BEDFORD BY PAUL ADAMS



Book Review

This is a book which will appeal to Bedfordians and non-Bedfordians alike. Paul Adams has covered a variety of topics. Giving tantalizing glimpses into Secret Bedford. It certainly left me with a different view of the town and wanting to know more. A nice little touch is the blue “Did You Know Boxes”.

I enjoyed learning about the Panacea Society. I wonder how many people local to Bedford are aware of the fascinating events that took place in the town just after the end of the First World War. Of the strange occurrences that took place in several of the houses in Albany Road. Number 12 the home of Mabel Bartrop or Octavia, widow and self-styled prophet believing herself to be the reincarnation of Shiloh the etheric child of Joanna Southcott. Number 8 was the Ark the home prepared by the Panaceans for the coming of Jesus Christ. The Panacea Museum is housed in Newnham Road. This was the place made ready for twenty four bishops required to be present at the opening of Joanna Southcott's box.

Paul Adams main interest is in the paranormal. This is widely covered in the book. It strays a little outside Bedford to places such as Silsoe and Amptill. He also covers sightings of Black Tom a notorious highway man,

who appears mainly in the Union Street area.

Other topics covered in the book are Wartime Bedford, Musical Bedford, Murderous Bedford and Cinematic Bedford. The last chapter pulls it all together with a walk around Bedford covering all the buildings and places mentioned. □

Mary Wooldridge

Ed. There is an interesting article on the Panacea Society by Vicki Manners in a past Journal: Vol 21, No. 2, June 2017, Page 11.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2019

This insert is intended for membership renewals only. If you wish to join as a new member, please contact the Membership Secretary for details.

Subscriptions are due on 1 January regardless of the date of joining the Society. All members should renew **promptly** using the forms provided.

Members receive the March issue of the *Journal* (together with a black spot reminder if their subscription is unpaid at that point) but no further copies until their subscription has been paid for that year.

Australasian members please note that Mel Sharples has now retired after collecting the subscriptions in Australian dollars for many years.

American members can pay their subscriptions in US Dollars direct to our agent in the United States:

Brian Payne, 7304 Carroll Ave #124, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Please send the remittance form and make remittances payable to ***Brian Payne***. The rate is US\$25 for one year's airmail membership and US\$20 for surface mail membership.

For membership with journals in PDF format to your email address instead of by post, the rate is US\$10.

Payment through the agent must be received **before 31 January 2019**.

Members living outside the UK/EU can pay via the FFHS GENfair website at **www.genfair.com**. All members can pay via the Parish Chest website at **www.parishchest.com**.

Overseas Members paying direct to the Society are reminded that their remittances **MUST** be by **STERLING BANK DRAFT**.

Subscription rates for 2019 are:

Any UK/Worldwide member taking the Journal by pdf: £ 8.00

UK Individual Membership, with one copy per issue of the printed Journal: ... £10.00

Family Membership per each additional member at the same address

(no Journal) : £1.00

Overseas supplement worldwide printed journal – Surface mail = £6; Total: ... £14.00

Overseas supplement USA/Canada printed journal – Airmail = £10; Total: £18.00

Overseas supplement Australia/New Zealand printed journal Airmail = £12; Total: £20.00

The information below is provided to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Data Privacy Statement

We do not supply the personal data that you enter on our membership application form to anyone outside BFHS except:

1. Where it is needed by the Independent Examiner in his inspection of our financial records.
2. Where it must be supplied to HMRC, e.g. in connection with gift aid submissions.
3. Where we are required to do so by law.

Data Protection Act:

Please note that the Society uses computer and manual systems to record membership information. Under the Data Protection Act it is necessary that you should know this. The information you give on your application for membership will only be used for conducting Society business and will not be supplied to anyone else in any form. If you have any questions or concerns over the data held, please contact the Secretary.

On the back of the Remittance Advice (page 4) is “Information on Your Journal Label to Assist in the Renewal of Your Membership” which might help you to fill in the Remittance Advice form.

REMITTANCE ADVICE 2019

Please return this page with your subscription (including cash payments at meetings), otherwise we have no means of identifying that you have paid us! If you are paying by an existing Standing Order, or by Bank Transfer, or direct to one of our agents then an email, including details requested below, to treasurer@bfhs.org.uk will be sufficient.

Remittance, payable to "Bedfordshire Family History Society" should be addressed to:
Membership Secretary, Bedfordshire Family History Society,
PO Box 214, BEDFORD, MK42 9RX, England

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Membership No (on address label):

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other:

Forenames:

Additional Member(s) at same address:

Address:

..... Telephone:

Email:

I wish to renew my membership as follows – please tick appropriate box(es):

Membership taking Journal by pdf UK/Worldwide ☐

Email for receipt of Journal:

UK Individual Membership, with one copy per issue of the printed Journal ☐

Plus each additional member at the same address (no Journal) ☐

Overseas supplement worldwide printed Journal – Surface mail ☐

Overseas supplement USA/Canada printed Journal – Airmail ☐

Overseas supplement Australia/New Zealand printed Journal – Airmail ☐

I enclose my remittance of £ (please write Membership No from the
Journal envelope address label on the back of your cheque) ☐

I have instructed my bank to pay by Standing Order the amount of £
(please state your Membership No and name in your Bank Reference) ☐

I have paid by Bank Transfer (see Standing Order form for BFHS bank details)
the amount of £
(please state your Membership No and name in your Bank Reference) ☐

I have paid the following amount to Brian Payne in the US US\$ ☐

Signed: Date:

UK members, please refer to next page regarding Gift Aid.

Information on Your Journal Label to Assist in the Renewal of Your Membership

The information on the label used to deliver the journal to you will help you to renew your subscription, by confirming last year's details. It looks something like this:

Mrs J Jones	1234
12 The Valley	GA
New Town	F=1
Milton Keynes	CQ
MK12 8AA	

Your address is at the left. On the right you will see your Membership Number at the top. This is important and should be used in all communications with the Society, especially on the back of cheques.

Next will be GA if you are a UK member and *we have a record that you have signed up* so that we can claim a Gift Aid rebate for your subscription. If you believe that you have already signed a Gift Aid form, but this is not shown on your label, then we should be grateful if you would sign a form this year so that we can update our records and collect the tax back in future. This is at no cost to you; we are simply reclaiming the UK tax that you have already paid, and it is a significant source of income for the Society.

Next will be the number of Family Members, if any, associated with your membership (e.g. F=1). Then there will be a code that defines how you pay the Society. It is:

AU	Australia Members*	BT	Bank Transfer	CA	Cash
CQ	Cheque	GF	GenFair (Internet)	PC	Parish Chest (Internet)
SO	(Banker's) Standing Order	US	USA Members*		

* Paid via agent in local currency.

Finally, for overseas members only, 'Airmail' or 'Surface' (Mail) will be shown to define which service is used to deliver your journal.

UK TAX PAYERS – PLEASE NOTE:

Gift Aid is a method of allowing charities to reclaim tax on membership subscriptions and, since the claim is for tax already paid by you and made directly from HM Revenue & Customs, it does not cost you anything except the time taken to fill in and return the form. You do have to be a UK taxpayer who pays tax equivalent to the amount which we will reclaim (currently 25p for every £1 you give to us).

GIFT AID DECLARATION

To: The Hon Treasurer
Bedfordshire Family History Society
Registered Charity No 281677
PO Box 214
BEDFORD
MK42 9RX

I want the Society to reclaim tax on all Membership Subscriptions and any other specific donations made by me from the date of this declaration.

Signed:

Date:

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Full Name:

Address:

.....

Membership No (this appears on your journal address label):

Note:

1. In order for your donation to qualify under Gift Aid rules, you must pay an amount of UK Income or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation (currently 25p for every £1 you give).
2. Remember to notify us if you cease to pay sufficient tax for your donation to qualify.
3. You can cancel this declaration for any reason at any time by notifying the Society.
4. You may receive more than one gift aid form from us, but you only need to complete a form once.

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BANKER'S STANDING ORDER

Please send the completed form to **YOUR BANK** (NOT to the Society).

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

To: Bank

Address:

Please pay into the account of BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(Account No. 08036888) at NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC, 81 High Street,
Bedford, MK40 1NE. (Sort Code: 60-02-13) the sum of £..... ANNUALLY, on
1 January, commencing 1 January 2019.

(This supersedes any previous instruction to pay the above Society).

Please use the following **Name** and **Membership No** as a reference:

.....

Account Name:

Account No:

Signed: Date:

Registered Charity No. 281677

Please Note: It greatly helps us to identify and process your payment if both your full **Name** and **Membership Number** are included in the reference from your bank when arriving in our bank account. Several members have similar initial and surname.

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MARY WILLOUGHBY DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND SARAH

I recently acquired a postcard sized original sepia toned photograph of a Mary Willoughby, seated at an upright piano (with brass candle holders). On the reverse in pencil is written 'Mary Willoughby Postman's daughter Sharnbrook'. I have checked the 1901 & 1911 census and sure enough there is John Weatherill Willoughby b. c1850 in Market Weighton Yorkshire, and his wife Sarah Ann b. c1860 in Gibraltar. They had been married 17 years in 1911 and are living with their family in High Street Sharnbrook and he is a postman. I am guessing this is Sarah's second marriage as there is a step daughter listed as Gertrude R Simpson also born Gibraltar. The rest of the children, 6 of them in 1911,

including Mary Elizabeth b. c1895 (who I believe the picture is of) are born in Sharnbrook. It appears mother Sarah may be née Langford as Jane Langford b.c1834 in Blean, Kent is listed as Mother-in-law. By the dress and appearance of Mary in the photo I think it may have been taken around 1908/9 or maybe later.

I will willingly email a scanned copy of the photo to anyone with a connection, or send the original for a sae. □

Dave Valentine

dvalethebench@btinternet.com



Mary Willoughby, Postman's daughter, Sharnbrook

BEDFORDSHIRE PARISH RECORDS ON CD

See also details of the **Surnames Index CD** to all parishes

CDs for all 128 ancient Bedfordshire parishes are now available from:
Noel Evans, 14 Beaulieu Way, BEDFORD, MK41 8NP

or parishsales@bfhs.org.uk – details of CD contents: www.bfhs.org.uk

Each CD contains, for one parish:

All Parish Register transcripts up to 1812 (images)

Searchable Indexes to the Parish Registers for:

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

all Marriages up to 1837; and all Burials to 1851

The relevant 1851 Census Index for Bedfordshire (images)

CDs marked † also contain *Monumental Inscriptions* (MIs)
from a graveyard in the parish (church, chapel or cemetery).

Those marked * contain *records from the registers or graveyards of*

Non-Conformist chapels in the parish;


photographs and other records are included as available.

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

Parish	Price	Issue	(Recent updates marked in bold)		
Amphill † *	£15	2	Clophill †	£15	2
Arlesey	£20	2	Cockayne Hatley	£10	2
Aspley Guise †	£15	3	Colmworth †	£10	1
Astwick †	£10	2	Cople †	£10	1
Barton	£15	3	Cranfield † *	£15	2
Battlesden	£10	2	Dean † *	£15	1
Bedford St Cuthbert † *	£15	2	Dunstable † *	£15	2
Bedford St John *	£15	2	Dunton †	£15	2
Bedford St Mary † *	£15	2	Eaton Bray	£20	2
Bedford St Paul † *	£25	2	Eaton Socon † *	£25	2
Bedford St Peter *	£10	2	Edworth †	£10	1
Biddenham †	£10	2	Elstow †	£15	2
Biggleswade † *	£15	2	Eversholt †	£15	1
Billington †	£10	2	Everton	£10	2
Bletsoe	£10	2	Eyeworth	£10	2
Blunham † *	£15	2	Farndish †	£10	1
Bolnhurst	£10	2	Felmersham † *	£10	2
Bromham †	£10	2	Flitton *	£15	2
Caddington †	£15	1	Flitwick	£10	1
Campton & Shefford † *	£20	2	Goldington	£10	2
Cardington † *	£15	2	Great Barford †	£15	2
Carlton † *	£10	2	Harlington †	£10	2
Chalgrave	£15	1	Harrold *	£10	2
Chellington	£15	2	Haynes †	£20	1
Clapham †	£10	2	Henlow †	£10	1
Clifton	£20	2	Higham Gobion	£10	2

Hockliffe † *	£10	2	Shillington †	£15	2
Holwell † ‡	£5	1	Souldrop †	£10	1
Houghton Conquest † *	£15	1	Southill † *	£20	1
Houghton Regis *	£15	2	Stagsden †	£15	1
Hulcote †	£10	2	Stanbridge *	£10	1
Husborne Crawley †	£20	2	Steppingley †	£10	2
Kempston	£15	3	Stevington † *	£10	2
Kensworth †	£15	2	Stotfold † *	£10	1
Keysoe † *	£15	2	Streatley †	£10	2
Knotting	£10	2	Studham	£15	1
Langford	£15	2	Sundon †	£10	1
Leighton Buzzard † *	£20	3	Sutton	£15	1
Lidlington †	£10	2	Swineshead †	£10	1
Little Barford †	£10	1	Tempsford †	£10	2
Little Staughton † *	£10	2	Thurleigh	£10	1
Lower Gravenhurst	£10	2	Tilbrook	£10	1
Luton † *	£30	2	Tilsworth † *	£10	1
Marston Moretaine †	£15	2	Tingrith †	£10	1
Maulden † *	£15	1	Toddington † *	£15	1
Melchbourne †	£10	1	Totternhoe *	£15	1
Meppershall †	£10	1	Turvey † *	£20	1
Millbrook	£15	2	Upper Gravenhurst	£10	1
Milton Bryan †	£10	2	Upper Stondon	£10	1
Milton Ernest †	£10	2	Westoning †	£10	2
Northill †	£15	2	Whipsnade †	£10	1
Oakley †	£10	2	Wilden †	£15	1
Odell †	£10	2	Willington †	£10	1
Old Warden †	£15	2	Wilstead †	£20	2
Pavenham	£10	2	Woburn † *	£20	1
Pertenhall	£15	1	Wootton	£15	2
Podington	£15	1	Wrestlingworth †	£15	2
Potsgrove †	£10	2	Wymington	£10	1
Potton † *	£20	2	Yelden †	£10	1
Pulloxhill	£10	2			
Ravensden †	£10	2			
Renhold	£10	2			
Ridgmont † *	£15	2			
Riseley	£10	2			
Roxton † *	£10	2			
Salford †	£10	2			
Sandy † *	£15	1			
Sharnbrook	£10	2			
Shelton †	£10	1			

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

Some baptism indexes only cover the period 1813-1851, but as more stocks are needed, they will be updated to include the full period from the start of registers. This also applies to the issue of new MI listings. Any revised CDs will be indicated by the **issue number**. Complete details of the content of each CD may be found on the Society website: www.bfhs.org.uk 

MEMBERS' PROFILES

Every effort is made to transcribe correctly the interests supplied by members but where hand-written details are provided errors may occur, for which we apologise. It would help greatly if all interests were either typed or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. When writing to a member please include a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupons, and it is only polite to reply even if no connection appears to exist.

Surname	Place / Parish	County	Period
---------	----------------	--------	--------

Derek Pestell (4289) derekandgerry@btinternet.com

Chy Noweth, 8a Bridgefield Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2PG

DILLEY	ANY	BDF	17-E20C
FOSSEY	ANY	BDF	17-E20C
PEET	Wilden	BDF	17-E20C
PESTELL	Colmworth	BDF	17-E20C
PESTELL	Meppershall	BDF	17-E20C

Sue Panks (4293) suepanks@btinternet.com

42 The Howards, North Wootton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3RS

AXAM	Kempston	BDF	19C
PURSER	Kempston	BDF	M18-21C
PURSER	Wootton	BDF	M18-21C
WARDEN	Bedford	BDF	19C
YOUNG	Goldington	BDF	19C

Josephine Knight (4294) josephinemary85@btinternet.com

63 St Adhelms Court, Swanage, Dorset BH9 1NS

KNIGHT	Bedford	BDF	20C
MANTON	Bedford	BDF	E18C-19C
MARSHALL	Bedford	BDF	19-20C
MARSHALL	Yelden	BDF	E17C-18C
MARSHALL	Irchester	NTH	E18C

David Bryant (4299) david@craftdesigns.co.uk

4 Grassfield Way, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9AF

BATES	Bedford	BDF	16-21C
BOYTON	Bedford	BDF	16-21C
BRYANT	Bedford	BDF	16-21C
PESTELL	Bedford	BDF	16-21C
WARD	Merton	DEV	16-21C
WARD	Kensington	LND	16-21C

Bob Ricketts (4302) bob.ricketts@nhs.net

68 Mendip Crescent, Bedford MK41 9EP

RICKETTS	Bedford	BDF	<20C
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Robert Peet (4308) bobandfran70@gmail.com

2 Sunnymead, Tyler Hill, Canterbury CT2 9NW

BROCKLEBANK	Louth	LIN	17-E20C
FURNESS	Wexford	WEX	19-E20C
FURNISS	Wexford	WEX	19-E20C
PEAT	Wilden	BDF	17-E20C
PEET	Bedford	BDF	17-E20C
PERCIVAL	Grantham	LIN	17-E20C
PERCIVAL	Nottingham	NTT	17-E20C

David Larkin (4312) barmay@btinternet.com

81 Thackers Way, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8HP

DEACON	Leighton Buzzard	BDF	M17-18C
DEACON	Tingrith	BDF	M17-18C

Pam Laycock (4315) pam.laycock@me.com

30 Bedford Road, Stagsden, Bedford MK43 8TP

Any, for LHSoc,	Stagsden	BDF	19-20C
BASSETT	ANY	SSX	18-19C
LAYCOCK	Silsden	YKS	All
MCDONOUGH	Broadstairs	KEN	19-20C
WILDING	Mucking	ESS	17-19C

***Editor's note:** Regarding the interest above for Stagsden, "Any", I thought it would be worth mentioning that there is a branch of local and family history devoted to the study of "places" – known as a one-place study. See: www.one-place-studies.org*

NOTES AND QUERIES

Richard has asked: are you able to help me with my search into the Hulatt family, for instance are there any other members of Bedfordshire Family History Society who are interested in the HULATT name

I understand that the name is found in many of the Bedfordshire Parishes so they would appear to be quite a large family.

I have only been able to trace back to George Hulatt born c1753 died 27 December 1833 who married Hannah HART and then Elizabeth SAVAGE. Any help would be appreciated. □

*Richard Hullett
rickeira@btinternet.com
Member no 3965*

SOULDROP A QUIET VILLAGE IN NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE

The sketch on the front cover is c1938 and in 80 years has changed little.

As you can see from the photo The Bedford Arms is still very much the same but the thatch roof has gone.

The village is still quiet and many stone buildings are in evidence.

Souldrop is one of many small villages in the area and a lovely part of the county for a drive out on a nice sunny day. Try lunch in one of the local pubs, or visit one of the many stone built churches. □

Paul Woodcraft



BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNALS ON CD

Back copies of Journal Volumes 1 – 19 including indexes,
in .pdf format.

The cd contains Volumes 1 – 19 of the journal and a link to the online Surname Index available on our website. Each journal volume covers a period of two years and contains an individual index to surnames and subjects.

Only £10 including postage and is available from:
Noel Evans, 14 Beaulieu Way, BEDFORD, MK41 8NP
or parishsales@bfhs.org.uk

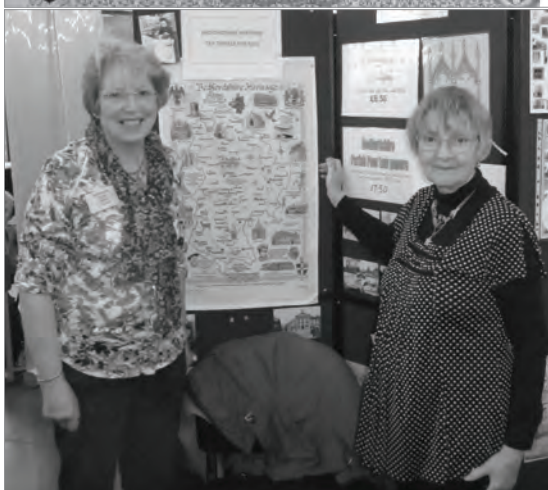
BEDFORDSHIRE HERITAGE TEA TOWELS

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

These tea towels are really too nice to use for drying up; they are beautifully colour printed with some famous Bedfordshire landmarks forming a border for the County map. Even if you don't have any Bedfordshire ancestors they make ideal gifts. They are 100% cotton and at £4.50 each can be obtained from the bookstall at Members' meetings by email to Lynn at secretary@bfhs.org.uk or by post (please add £1 for UK postage and packing—for outside the UK please enquire before ordering) from:

Lynn Manning
38 Risborough Road
Bedford MK41 9QW
Tel. 01234 306482

Cheques to be made payable to Bedfordshire Family History Society



THE BRYANT BOATBUILDING DYNASTY

Further details

Further to his article on the Bryant Boatbuilding Dynasty in the September Journal, David Bryant has kindly shared a few more photos and details about his family—Ed.

I have very few images of Walter Fred Bryant and the one I used in the article, showing him on the river, is not very sharp. Another, below, is of him at his daughter Margaret's marriage to Mr Henman in 1945. Walter is on left and Gladys, née Gostick, his wife is to the right of her daughter.

Walter also played for Bedford Rugby Club.

I have included part of the family tree relating to Walter Bryant, see opposite. You will see from this there is a further boatbuilder in the family, Arthur Ernest 1870–1895. He died

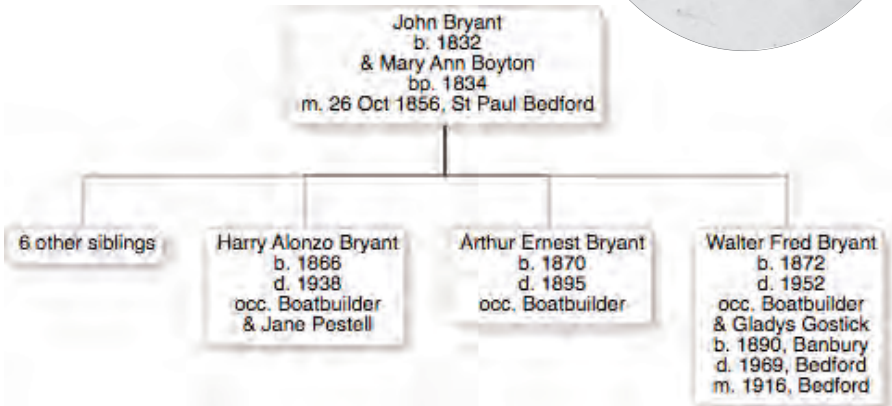
quite young, aged 25, and I know little about him. Perhaps I should have mentioned him in my article.

There is further picture of Jane (Jenny) Bryant (née Pestell) which my late mother has written on the back to confirm it is of her. I can see a likeness in more recent family members. The Pestells are elusive to track down and it would be interesting to hear from any descendants of that branch of the family.

I seem to be the only family member today still involved in the woodwork craft – woodturning which I have done since the mid 70s. I have written 4 books and more than 100 articles for woodwork magazines. I make large Great wheels (spinning) when I can that is in retirement! □



David Bryant



Spinning wheel made by David Bryant

ODELL DNA PROJECT IN AMERICA OFFERING FREE KITS

A coordinator of the Odell DNA Project in America is offering free Y-DNA kits to English males with the surname Odell, or one of its variants Odle, Wodell, or Woodhull. Interested parties should contact John Landry Odell, for details (*see below*).

My tenth great grandfather was a William Odell, from Cranfield, baptised in 1602, who left Bedfordshire in the 1630s either with or shortly after a large portion of the congregation from the village church of Odell did so led by the Rev. Peter Bulkeley, who was part of the non-conformist movement. One story has this William getting into a sword fight in Newport Pagnell and stabbing someone over a religious argument. This William Odell was the progenitor of a not insignificant family in British Colonial Connecticut and New York and the emerging United States, including one Governor of the State of New York in 1900, Benjamin Barker Odell and several congressmen. A loyalist part of the family featured the poet Jonathan Odell and emigrated to Canada founding Odelltown. Another part of the family became active Revolutionary War supporters, where the Odell Inn near Tarrytown, New York and the Odell House near Hartsdale, New York were of note. Some

descendants of this William spelled the name “Odle” implying how Odell was pronounced. Others signed their name in formal documents as “Woodhull” but otherwise went by Odell. In the US, Irish census takers started putting an apostrophe in the name, resulting in “O’Dell,” and unknowing descendants thought the name was Northern Irish. The Y-DNA of the William Odell in question has a distinct line, likely Northern European and Scandinavian in ancestry. Perhaps from some of the Danes and Jutes who settled East Anglia as there are common ancestors from 1,000 years ago with test takers in Denmark. Odell is a variant of the Anglo Saxon “Wadhull” or “hill where the woad plant grows,” and as surnames were assumed unrelated families may have adopted the surname Odell or one of its variants simply by virtue of proximity to certain part of Bedfordshire, i.e. the village of Odell, where the “Odell Castle” is located. □

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REMINDER

The CLOSING DATE for articles to be published in the
March 2019 *Journal* is
15 January 2019

CHRISTYS IN BEDFORDSHIRE

Back in July I had ten minutes to spare and finally decided to set up a One Name Study. I had been meaning to do this for my Christy ancestors for some time and I was surprised no-one had set something up already. It felt like a bit of a land grab – putting down my marker ahead of anyone else. Christy isn't a particularly common name, especially spelt with a "y" but I had just assumed someone would have done it before me. But they hadn't and so I am now officially a One Namer.

Since setting up the study I have achieved precisely nothing, although in my defence, I have been quite busy one way or another. Until now. My Christys are Londoners, from Clothfair, near Smithfield Market and "out East". My paternal grandmother, Harriet Maud, was a Christy and so that's my link. She married Edward Young. As far as I know I don't have any Bedfordshire relatives, my origins arising from The City and North Devon. There are some Bedfordshire connections though, with my father having been stationed at Cardington for a while when he was an Air Cadet, and I lived and brought up a family in Ampthill for about 23 years.

Just to put things into perspective, there are 644 Christys in the 1901 England Census and around 54,400 Youngs. You can easily see why I chose Christy for my One Name study. I have also registered a couple of variations and their respective populations are:

1901 England Census



Harriet Maud Young, née Christy

I suppose I should have based the one name study on Christie, as it is clearly the prevalent variation. In Scotland we find the Christie

Christy	Christey	Christie
644	39	2,874

numbers are even higher, indicating that the name probably originates there:

1901 Scotland Census

However, my personal connection and interest lays with the Christy variation and that's the root name I registered. In this article, where I mention the name Christy I generally

Christy	Christey	Christie
44	1	8,661

mean "and variations", unless indicated otherwise.

From researching my own family and as part of my studies I have collected quite a few Christys in London. But the scope and enormity of a One Name study is a bit daunting, especially at this formative stage

when I haven't linked up with anyone to discuss or share the work with. I wanted to branch out to somewhere different and see what I could turn up and what better place to pick than Bedfordshire ?

The obvious place to start this mini-project is to search for Christys who were born in Bedfordshire through the Civil birth records. Using Ancestry to explore these records, it turns out that the numbers involved are quite manageable as shown below:

Births	Christy	Christey	Christie
1837 to 1915	17	4	4
1916 to 2007	22	4	119

all three variations.

The oldest of the birth records is John Christy, born Q2 1838 in Biggleswade. Using the GRO index online, I was able to determine that John's mother's maiden name was Lenton (*Note: George Lenton, d. 2014, was a founder member and early secretary of the society*). A quick check in the 1841 Census shows that his father and mother were likely to be William, b. 1820, and Charlotte Christy. He also had a younger sister, Sarah.

The next step is to see where these Bedfordshire born Christys turn up in the Census records. Searching each Census by name and birth location

we have the following results:

Census year	Christy	Christey	Christie
1911	7	0	5
1901	14	0	4
1891	15	0	5
1881	14	0	9
1871	11	0	3
1861	13	0	1
1851	12	0	1
1841	10	0	2

This clearly shows that there is a small but persistent contingent of Christys emanating from Bedfordshire. I should clarify here that these locally born Christys were not necessarily living in Bedfordshire when the Censuses were taken, more on that later.

We could also search for Christys, and variations, living in Bedfordshire but born elsewhere. Whilst those records would be very interesting I wanted to keep a tight focus, otherwise one can imagine the whole thing unravelling like a ball of string !

The oldest person in this set of results, according to the 1841 Census transcription, is James Christy, born 1776 and living in Potton, Bedfordshire. However, on inspection of the record image, his age is probably 45, rather than 65, leading to a birth year of 1796. In the light of this, the oldest Christy, is Ann, age 50, born 1791 and living in Potton. If she had married though, and at this stage I am assuming she did, she would have acquired the Christy name rather than being born a Christy. On that basis we are probably back with James as our "top" Christy in this mini-project.

It is worth remembering that in the 1841 census, the age of people over 15 was supposed to be rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5. So, James could have been as old as 49 when he was reported as being 45 in the 1841 Census and therefore could have been born as early as 1792.

A search of earlier registers using Family Search finds an intriguing result: James Christie, c. 11 October 1790, Potton, father and mother John and Mary Christie. The year is a little out from what would be expected and further work is required here to determine whether this corresponds to our James, but we might be looking at an example of the crossover from Christie to Christy. Moving beyond the Census and Birth records, and researching the Christys who married or died in Bedfordshire between 1837 to 1915, we have the following results:

At this stage I haven't correlated these results with the list of Christys who were born in Bedfordshire, although of course that is on the list of things to do.

Taking matters further by looking at the 1939 register on Findmypast, I am reminded that unfortunately the place of birth was not captured and therefore it is not possible to restrict the search to just those people *born* in Bedfordshire, only people *living* in Bedfordshire:

	Christy	Christey	Christie
1939 Register	18	0	21
1837 to 1915 Marriages	5	0	3
Deaths	13	2	2

The results shown in all the tables above, illustrate that, whether they

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were born locally or not, Christys were evident in the county from before the commencement of Civil birth records right up to the start of the Second World War and beyond to present day.

Can we narrow down where these Christys came from ? Focussing on the Christy variation, a scan of the place of birth recorded in the Census results quickly reveals that Potton is a recurring theme:

1851	1861	1871	1881
11	9	7	9
1891	1901	1911	Grand Total
11	11	3	61

Where were these Christys living ?
The top three places of residence are:

Potton, Bedfordshire	28
East Ham, Essex	11
Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire	7

No surprise to see Potton at the top of the list again suggesting that a good proportion of the Potton Christys hadn't migrated elsewhere. However, seeing East Ham as the runner up is potentially a tantalising link to my East London Christys and one that I shall be following up !

To carry out this research I mainly used Ancestry with the occasional reference to Find my Past to check a few points, and of course to access the 1939 Register. The results of each search can be cut and pasted into a spreadsheet program, such as Excel. The process is slightly fiddly but with a few tweaks works quite well. I then consolidated the data into a single sheet which I can analyse by sorting, filtering and charting.

I hope working through this together has given you some ideas for your research and opens another way of



approaching those hard to solve puzzles. If you have Christy or variants in your ancestry then please do let me know. □

Geoff Young





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Although we have now published a CD with data for all 128 ancient parishes, some have no photographs, or very few.

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