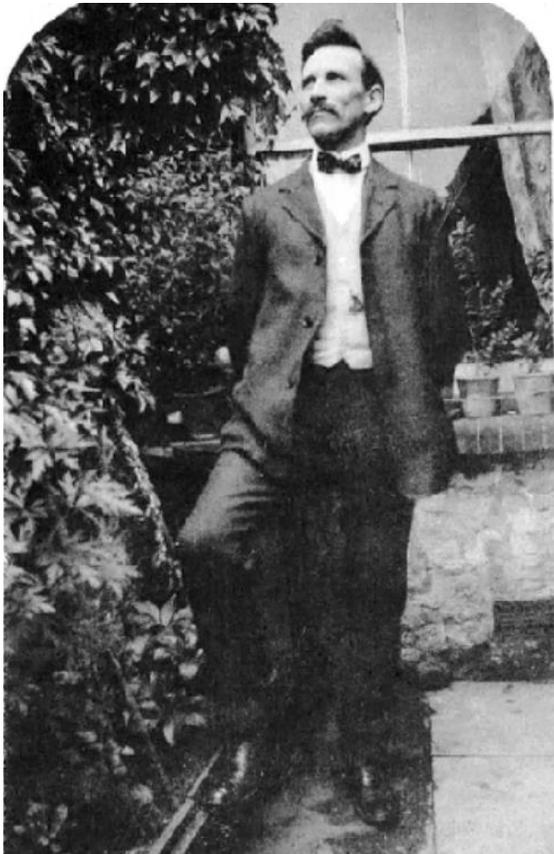


# ***DORSET***

## ***FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY***

*For People in Dorset or People with Dorset Ancestors*

*JOURNAL VOLUME 32 No 1 December 2018*



ISSN 1755-2052



# 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  
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Website: [www.dorsetfhs.org.uk](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk)

Find us on Facebook

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

\*

### Opening hours

Mon 10 am – 6 pm

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.

\*

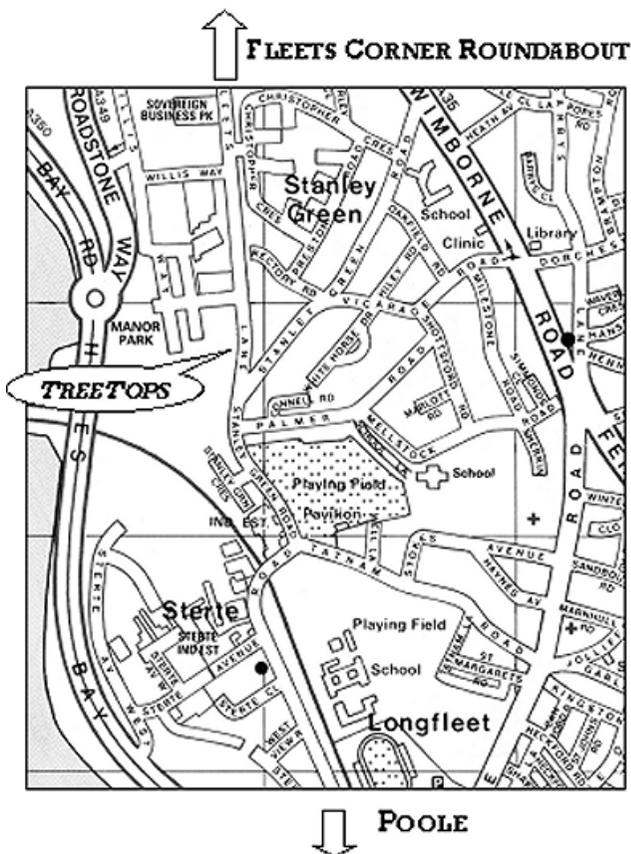
Bookings and research requests are taken by e-mail or by telephoning the Centre during opening hours.

\*

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.



\*

For details of Officers and Committee please see back inner cover

# *DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY*

## *The Quarterly Journal*

*Volume 32, Number 1 - December 2018*

**Cover picture** – *Harry Smith – refer article on a mystery from Wiltshire to Dorset*

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# From the Editor's Chair



Yet another year is almost done. Have you achieved everything you resolved to do when the year was young? Did you locate that missing ancestor perhaps, or discover some fascinating and unexpected new nugget of information about your Great Uncle Bert that you would love to share? If so, we would love to hear from you.

My new granddaughter is about to be formally named (not in a church baptism service, but in a civil naming ceremony which is a first for our family), so this time I will ask you to send in your stories relating to the names given to your ancestors. Do you share a forename with your ancestors perhaps? Or is there an unusual name in your family past that deserves more investigation? I don't feel that my own given middle name of Mary is at all unusual, but know that there have been Marys for several hundred years in my family's past.

We look forward to hearing from you at <editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>

What will your resolution be for the next new year? Whatever you resolve, from all of us at the Dorset Family History Society, have a very Merry Christmas and happy researching in 2019.

*Angie, Journal Editor*

Deadline for **December 2018** edition – **15 January 2019**

The Editorial Team will be pleased to receive articles for inclusion in this Journal. They can be short or long, with or without illustrations. Ideally they should be sent by e-mail to <editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>, but typed hard copy or clear, legible handwriting sent to Treetops is also welcome. The editors 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.

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# Programme and Speakers

*Sue and Pete Redfearn*



Meetings are held at St John's Church Centre Hall, Ashley Road, Parkstone, BH14 0AA on the second Monday of each month (except August) commencing at 8.00 pm. Admission no earlier than 7.30 pm, through the Ashley Road entrance. Admission to monthly meetings £2.00.

## **Mon 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 - "Dad's Army – Fact and Fiction" - a talk by Steve Roberts**

Steve takes a look at the real Home Guard, why it was formed and what it did, dispelling some popular myths. He also looks at the TV series, characters, actors, locations and the catchphrases. It is also worth remembering that the Home Guard lost over 1,600 members, killed on duty during its lifetime. Two of its members posthumously received the George Cross. A fun talk that attempts to set the record straight.

Steve lives in Christchurch. Originally from Worcester, he graduated as a teacher from Birmingham and taught in Brighton, Southend and Uxbridge. He later changed careers to become an IT Project Manager and then changed paths again in 2012, moving to Christchurch and becoming a freelance writer, private tutor and public speaker.

## **Mon 14th Jan. 2019 - "Ian Fleming – the man who made James Bond" by Kathy McNally**

Ian Fleming held the rank of Commander in the RNVR, the same rank he would later give to his action hero, James Bond. Commander Fleming's role in WW2 secret operations were every bit as fantastic as those in his books about the 007 Bond. Kathy reveals some of these, and the man behind Bond.

Kathy is a graduate of University of Strathclyde, now based in Bournemouth, and spent much of her professional life in the world of books and publishing, including a spell as freelance researcher and

broadcaster for BBC Radio Scotland. Now a busy speaker for many clubs and societies, and a guest speaker for P&O cruises

**Mon 11th Feb 2019 - “D-Day – Studland and Poole’s Involvement” by David Warhurst**

Studland was used for the training of the invasion force under “Operation Smash” in 1944, and Poole was the third largest embarkation point for “Operation Overlord”. David shows how Studland was involved in the pre-D-Day training and how Poole was used in the build-up for the D-Day landings.

David is a local historian who has written several books on Poole’s history, including one on the Royal Ordnance Factory, Holton Heath, where he worked as a scientist on cordite propellants.

**Mon 11th March 2019 - “Blue and White Racers of Poole Speedway” by Howard Nichols**

From humble beginnings to now being one of the leading clubs in the world, ‘Poole Pirates’ are one of the less known-about successes on our doorstep. With the help of the riders and those behind the scenes, Howard has put together this presentation of this famous club.

Howard, himself a supporter of the Pirates for over 50 years, returns to us from his travels, after last year giving us the story of another local famous success story, though now sadly ended, – Poole Pottery.

St John's Church Centre is opposite Waitrose in Upper Parkstone, on the corner of Ashley and Churchill Roads.

Please note that meetings can sometimes be subject to change at short notice. Please check for possible updates on <[www.dorsetfhs.org.uk](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk)> and on Facebook.

Transport notes: The Wilts and Dorset Bus routes M1 and M2, and Yellow Buses Route 1c, regularly leave Bournemouth (Gervis Place) and Poole Bus Station for Upper Parkstone.

If travelling by car and you find the Church Car Park full, please do not double-park or obstruct emergency vehicle access. Continue along Churchill Road and turn right into Norrish Road, where there is some on-street parking after 6.00 pm (check signs before leaving vehicle) and two Pay and Display car parks (charges apply until 10.00 pm).

# Meetings in Retrospect

*Sheila Tanner*

## 10 September 2018 – Workhouses and the Poor by Les Mitchinson

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018, we welcomed Les Mitchinson to our Monday meeting to give us an insight into how the Workhouse came about, and how the poor of the land were treated.

Les, having left the Royal Navy, immersed himself into genealogy, and became a wealth of knowledge in the subject, gaining a diploma in Heraldic Studies and Genealogy and proceeds today to present talks and courses, sharing his knowledge.

In 1572, an Overseer of the Poor was created as a parish officer, followed by an Act for the Relief of the Poor in 1597. This was directed at every parish to set up a workhouse/parish house to support the needy. Previous to this, vagrants were whipped and beggars hanged for theft in order to reduce the numbers needing help. Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> ordered parishes to create a voluntary fund to help the needy and apprenticeships for vagrant or orphaned children.

The Act of 1601, the **Great Poor relief Act**, established the parish as the administrative unit responsible for the poor. Each parish was required to support the poor, individual cases were assessed, paupers, aged widowed, orphans and able-bodied unable to support their families were given a weekly allowance and rent. Local charities provided warm clothing, bread and coal. The Parish chest contained lists of individuals in an Account and Rate book.

**The Settlement Act** of 1662 only granted poor relief to those in the parish of settlement, and strict rules by parish officials had the right to remove migrants deemed to be a burden on the parish resources.

In 1697 **An Act for supplying some Defects in the Laws for the Relief of the Poor** introduced 'Badging of the Poor'. A Letter "**P**" was worn on their clothes, illustrating their status in life. Many Acts followed in later years for the relief of the poor until 1723 when a Workhouse Test Act created a national system. Those refusing to enter the workhouse had

their relief stopped. Following this in 1782, **Gilberts Act** allowed the creation of Voluntary Workhouse Unions. Workhouse early records can be found in “Parish Chest” records, as the vestry held minutes of accounts. individual records and those of inhabitants in the parish.

In 1834 **the Workhouse Act** was created, which enforced the formation of the Poor Law Unions. Amalgamation of a number of Parishes became the responsibility of the Board of Guardians.

In 1865 **The Poor Law Rate** was replaced by **the Union Rate**, and in 1908 **Old Age pensions** were introduced, followed by in 1911 the introduction of **Unemployment Insurance**.

In 1930 **Poor Law Unions** were abolished, followed by the 1929 **Local Government Act**. In 1948 **National Assistance** was introduced, a system which has changed many times up until today.

Records held at Kew offer many volumes of Poor Law Union information, ranging from union records, out relief order books from 1844, containing Admission and Discharge details, names and addresses, occupations and age, parish records produced six-monthly, Masters report or journals, 1862 – 1940, and the Workhouse punishment books, pauper description books, Application and reports books, District Medical Officers reports. And many records in general.

A dedicated website to workhouse records, containing a history of individual parishes, records, photographs and poor laws, is <[www.workshouses.org.uk](http://www.workshouses.org.uk)>. a very useful and informative site.

The National Archives have a Discovery catalogue to locate workhouse records <[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)>, also a useful website that offers various maps, parishes, GRO districts, parish and poor law unions is the <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> and is very easy to search.

The evening was well represented by many members and non-members alike. A very interesting and informative subject.

## **08 October 2018 – A Story of a WW1 Soldier Frank Norman Fox – by Jane Fox**

Jane Fox, a genealogist and family Historian was our speaker on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Church in Parkstone. Jane was intrigued by the history of a great uncle whom she knew had lost his life in WW1. With the knowledge she had, she proceeded to look into the events that led up to his passing in 1917.

Frank Norman Fox, had been a choir boy in the town of Melton Constable, Norfolk, in 1909, of which she had been given a photograph of him, in his cassock holding a hymn book. She decided to research his family first by using the 1911 census. Then to find out more information on his Army career, she looked for his attestation records and gained details of his service history.

Many personal details are held within this record, including his family names, addresses, personal details, including height, hair colour, eyes colour, and which regiment he had enlisted in.

His service record informed her that he had enlisted in the Norfolk regiment, and left for Turkey on a troop ship, possibly the *HMS Aquitania*, around 1915.

A lot of men from Norfolk did not enlist straight away due to the fact the harvest needed to be brought in during the Autumn of 1914, a necessity for rations during the early days of the war.

More information was attained by using the British Army WW1 Medal Rolls index cards 1914-1918.

Frank died in a hospital in Ankara, Turkey, whilst being held a prisoner of war in 1917. Gaps in his service history led Jane to using many of the websites detailed below.

War graves casualty details, cemetery information, maps and memorials can be found on: <[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)> Commonwealth War Graves Commission; <[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)>, Burnt records, WO363, unburnt

records WO366, WW1 14-20; <[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)>, Imperial War Museum; <[www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)>.and [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net)>.

The long, long trail, Western front <[www.icrc.archives](http://www.icrc.archives)>. The British Red Cross Archives, Geneva, <[www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)>, <[www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk)>

The British library, Regimental Museums, Newspapers, <[www.tna.gov.uk](http://www.tna.gov.uk)>. At the National Archives, War Diaries are held, giving information on troop movements, dis-embarkation, ship details, confrontation dates, and photographs of battle areas.

<[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)>. Death certificates are available from the GRO, (General Register Office); they may not give a lot of information, but at least a record of date of death, age and where fell.

Many soldiers wrote quick wills, whilst serving at the front, to ensure their loved ones received any necessary effects and monies due to them, a probate site, <[www.probaterearch.service.gov.uk](http://www.probaterearch.service.gov.uk)> available for research.

Army registers of Soldiers effects. 1902 – 1929 for monetary details. The Ministry of Pensions hold records at The National Archives, Pin 26, but not available online.

Jane had gleaned a great deal of research regarding Frank Norman Fox, and felt she had got to know a little of her ancestor through the information she was able to obtain from many of the above website. A very interesting and poignant record.

**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](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk)
- Email: [contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk](mailto:contact@dorsetfhs.org.uk)
- Post: Suite 5, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ. Tel: 01202 785623

# Computer Group Meetings at Treetops

*Richard Yates*



*Meetings are held at Treetops on the first Tuesday of each month (except January and August) commencing at 7.30 pm. Please use the ground floor level access at the rear of Stanley House.*

*Meetings can sometimes be subject to change at short notice. Please check for possible updates on <[www.dorsetfhs.org.uk](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk)> and on Facebook. Requests for future subjects, or offers to lead an evening, are always welcome.*

## **December 4<sup>th</sup> – Xmas Quiz**

June Taylor won last year's quiz and plans to provide us with another taxing offering. Can everyone bring along a SMALL contribution to the refreshments?

## **January – No meeting**

## **February 5<sup>th</sup> – Newspapers**

We will use the Society's subscription to the British Newspaper Archive to examine what is available. Hopefully, by then we will have upgraded our Ancestry subscription and will also have access to Newspapers.com.

## **March 5<sup>th</sup> – Record Keeping with Excel**

For the benefit of the many who missed it first time round and all those who would like to see it again, Philip Newton-Webb will again demonstrate his use of excel for his family history records.

*Requests for future subjects, or offers to lead an evening, are always welcome. We have decided that June and I will continue to run the meetings and produce the calendar notes.*

# Computer Group Happenings

*Richard Yates*



## **4<sup>th</sup> September – Celia's Websites**

Celia Williams brought a selection of websites which she has previously used and demonstrated some of the benefits. Celia had put her spreadsheet onto Excel for the occasion, with some

unexpected consequences. Following discussions, Celia has been borrowing the Society laptop to complete this process, following which those who attended and left their details will receive a copy with improved formatting. We have also discussed if it might be possible to add this resource to the members-only section of the Society website. Watch this space.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> October – Writing up your Family History**

This meeting was transferred from November due to availability issues. To an extent it was a follow up to the course held in September but was more a discussion of various members' own efforts. June Taylor brought along write-ups of some of her families and demonstrated where



some of the information was acquired. Diane Waters talked about her Croasdell family and showed the website <[www.croasdell.org.uk](http://www.croasdell.org.uk)> which she and John have developed to hold the Croasdell name research. There was some reporting of suggestions from the earlier course, and members noted the Guild of One Name Studies. It was suggested that this might be a good subject for a future meeting.

# Members' Interests

*Alan Mead*

To help connect Society Members who may be researching the same ancestor, Dorset FHS maintains a database of Members' Interests. Members can complete a Members' Interests form to register a maximum of 12 surnames. This form is sent to all new Members as part of the Welcome Pack.

The following new surname Interests have been registered since the last Journal.

<b>Member No.</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Dates</b>
5093	ANGELL	Wimborne	DOR	1889-1964
5093	ANGELL	Malmesbury	WIL	1885-1957
3786	BAKER	Hinton Ampner	HAM	1850-1900
3786	BIRT	Sheffield	YKS	1850-1950
3786	BUSHNELL	Any	LND	1850-1900
5093	DODSON	Wimborne	DOR	1892-1966
3786	FRAMPTON	Shapwick	DOR	1800-1900
3786	GUEST	Poole	DOR	1900-Date
5093	LAWS	Easington	DUR	1894-1947
4998	PUNCH	Wareham	DOR	1813-1910
4998	SAUNDERS	Poole	DOR	1806-1900
3786	STEVENS	Any	BRK	1800-1850
3786	STEVENS	Any	DOR	1850-1900
3786	STEVENS	Any	LND	1850-1950
3786	SWYER	Sturminster Marshall	DOR	1800-1950
3786	WARE	Hampreston	DOR	1850-1900

These have been added to the full list of registered surnames, which can be searched on the Society's website at [www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-interests](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-interests). Contact details can be obtained by following the instructions on that page.

Members can register new, or update existing, surnames they are researching by sending a new form to Treetops. The latest version can be downloaded from the Members' Area at <[www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-area](http://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-area)>. The details on the new form will replace any already registered. Members without Internet access should contact Treetops during opening hours.

New surname Interests will be added to the website and published in the next Journal. Minor changes, such as revised place or dates, will be updated on the website but not published in the Journal. Interests of those who do not renew their membership will be deleted from the website.

## One Hundred Years Ago

*June Taylor*

Usually for this piece I look at the Western Gazette at the first edition of the month in which this Journal appears. This time I have looked at the edition of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November to see how the end of the Great War was covered.

The front page, as was usual with all newspapers, was all advertisements as was the first 3½ columns of Page 2. After this the headlines (small by today's standards) were: - THE LAST SHOTS, BRITISH FOUR MILES EAST OF MONS, describing how the troops and the locals had celebrated at 11 o'clock on the Monday by waving flags and singing the National Anthems of Belgium and England.

In Britain church bells were rung and services of thanksgiving held. Most factories closed down on Monday as the workers came out onto the streets to celebrate singing patriotic songs and waving flags. Big Ben's face was lit up for the first time in years and by the time the paper went to press some areas had already switched street lights on again.

By 6<sup>th</sup> December some POWs had returned home, and plans were already being made for demobilisation with married men first. Women were being urged to give up their jobs to the men. Unemployment

benefit was to be 24s for men, 20s for women, 12s for boys 15-18 and 10s for girls. Civil Service jobs were to be reserved for officers. Other help was to be available for education etc., but it was only officers who were to have help if they were “unable to meet rent, mortgage instalments, insurance taxes and fees”.

There were still reports of soldiers killed or to receive medals and in Bourton the school had been closed because of the influenza epidemic. The Ministry of Food had announced that white bread would be available again shortly and that the abandonment of the 12-hour rule was under consideration. Whilst elsewhere was a report of a bread delivery man being fined for selling bread less than 12 hours old because he had run out. Fresh bread was not considered good for one and as late as the 1950s my Grandmother would ask the baker for “a steady” if she had run out.

All ration book holders were to get an extra four ounces of sugar for Christmas and dried fruit was being made available, but grocers were not to let anyone have more than eight ounces for each member of the household.

Rinso was advertising that its soap powder could be used with cold water because: -



Sherborne Golf Club was making efforts to revive the course and several towns and villages were considering memorials with Beaminster suggesting they ask for two guns.

The King with a large party had gone to Paris and the Kaiser had fled to Holland. Nominations had closed for the General Election on 16<sup>th</sup> December with 107 seats not contested.

## THE WAR IN BRIEF.

1914.

- Aug. 4—Britain at war with Germany.
- Aug. 20—Brussels occupied.
- Aug. 25—Mons Battle.
- Aug. 26—Russians defeated at Tannenberg.
- Sept. 6—Battle of Marne; Paris saved.
- Oct. 9—Antwerp occupied.
- Oct. 11—Battle of Ypres; Channel ports saved.
- Dec. 8—Naval battle off Falklands.
- Dec. 14—Shelling of Scarborough.

1915.

- Jan. 24—Naval battle off Dogger Bank.
- April 25—Allies land in Gallipoli.
- May 2—Russian front broken.
- May 7—Lusitania torpedoed.
- May 23—Italy declared war.
- Aug. 4—Fall of Warsaw.
- Sept. 25—Battle of Loos.
- Oct. 13—Murder of Nurse Cavell.
- Nov. 22—Turks routed at Ctesiphon.

1916.

- Jan. 8—Evacuation of Gallipoli.
- April 23—Surrender of Kut.
- May 31—Naval battle off Jutland.
- July 1—British attack on the Somme.
- Aug. 6—Battle of the Isonzo.
- Dec. 6—Fall of Bucarest.
- Dec. 15—Hun failure at Verdun.

1917.

- Feb. 1—Unrestricted U-boat blockade.
- March 11—Fall of Baghdad.
- March 12—Revolution in Russia.
- April 5—United States declared war.
- April 9—Battle of Arras.
- Oct. 24—Italian retreat from Caporetto.
- Dec. 9—Fall of Jerusalem.

1918.

- Feb. 10—Russia out of the war.
- March 21—Great German offensive begun.
- April 22—Naval raid on Zeebrugge and Ostend.
- July 18—Turn of the tide.
- Sept. 30—Bulgaria surrenders; Fall of Damascus.
- Oct. 1—St. Quentin re-taken.
- Oct. 17—Ostend, Lille, and Douai re-captured.
- Oct. 26—Fall of Aleppo.
- Oct. 30—Turkey surrenders.
- Nov. 3—Austria surrenders.
- Nov. 11—Capture of Mons; Germany surrenders.

# Dorset Building Stone

*Jo Thomas*

Each parish in Dorset has a list of buildings of architectural or historic merit that are preserved by order of the local authorities, often at great expense to the owners. The architectural and historic details have always been available in the records of English Heritage and the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments. They are also now available online.

The beauty of Dorset is based on its landscape and therefore its geology, and many hundreds of geologists have studied the quarries cut into the rocks for the purpose of winning building stone. Therefore, in late 2016 a small group of amateur and retired professional geologists joined together to study the parish churches and identify the stone with which they have been built.

Most often the village cottages are built of local stone, and the geologists will be able to find the quarries. The Dorset Environmental Records Centre has many records of quarries that have been described by geologists over the last 150 years. However, the churches and manor houses, with more money to spend, or wider connections, often use stone from further afield.



For example, In Shapwick the church includes an almost orange limestone from North Dorset, as well as the more local dark brown sandstone from Lytchett Matravers. Both could have been carried on the River Stour, but the first is the result of a

landowning connection with Marnhull.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after the railways were built, Bath Stone was brought on the Somerset and Dorset railway to enhance the 'restorations' of many churches near the railway, and to provide the dressings of door and window openings in new churches, particularly in the conurbations of Poole and Bournemouth. Other stone was also carried on the railway, which proved to be a much easier way to carry stone than the river and horse and cart.

The church in Talbot village is an example, in that the Forest Marble shelly limestone could be brought from Stalbridge station, and the Bath Stone (an almost orange oolitic limestone) all the way from Bath.

Within reach of the Isle of Purbeck, by river or river valley, by sea or by road, the many different limestones of the Purbeck Beds, and the Portland limestones cut from the cliffs, have been used for churches and many other buildings. Often the architectural and historic descriptions recognise the



Purbeck limestones, and Dorset residents are equally knowledgeable. But – beware – the Purbeck Marble is full of tiny snail shells, and is normally used inside a building because it oxidises to rust out in the weather. It is not a true marble, only called that because it takes a polish.

Our Dorset Building Stone group have researched a good deal of historical, architectural and geological literature, as well as visiting many parish churches and are working on a website that we hope will interest anyone who lives in or visits Dorset. We are immensely enjoying our exploration of Dorset and hope that you will too. Please have a look at <<http://www,dorsetbuildingstone.weebly.com>>.

# Letter to the Editor



**Dear Editor,**

Reading the poem “Your Tombstone Stands Among the Rest” in the March issue volume 31, took me back to the times when we would go to The Woodgrange Park Cemetery, Forest Gate, London E, to visit the family grave of great grandparents William E Beasant (1831-1896) and Mary, nee STICKLAND, (1838-19050, Uncle Harry (1899-1918) and my sister, Irene BEASANT, d 1929 aged just two.

My parents, George and Jean Beasant, nee SIBLEY, moved from East London to Hampshire in the early 1960s. My husband was offered a job in Southampton a couple of years later, so we also moved. Visits to the family grave became difficult.

Sadly, my parents died in 1984 and 1985 within a few months of each other.

What to do about a memorial? Could something be arranged with the cemetery in Forest Gate and the family grave? I got in touch and was told the grave was overgrown but for a yearly sum it could be cleared, which would be a fitting memorial. A few months later we made arrangements to visit my sister-in-law for a few days in Essex; this would be an ideal opportunity to visit the cemetery, tidy the grave and make arrangements for an annual tidy-up.

Before doing this I phoned to make sure this would be convenient only to be told the grave was no longer there, when expressing my horror and sadness I was informed more plots were needed and a letter had been put on the gate!

Soon after this my family tree was started and we had actually returned to our roots, Southampton, Poole and Puddletown, where in the graveyard there is a tombstone for George Beasant and Margaret (nee JOLLIFE). George was the son of Henry Beasant, carpenter, (1716?-1801) and his third wife Elizabeth, nee SHERRING. I am a descendant of Henry and his first wife Sarah, nee BOSWELL.

After generations of mariners and an accountant, what was my father's occupation? A carpenter!

To all the members who have sallied forth with buckets, water, chalk and shears etc. to clean monumental inscriptions, a big thank you, please keep up the good work, if only Forest Gate had had volunteers like you.

*Jean Willson*

## Chairman's Chat

By the time you read this we shall have had our AGM and there may be some new Trustees in place, new faces on the Committee. And there may not! I have no way of knowing what will happen, but past experience tells me that very few people come knocking on the door with an offer to serve on the committee.

I am happy to report one exception to the norm – Richard Yates, our Treasurer, was coming to end of six years' service, and as required by the Constitution, was stepping down. He put out an appeal for someone to take over. Steve Wallington saw it and offered his services. Thank you, Steve, and welcome to the Committee. And thank you, Richard, for your six years of diligent and careful handling of the Society's funds.

Having no-one ready in the wings to step in is a problem not limited to our Society. If you, like me, are involved in other groups, organisations and fellowships, you will know how many have folded in recent times for want of leadership. Of course, there are genuine reasons why some people can't take on a role with us, or at least not just now, and they must be respected and not badgered.

I have heard a raft of less valid reasons and excuses over the years, e.g. 'You are all doing such a great job I'll leave it in your capable hands.' Thank you for the kind words but the grim reaper, a move away, a change of job or other circumstances and, no matter how good a job someone has been doing they are gone... Another: 'I don't know enough about [the role/organisation] to be on the committee.' Answer – you think we did? Any of us, when we first stepped up to help? We have all learned on the job, bringing to bear our life experience, knowledge gained in other roles and, most importantly, our common sense.

I am approaching the age when I should be sat with my feet up being waited on. ["Huh! Fat chance!" says my dear wife.] and some other members of your Committee are no longer in the first flush of youth either. So, please, give thought to offering for the committee. Let us know as soon as possible that you are interested and willing because we never know when we may need to co-opt someone to fill a vacancy, or you could shadow a member and be ready to stand at the next AGM.

We have an exciting year ahead with the monthly Speaker meetings, the Computer Group, Treetops volunteers all ready, willing and able, Journal and E-newsletter full of interesting and useful stuff, coach trips, national shows in London and elsewhere. Enjoy your research, enjoy your Society, enjoy your life!

Best wishes,

*David*

## **Silvester Horlock 1856-1910 - A lunatic?**

*Jacqueline Welch (nee Horlock)*

An entry from the Guardian Minute Book from the Poole Workhouse dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 1910 reads:

*Silvester HORLOCK a lunatic*

*Notice of the death of the above named in the Dorset County Asylum on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Instant was received*

The word 'lunatic' derives from the Latin word Lunaticus, which originally referred to a person considered to suffer from diseases

thought to be caused by the moon i.e. those who were dangerous, foolish, unpredictable or crazy.

According to the Lunacy Act 1890, Lunatic was a legal term and it wasn't until the Mental Treatment Act of 1930 that this term was replaced by "person of unsound mind". This Act also replaced the term asylum with mental hospital. The Mental Health Act of 1959 then replaced this labelling of "person of unsound mind" to those suffering from "mental illness".



So in 1910 Silvester was considered, and as such labelled a lunatic. He was admitted to the county asylum. Justified? By the law of the day the answer to this question would be yes. As his records show he was thought to be dangerous and unpredictable and maybe somewhat crazy. The definition of a lunatic. However medical knowledge, treatments and social acceptance of medical conditions since 1910 have improved far beyond what would have been envisaged 100 years ago. Today Silvester would not be considered mentally ill and as such not admitted to a mental hospital

Silvester was born in Piddlehinton, Dorset in 1856. He was the eldest of three siblings born to William Horlock and Mary Ann (formally CAKE). After working as a plough boy, in 1872 Silvester joined the Scots guards. In 1880 at the age of 23 he was in the army reserve, working as a labourer and living in Tolpuddle, where he married Maria BOWRING, a spinster, also living in Tolpuddle. Silvester and Maria had five children, although two girls died in infancy. After their first child was born Silvester and Maria moved to Parkstone, Silvester working as a general labourer / gardener.

The 1901 census shows Silvester and Maria living with their two youngest children in Woking road, Parkstone. Silvester is working as a

general labourer, which would indicate that his health at this time was generally good. Column 17 of the 1901 census requires notification of persons who were a lunatic or imbecile or feeble minded. Silvester according to this census is none of these.

On 2<sup>nd</sup>. April 1910 Dr. John OLIVEY of 155 High Street, Poole was asked to attend Poole Workhouse by Justice of the peace Joseph HAWKES. He was directed to examine Silvester Horlock under the lunacy act of 1890 to determine if Silvester should be detained. He relates *“Patient is very quiet, rather sullen in temperament. Distinct loss of memory, does not know his own address etc. I have been informed that he wandered away from his home and was found two days later by the police many miles from home and knows nothing about it”*.

Dr. Olivey also relates information given by Sarah HEAP, Superintendent female nurse of Poole Workhouse: *“He was troublesome during the night and it was necessary to have a male attendant to keep him in his room and from doing violence to himself. She herself was kicked in the stomach”*. Dr. Olivey signed the medical certificate indicating that Silvester Horlock was in a fit condition of bodily health to be removed to the asylum, so giving Justice of the Peace Joseph Hawkes authority to sign *“order for reception of a pauper lunatic”* instructing the medical superintendent of the county asylum to admit and detain Silvester.

On admission to the asylum Silvester’s social, family and medical history were recorded. He is 53years old, married to Maria, a gardener having had a poor education (although he can write) and has been in failing health for three years. He is recorded as being an epileptic and dangerous, however, although considerably depressed, is not suicidal. There is no family history of neurosis or insanity. Records do not indicate who supplied this information.

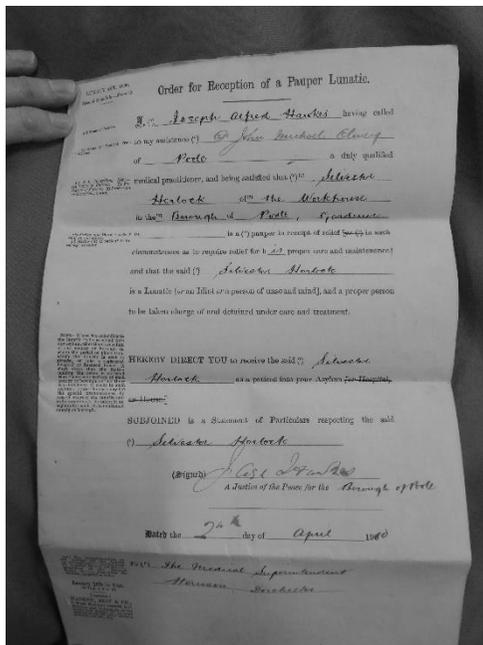
Physical examination showed Silvester to be fairly well nourished with a shallow complexion. His tongue is dirty and his gums and teeth bad. Examination of his nervous system showed him to have a slight tremor, some defectiveness in his speech and his gait staggering with bad co-ordination. His pupils were found to be unequal and having poor reaction. He was not suffering from any hallucinations or delusions.

So Silvester had been diagnosed as being epileptic. “Modern” treatment for epilepsy with the drug phenobarbitone didn’t come into use until 1912. Until then Bromide might have been given to sedate patients, but it would probably be true to surmise that Silvester, from a small rural area in Dorset. would not have had access to any such treatment.

The question needs to be asked: was his wandering from home, general troublesome and aggressive behaviour actually due to a post epileptic seizure state? With the medical knowledge of today it is probably true to say yes. But this is 1910 and not viewed as a medical condition. If family cannot cope with this situation perhaps the only solution is the asylum. This certainly would appear to be the case with Silvester.

So how would Silvester have been treated? Well, as far as medical treatment goes probably not at all. He just needed to be kept away from “the rest of society”. He would have been housed in an open (Nightingale) ward, probably no screens to give privacy to himself and other patients and definitely not treated with any dignity.

Admitted on 2<sup>nd</sup>. April 1910, the first recorded documentation of his condition is April 9<sup>th</sup>. The attendant records Silvester as being confused, has little memory and irritable at times. On April 16<sup>th</sup>. Silvester is recorded as being dirty and untidy in appearance. Although dazed and sullen he is also said to be noisy at times and mutters incoherently to himself. The fact that Silvester is recorded as being dirty and untidy would indicate that help with hygiene needs were not forthcoming from staff.



Over the next month there are entries of Silvester's condition.

- *26<sup>th</sup> April 1910: "in a dazed and stupid mental condition. Had 4 seizures today and 2 during the night"*
- *28<sup>th</sup>. April 1910 "Had 2 further seizures today. Twitching of face muscles continues"*
- *30<sup>th</sup>. April 1910 "2 further seizures today. Cannot be roused, getting weaker"*
- *8<sup>th</sup>. May 1910 "Dazed condition, hasn't spoken since last fit. Very destructive with clothing"*
- *15<sup>th</sup>. May 1910 "After a similar epileptic form seizure today he never rallied. Became cyanosed deeply and died at 10.20am."*

Interestingly there is no record of any family visiting Silvester.

Silvester's death was registered by the medical officer of the asylum. His cause of death was recorded as "organic brain disease." Perhaps a sad end at the age of 53 years, for if born in a different age he would have been diagnosed and treated completely differently. Silvester's widow Maria was left £437 in his will. She re-married in 1913 and died in 1923 at the age of 73 years.

## **It's a Dog's Life (1940s style)**

*Linda Adams*

Going through some old notes and letters from my late Uncle John, I recently came across some notes I'd made from a phone call about one of my Granddad's dogs.

The GRICE family have always been great dog lovers! My father was the only one of seven children who didn't have a dog – because my mother always said she had enough to do looking after the four children! Therefore the highlight of our annual holiday visiting the relatives in Birmingham (for me and Dad anyway) was the games and the lovely walks around Clent Hills and Warley Woods with the various family dogs.

Life has changed over the years for us all – including our pets. Dogs, like children, were given whatever food was available and expected to eat it or go without, and would often wander the streets getting into mischief! One of Grandpop’s dogs was Peter, a brilliant, smallish, tan-coloured dog. Everyone knew him at Rhyl in North Wales, where Grandma and Grandpop had retired due to ill health after being gassed in WW1.

Peter often took the bus by himself from one side of the town to the other. The ice cream man knew him and had his cornet ready for him every day! He also regularly went to the cinema with Grandpop and Grandma. One day the doorman said he didn’t think Peter should go in as it was a war film with lots of bangs and screaming – so Grandpop told him to stay put. A bit later he sneaked in and found his way round to them and settled down to watch the action. He enjoyed the film!

One day, whilst Grandpop was gardening, bent down behind the privet hedge, Peter jumped back through the gate and he heard someone say “Bye Peter! See you next week!” He stood up and surprised the couple and asked where Peter had been. They said he had been to the pictures with them – like he did every week!

When Peter was getting older, he got lost on holiday at Llandudno. Grandpop had to go home to Rhyl to put an advert in the local paper. A lady saw a dog, looking very tired and bedraggled, trying to cadge a lift on a bus at Colwyn Bay. The conductor turfed him off! He tried again with another bus – but with the same result! On the third attempt the lady felt sorry for him and decided to pick him up and take him back home with her. She bathed him and fed him and she wondered if he was the lost dog she’d seen advertised. He was!

He had walked (or cadged lifts) and nearly managed to get home under his own steam. Apparently, this wasn’t the only time he got into the papers..... but, unfortunately, I didn’t get the opportunity to hear the other stories about our illustrious family member from Uncle John again. So we have a FAMOUS DOG in the family anyway!

# A Note from Treetops

Treetops is now open on a Monday, Wednesday & Saturday from 10am -3pm . Unfortunately, we are not able to remain open until 6pm on a Monday, due to volunteer commitments.

## Transcriptions

*June Taylor*

Anyone tracing their Family History using online “pay to view” sites will soon learn that there are many errors in the transcriptions of the records. Some are understandable, such as CUTLER being transcribed as CUTTER because the line of the “t” has gone over the “l” without a loop. Others are not so excusable.

Many years ago I could not find Simeon SIMPSON on the 1841 census. When eventually found by the old-fashioned method of scrolling through the village where he lived I found him transcribed as “Linson Lunson”!

Looking for William TUFNELL and Henrietta Maria LEQUEUX in 1871 for a friend I hit a brick wall. William’s age varies and his birth place and parents are still “unknown”, but Henrietta plus born 1837, Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire, produced Henrietta Morado and William Legnear. Morado being a combination of Maria and Do (ditto).

However, I think the prize must go to a recent discovery in Dorset. Trying to tidy up a branch, I was looking unsuccessfully for the christenings of three children mentioned in the will of William Fathers who died in 1753 in Alderholt. Scrolling down I saw “God Fathers” - a case of must investigate. The transcription reads:

<b>Name:</b>	God Fathers
<b>Event Type:</b>	Baptism
<b>Baptism Date:</b>	112 Dec 1804
<b>Baptism Place:</b>	Wool, Dorset, England
<b>Father:</b>	John DAVIS
<b>Mother:</b>	Elizth COFFIN

The original from Wool parish register couldn't be clearer.

1804 Baptised (62)  
Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Harriett Daughter  
of John & Ellinor Bewly  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> William the son of  
Benjamin & Elizabeth  
Crispin  
God Fathers  
John Davis  
John Coffin  
God-Mother  
Elizabeth Coffin

## A Mystery from Wiltshire to Dorset

*Richard Smith*

Here is a story and a mystery that I have been unable to resolve - why did my grandfather and his new wife move away from his family in Wiltshire to Dorset?

My grandfather, Harry SMITH, was born in Semington in Wiltshire in 1878 where his father, Henry Smith (1829 - 1922), was a Blacksmith - a family tradition in those days - and his mother was Sarah Ann SPENCER (1844 - 1887). The family had lived in the area around Melksham / Trowbridge / Devizes of Wiltshire for a number of generations back as far as I can trace to the late 1600's.

The 1881 census shows him living with his parents and two siblings in Semington, and in 1891 they were still living there - my grandfather was

then aged 12 and described as an Errand Boy. In September 1895 he cycled the three miles to Melksham to witness a very early ascent by a manned hot air balloon.

He had left home by the time of the 1901 census and was living with the CORY family as a lodger in Polebarn Road, at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, and his occupation was Grocer's Assistant – a job title that he kept for the rest of his life. James Cory, the head of their family, was a weaver in a local woollen mill, so had no connection to the grocery trade. Just two months after the 1901 census, on 3rd June 1901 Harry married my grandmother, Augusta Katrina JOHANNSON (1866-1941), in West Ashton church, just outside Trowbridge.

I never knew my grandmother Augusta as she died before I was born, but I did know that she had been born in Sweden. At the time of their marriage, my grandfather Harry was aged 23, but the marriage certificate said that Augusta was aged 30. However, she was clearly telling something of a "porkie " there, as in the 1881 and 1891 UK censuses, she said she was born in 1866, which was confirmed by my Swedish investigations, and thus she was considerably older than my grandfather.

I do not know where my grandfather worked at the time of his marriage, but with the census in 1901 saying he was a grocer's assistant lodging in Trowbridge, it is very likely that he worked at one of the grocery stores in that town.

How Harry and Augusta came initially to meet is also a mystery. In the 1901 census, just before they were married, Augusta was living in the house of T. Henry FAIR in Hilperton, Wiltshire, who was Land Agent to Lord Long of Wraxall (Viscount Long). She was described in the census as Cook, so I wonder if she worked as Cook at Lord Long's property, Rood Ashton House. So maybe Harry was delivering groceries on his bicycle from his employer to the Big House, and met Augusta in the kitchens there - we will never know.

So here we come to the first question and mystery because we next come across Harry and Augusta in May 1904 when their first son, my Uncle, Erik Spencer SMITH (1904 - 1985), is born. They were living in "Mereval ", Grove Road West, Christchurch, Dorset. So what made

Harry and Augusta move from Trowbridge to Christchurch as there are no family links to that latter town, and no obvious transport link such as a direct rail line. Sadly, there are no family papers to give me a clue, and my grandfather died in 1964, which was long before I started my family research, or asked the relevant questions.

The next link in the chain produces the second question and mystery because just two years later in November 1906 they had moved again - their second child, my father Harry Olaf SMITH (1906 - 1989), was born in Dorchester in a rented property adjoining Dorchester Prison below North Square.

So once again, what made them move to Dorchester after a relatively short stay in Christchurch, but Dorchester was where my grandfather then lived for much of the rest of his life, and it is where his wife Augusta died in 1941. In this instance, I do know where he worked - then and for the rest of his working life. Howard Boon Stores (High Class Grocers and Tea Merchants) had two grocery shops in Cornhill and South Street in the centre of Dorchester at that time. The photograph below shows the interior of one of their stores - so could my grandfather be one of the staff shown?



To try and solve my puzzle, I had a long chat with one of the current members of the Boon family still living locally. Both their shops in

Dorchester closed many years ago, and sadly for me the family have no records of employees who worked in their shops in the town.

She did confirm that the family firm never had a shop in, or links with, either Christchurch or Trowbridge, so that was not the hoped-for missing link to my mystery. Research did show that Howard Boon's were Agents for Gilbeys Gin and, on checking, it also turned out that another High Class Grocers, J G Evans and Co. of Fore Street, Trowbridge and also W Tucker and Sons of High St. Christchurch, were also both Agents for Gilbeys Gin. That is the only very tenuous link I have found between the three towns where my grandfather lived - so is that the answer to why he moved from Trowbridge to Christchurch to Dorchester - maybe introductions or recommendations from the Gilbeys Gin Sales Representative?

Grandfather was very much of the working classes, and never owned a property all his life, so employment is the likely answer to why they moved twice in some way. Please also see the photo of Harry Smith (my grandfather) taken in the 1950s in Dorchester on the front cover of this Journal.

If any reader has other ideas, relevant facts or suggestions I would love to hear them.

Richard Smith, email: <orchidgrower@btinternet.com>

## **News from Dorset History Centre**

*Sam Johnston - County Archivist*

### **Heritage Lottery Funded *Bankes of Kingston Lacy* project**

The Bankes project will conclude in December after three years, over £414,000 of cash investment and many tens of thousands of pounds (equivalent) in volunteer contributions.

It has been a great project to have been involved with and in terms of outputs, has delivered:

- 30,225 catalogue entries (of which 13,254 were created by volunteers)
- 13,654 digitised images
- 25 oral histories recorded and transcribed
- Over 1300 hours of paper and parchment conservation

In addition, the project has worked with 70 volunteers, generated a new website and contributed to a large number of published articles on the Bankes family. Perhaps best of all is the very tangible upturn in use of the collection with a wide range of people, from family historians to academics identifying material of interest. Whilst it is perhaps obvious to point out the link between good catalogues and the upturn in access, there remain a large number of collections held at DHC that still require this investment.

An item from the archive has been selected to appear on '100 Archives of the North' - a digital display of significant archives telling the stories of the North of England. The Bankes connection relates to the family's ownership of graphite mines in Seathwaite, Cumbria, the profits from which funded much of the rebuilding work at Kingston Lacy. The plan (image below) can be viewed at:  
<https://www.100archivesnorth.co.uk/explore>.

**Plan of Seathwaite showing wad-mine surface and workings, 1821**

Early 19th Century  
Borrowdale

View on map

Plan of Seathwaite showing Wad-mine surface & workings - plan vertically looking north, 1821 part of the Bankes Archive at Kingston Lacy, property of the National Trust, managed by Dorset History Centre

The Bankes family, whose origins are Cumbrian, but which moved south to purchase the Dorset estates of Kingston Lacy and Corfe Castle, had a close and profitable relationship with the 'black lead' (graphite) mines of Seathwaite, Borrowdale. The graphite mined here was of the highest quality and could be used as a lubricate with military applications, but latterly as the key element in the pencil. The purchase in 1625 of the Bankes's half interest in these highly valuable mines, was soon followed by the family's migration south with their subsequent involvement in the Civil War, most notably the siege of Corfe Castle. The family maintained its interest in the mines until their closure in the mid-nineteenth century and benefited greatly from the value of their graphite interest which significantly enhanced their ability to build and remodel their country seat at Kingston Lacy, now owned by the National Trust. The plans held by Dorset History Centre cast an interesting light upon the family's ties and economic relationships that developed as social and geographical mobility exerted their influence.

Photography: National Trust

First of at: Dorset History Centre

The two exhibitions based on the archive can still be viewed at the project partner sites:

<<http://www.priest-house.co.uk/news/171/318/Wildflowers.html>> and <<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy/features/beyond-the-portrait--coming-in-june-2018>>.

## **Digital Preservation**

The archives service is continuing its work to ensure that digital archives are properly preserved. Using the Preservica platform, the service has been able to upload a large quantity of records, ranging from confidential social care material to a major photographic archive. Digital preservation is a somewhat esoteric area of archival practice, but a growing one and something that we all need to take seriously if we want to be able to access historic digital materials in the future (think about obsolete software or corrupted files).

We have been looking at ways of acquiring digital records - including film, sound and web pages and managing them in the most efficient means possible. As part of this process, we have formed a consortium with two other councils (Wiltshire and West Sussex) to bring about efficiencies and cost savings. We are hopeful that more local authorities will join in due course. We are pleased to have been nominated for an award as part of this work: <<https://dpconline.org/events/digital-preservation-awards/dpa2018-finalists-legacy>>.

## **Community Engagement]**

DHC staff attended 'Picnic in the Park' on 8<sup>th</sup> September, in Dorchester's Borough Gardens. People of all ages relaxed with us as they used watercolours to re-interpret Poole Pottery designs, and found out about our 'Inspired by Archives' sessions which run under the Stepping into Nature banner. These dementia-friendly sessions use a wide variety of mediums to respond to original archival records, and have proved so popular that we have increased the frequency to twice a month. <<https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/stepping-into-nature>>.

- 1) A long and careful period of preparation means that our volunteer team in Bournemouth are ready to start collecting

interviews from the conurbation's LGBT+ community. We have been concerned by the under-representation of this aspect of local life in our holdings, and set out to remedy the situation by engaging a team of all ages from the community. If you, or somebody you know might be happy to be interviewed about LGBT+ life in the area please do contact the project via our email <lgbtspeakoutproject@gmail.com>.

- 2) The last four years have seen DHC support many projects relating to the First World War. This devastating conflict still resonates strongly with the public, and we have been pleased to be able to facilitate research, family historians and art projects around the theme. In November we will be hosting an evening to debate and reflect on Remembrance in all its forms.

### **Bond of Tyneham archive**

Amongst the many recent new accessions one probably stands out: DHC was delighted to receive a substantial additional accession of material from the BOND family of Tyneham. The Bonds owned much of the land in and around the village at the time of its requisition by the Ministry of Defence. These records will help to tell the story of one of the county's most iconic locations and the lives of some of the people most associated with it. The collection contains a variety of manuscript and photographic material dating from 1640.

If you have archives, or know of material at risk, please contact DHC for advice.

For further information on the service, please view the website at:  
<<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/dorset-history-centre/dorset-history-centre.aspx>>

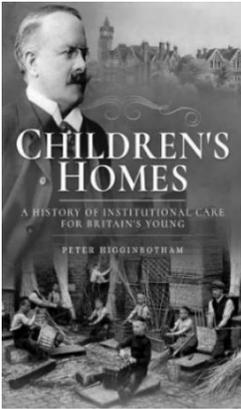
For regular updates, please sign up to our regular e-letter:  
<<https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/newsletter/>>

Follow the service on Twitter @dorsetarchives



## Books that may interest you

### **CHILDREN'S HOMES by Peter Higginbotham – reviewed by June Taylor**



Peter Higginbotham is well known for his books on Workhouses. He has now turned his attention to children's homes and although I have read this book, I cannot write a better summary of it than that printed on the back cover.

“What image does the word “orphanage” conjure in your mind? A sunny scene of carefree children at play in the grounds of a large ivy-clad house? Or a forbidding grey edifice whose cowering inmates were ruled over with a rod of iron by a stern, starched matron?”

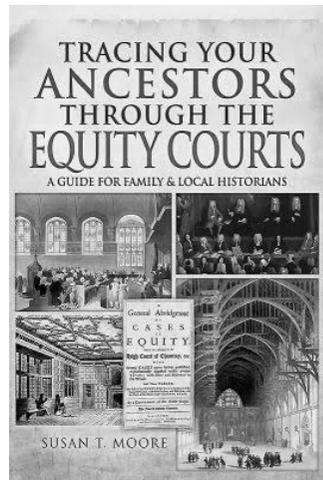
“In *Children's Homes*, Peter Higginbotham explores the history of the institutions in Britain that were used as a substitute for children's “natural” homes. This includes not only orphanages, but a wide range of other establishments run by particular bodies, (charities, religious groups, workhouse authorities, occupational groups, local councils, single individuals etc.) or which served particular purposes (penal confinement, moral protection, special training, etc.) Now, there is much evidence that some children's institutions were indeed fearful places where children were, at least by present-day standards, badly treated- even if it was often with the best of intentions by those who ran those establishments.

“From Tudor times to the present day, this fascinating book answers questions such as “Who founded and ran all these institutions? Who paid for them? Where have they all gone? And what was life like for their inmates? Illustrated throughout, *Children's Homes* provides an essential account of the history of these previously overlooked British institutions.”

I can only add that at the end there is a chapter on where to find records (if they exist) a bibliography and an index. The review copy has been placed in the library.

### **Tracing your Ancestors through the Equity Courts by Susan T Moore – reviewed by Richard Yates**

This is a complicated subject. Susan Moore's book is a detailed guide and is especially relevant for researchers using the National Archives, with clear "how to" guidance. I mostly read in bed, and this is not for bedtime reading, but if you know, or even suspect, you have family connections to a case which was heard in one of the several Courts of Equity, then this is for you. When I first visited Kew, I used the Discovery online catalogue to search for documents possibly linked to my ancestors – one I found produced a large box upstairs in the map room which contained a number of sheets of vellum which I found so unintelligible that I was unable to even find the one with a "Yates" reference. After going through this book (and a session we did at Computer Group on using Irfanview to transcribe photos of old documents) I will now give it another go.



The book gives a background to the various courts – the Court of Chancery is the best known – when and how they operated, and what information the records might hold for your research. Susan details a lot of information which is held of benefit to family research, yet which is only incidental to the case. For most of the book, case details are quoted to show the sort of information held, but not the outcomes. The details of how to investigate in the records are very precise and will be invaluable if you have already found a case of interest. For instance, a case may include a box of original exhibits – deeds, bills, property plans, and even family pedigrees can be found, and as many cases relate to wills the scope for identification of ancestors and confirmation of

relationships is huge. This book will be in the library at Treetops and is well worth spending some time on before a visit to Kew.

### **Whatever Happened to the Other Hardys by Brenda Tunks (Revised edition 2012) – reviewed by Ann Capon**

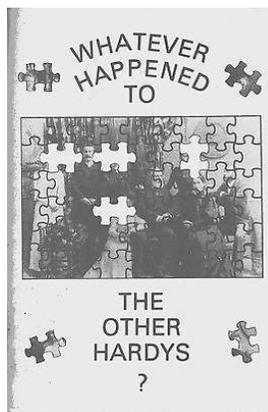
I have just obtained some copies of this book from the author who obviously has spent many hours researching the other HARDYS.

After the first edition published in 1990, Brenda found much more information and pictures. This made her write an updated version in 2012.

Brenda's father Harold WRIGHT had a collection of documents relating to the Hardy family which was a good starting point to Brenda's research. After the first edition of the book, others with Hardy ancestors came forward, so the contents of the second edition are more comprehensive with many tales of the past.

At present this is only available at meetings and at Treetops but may be obtainable by post at a later date.

Check via my society email <[sales @ dorsetfhs.org.uk](mailto:sales@dorsetfhs.org.uk)>. The stock is limited so availability will depend on sales made. Price is £5.50.



## **Forthcoming Coach trips**

Two dates for your diaries:

- Thursday 21 March 2019: The National Archives, Kew
- Saturday 27 April 2019: Family Tree Live (Alexandra Palace)

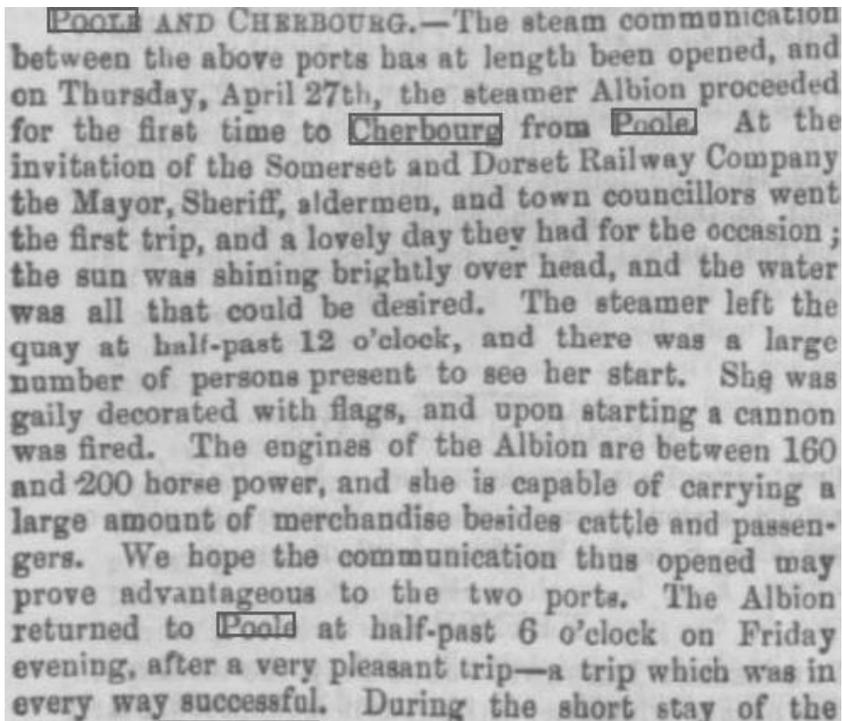
# Dorset's Past in Print

*Roy Stockdill*

Hands up anyone who knows in what year the very first regular ferry ship between Poole and the French port of Cherbourg across the English Channel sailed? The answer may well surprise you, as it did me. It was on April 27 1865 – 153 years ago, to be precise.

I discovered this significant event when trawling the online *British Newspaper Archive*, which I do frequently for these articles and for my own family history researches. The website is a positive treasure trove of more than 300 years of history viewed through the columns of British newspapers.

The *Dorset County Chronicle* reported on May 4 1865 an historic visit by the Mayor, Sheriff, aldermen and town councillors of Poole in the steamship *Albion* to their counterparts in Cherbourg. They were seen off by a large crowd on the quay and a salute was fired from a cannon.



**POOLE AND CHERBOURG.**—The steam communication between the above ports has at length been opened, and on Thursday, April 27th, the steamer *Albion* proceeded for the first time to **Cherbourg** from **Poole**. At the invitation of the Somerset and Dorset Railway Company the Mayor, Sheriff, aldermen, and town councillors went the first trip, and a lovely day they had for the occasion; the sun was shining brightly over head, and the water was all that could be desired. The steamer left the quay at half-past 12 o'clock, and there was a large number of persons present to see her start. She was gaily decorated with flags, and upon starting a cannon was fired. The engines of the *Albion* are between 160 and 200 horse power, and she is capable of carrying a large amount of merchandise besides cattle and passengers. We hope the communication thus opened may prove advantageous to the two ports. The *Albion* returned to **Poole** at half-past 6 o'clock on Friday evening, after a very pleasant trip—a trip which was in every way successful. During the short stay of the

Mayor in [Cherbourg] he was waited upon by the Mayor of [Cherbourg] and also by the President of the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of expressing to him, and through him to the Corporation of [Poole] the pleasure which the inhabitants of [Cherbourg] felt at witnessing the commencement of steam communication between the two ports. On Thursday a dinner took place at the Hotel de l'Univers, at 8 o'clock, which was served up in the most satisfactory manner, Robert A. Read, Esq. (of Glastonbury), presided. After the dinner the following toasts were drunk :—“ Her Majesty the Queen and the Emperor Napoleon,” “ Municipality of [Cherbourg.]” “ The Corporation of [Poole.]” “ Success to the good ship Albion,” “ The Owner of the Boat (Mr. Henderson),” “ The Directors of the Somerset and Dorset Railway, and also of the Secretary, Mr. Read,” “ Success to the Commerce of France and England,” “ The Collector of Customs of [Poole.]” “ The Sheriff of [Poole.]” At midnight on Monday the Albion started for her first regular trip to [Cherbourg].

The Somerset and Dorset Railway were prime movers in establishing the new seagoing link between Poole and Cherbourg, which presumably was why one of the toasts drunk at the celebratory dinner was to the company's directors.

Another toast to “the Municipality of Cherbourg” was given by the Mayor of Poole, who in 1865 was one Frederick STYRING. From the censuses I discovered that he was a Yorkshireman born about 1820 near Bawtrey, who came to Dorset and was farming 355 acres at Lytchett Minster in 1851. Then he became a brewer, a wealthy businessman and prominent Liberal Party member in Poole.

He married a local girl, Henrietta SLADE, in 1849 and in the 1871 census his occupation formed a lengthy entry spread over two columns and three lines deep! He was described as an Alderman and Landowner, a brewer, maltster, wine and spirit merchant employing 23 men and one boy, and a farmer of 1,500 acres employing 37 men and six boys. Frederick died in 1897, aged 78, having been Mayor of Poole four times.

# Membership News

*Claire Evans*



As at 15 October, two thirds of our members have renewed with the Society, many now taking advantage of our online payment options, or through their own Online Banking facility. However, we also appreciate that not everyone has access to the Internet or email and members have been quick to send in their cheques or paid by cash in Treetops.

Reminders will be sent out via email to those members who haven't yet renewed with us and we hope to keep our numbers up for the coming year.

In amongst the hundreds of renewals we have received to the Society, we would also like to offer a warm welcome the following new members. If you are interested in contacting any of these members, you can obtain details from Treetops during opening hours:

5095	Mrs	Wendy	Riggs	BOURNEMOUTH
5096	Mr	Richard	Senior	BOURNEMOUTH
5097	Mr	Michael	Perrott	POOLE
5098	Mrs	Anne	Stevens	PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO
5099	Mr	George	Murdock	BOURNEMOUTH
5100	Mrs	Catherine	Gonsalves	POOLE
5101	Mr	Patrick	Lynch	OKLAHOMA CITY
5102	Mr	Nigel	Scott	WIMBORNE
5103	Mrs	Ellen	Whiteford	VERWOOD
5104	Miss	Jacqueline	Hutchings	BLANDFORD FORUM
5105	Mr	Russell	Saunders	BROADSTONE
5106	Miss	Cynthia	Hiscock	CHRISTCHURCH
5107	Mrs	Karen A	Yeadon	POOLE
5108	Mr	John	Stanhope-Powers	BOURNEMOUTH

# The Back Side of Gravestones

*Colin Dean*

DFHS members have recorded the Memorial Inscriptions (MIs) in Alton Pancras churchyard. One was recorded as: *"Here lyeth ye body of William, son of James and Mary RANDALL who died ye 27 November aged <?>"*. The Burial Registers record: *1747 Dec 1. William son of James and Mary RANDAL was buried.* In 2006, I recorded the MIs for my *Alton Pancras History Project* and could make out enough of the lettering to agree with the DFHS version.

Visiting the churchyard again at the end of 2017, I was pleased that we (DFHS and I respectively) had recorded the detail when it was more readable than it is now. But the low wintry sun appeared to suggest that there was something on the **rear** of the stone, something neither of us had noticed previously. Closer examination identified an attractively carved flowery border pattern around the top and upper sides of this rear. The rest of that side of the stone had weathered badly and was very flaky but while there was clearly more wording, it was not readable.

Back to the Alton Pancras **Burial Records** which tell us:

1733 Sep 6 James RANDAL, son of James.

1747 Dec 1. William RANDEL son of James and Mary.

1751 Mar 24. James RANDALL son of James and Mary

## **Marriage Records:**

1763 Jul 8. William BISHOP m Mary RANDALL wit; John CROCKER James LOVELACE

1782 Jan 8. Robert RANDALL married Elizabeth MASTERS wit; Charles CROCKER James LOVELACE

## **Christenings:**

1749 Jul 2 Betty dau of James & Mary RANDAL

1751/2 Mar 13 Betty dau of James & Mary RANDALL (correct surname spellings)

Our only hope is that a reader of this journal will be researching RANDALL and offer us some suggestions as to what might be written on the reverse of a gravestone in Alton Pancras.

# 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 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:** Also available from the website Menu bar, the Password is AFQ3hfBF (includes numbers as well as letters). It contains some additional information just for Members.

## **General Data Protection Regulations**

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.

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