

Buckets & Spades



1914. CONVALESCENT HOME, KEWSTOKE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE

The Convalescent Home
Kewstoke
Weston-super-Mare



Issue 94
February 2018
wsmfhs.org.uk



The Society, which was founded in 1983, grew out of an Adult Education Class which had been inspired by Brian Austin (now a Life Member) to continue their research. It has grown into an active membership of over 200 who come from all parts of the world as well as those who live locally.

The area covered by the Society includes Weston-super-Mare and the parishes in North Somerset and in the Axbridge Registration District as shown on the back cover.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except August and December, at the Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR. The doors open at 7.00pm for informal research and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. *New members and visitors are always welcome.*

The Society tries to encourage and stimulate interest in family history generally and has a very positive link with Weston-super-Mare Library, which has excellent local history resources and facilities. Each Saturday, volunteers from the membership are in the library from 2.00 until 3.30pm to assist anyone who wants to start searching for their ancestors or who has a problem with their research. Similar meetings are held monthly in the libraries at Portishead, Worle and at the Healthy Living Centre in Weston.

Enquiries may be made through our website www.wsmfhs.org.uk – Use the “Contact Us” button towards the top right-hand corner of the home page.

Enquiries can also be addressed to the Secretary of the Society
125, Totterdown Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4L, accompanied with a SAE please.

Honorary Life Members

Brian Austin, 2001; George Knox, 2003; Mrs Pat Hase, 2005; Paul Tracey, 2014

Annual Subscription 1st January to 31st December

Worldwide member taking the Journal in electronic format	£9.00
UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£12.00
Non-UK member taking the Journal in printed format	£20.00

Cover picture:

The Convalescent Home, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare

Buckets & Spades

is the Journal of the

Weston-super-Mare & District

Family History Society

Affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies

ISSN No. 1758-5503

Issue 94 – FEBRUARY 2018

Table of Contents

Editorial	4
Thoughts from the Chair.....	5
Reminders	7
Heirloom	8
Marshall and Guppy Family	9
Jesse and Grace.....	11
Dandy and Jack.....	13
Heir Hunters.....	15
Salvation Army Riots.....	18
Society Speakers 2018.....	21
Diary Dates 2018	24
Did Your Ancestors Use the Weston Clevedon & Portishead Railway?	25
Lest We Forget.....	29
Passchendaele	31
Burton House and Our Lady of Lourdes	35
Then and Now.....	36
Some Useful Local Addresses	37
Officers & Committee	38
Map of the Parishes covered by the Weston-super-Mare & District FHS.....	39

Please note that the next issue is due for publication at our June meeting. The deadline for articles is 31st May 2018. Thank you.



Editorial
by Sue Maguire

Hello Everyone!

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of ‘Buckets and Spades’. First of all, on behalf of our Society, I thank Paul, our previous Editor, for his dedication and good work over the past 43 issues – this was truly a mammoth task. Well done, Paul! Secondly, I personally thank Paul for his expert advice in training me to follow in his footsteps in this role. Paul is a hard act to follow so I ask you to bear with me. Thirdly, but equally important, I thank all contributors and say, to ensure the success of ‘Buckets and Spades’, everyone - please continue to send me your articles and photos. Remember - without you, there is no ‘Buckets and Spades’!

I know it is only February but I now need to think and plan for our June edition. It may seem a long way off but we all know how quickly time passes, especially once spring arrives! So – please send me any articles, photos, etc as soon as possible – all gratefully received. My email address is smaguire15@yahoo.co.uk

Also, please feel free to speak to me at any of our monthly Society Meetings (see the Calendar in this Issue). I thank you all very much!

Magazine Contributions

Articles, long or short, and any items of interest or photos are very welcome. The Editor appreciates typewritten reports or, if hand written, please use block capitals for names and places. Contributions can also be sent on PC format media or by email. **A minimum font size of 16pt would be appreciated.** Please do not create an article on a computer and then print it out to be sent to the Editor. Please send your digital files by email.

Thoughts from the Chair

by Pat Hase



This is the first journal since the death at 99 of Stan Baker, a respected life member, and a tribute to him was included in the January Update on our web page (<http://wsmfhs.org.uk/society-news/january-2018-update>). Stan was an inspiration to those who knew him and he worked tirelessly on behalf of the Society for many years.

Our Society continues to flourish, and the membership is maintaining at a satisfactory level. Presumably we must be meeting some of the needs of the members but please let us know what you expect from the Society. The visit to the National Archives had to be cancelled last year though lack of support. Please do not let that happen again. We are booked to go on 12th April and Brian Airey still has places left.

- Statistics are showing that fewer members are using our website – why is this? Some members have never activated their account – let us know why you do not look at it. Perhaps there is something which can be done to make access easier? We try to keep the content relevant to both those who are researching local families and to those who are not but need to be kept up to date with research techniques.

One Hundred Years Ago

I've been looking back at my family to see what they were doing 100 years ago and how the lives of those who had survived WW1 changed. How did the following events affect your families? How did the lives of women change?

- The Representation of the People Act of 1918 granting the vote to women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification received the Royal assent on the 6th February 1918. Any suffragettes in your family?
- On the 1st April 1918, The Royal Air Force came into being.

- At 11am on the 11th November 1918 saw the end of WW1.
- The influenza pandemic of 1918-19 claimed the lives of between 20 and 40 million people around the world, at least three times the number killed in the war.

Our new Editor, Sue Maguire, would be pleased to receive an article about any of the above for the next issue.

Editor's Note: This year various organisations will be providing Centenary services, music and events. Bristol Cathedral is marking the end of the First World War and the introduction of suffrage for women. The following is an extract from their January – June 2018 Programme:

We Have Our Lives

This is an exhibition with stories of some of the WW1 dead, remembering a fallen casualty for every month of the conflict. Visit the Book of Remembrance via the website or the interactive screens in the Cathedral.

Bristol's WW1 Women Exhibition

15 January – 24 March 2018

Bristol Women at War looks at the types of war work performed by women: women in leading and influential roles in organisations like the Bristol Inquiry Bureau and the Red Cross Society, also women who looked after their families while their men were away.

No Man's Land

6 April – 1 July 2018

Experience female perspectives on WW1 with images taken by women who worked as nurses and ambulance drivers, also official photographers and contemporary artists. Some images have never been exhibited or published before. This is a national touring exhibition.

For further information about forthcoming Special Services, Music and Events at Bristol Cathedral, visit their website: bristol-cathedral.co.uk

Reminder 1 - Membership Renewals

Please note that subscription renewals **were due on 1st January 2018**.

For those members reading a printed copy of this journal, please see the form in the centre pages of **Issue 93 – November 2017**.

For those of you reading a digital copy, please go to our website under the Membership section where details can be found about renewing your subscription.

Reminder 2 – Visit to The National Archives at Kew

This visit will take place on Thursday, 12th April 2018. The cost is £22 per person for Members and £25 per person for Non-members. Payment is in advance and non-refundable.

Pick up points

Locking Road Car Park	7.00am
Lidl Bus Stop	7.10am
Clevedon, Kenn Road	7.30am

For further details and to book your place, please see Brian Airey.

Reminder 3 – Members Interests

Members now have the ability to enter and update their own Interests on our website, as and when they wish to. If you are unsure how to do this, then please ask any of the committee members. Full details are also available on our website.

HEIRLOOM

This is a portrait of my mother-in-law. We found this painting on canvas when we cleared her house. Sylvia was born in Cambridge in 1907.

On the back of the canvas is written:



‘Taken at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. Age 2 and eight twelfth years.’

Sylvia's father, William, was a Company Sergeant Major in the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. The family was stationed at Parkhurst before they were moved to Aldershot in 1911. William was then posted to the Curragh in Ireland and Sylvia, her brother, sister and mother returned to live in Cambridge.

In August 1914, the Regiment embarked from Ireland for France where, 9 days after arrival, he was taken prisoner at Le Cateau. He was held a POW at Senne in Germany until 1918.

In 1914, Sylvia's mother was pregnant with twins who were born in January 1915. One can only imagine how hard the news of his capture was for the family.

The painting lives in the attic.

by Arlene Pilgrim

The MARSHALL and GUPPY Family

My husband's great grandparents were Frederick MARSHALL and Emma GUPPY who were born within a month of each other in 1838 in Wells, Somerset.

Emma's birth certificate shows that she was born on the 27th August 1838.

CI 3

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District *WELLS*

838. Birth in the Sub-district of *WELLS* **in the** *County of Somerset.*

Columns—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>13</i>	<i>Twenty Seventh of August 1838 Wells Out Parish</i>	<i>Emma</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Edmund GUPPY</i>	<i>Sarah GUPPY formerly KERTON</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Present at birth Caroline KERTON Monthly nurse East Wells</i>	<i>Fifth of October 1838</i>	<i>BENJAMIN HOPE Deputy Registrar.</i>	

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

K. Hedman Superintendent Registrar
 22nd February 1988

NOTICE—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Emma's parents were Edmund GUPPY and his wife Sarah née KERTON. The birth was registered by a Monthly nurse who had been present at the birth. A Monthly nurse was someone who had not necessarily had medical training but knew about childbirth and the care of the new-born child. This nurse usually lived with the family for the first month of the child's life. In this case, subsequent research has shown that Caroline KERTON was actually Emma's grandmother and, as both Caroline and Sarah lived in Bath Road, Wells, they would have easily been in daily contact.

Frederick MARSHALL's birth certificate was equally informative in that it told me that he was born on the 23rd September 1838 and that his parents were John MARSHALL and his wife Charlotte née WOODBURNE. The informant, who had been present at the birth, was "the aunt of the child" Ann CARDWELL.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

CI 336

Registration District WELLS

38. Birth in the Sub-district of WELLS in the County of Somerset.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<u>Twentythird of September 1838 Wells Out parish</u>	<u>Frederick MARSHALL</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>John MARSHALL</u>	<u>Charlotte MARSHALL formerly WOODBURN</u>	<u>Labourer</u>	<u>The Mark of + Ann CARDWELL Aunt of child present at birth</u>	<u>Locality with of October 1838</u>	<u>BENJAMIN HOPE Deputy Registrar.</u>	

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

K. Sherman
 Superintendent Registrar
 2nd February 1988 Date

* See note overleaf.

It took quite a while to figure out whether Ann CARDWELL was John or Charlotte’s sister but eventually I discovered that Ann and Charlotte were two of four or five sisters all born illegitimately to a Mary WOODBURN between 1807 and 1816 with four of them christened at St Cuthbert’s Church in Wells.

There is a possible marriage of a Mary WOODBURN to a widower, William CLARK, on the 20th October 1819 at St Cuthbert’s Church but whether he was the father of the girls, or not, is not proved.

These birth certificates show the benefits of seeing the original document. The GRO is currently running a scheme to enable PDF versions at a reduced price to be obtained so it might be a good time to take advantage of it.

by Pat Hase

Accidental deaths in Weston-super-Mare:

Western Morning News – Wednesday, 19th April 1950

Mrs Kathleen PURVIS, mother of Deborah KERR, was killed while a passenger in a car, driven by her husband, which was in collision with an articulated vehicle in Weston-super-Mare.

Jesse and Grace



Finding out about Jesse Vincent has been a challenge these last few years. Jesse was engaged to my Grandmother, Grace Oliver. He died in Edmonton, Canada, on the 7th November 1918 of influenza and pneumonia so they were never able to marry.

A photo of Jesse was always kept on the dressing table in the second bedroom of my Grandparents' house in Crowborough, Sussex. The family knew very little about him, I know now he was born in Brighton, Sussex, in March 1896. His parents died when he was quite young and his Grandmother, Charlotte Oliver (no relation to Grace), looked after him until she accompanied him to Canada to make a new life like his two uncles.

Jesse came back with The Canadian Expeditionary Force and, through this, met Grace. I still have no idea how they met but as I now have a copy of Jesse's military records from the Great Granddaughter of one of his uncles - it may help.

It was most exciting having the records but sad to know Jesse was in Ypres during April 1915 and had gunshot wounds to his right thigh and left shoulder. He came back to England and was in many hospitals and camps so it just needs a link to find out how Jesse and Grace had that first meeting.

(This is an update to the article in 'Buckets and Spades' published June 2014)

by Annette Morris

North Somerset Council Advises:

We are currently working on a living history event to coincide with Armed Forces Weekend Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th June 2018. The idea is to collect the names of a number of local men that died during WW1, then retell the stories about where they lived, family, jobs before they enlisted and to then add where they fought and died. Discussions are taking place with a local amateur dramatics group to engage with 6 or 7 young actors to take on the roles and mingle with visitors to the Armed Forces village on the Beach Lawns during the event and to retell their stories.

We would like to have stories to tell from across the district and will be sending an email to schools, parish councils and uniformed youth groups to encourage them to research local members of the community. Once we have the information we will create a display including photographs, family details, etc. as above to be used by Weston Museum or other local organisations at local events during this last centenary year celebrations.

Remembrance weekend: Friday, 9th November – Sunday, 11th November will have a WW1 theme. Our aspirations will be to encourage communities to light a candle to place on WW1 monuments on the Friday and to have local church bells ringing to call people to remember. On Saturday, 10th November, we are hoping that local communities will perhaps arrange a remembrance walk or other event, leading to services across the district on the Sunday, 11th November, followed by a number of communities who will be lighting beacons.

Helen Mitchell (D & E)

In the last edition of 'Buckets and Spades', you may recall reading this article. Since then, some interesting information has been received.



Weston-super-Mare Station - Dandy's Memorial

A memorial tablet at Weston-super-Mare Railway Station, Somerset, England to Dandy, a charity collection dog. This monument was erected like a gravestone close to the buffers of Platform 3. It was later moved to the Waiting Room on Platform 2, where it remains today, when the Station was reduced to 2 platforms.

We believe Dandy belonged to a family who lived on the Locking Road. Do you know anything more to expand the story?

Brian Austin responded to our request, as follows:

Dandy, the dog, was a popular figure at Weston Railway Station as he trotted around with a small collecting tin attached to his collar, charming passengers for charity. As he became more confident, it was said that he sometimes accompanied his 'friends' to Bristol Temple Meads where staff would give him to the guard of the next train back.

Remember - railway staff served their working lives on the one job and were well known to each other, their passengers and the odd passing dog! Dandy died on 16th January 1928 and he was much mourned.

Editor's comment:

Looking at the date on Dandy's memorial, we realise that it is now 90 years ago that he died so it seems timely and fitting that we remember Weston's little friend and the many orphans he benefited. Another point of interest - Brian also informed us that Dandy's monument was carved by Arthur Thorne who lived in a terraced property in the Carlton Street area. Arthur previously served in the British Army and was a model maker. His skills enabled him to re-create a 30" high model of his own house displaying every room, including its furnishings, eg chairs and a stove which even had a small handle to open its door!

In addition, Brian has provided us with a great story about another dog, Jack, which belonged to Weston Pier Master, Henry Coles, so another 'tale' begins ...

JACK, Weston's Pier Dog

Jack made a name for himself around 1928 by carrying small pieces of luggage for passengers on and off the steamers while also having a 'collection box' attached to his collar. Given a 'tip', Jack would run to the Pier shop where he had learned to 'buy' biscuits. He had also been taught to ring the departure warning bell.

Note that 'Jack, the dog' featured on Weston's town publicity brochure for 1943 to 1946 but, in fact, the picture used was that of another dog, named Curly, and he belonged to the Weston Publicity Manager, Edward Turner!

Once again, any further information about, or photos of, Dandy or Jack, their owners or 'associates' would be appreciated.

HEIR HUNTERS - DON'T GET RIPPED OFF!

Heir hunters, genealogists or probate detectives, are set up to find people who may be in line to inherit some or all of a deceased relative's estate. Given that approximately 45% of the population dies without making a will, tracing potential beneficiaries is big business - not least because it's fairly rare to die without there being at least one relative still alive.

Most of us go about our daily lives without pondering the fate of relatives we have never met or even know about. However, for professional heir hunters, it's a full-time job. They scrutinise lists of people who have died without leaving a will or where the beneficiaries cannot easily be traced.

In this regard, these firms offer a valuable service, provided they treat potential beneficiaries fairly, which unfortunately some fail to do.

How do they operate?

Heir hunters rely on a range of resources, starting with the list published each week by the HM Treasury Solicitor, which gives the names and date of death of the deceased plus the place of death. The heir hunters' next step is to start tracing kin. They expect the trail to be cold but the pressure is on to get results as they will invariably be in competition with other firms. In one sense they have time on their side though, having twelve years in which to lock down a claim.

Many professional heir hunters charge a percentage of the pot claimed on behalf of clients of between 10% and 30% (though even higher rates of commission are known). Other firms charge a time-based fee where the amount you would pay depends on the complexity of the case rather than the value of the estate.

So an heir hunter calls ...

They may say they cannot divulge the value of the estate, which would indicate how much you may end up paying them. They might be vague about the number of other potential beneficiaries, which might lead you to think you are entitled to a larger slice of the inheritance than is the case. Some companies keep this information to themselves so you don't decide to take it up personally and cut them out in the process. They may even say you have to sign a contract with them, which isn't necessary, and refuse to tell you the name of the deceased until you have signed up.

Take the initiative ...

Just because a company contacts you out of the blue, claiming you are due a windfall, doesn't mean you have to go along with their firm, or any other.

Nick Beetham, a genealogical specialist from 'Title Research' who finds missing beneficiaries but does not charge percentage fees, advises:

‘Don't sign anything until you have the same information as the heir hunting company so you know what the deal is - the person concerned, the approximate value of the estate and the probable fees their company would charge.’

Why not think it through and then consider researching the matter yourself? After all, beneficiaries have a major advantage - they know many of their wider family already and can tap into their elders' memories of past generations.

‘Thanks to the Treasury Solicitor's list, official adverts in local papers or a family tree, there is a fairly good chance of being united with your surprise inheritance. Be realistic though, there will likely be twenty or more others, all of whom would have a stake in the estate’, reminds Nick Beetham.

Pinning it down ...

Every Thursday, the Government publishes a list of people who have died intestate. The first step, then, is to check the official Bona Vacantia web page (<http://bonavacantia.gov.uk>)

Second step: if you find a name on that list that chimes, contact the HM Treasury Solicitors Office for the relevant Administrator's details. This Administrator is responsible for distributing the estate and will consider your claim free of charge. Ask the value of the estate and how many other beneficiaries may end up sharing the bounty with you - well worth considering as it may be a few pounds and not the many thousands your imagination has settled upon! Obviously, you will need to prove your claim and the appointed Administrator will be able to advise.

Thirdly, documents: If you decide to continue, you may need to obtain a copy of the 'Grant of Letters of Administration' from the London Probate Registry. Current fee is £6.00. (Call them on 0207 947 6939 to discuss).

Make sure you have any available evidence for your claim, like a family tree, birth, marriage and death certificates to back up your request for a Grant of Letters.

If all this sounds like too much effort or you run into an information brick wall, which is one reason why experts operate in this field, you can always approach a fee-charging firm to help. The company should offer you a fair price based on the amount of information that's available and the time involved. In short, despite the warnings, don't discount every professional heir hunter that may knock on your door, just choose very carefully!

Kindly provided by Revd Patrice Sessions, Co-ordinator,
and the Community Newsletter Team
(Bleadon-Hillside Neighbourhood)

Salvation Army Riots - Weston-super-Mare

Below are transcripts of newspaper accounts of the Salvation Army Riots which occurred in Weston-super-Mare in the early 1880s.

I came across these while researching my family connections with the Bowden family who were jewellers and watchmakers in Weston at the time. It is not clear if the Thomas Bowden mentioned is connected with my family but it was a fascinating snippet from local history.

SALVATION ARMY RIOTS IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE - Taunton Courier & Western Advertiser 25 March 1882

For several evenings past opposition has been shown to the Salvation Army by a number of persons arraying themselves under a banner on which were inscribed the words 'Skeleton Army,' the flag being further ornamented with death's heads and cross bones. These have immediately preceded the Salvation Army in their perambulations through the town with no worse result than discord until Wednesday evening, when the Salvationists appeared to entertain a fear that the Skeletons would take possession of their hall and a rush was made on entering York Street to prevent their fears being realised. In the melee which followed, a large brass instrument, carried by a member of the Salvation band was smashed and a pane of plate glass in Regent Street was broken. On Thursday evening, soon after the Salvation Army started on their perambulation of the town, the Skeleton again took the lead, followed by a crowd of some 2,000 persons. In Regent Street, the pressure from the crowd was so intense that the band had to refrain from playing and, with the general swaying to and fro, the great wonder is that someone did not fall. Had anyone done so, he must have been trampled to death. Subsequently, a collision took place between the opposing forces at the point where Orchard Street joins Meadow Street. Here a scuffle ensued, during which the flags of both armies were destroyed and instruments broken. A free fight was indulged in for several seconds and the procession was broken up. Ultimately, the Army reformed and sought shelter in their barracks in York Street. At the time of this despatch, several thousand people were congregated in the vicinity.

THE BENCH AND THE ARMY

Taunton Courier & Western Advertiser 29th March 1882

At the Weston-super-Mare police court on Friday, Sergeant Sticklan asked the advice of the bench as to what should be done to prevent a recurrence of the riotous and disgraceful proceedings in connection with the Salvation Army. He explained that, unless the processions were put a stop to, they would lead to serious riots. On the previous evening, missiles weighing 2lbs each were thrown in every direction and A.S. James, while endeavouring to quell the disturbance, was completely carried off his legs by a crowd of 2,000 people from the large lamp at the juncture of High Street to the Railway Hotel. If the constables had not interfered, he believed many persons would have lost their lives. He added that he was informed that another procession would take place on Saturday evening and, unless something was done, the result would be very serious. Mr Mullins thought that they must either swear in special constables or else stop the processions altogether. Before adopting either course, he would like to consult General Munbee, which he would do that afternoon. In the evening, a proclamation signed by General Munbee and Mr Mullins, Justices of the Peace, was issued, prohibiting any assemblage likely to lead to a breach of the peace.

ARREST OF THE ‘CAPTAIN’ AND TWO OTHERS

The proclamation issued by the Magistrates on Saturday, forbidding the assemblage of people likely to lead to a breach of the peace, has been disregarded by the members of the Salvation Army in Weston-super-Mare and the result is that their local head, “Captain” Beatty, and two of his followers have been lodged in the police cells. On Friday evening, when Beatty was informed of the step the Magistrates had taken, he expressed himself as being willing to obey the law; on the other hand, he intimated that he had reported the decision of the Magistrates to the head-quarters in London and, if he received instructions to continue the street parades, he must obey the same - the alternative being the loss of his commission. On Saturday, no demonstration of any kind took place, although large crowds assembled anticipating a parade. On Sunday morning, however, on it’s becoming known that a procession of the Salvationists was being formed, a large number of people wended their way to the Salvation Hall and soon after the Army, led by Beatty, emerged from Oxford Street,

followed by a jeering crowd. On turning the corner into Walliscote Road, the police were sighted at the end of Magdala Buildings, on which manifestations of approval were given by the crowd, who evidently anticipated a scene. Sergeant Sticklan thereupon went up and stopped the procession, asking Beatty if he was cognisant of the fact that a proclamation had been issued by the Magistrates. Beatty replied in the affirmative and admitted, having received a copy of the document. Sergeant Sticklan thereupon said he should carry out the requirements of the proclamation if the procession did not disperse and persuaded Beatty to comply. This, however, he refused to do, and on starting his Army again was arrested. Two followers, named Thomas Boden and William Henry Mullins, then assumed the lead, and were in turn apprehended by Acting-Sergeant James and PC Davis, a large crowd following the prisoners to the police station, but no attempt was made to interfere with the officers in the discharge of their duty. Meanwhile, two young men, named Weeks, a grocer's assistant, and Ralfs, an ironmonger's assistant, took the lead in the procession, walking backwards, and by gesticulations encouraged the Army to sing with the full force of their lungs. They proceeded to the Salvation Hall, where their service was conducted as usual. In the afternoon, another disturbance was expected and the streets through which it was anticipated, the procession would pass being lined with spectators. No attempt, however, was made to form into processional order, the members of the Army wended their way in twos and threes to the Methodist Free Church in the Boulevard, where another service was held. A large concourse of persons assembled near the chapel but everything passed off most orderly, there being a general expression of regret that Beatty had been compelled by his superiors to violate the terms of the proclamation. The prisoners were brought before the bench the next morning and others, apprehended under a warrant, were charged with them. The case on the application of the defendant's counsel was adjourned.

by Lorna Gibson

Society Speakers 2018

Weston-super-Mare and FD History Society

Meetings at The Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2UR. The venue is open from 7.00pm with coffee/tea and biscuits. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

PROGRAMME

23 Jan 2018 – More Old Photographs of Weston and District

What can we learn from the local history of the area?

Bring along any photographs you have of the area. What can they tell us?

Speaker: Bill Caple

27 Feb 2018 - Who's Telling Tales?

How to write up a life story, make it interesting and fascinating to others who may not share your enthusiasm for research! Lois Sparshott runs a group in Weston U3A in the skill of writing a story based on facts.

Speaker: Lois Sparshott

27 Mar 2018 - Digital Photography and Editing

How to use digital editing to assist our family history research, including hints on how to restore and enhance old photographs.

Speaker: Neil Gibson

24 April 2018 – Members' Evening

Results from those who have used DNA to further their research.

Speaker: Members of the Society

22 May 2018 - A Flock of Black Sheep

This is the story of the fascinating and unusual Culliford family group. Sue Burne is returning with an account of her research into this family. It's a rare surname and they all appear to be connected. Some heroes and lots of rogues!

Speaker: Sue Burne

26 June 2018 - On the Street Where You Live

For several years, one of my sons lived on the south side of South Terrace in Weston (that side was called Park Villas) or, if you approached the house from the back, it was in Victoria Place! It took a while to sort that out but it was interesting to trace the people who lived on both sides over the years.

Speaker: Pat Hase

24 July 2018 - Members' Evening – Open Evening

This is an evening of sharing our family history research. Please bring along any family trees, printed booklets, folders of information and/or short PowerPoint presentations and be prepared to show what you have achieved.

Speaker: Society Members

No Meeting in August

25 Sept 2018 - Whatever Happened to Henry Charles Jewell and Other Mysteries?

How to try to get around brick walls with varying amounts of success.

Speaker: Peter de Dulin

23 Oct 2018 - Have We Forgotten Our Basics?

Shirley Hodgson, the author of the recently published 'Bristol's Pauper Children', looks back on many years of researching family history and considers whether we understand the basic methods and techniques of research.

Speaker: Shirley Hodgson

27 Nov 2018 - AGM Followed by Members' Evening - Memorabilia

Who were your ancestors? Do you know any Black Sheep? Do you have famous or infamous people on your tree? Be prepared to talk about your naughty but interesting ancestors!

Speaker: Members of the Society

No Meeting in December

Society Meetings at Vintage Church Hall, Weston-super-Mare

Will all members please note that the entrance fee for Society meetings is £1.50 to include tea or coffee and biscuits. The charge for visitors is £2.00, which also includes tea or coffee and biscuits.

Members and visitors must sign the attendance books at the entrance for security reasons and fire precautions.

Diary Dates for 2018

<p>24 March</p>	<p>Dorset FHS 30th Anniversary Family History Day Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane Poole, BH17 7EP Open: 10.00am to 4.00pm https://www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/</p>
<p>5 & 6 May</p>	<p>Family History Fair – London ILEC Conference Hall, 47 Lillie Road, Earls Court, London, SW6 1UD Open: 10.00am to 4.30pm</p>
<p>12 May</p>	<p>Wiltshire FHS Family History Fair Wilton, Wiltshire https://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/index.php/socevents/side-calendar</p>
<p>30 June</p>	<p>SWAG Family History Fair STEAM Museum, Firefly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY Open: 10.00am to 3.30pm Adults £3.00; Children FREE http://swag-fair.co.uk/</p>
<p>6 October</p>	<p>Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair Marlborough School, Shipton Avenue, Woodstock, OX20 1LP Open: 10.00am to 4.00pm http://news.ofhs.org.uk/fair/</p>
<p>6 October</p>	<p>Devon FHS Conference & AGM Torquay http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/agm.htm</p>

Did Your Ancestors Use the WC&P?

The Weston Clevedon & Portishead Railway was opened in 1897 and ran on a shoestring budget until 1940. For most of its life, it made no profit and was in receivership.

In 1909, the journey from Weston to Clevedon would take about 30 mins and cost one shilling (5p) return, there were 7 trains a day, no trains on Sundays until the 1930s.



Train leaving Weston in the 1930s - the houses behind are in Milton Road

Between Weston and Portishead, there were 17 places where the train would stop to pick up passengers, at some places waving your arms or at night flashing a light to stop the train.

The line took so long to build that some of the wooden sleepers rotted and were replaced before it opened in 1897.

It was planned to run the track along the Milton Road, Gerard Road and the Boulevard in Weston but, after complaints from the Council, this was abandoned.



The Weston Station was on the corner of Milton/Ashcombe Roads (now a Florist's shop) and opposite Milton Road Cemetery

The other two stops in Weston were Milton Road and Bristol Road, both within 1 ½ miles of Weston Station, before stopping at Worle Town Station where there was a booking office and waiting room.

In Clevedon, the line crossed through the centre of town near the Triangle, a man with a flag would lead the train travelling at 4mph.



Near the Triangle in Clevedon, heading for Portishead

From Clevedon, the line continued up through the Gordano Valley, where it terminated at the White Lion pub (now Old Mill) in Portishead High Street.

The line closed on 18th May 1940, when the track was removed. It was used to help make munitions for the war effort.



The last train to arrive at Weston on 18th May 1940

Lots more information about this Railway can be found by visiting:

WC&P Railway Group: <http://www.wcpr.org.uk/>

by Bill Caple

**Accidental Deaths in Weston-super-Mare: Wiltshire Times and
Trowbridge Advertiser – Saturday, 27th August 1904**

Frederick **JUST** was killed while crossing the railway line in Weston-super-Mare.

‘LEST WE FORGET’

Recently we visited the National Memorial Arboretum, near Alrewas in Staffordshire, not knowing quite what to expect as we had not done any research!

On entering the Remembrance Centre, we picked up a map – I don’t think we had realised the size of the Arboretum or what it contained – 150 acres; 30,000 trees and to date 300 memorials to members of the Armed Forces, Police, Fire & Rescue; Ambulance and National Charities and much information to absorb. For those unable to walk far, a Land Train is available.

The largest memorial, set on high ground, is dedicated to 16,100 men and women who have died in conflicts post World War 2 to recent times. In the centre there are two group sculptures: one showing parents at one side and a mother with children the other, between them is a group of figures, one from each of the armed services, carrying high a comrade on a stretcher. This is to show parents sending their son to war and the family waiting for their husband/father to return.



There is a gap in the southern wall and, at 11am on 11th November, a beam of light streams through to hit a wreath in the centre of the area.

We then walked around the grounds looking at the many beautiful memorials to so many people of the various services and organisations. Obviously, due to our connection, we spent time reading the individual plaques in the Police area.

One place, at the far side of the Arboretum, we found particularly moving. This was the memorial to those service men of the First World War who were ‘Shot at Dawn’. The wooden posts each have the name and often the age of one these men, many of them under 20 years. Some state ‘age unknown’ which indicates they could have been as young as 14. The statue standing in front of these is of a particular young soldier and it really brought to mind the sadness of this, as the cause was not always for desertion.



Another very emotional place was the small museum in the Far East Zone which had information and photographs relating to the men, women and children interred in camps and the men forced to work on the Burma and Sumatra Railways. The courage of these men was unbelievable. We wondered how any of these, and the women and children in the camps, survived. Also in the area are the Burma Star, Gurkha, Chindit and Changi Memorials. Many of the trees planted here are native to the Far East.

It's impossible to name all the Memorials at the Arboretum or to put into words the feel of the place other than to say that it is an emotional experience, the peacefulness and beauty of the site and we learnt so much from our visit.

by Pam and Brian Airey

Passchendaele 1917

1916 and the battle of the Somme was to be a bad year for the families and men of East Brent. However 1917 would be even worse, with eight serving men known to have died, at least four of them in the horror of the 3rd Battle of Ypres better known as 'Passchendaele'.

Dozens of young men from East Brent served on the Western Front during World War One but, of those who were at Passchendaele in late 1917, most were volunteers or conscripted men and this was their first experience of real warfare!

Despite huge loses during the earlier battles for Ypres, even the use of gas by the Germans in 1915, Ypres was the last Belgian city to be held throughout the war by the British and Belgian forces in defiance of several mighty German assaults. Surrounded by German forces on three sides, the famous Ypres 'salient' was a terrible place to be, with the Germans holding the slightly higher high ground of Passchendaele and Messines Ridge, giving them the advantage of easier use of artillery and machine gun fire, etc.

In defence of Ypres during the course of the war, Britain lost over 400,000 men killed, wounded or missing. The Canadians and French also suffered heavy casualties. Among those lying in Flanders Fields in 1917 were eight young men from our parish of East Brent.

Passchendaele will always be known for the mud and atrocious conditions in which our forces were expected to fight in. The objective of taking the small village of Passchendaele from the Germans just NE of Ypres was for the BEF to break out of the Ypres Salient and try to retake the Belgian ports on the North sea coast from where the German U-boats were operating unrestricted sinking of merchant and passenger vessels in the Atlantic and causing deep concern.

The lead up to Passchendaele 1917 began at Arras and with the capture by the Canadians of Vimy Ridge. By June, at Messines Ridge 21, deep mines had been dug under the German lines and filled with explosives. Just after 3.00am on 7th June, the mines were blown killing many German troops while others simply surrendered. It is said that the noise of the explosion could be heard in London! With Messines captured, instead of pressing the advantage, General Haig planned for the third Battle of Ypres to take place at the end of July after reinforcing his troops with more men, tanks, supplies, etc. This also gave the opportunity for the German forces to do the same. The Germans were masters at building deep almost indestructible defences using barbed wire, trenches and concrete ‘pill-boxes’.

The Allied attack began at 3.50am on 31st July and, after a heavy artillery bombardment, Pilckem Ridge was taken but the Germans still held some of the high ground giving their artillery a clear advantage and inflicted heavy casualties on our troops. To add to the misery, on 1st August it rained heavily! Apart from some higher ridges, the land



where the battle was being fought was very similar to what we have here in East Brent - very flat and drained by waterways. The drainage ditches were destroyed by shellfire. The heavy rain and shellfire had soon turned the battlefield into a morass of water filled shell holes and a sea of mud. Now the use of tanks was out of the question. Men and horses could drown in mud, exhausted and unable to pull themselves out. Men had to endure horrendous conditions, spending days lying in literally shell holes soaked to the skin eating cold rations where they were available, sometimes managing a brew of tea in a mess tin over some burning rags! The Generals commanding the operation were mostly well behind the line and had no idea of the conditions. One who did venture to the front burst into tears and asked, 'Did we send men to fight in this?'

The Menin Gate Memorial lists the names of 54,000 'Missing' and the Tyne Cot Cemetery lists another 35,000. Apart from dying in the mud and with very little protection from enemy shelling, many of the men who did not answer Roll Call next morning were listed simply as 'Missing presumed dead'. In many cases nothing was found to identify a soldier, sometimes possibly just a bloodstained dog tag. Sometimes it was just a piece of uniform that might give a clue such as 'A Sergeant of the Light Infantry'.

Among the BEF forces who defended the city of Ypres in 1917 and fought at the battle of Passchendaele were many from East Brent and at least eight of these brave men would become casualties. Four would die during the four months of hell it took to capture the small village of Passchendaele which stood on a slight ridge of higher ground.

The four East Brent men who died during the Battle of Passchendaele were:

34 year old Private John DURSTON of the Canadian Infantry killed on 22nd Jun 1917 during the taking of Vimy Ridge

27 year old Sergeant John DERRICK of the Yorkshire Regiment died on 27th Aug 1917 at Langemarck Nr Ypres

19 year old Private William GRANT of the Royal Lancs 7th Battalion who died on 23rd Sep 1917 Ypres

25 year old Gunner Alfred GRANT of the Royal Artillery died on 3rd Oct 1917 at Flanders and was brother of William GRANT (above).

Other East Brent soldiers who died in 1917 in defence of the Ypres Salient were:

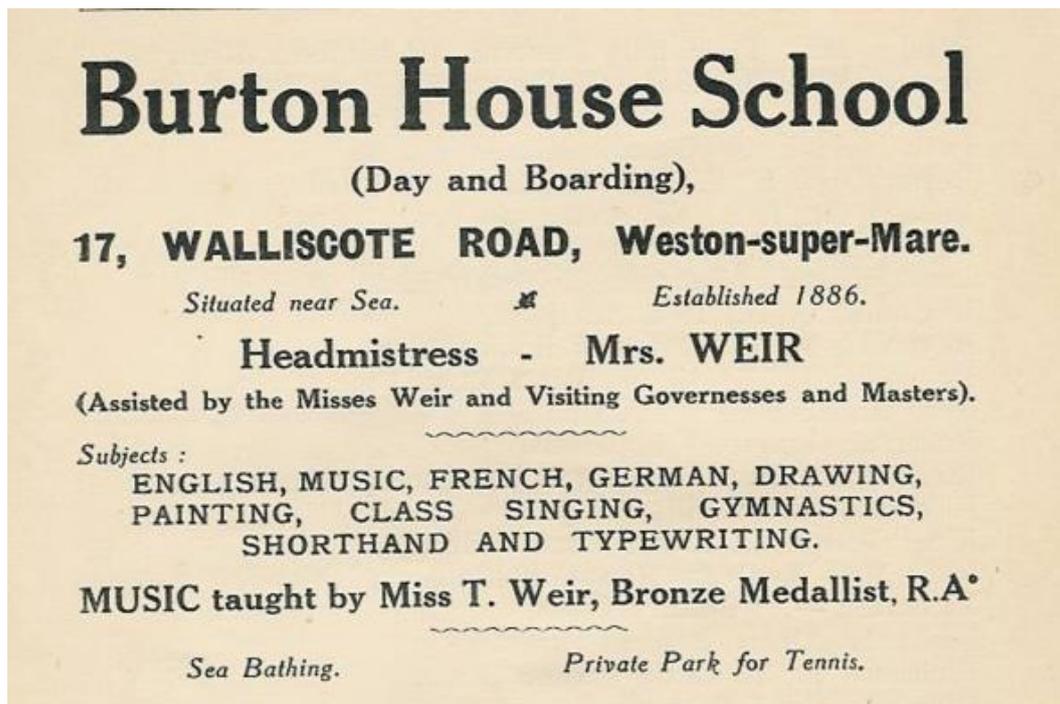
34 year old L/Cpl Gerald STUDLEY of the Australian Imperial Force died on 29th Jan 1917 at Armentiere

31 year old Private Charles POPE of the Gloucester Regiment died on 23rd Apr 1917 at Arras

23 year old Ernest FISHER Private in the Dorset Regiment died on 12th May 1917 at Messines Ridge

24 year old Wilfred COMER Gunner in Royal Artillery died on 21st May 1917 in Flanders.

Much more information on these men and over a hundred others and their families can be found in the Booklet 'East Brent Remembers' published by the East Brent Parish History Group which is available direct from Rooksbridge Post Office or by contacting Colin Loader at ebphgroup@btinternet.com or John Rigarlsford at jonrig@rooksbridge.org.uk



I have had a request for more information about Burton House School. Were any of our members, or their relations, educated there?

by Pat Hase

Advance Notification

This year Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Milton will be celebrating its 80th anniversary. Currently, discussions are taking place and the Parish plans to host a variety of events throughout the year. We have also been informed that a Commemorative Book recording the History of the Parish (1938 – 2018) is being printed and it will soon be available for purchase.

Some of our membership, or their ancestors, may have or have had connections with Our Lady of Lourdes. If so, you may be interested in the events and the book. More information will follow.

Then & Now

by **Bill Caple**



Weston-super-Mare

Burtons Supermarket c1960
and Argos 2018

Some Useful Local Addresses

The Editor is always pleased to receive additions or corrections to this list, based on Members' experience.

Bath Library	Tel: 01225 787400
Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol	Tel: 0117 9037200 email: bristol-library-service@bristol.gov.uk
Bristol Family History Centre (LDS), 721 Wells Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9HU	Tel: 01275 838326
Bristol Record Office, "B" Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN	Tel: 0117 9224224 email: bro@bristol-city.gov.uk
Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426020 email: clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Clevedon Story Heritage Centre, 4 The Beach, Clevedon, BS21 7QH	
Nailsea Library, Somerset Square, Nailsea, BS48 1RQ	Tel: 01934 426030 email: nailsea.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston-super-Mare Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1PR	Tel: 01934 621028. Fax 01934 612526 email: museum@wsm-tc.gov.uk
Portishead Library, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6EW	Tel: 01934 426040 email: portishead.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages, Town Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	Tel: 01934 427552 email: register.office@n-somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF	Tel: 01823 278805 email: archives@somerset.gov.uk
Somerset Studies Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ	Tel: 01823 340300. Fax: 01823 340301 email: somstud@somerset.gov.uk
Weston Library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 1UJ	For general enquiries: Tel: 01934 426010 email: weston.library@n-somerset.gov.uk For local history enquiries: Tel: 01934 888855 email: answers@n-somerset.gov.uk
Weston Civic Society, The Old Town Quarry, South Road, Weston super Mare	Tel: 01934 412144
Worle Library, The Maltings, High Street, Worle, BS22 6JB	Tel: 01934 462090 email: worle.library@n-somerset.gov.uk
Yatton Library, 48 High street, Yatton, BS49 4HJ	Tel: 01934 426100 email: yatton.library@n-somerset.gov.uk

Officers & Committee

Position Held		Current Occupier of the Position
Chair	E	Pat Hase
Secretary	E	Brian Airey
Membership & Transcripts	E	Graham Payne
Treasurer	E	Roy Smith
Journal Editor	E	Sue Maguire
Webmaster	E	Paul Tracey
Vice Chair	C	Peter de Dulin
Librarian	C	Brian Airey
General	C	Sue Dury
Research Consultant	C	Pat Hase
Web Contact	C	Graham Payne
Exchange Magazines	C	Margaret and Jim Nigh
Publication & Sales	C	Brian Airey
Cashier	C	Jenny Towey
General	C	Lorna Gibson
General	C	Tony Horry
General	C	Sue Dury

E=Elected Position according to Constitution; C=Co-opted Position by the Committee.

Please direct enquiries or information to the appropriate Post Holder and remember to enclose a SAE if you require a reply.

All Committee Members may be contacted using the Society's website. From any page on the site, go to the top right corner and click on 'Contact Us'. This will bring up a Contact Form for you to complete. Please choose the correct category so that the form is addressed to the correct recipient.

Neither the Editor nor the Committee necessarily agrees with the views or opinions expressed by contributors to the Journal. Articles remain the property of the individual author and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Map of the Parishes covered by the Weston-super-Mare & District FHS

On the rear cover is a map of the general area that we cover as a Society, showing the parishes that are known to have existed in 1832. This basically equates to the same area that forms North Somerset District Council's boundaries plus that covered by the Axbridge Registration District which was set up in 1837:

1. Easton-in-Gordano	2 Portbury	3 Abbots Leigh
4. Portishead	5. Clapton in Gordano	6. Wraxall
7. Long Ashton	8. Weston in Gordano	9. Tickenham
10. Nailsea	11. Backwell	12. Flax Bourton
13. Barrow Gurney	14. Dundry	15. Walton in Gordano
16. Clevedon	17. Kenn	18. Yatton
19. Brockley	19a. Chelvey	20. Wrington
21. Butcombe	22. Nempnet Thrubwell	23. Winford
24. Kingston Seymour	25. Wick St Lawrence	26. Puxton & Hewish
27. Congresbury	28. Churchill	29. Burrington
30. Blagdon	31. Kewstoke	32. Worle
33. Banwell	34. Weston-super-Mare	35. Hutton
36. Locking	37. Christon	38. Winscombe
39. Uphill	40. Brean	41. Bleadon
42. Loxton	43. Biddisham	44. Compton Bishop
45. Axbridge	46. Shipham	47. Rowberrow
48. Cheddar	49. Charterhouse	50. Ubley
51. Compton Martin	52. Chew Stoke	53. Chew Magna
54. West Harptree	55. East Harptree	56. Berrow
57. Brent Knoll	58. Lympsham	59. East Brent
60. Badgworth	61. Weare	62. Nyland
63. Rodney Stoke	64. Westbury	65. Priddy
66. Burnham on Sea	67. Huntspill	68. Mark
69 Chapel Allerton	70. Wedmore	

The following parishes were split as follows:

Clevedon into All Saints; Christ Church & St Andrew.

Nailsea into Christ Church & Holy Trinity.

Weston-super-Mare into All Saints; Christ Church; Emmanuel; Good Shepherd; Holy Trinity; St John; St Paul & St Saviour.

Map of Parishes covered by Weston-super-Mare & District FHS

