

DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

For People in Dorset or People with Dorset Ancestors

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DORSET

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 801504

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

*

Opening hours

Mon, Wed & Sat 10 am – 3 pm

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

*

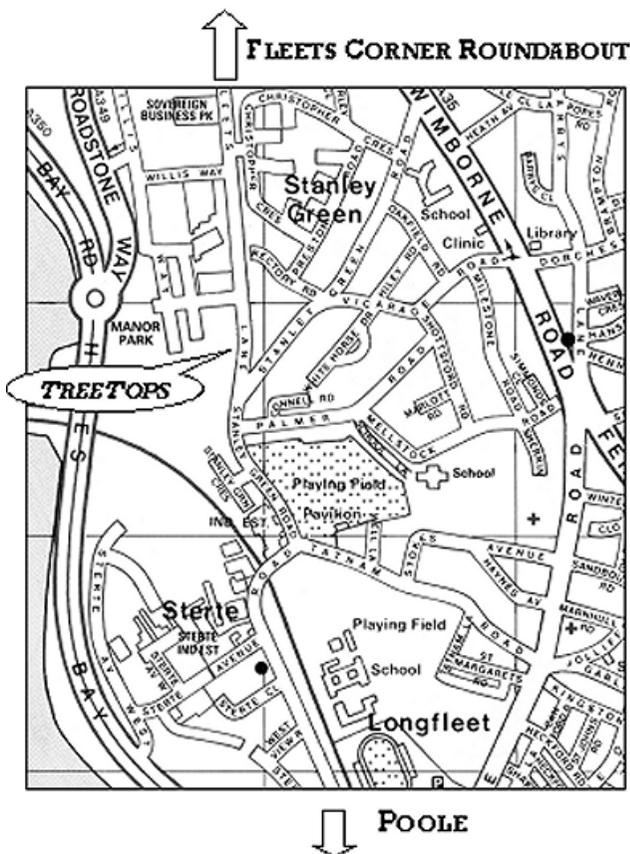
Bookings and research requests are taken by e-mail or by telephoning the Centre during opening hours.

*

Parking is available in residential roads in the local area.

For disabled parking please contact Treetops before travelling.

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



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For details of Officers and Committee please see back inner cover

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Quarterly Journal

Volume 33, Number 3 June 2020

Cover picture: George and Emma Cross – refer to article in this Journal

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From the Editor's Chair



This Journal has been put together whilst your editor is in isolation. I have not been out in the car, been to a shop, seen my family (apart from Darling Husband) or left my local area for nine weeks (at the time of writing). We do take our liberty for granted until it is removed without notice. I have created an online blog to record my experience of this unprecedented challenge. Perhaps this blog will be read by those coming after to try to understand how it was for ordinary people to go through the global virus shut down. There have been positives – getting to know new neighbours each Thursday evening by waving and shouting across to one another as we applaud key workers. Also, ensuring there is daily contact of some form with family and friends, listening to glorious birdsong audible in the absence of normal everyday human originating sounds, having time to devote to hobbies including family history research, etc.

Knowing we would not have our usual Society meetings to report upon, your response to my plea for articles for our Journal has been overwhelming. A huge thank you to all who have sent in articles relating to their own research. I am pleased that I have more items than can fit into this single Journal – so there will be more for you to enjoy in the future. You are amazing – please keep them coming 😊

Please take care, stay safe and happy researching.

Angie, Journal Editor

Deadline for September 2020 edition – 15 July 2020

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



Subject to relaxation in Government Guidelines on public freedom of movement, the meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, (except August) from 7.30pm – 9.30pm, at St George's Church Hall, Darby's Lane, Oakdale, Poole, BH15 3EU. Doors open at 7pm. (Talks normally last up to 1 hour) - These timings have been changed to accommodate the bus timetables. Admission to monthly meetings: £2.00.

Please note that meetings can sometimes be subject to change at short notice. And in these uncertain times, we do not know when we will be able to recommence our regular meetings. Please check for updates on <www.dorsetfhs.org.uk> and on Facebook.

Tuesday 16 June 2020 - "Naval Records" by Les Mitchinson

Les returns once more to take us through another informative discovery journey explaining how naval records have evolved from the 18th century, through to the modern day. Les will describe the records, explain where they are held, and which ones are available to view on line. He will also explain the different approach to researching a naval officer from that of a naval rating.

Les, after a naval career, became a professionally qualified genealogist, a course tutor with the IHGS and been appointed their Director of Education. He has his own business in Family History with clients from around the world

Tuesday 21 July 2020 - "Penny Loaves of Corfe Castle" by Louise Haywood

In 1999 Louise became "hooked" on church records, and in 2000 became a volunteer transcribing the 1861 Census for Falmouth, becoming an OPC and taking on Corfe Castle and Kimmeridge. In 2010 she gained an Advanced Diploma through Oxford University in Local

History. Corfe Castle Charities then asked if Louise would write up their 400 years of history! This took 8 years as, amongst others, the Bankes Archive hadn't been catalogued. Louise is currently a volunteer archivist at Dorset History Centre, cataloguing the Bond Archives, she volunteers in research for the National Trust and is Chairman of Corfe Castle Town Trust.

AUGUST – NO MEETING

Tuesday 15 September 2020 - "The History of Poole High Street" by Jenny Oliver

This is the story of Poole High Street, which has a long and sometimes surprising history, going back to medieval times. Its buildings have housed poets, pirates, shopkeepers, slave traders, rich merchants, mayors and poor seamen. It has witnessed celebrations, tragedies, royal visits, fire flood and murder! Through its many changes Jenny guides us along its historic path.

Some of you will know Jenny, as Reference Librarian at Poole Library for many years, she worked with local history material and societies, and answered enquiries. Developing a personal interest in the varied history of Poole, Jenny published a book in 2012 "The Book of Poole High Street"

Meetings in Retrospect

Angie Parker-Harris

Tuesday 18 February 2020 – "Family History Sources at the National Archives" – by Susan Moore

Susan provided us with a fascinating and educational overview of sources available for family historians at Kew. Susan likened a visit to Kew as being in a 'Disneyland for Historians', where the national data covered is anything the government has had anything to do with. Just 8% of family history-related archives are online (mostly census records). So a visit to the National Archives at Kew is really recommended for family historians.

We were given information on Army Muster Rolls which include a list of everyone in the army, arranged by regiment and location. There is a wealth of World War I documents too.

Did you know that there are naval pay records for all ranks, with details of the ship the person was on, and who actually received the pay?

Another field of records related to the unpopular 1910 Valuation Survey with coverage of properties, complete with maps and field books. This can provide details of house value, rent, and description of the house. All details not available in local archives.

Other classes of data introduced by Susan included Wills, Tax Records, Manorial Records, Criminal Records, Railway Staff, Insolvent Debtors and so much more.

Of local interest, Susan told us of Educational Records of state schools (ED49) for Wimborne National School. Also MH9 for Poole Union Workhouse.

Thanks to sharing examples of some of the key resources, we all learned a great deal and look forward to visiting Kew in the future. Susan also showed the audience how to find TNA Research Guides online to help us look for specific records.

Computer Group Meetings at Treetops

Richard Yates



Due to Coronavirus, we have obviously lost some meetings. I am writing this in Lockdown, with no idea when we will be able to convene again. I have taken the programme we had planned and begun adding the lost meetings on the end. I have taken an executive decision that we will

depart from tradition and hold a meeting in August to try to make up. If we lose any more, I will continue to add them on the end.

Meetings are held at Treetops on the first Tuesday of each month (except January and August) commencing at 7.30pm. 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> and on Facebook.

June 2nd – Some suggested Websites

Although we have regularly heard from Celia on this topic, the plan is to invite any member to bring along details of a site you have come across or has been recommended to you. There is no need to bring lots – a few people suggesting one each will happily fill an evening.

July 7th – How the Society Journal is produced

Angie Parker-Harris will demonstrate the production of the Society Journal with emphasis on the technology.

August 4th – DNA Further Investigations

Our October meeting proved very interesting, but some members were away, and others have more to contribute. Hopefully Linda Adams and Ann Bush will be able to join us to share their expertise again.

September 1st – Facebook for Family History

Many members have mentioned finding assistance (and sometimes “new” cousins) on Facebook. This is your opportunity to bring examples of the benefits and show the rest of us how to do it. If you don’t usually come to Computer Group, but have something to contribute to this topic, drop me an e-mail at <liaison@dorsetfhs.org.uk> and we can slot you in. It will still be light evenings in September, so there’s no excuse. *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.*

I am aware that we have not produced notes from our past meetings for some time. In the absence of a regular volunteer this has proved

difficult. I am interested in exploring the viability of using technology to record future meetings to add to the members' area of the website. If anyone has skills in this area to suggest what equipment we would need, please contact me as above. The current crisis requires us all to explore how we can do things differently in the digital age.

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.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I thought this might be of interest to any members who have links to East Africa: <www.europeansineastafrica.co.uk>.

Regards,
Jan Spink

Dear Editor,

My name is Rhonda LEGG and I live in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia. I read the posting on the Dorset Family History Society's Facebook page that you were interested in hearing about people's stories or brick walls for your journal and I am hoping that my inquiry would be acceptable.

My husband's family originate from Dorset and I have been researching his 'roots' for a few years now and there are a couple of brick walls that I need some help with...

His great, great grandfather Henry Legg was born in Burton Bradstock in

1832 the second child of David (b:1806) and Jane (nee HANSFORD, b:1813). I have reference to David and Jane having 13 living children. John (1830), Henry (1832), James (1834), Joseph (1837), Jane (1838), William (1840), Fanny (1842), Mary (1845), Elijah (1848), Sarah (1849), [Richard, (1854)?], Ann Eliza (1855), and Job (1857). I'm not sure about Richard as I can't find any birth or baptism records only census records. (If any of the above info is incorrect, I am happy to have it corrected!)

Henry 'jumped ship' in the port of Melbourne (Victoria) in the early 1850's with 2 mates, William KIRKHAM and William BARTLETT, my brick wall is the name of the ship they were working on. He is listed as being a sailor but I am having problems finding out which ship/s he worked on. One of the family stories is that he jumped ship for love which would mean that he possibly was on the 'Miles Barton', as this was the ship that his future wife came out to Australia on in 1853. Her name was Elizabeth NELSON and she came from Blyth, Northumberland and was travelling to Melbourne to join her family. Henry and Elizabeth married in Prahran, Victoria in 1855 and lived in and around Dandenong Victoria until Elizabeth died of pneumonia in 1875. They had 6 children.

Henry then married Ann BROWN in 1887. My second mystery is: in 1912 Henry and Ann celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and in a newspaper report of this celebration there was mention of the attendance by Henry's brother 'Captain Legg from England'. I have been unable to find out which brother was the Captain? I would really love to know who it was, especially as it would show that Henry still had contact with his English family.

I would like to make contact with any descendants of this family who are happy to share information etc. Henry has many descendants!

Regards,
Rhonda (& Gary) Legg
<rgbeac@hotmail.com>

Members' Interests

Alan Mead

Good News - for all our members who have submitted their research surnames to our Members' Interests co-ordinator. Your interests will now go worldwide, courtesy of the Family History Federation. The Federation are publishing a master list of names being researched, as submitted by Family History Societies, on their website <<https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>>. So, for example, a user searching for "JOHNSON" will receive results of all the "JOHNSON" names that have been registered as an Interest with other Family History Societies. Each resulting record will provide a link back to the individual Society for you to follow up.

This Society has sent its Members' Interests database to include in the Federation's list but will only share your contact details with Dorset FHS members, so we are also hoping this will encourage more people to join this Society.

E-News

Do you receive the Society's monthly E-News? It can be a faster way of sharing information, such as offers that would be out of date before the next quarterly Journal, as well as reminders of, or changes to, monthly events. Sent to all Members who have consented to receive emails from the Society, the new look and distribution method introduced at the beginning of March provides much more information about the mailing. So, for example, I now know that an average of 76% of recipients open the email. If you only view the email in the Preview screen that might not be recorded as having been opened.

Some of the email addresses shown on our Membership database have been found to be incorrect, so E-News can't be delivered. Did you have an email address where the provider has stopped providing a service (such as Tesco broadband which was moved to TalkTalk) and have you told us of your new email address?

We'd like all possible Members to receive E-News so, if you've agreed to receive emails from us, but aren't receiving E-News, please email the

Membership Secretary, including your Membership number, to update your details.

Interests received since the last Journal:

Member #	Surname	Place	County	Dates
3534	BALL	Tamworth	STS	Pre 1865
5206	BERRY	Bridport	DOR	Pre 1935
5219	BLUNDELL	Poole	DOR	1700-1920
3685	COPP	Any	DOR	Pre 1900
3534	DALLIMAN	Any	DBY	Pre 1845
5211	DENNETT	Powerstock	DOR	Any
5219	DUNNING	Church Knowle	DOR	1790-1900
5219	DUNNING	Wareham	DOR	1790-1900
5219	DUNNING	Tyneham	DOR	1700-1920
5206	ENGLISH	Askerwell	DOR	1860
5211	GALE	Powerstock	DOR	Any
5211	GODDARD	Dorchester	DOR	Any
5211	GODDARD	Swindon	WIL	Any
5219	GRAYGOOSE	Poole	DOR	1814-1879
3534	HALLAM	Sheffield	YKS	Pre 1825
3534	HAYWOOD	Birmingham	WAR	Pre 1875
5206	LEGG	Askerwell	DOR	1890
5206	LEGG BAGG	Askerwell	DOR	1864
3534	LISTER	Sheffield	YKS	Pre 1926
3534	LISTER	Any	YKS	Pre 1890
3685	LOCK	Exeter	DEV	Pre 1800
3534	PARKER	Dronfield	DBY	Pre 1855
5219	POWER	Poole	DOR	1700-1920
5219	ROBBINS	Poole	DOR	1700-1920
5219	ROBBINS	Portsea	HAM	1830-1950
3534	SKIDMORE	Gt. Packington	WAR	Pre 1835
5219	STICKLAND	Poole	DOR	1700-1920
3685	THORNER	Any	SOM	1850-2000
3685	TINCKNELL	Any	SOM	Pre 1950
3685	TINKNELL	Any	SOM	Pre 1950
3534	TURLEY	Birmingham	WAR	Pre 1875
5211	WHEATCROFT	Dorchester	DOR	Any
5211	WHEATCROFT	Manchester	LAN	Any
3534	WHITBY	Lichfield	STS	Pre 1875
3534	WITTON	Birmingham	WAR	Pre 1875
5202	WRIXON	Various	DOR	All

The database can be viewed at Treetops and on the Society's website at <www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/members-interests>, where there is a search box to see if any other Member is interested in the same surname as you. This search box can also be used to check what surnames you have registered by entering your Membership Number. If there is a Member with an interest in the same surname as you, the same page has guidance on how to obtain their contact details. Members without Internet access should contact Treetops during opening hours.

Is it Ever Really Done?

June Clist

One of the comments I often hear is that people say that someone has 'already done' the research of a line of their family and I am left wondering how correctly and how in depth as having been researching mine for over 30 years I am still finding out more information. For instance, has the history of the place(s) where they lived been researched which often throws up events they witnessed or took part in and also perhaps their houses and other buildings are still in existence? My ancestors lived in Poole and sat down in the streets for a roast beef dinner with 5000 of their fellow residents and watched the fireworks display afterwards in celebration of the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

When I started my research my uncle told me that he thought we were related to the MARTIN family whose sons worked on the Royal Yacht but to date I had not come across any connection. Also I had tried on a number of occasions to find the whereabouts of my great grandmother's sister Caroline Elizabeth DENMAN who was born in Poole in 1850, the daughter of Joseph and Maria (nee STILES), he having been lost at sea around this time. Initially it was very difficult for find anyone who had moved away to another county and recently I thought I would try and seek out Caroline once more.

Oh what joy when I first found that she had married Joseph Emanuel Martin on the 24th August 1874 at the church of St Mary at Portsea. He had been born the same year as her also in Poole and he was the son of

a mariner. They had been living just around the corner from the Denman family in the early years but later move to live in Portsmouth.

Joseph became a mariner too and rose through the ranks to become a Captain in the Royal Navy and I have been able to follow his progress and learn much about the ships he served on and his voyages. Caroline and Joseph had six children, five sons and a daughter Ellen who sadly died when a few hours old. Caroline herself suffered with a heart disease for over 7 years before finally passing away in Westbourne, Bournemouth in August 1907 at the young age of 57 years. Joseph remarried at the beginning of 1911 and his new bride was Sarah Elizabeth Ellen PITTS who was 22 years his junior!

Joseph Martin was in his 80th year on Saturday, 1st November 1929 when tragedy struck. He was crossing the road about 5 o'clock near his home at 427 Romford Road, Forest Gate, London when he was struck down and badly injured by a motor cycle. He was taken to East Ham Memorial Hospital where he passed away the following Tuesday, the 4th December, his three 'well known' Wesleyan minister surviving sons, Joseph, Ernest and Arthur at his bedside.

A number of newspapers reported his passing with the headlines 'SKIPPER FATHER OF THREE PREACHERS, DEATH OF FAMOUS OLD SEA CAPTAIN' and 'A GREAT SEAMAN, PERSONAL FRIEND OF ROYALTY'. He had sailed all over the world, lived with cannibals, been wrecked three times, and avoided being drowned several times but never lost a ship or a man.

The story was told of his service in the Merchant and Royal Navies for nearly 60 years beginning as a cabin boy and finishing up as the King George V's Chief Pilot in Portsmouth Harbour including piloting one of the yachts at Queen Victoria's funeral. King George V ascended the throne on the 5th May 1910 and later that year on the 21st October the Hampshire Telegraph reported that he had 'instituted an Imperial Service Medal for the recognition of long and meritorious government service' to those who had been employed for 25 years or more and retired from the dockyard at Portsmouth. Joseph Emanuel Martin was

one of those who was awarded this medal which was inscribed by the words 'For faithful service'.

He was 'personally known to and on familiar terms with King George V and many others of the Royal family including Queen Alexandra'. He had for 60 years also been a popular preacher in the Wesleyan faith not only preaching on his ships but also at many various venues on the mainland. 'He was known, loved and respected by all who go down to the sea in ships for he was not only a great and exceptional sailor but also a man of fine character, rare personal charm and many social gifts'.

Mendenhall

Shirley Chick

In these times when we are asked to stay at home, I thought that I would take you travelling. We will fly to Vancouver, a bustling west coast seaport in British Columbia, Canada and known for its fresh local seafood including Pacific salmon which is shipped to every corner of the world. It is late May and the spring flowers are starting to spray their colours in parks and gardens. Vancouver boasts 30 kilometres of waterfront and that is where our ship is waiting for us to take us on a trip to explore Alaska.

Alaska was purchased by the U.S. from Russia on 18 Oct 1867 for the bargain price of 2 cents an acre, making a total of \$7.2 million or the equivalent in today's money of \$120 million. Russia feared that Alaska might be seized if war broke out with Britain.

First stop is Ketchikan – Salmon capital of Alaska. It has timber houses and funicular tramway. Sea planes are the local transport and bald eagles swoop overhead. It is very hot and the thermometer is showing 80degF but we are all in winter clothes, not expecting temperatures like this in Alaska.

Next stop is in Juneau, the capital of Alaska, known for being the 'rainy city' with a backdrop of the Juneau Mountains. Juneau is only accessible from the ocean having no roads leading in over the mountains. Here you

can see Humpback whales, Killer whales and seals. We have been offered an excursion to the Mendenhall Glacier. Just a minute, did you say Mendenhall? That is a name that features in my husband's family tree but I cannot quite remember where at that moment and it nags away at me for the rest of the trip. It is quite an uncommon name and there has to be a link. I cannot wait to get home and research this, but for now we hike to explore this 12-mile-long glacier, Nugget waterfall and Tongass National Forest.



Mendenhall Glacier

Skagway is the next port of call where we board the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. A 3ft narrow gauge railway constructed in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush. We journey in rolling stock built around 1898 and the stove in the corner is keeping all of us cosy with the temperature dropping as we ascend the pass from sea level to 3000ft in 20 miles through cliff hanging turns. We cross ancient trestles and view Mount Cleveland and Mount Clifford. As we ascend there are waterfalls cascading down alongside the train which spray you if go outside at the end of the carriage. We are at 2888ft now and the snow lies deep as we approach the summit and then on to Bennett Lake near the headwaters of the Yukon River. The White Pass Railroad was built because the Chilkoot Pass was deemed too rough for the thousands of prospectors arriving to discover the 'stacks of gold'. Each person was expected to carry a ton of supplies up the 'golden stairs' and trek the 550 miles through the lake system and Yukon River to the gold fields. 3000 horses died on the White Pass Trail due to the tortuous trail and inexperience of the stampedeers. Tens of thousands of pioneers built this railway using 450 tons of explosives to blast their way through the coastal mountains in only 26 months, sometimes working in temperatures of 60 below. It is a truly breath taking ride.

We travel on to the Glacier National Park where we view the glaciers from the ship. I had always thought that glaciers were slow and silent but found that they were alive and really very noisy. The sounds coming from them varied from a gunshot to a thunder clap with growls and grunts in between. Then suddenly where the ice meets the water in a cliff, the ice would peel off, as the glacier calves, and a wall of ice comes crashing down into the water sending waves across the fjord. Ice flows drift past the ship and looking down you could see the strata across these small icebergs, showing where year on year and the pollution in the atmosphere had stained them, layer after annual layer. We watch the sea otters play as we sail towards College Fjord.

We leave the ship at Whittier and take the Alaskan Railroad to Anchorage and Talkeetna where we see Caribou, Bison, Brown bears, Musk Ox, Horned Owl. We pinch ourselves and know how privileged and fortunate we are to be here. From our lodge we should have a view of Mount McKinley but today it is hidden in low cloud. The mountain is the highest in the USA at 23,200 feet high and was first ascended in 1913.

We follow the Nenana River on way to our last stop, Fairbanks and then go panning for gold by the Chena River. We pan 18mgs of gold which we have placed into a pendant as a souvenir. We have seen reindeer, moose and caribou and watched huskies racing, but it is time to return home. A wonderful trip and one to remember.



But what has this got to do with family history? You may remember the Mendenhall Glacier. Well, when I arrived home I discovered that this glacier was named in 1892 in honour of Thomas Corwin MENDENHALL born in 1841 Hanoverton, Ohio, USA and he died in 1924 in Ravenna, Ohio and was the son of Mary Thomas and Stephen Mendenhall, a carriage maker. They married in 1829 and were strong abolitionists and frequently opened their home in Marlboro, a Quaker

community, to escaped slaves.

Thomas was a Physicist and Meteorologist and he was the first professor hired at the Ohio State University in 1873 and the superintendent of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from 1889 to 1894. In 1878 he was recruited to serve as a visiting professor of physics at Tokyo Imperial University. He worked on deducing earth's mass, wavelengths of the solar spectrum and was one of the founders of the Seismological Society of Japan. He returned to Ohio in 1881 and became professor at the U.S. Signal Corps in 1884 and was the first to establish stations in the U.S. for the observation of earthquakes. He oversaw the transition in the States of weights and measures from the customary system to the metric system via the Mendenhall Order.

Mendenhall was appointed president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute from 1894 until 1901, when he emigrated to Europe and so many other appointments that they are too numerous to list here. He returned to the United States in 1912. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University in 1919 and is remembered for his successful efforts to close the College of Homeopathic Medicine and his unsuccessful effort to limit the capacity of Ohio Stadium to 45,000 seats, contending that it would never be able to fill to its design capacity of 63,000 seats. He continued to serve as a trustee until his death at Ravenna, Ohio in 1924.

Thomas C. Mendenhall's Grandparents were James Mendenhall born in 1774 in Concord Pennsylvania USA and Sarah PENNELL and they lived in Beaver County Pennsylvania. James was descended from Stephen Mendenhall 1750-1809 and Margaret FARLOW 1749-1818 who raised their family in Concord. Stephen was the son of Robert Mendenhall 1713-1785 Concord and Elizabeth M. WHITE 1732-1777. Robert's father was the Reverend Benjamin Mendenhall born in 1662 Ramsbury Wiltshire who married Ann Pennell born in 1668 in Balderton Nottinghamshire. It appears that these two people emigrated before 1689 because they were married in Chichester, Chester County in Pennsylvania in April that year and had 9 children.

Benjamin's father was Thomas Mendenhall III born in 1641 Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire. He married Jane STROUD or STROOD 1631-1690 and they had 5 children and this is where I found the family link. My

husband's Great Aunt Georgina CHICK married George Mendenhall III in Weymouth in 1873. Georgina was born in 1847 in Melcombe Regis to Charles Samuel Chick 1815-1877 and Louisa Jane PARKER 1821-1898, and lived in and around Weymouth all their lives. Charles was a Porter at Weymouth Quay and is my husband's 2 x Great Grandfather.

George Mendenhall III was born in Walcot, Bath, Somerset and his lineage can be traced back through the generations starting with his father George 1820-1874 Bath Somerset, a cabinet maker, journeyman and porter; George 1786 Chipping Sodbury Gloucs-1861 Walcot Somerset; James 1751 Lambourn Berks-1812 Bath; William 1717 Burbage Wilts-1808 Lambourn Berks; William 1675 – 1779 Little Bedwyn Wiltshire and Thomas Mendenhall III who we have met before above. Both Thomas Corwin Mendenhall and George Mendenhall III are 4 x Great Grandsons of Thomas Mendenhall II, making them 5th cousins.

Unfortunately, George did not have the honours heaped on him of his 5th cousin. He was a general poulterer and fishmonger's assistant and died in Weymouth of a malignant disease of the larynx in 1906, but the cousins' family can be traced back to William Mildenhale circa 1512.

A Visit Rewarded

John Rattenbury



On 28 March 1935 Francis Mawson RATTENBURY (FMR) died in the Strathallen Nursing Home, Bournemouth. Not peacefully, as might be expected of a sixty-seven-year-old in a nursing home, but as the result of a head injury sustained in his own home, the Villa Madeira, Manor Road Bournemouth, days earlier on Sunday 24 March. His wife, Alma and their chauffeur George STONER were charged with his murder and appeared at the Old Bailey on Monday 27 May. George Stoner was sentenced to hang but Alma was acquitted and in great distress she died in the River Avon, at

Christchurch after stabbing herself. Stoner was reprieved on 25 June. These sensational events are described in 'Rattenbury' by Terry REKSTEN, 'Murder at the Villa Madeira' by Sir David NAPLEY and the recently published 'The Fatal Passion of Alma Rattenbury' by Sean O'CONNOR'. They were adapted into Terence RATTIGAN'S last play, 'Cause Célèbre'. They had their origin in Leeds and Bradford in Yorkshire, in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia and ended tragically in Bournemouth and Christchurch.

FMR was born on 11 October 1867 in Leeds, the second child of John Owen Rattenbury and Mary Anne MAWSON. His father's parents and some of their descendants were prominent Methodists. John OWEN was artistic and found it difficult to settle in business unlike his wife's family who were in printing, textiles and architecture. FMR inherited his father's drawing talent and joined his architect uncles in Bradford. In their previous association with Henry LOCKWOOD they had completed prestigious commissions for public buildings but were now past their greatest achievements.

In 1892, after six years with the firm, FMR left for Vancouver, British Columbia where he set up an office and advertised his availability for architectural commissions, arranging for it to be accompanied by a friendly article. His drive and ambition were revealed at once. Though claiming to be an architect, he was not qualified. He referred to past achievements with Lockwood and Mawson although Lockwood had died while he was still a boy.

Within months of arriving in Vancouver, he replied to an advertisement for a competition to design new Legislative Buildings in Victoria, Vancouver Island. He falsely claimed association with Lockwood's major works at Saltaire, the Law Courts in London and Bradford Town Hall. He signed his entry 'BC Architect' to suggest he was on home ground and won the commission; work started the following year.

He was twenty-five years old. Although his design was much admired, problems arose with the building and he entered into bitter disputes which typified his later career. One such dispute followed soon after when he was unsuccessful in his bid to design Capitol Buildings in

Olympia, Washington State. He was believed to have initiated a rumour that he had been invited to bribe the Washington Commissioners.

The Legislative Building (Parliament) of British Columbia was officially opened on 10 February 1898. FMR was not present.

The previous year the Klondike gold rush had burst upon ports and cities on the west coast of Canada and the US. Money was to be made not only by finding gold but by supplying the needs of prospectors. FMR would not let such opportunities pass him by. He teamed up with a cattle dealer from Calgary called Pat BURNS to transport beef to Dawson City, and set up the Lake Bennett and Klondike Navigation Company with three steamers and the Arctic Express Company to supply the Yukon in winter.

In June 1898, FMR married Florence NUNN: a surprising match, for 'Florrie' brought neither wealth nor influence to this ambitious architect and entrepreneur, and was unkindly considered plain and rather dull. Nevertheless, FMR took Florrie for their honeymoon on an expedition over the Chilkoot Pass to Yukon to show a sceptical public that there were no difficulties or dangers on the route and wrote letters to newspapers to this effect. Despite his claiming to have returned to Victoria with £20,000 in gold, the gold rush had peaked and FMR severed his connections with the failing companies, claiming that he was too busy with architectural projects. This was actually true since he was designing public and private buildings across British Columbia.



He obtained major commissions such as the replacement for Cary Castle, the Governor General's mansion which had burned down and, as the Canadian Pacific Railway's (CPR's) western division architect, the Empress hotel at the head of James Bay. Along with the Parliament Building and the CPR terminal, FMR's three iconic buildings still dominate the James Bay waterfront.

In 1905, FMR was at the peak of his success and reputation but from 1906 things began to go wrong. There were disputes with CPR over the interior decoration of the Empress and he suffered a public attack over his previous work. He resigned from his post with CPR and transferred his allegiance to Grand Trunk Pacific (GTP), the other main railway company.

By 1912 he had designed hotels for GTP and had purchased enormous tracts of land along the length of the railway. The enterprising general manager of GTP travelled to England but returned on the Titanic. As a consequence of the First World War, GTP went bankrupt and FMR's investments became almost worthless. However, commissions still came in including the prestigious amusement centre known as the Crystal Garden.



In 1923 FMR attended a celebratory banquet for the opening of the Crystal Garden at the Empress Hotel. He went into the lounge for a cigar and met Alma PAKENHAM. Alma was born in Kamloops BC in 1895 or 1896 and was therefore some thirty years younger than FMR. She was a talented musician and in 1914 married Caledon DOLLING in Vancouver. They moved to England, he enlisted and was killed in 1916. Alma worked as an ambulance orderly and returned to London at the end of the war. In 1921 she married Thomas Pakenham and they moved to New York. The marriage was a disaster and Alma returned to Vancouver and then Victoria.

FMR and Alma initially met discreetly but later appeared as a couple in society. FMR and Florrie had two children, Francis born in 1899 and Mary in 1904. Florrie would not consider divorce until 1925 after bitter disputes. In 1928 Alma gave birth to a son, John, a half-brother to Christopher Pakenham born in 1921 and Florrie died later that year. Soon after, FMR and Alma left for England having become ostracised by Victoria Society. In reduced circumstances they moved into the Villa Madeira, Bournemouth where they were overtaken by the subsequent tragic events.

My own interest in FMR arose from my pursuit of Rattenburys through membership of the Guild of One Name Studies. Though a namesake of FMR's son, I have not established a direct family connection but my own family and FMR's originate in Devon. My interest in FMR was much increased when I was sent a copy of Terry Reksten's book from BC and then reinforced by a work colleague who had been to Victoria and made the Rattenbury connections. In 2016, accompanied by two family members, I fulfilled an ambition to visit BC and research FMR's buildings. I had a week and it soon became apparent that it was nowhere near long enough to see all of his buildings.

It also required longer to research and possibly visit those still standing throughout BC. My initial success came within twenty-four hours of arriving in BC. The Vancouver Art Gallery was designed by FMR as the city's courthouse in 1905. On the first of a number of occasions, I was warmly welcomed and assisted once I had stated my interest and introduced myself. It was important that I made clear that I had made no direct family connection but that did not diminish the positive responses I received. The same day I also saw the house on Barclay Street that FMR designed for Gustav ROEDDE. Now a museum, this charming small house is a distinct contrast to FMR's public buildings. After a day in Vancouver, I took the ferry to Victoria, Vancouver Island which has the greatest concentration of FMR buildings.



For my quest the first sight of James Bay, downtown Victoria did not disappoint. Three iconic FMR buildings, the Empress Hotel, the

Parliament Building and the CPR terminal are all harbour side. Away from the harbour are his commissions for the Bank of Montreal and the Crystal Garden. In the suburbs between downtown and Oak Bay are a number of houses he designed for the wealthy and important of Victoria. Among them on Rockland Avenue is Cary Castle, the Governor General's Mansion. The original house burned down in 1899 and FMR and a local architect designed the replacement in 'English Baronial' style. This in turn burned down in 1957 and only the porte cochère remains of FMR and Mclure's work.

FMR designed a fine house for himself on the waterfront of Oak Bay. He called it Lechineel, a First Nation word meaning 'a place where good things happen', in fact in later years bad things transpired there.

I was fortunate to visit all these places over a week of glorious sunny weather. My good fortune was enhanced by the friendly, helpful and welcoming spirit of both officials and residents. Highlights included a day spent with a local historian, a tour of Cary Castle (albeit with only a remnant attributable to FMR), finding Lechineel and a tour of the Parliament Building with an enactment of Victoria's history including an actor playing the part of FMR. It was difficult at times to reconcile the scope, grandeur and artistry of FMR's numerous buildings with the flaws in his character and decline. His end was largely self-destructive but finalised by the hand of another.

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Coach Trips

Cherry Fisher



We would like to remind people that there will be good times to come. Please watch this space for more details of future coach trips – including a visit to the National Archives at Kew, hopefully in the Autumn.

Mayflower 400 Commemorations



SPRIT OF
1620—2020
Mayflower
400

Devon Family History Society

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference

Plymouth Guildhall
29th August 2020

Booking opens in November 2019
www.devonfhs.org.uk
enquiries: secretary@devonfhs.org.uk

THE BOX
POP+
Old Plymouth Society
FAMILY HISTORY Federation
PLYMOUTH
VITAL SPARKS
PLYMOUTH CULTURE
DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
American Ancestors

In September 1620, the Mayflower finally left England from Plymouth, Devon, with most of those on board intending to settle in the New World. There were 102 passengers on the Mayflower, including 37 members of the Separatist Leiden congregation, who would go on to be known as the Pilgrims, together with the non-separatist passengers.

74 were men and 28 were women: 18 were listed as servants, 13 of whom were attached to Separatist families. 31 children were on the Mayflower, with one child being born during the voyage (aptly named Oceanus). The crew was led by Captain Christopher JONES, who was born in Harwich. The total number of crew members is unknown.

<<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/mayflower-passengers-list-an-interactive-guide/>>

Chairman's Chat

“May you live in interesting times” is frequently quoted as either a blessing or a curse. Usually it is attributed to a Chinese source. Apparently it is not Chinese and was given that attribution by a British politician way back, and well before J F Kennedy quoted it.

Why my interest? I write in the first third of the projected “Lockdown” period of 12 weeks and I am fed up with being told that we are living in “interesting times”. Unusual – yes, strange – yes, dangerous – yes, frightening – yes, unsettling – yes; the list could go on! But ‘interesting’? Only if you are a statistician with an interest in death rates, an epidemiologist, a journalist or a conspiracy theorist, I reckoned.

Then I started thinking with my Family Historian head. Where would we be without those who recorded the events of the Black Death, the plague outbreaks, the Spanish ‘flu, the cholera infections, the Asian and Avian ‘flu epidemics? How would we know why the old burial registers suddenly had spikes in numbers and whole families dying within days of each other?

And the “Chinese” curse/blessing? What an excellent example of myths, misinformation, wrong attribution and plain lies that will serve to keep us on our toes as we struggle to sift fact from fiction in our families’ stories.

By the time you read this I hope we all have a clearer picture of how this virus will be dealt with and can see light at the end of a much shorter tunnel than we as facing now, in April.

There is no doubt that the events and measures surrounding this pandemic will have a long-lasting effect on the nations, the medical professions, the economy and we individuals. My son speaks of the “new normal” that will follow. More communication online, including teaching and conferencing, (thus less air, rail and road travel). Working from home for more people will cease to be unusual, shopping will be less of a social outing and online purchasing – tried for the first time out of necessity by many at this time – will escalate. Employment may well

suffer as governments and firms try to cut costs as the economy struggles to recover; and what areas are first to go in Government and local government cut backs? Sports, leisure, culture, and culture includes Libraries and Archives.

Sombre thoughts! BUT - there are good things coming out of the pain and distress and fear surrounding the pandemic. The quiet heroism of the medics and ancillary medical services personnel, getting on with their jobs despite the personal risk. The emergency and public services (Police, Fire, Refuse collection staff, road menders, water supply services, power providers and more) also turning up to work and "Carrying on" in the best Dunkirk traditions. Thousands volunteering to support people during the lock down in a great variety of ways (like the little ships armada at Dunkirk). Less pollution in our air.

On the Family History forums, I read of people picking up a research project laid aside years ago for lack of time, of researchers now able, at last, to write up their findings for future generations to learn from, of people keeping diaries of life during a pandemic.

I do hope that in the "new normal" the caring about and for one another in our communities will continue and thrive and that we shall make time for continuing research, and campaign for more and better Archive access, and not accept less.

We may not have wanted to be told to stay at home, but it does provide opportunity to spend time on our research (hooray for online resources and Libraries making access to the big data providers free for use at home) and getting that writing started and the knotty problem unravelled. [I say all that in full knowledge that those things only kick in after I have completed the list of outstanding household repairs, jobs and challenges set down by SWMBO!] (She Who Must Be Obeyed – according to Rumpole of the Bailey).

I send my best wishes to each of you. Stay well, stay safe, stay in and Carry On Researching!

David

George and Emma Cross

Roy Bowden

When we first get into family history we are exhorted to 'ask the old folk' because they know about earlier generations. My mother, Gladys Helen BOWDEN, nee CROSS had been born in Dewlish in 1916, but her ploughman father, Frank Sydney Cross was sacked for feeding the best grain to his horses. He quickly got another job at Druce Farm near Puddletown and the family moved into a cottage at Chinehill.

Generally, she was very forthcoming, telling me for instance that she and my father were related. (A second cousin had married a third cousin). But when it came to talking about her paternal grandparents it was difficult to squeeze any information out of her. She eventually said that they had lived in Tolpuddle. It took a second session before she offered that they had lived in Martyrs Cottages. Since this was on a par with the 'I sat on Hardy's knee' version of family history, we frankly didn't believe her and asked no more.



Dorset Family History Society introduced me to a second-cousin Lloyd Cross who was looking at our common ancestors. We eventually got around to discussing more recent ancestors and in particular George James Cross and Emma DIMENT from Tolpuddle. I copied for him a photo from the family album, and for the first time looked at it closely. They were stood outside a house built of light-coloured bricks; not your normal Tolpuddle vernacular architecture. Martyrs Cottages? But

interestingly, alongside this photograph was one with 'Martyrs Cottages' hand-written alongside it, showing the Cottages decked with bunting. My mother and her Box Brownie had been at the dedication of the cottages in 1934!

Armed with the first photo, Lloyd went to the cottages and matched the bricks and woodwork in the photo against that of the cottages and showed unambiguously that it was taken outside No1. Success! Sorry mum for doubting you.

A while later, in a rare phone call to her sister, Peg BODIMEAD, I casually asked if she knew that her grandparents had lived in Martyrs Cottages. "Oh Yes", she replied brightly, "The one at the end". Clearly, I'd not asked the right old folk.

But did the other photo mean that George and Emma had actually been among the first tenants of the cottages?

The cottages were dedicated on 31 August 1934. The Electoral Rolls for Tolpuddle for October 1935-36 recorded George and Emma as living there then, but the Electoral Rolls for October 1934-35 had them still living at Turnpike House, Dewlish. This seemed to indicate that they'd moved in late in 1934 or in 1935.

The Dorset Evening Echo's coverage of the high-profile opening was more revealing. It noted that the cottages were not immediately available for moving into. "There is a delay, due to unforeseen circumstances". It also gave the names of those who were to be the first occupants:

George LOVELESS,
Mr & Mrs NEESOM, from Northallerton,
Mr & Mrs T EDDINGTON from Northumberland,
Mr & Mrs Lot BISHOP,
Mr & Mrs Mark PEARCE, from Dorset,
Mr & Mrs CROSS, from Dorset.

Like all major projects, the construction had over-run. Although the Cottages were dedicated in August, George and Emma eventually moved in on 17 October. They were the first occupants of No1.

George died at the Cottages in 1941, and in a nice twist, his death was certified by Dr Forbes KINNEAR, who certified my own birth less than a year later. George was buried back in Dewlish. Upon his death Emma moved out to live with a daughter, Edith HOUSE in Winfrith Newbiggin. Emma died in 1946 and is also buried in Dewlish.

When I scanned and photoshopped the second photo to spruce it up for this article, I realised that I should have looked at that more closely too. What I had thought was bunting is merely an oddly-lit roof. It is certainly not evidence that my mother was at the dedication. It was, however, a fortunate oversight since without this false lead we would never have found that George and Emma had been inaugural tenants of Martyr's Cottages!

Lloyd Cross who gathered a large amount of information cited in this essay, died in 2013. We never met.

In addition to the sources alluded to above, the following sources provide important background to the Cottages:

TUC papers referring to the Tolpuddle Memorial Cottages are held at the Modern Record Centre, University of Warwick. File refs MSS 292/1.92/xx, particularly /6. These refer to the background, the building, selection of tenants, and much else. The staff there were very helpful when I visited and allowed me to photograph many of the papers.

“TUC Cottages, Tolpuddle. A memorial to brave men” by Walter [later Lord] Citrine, 16pp, Published by TUC, London, 1934.

Ed: Refer to Journal Cover Image of Gran and Granfer - George and Emma Cross

Miles of Millers

Anne Newman and Elaina Rothman

Life in an English village back in the time of the Domesday Book in the late 11th Century was dominated by essential services as provided by the farms, trades and crafts. And central to most villages alongside the smithy was the mill.

In a little pocket in North Dorset where the Wiltshire and Somerset borders are very close, three families and their descendants dominated the running of the mills for over 400 years. This is our family story.

We can trace our Dorset families back to the towns of Melbury Abbas, Cann and surrounding villages. Melbury Abbas was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 as “Meleberie” having 47 households, 12 ploughlands and 4 mills. We know of five mills that operated on the River Sturkel (a tributary to the River Stour): Melbury Abbas (also known as Barfoots Farm Mill), Cann Mill, French Mill, Spraggs Mill and Gears – the first four at least run by the HASKOLL, LUSH and MILES families.

Although we can't trace our “milling lineage” back to Domesday times we can begin around the early 1600s with John Haskoll (1586-1654) whom we found through his Will which gives his occupation as “miller”. John was the son of Thomas Haskell Senior (1555-1630) and as with most trades of this time it is highly likely that John was carrying on in the family tradition of milling. We don't know which mill he was running but as he lived in Cann, Dorset it would be one of the mills in the vicinity of Cann or Melbury Abbas.

But family history usually starts much closer to recent times and we are no exception, discovering some years back that we are both descended from Thomas Miles (1734-1815) and Mary Lush (1746-1811). Thomas was the proprietor of Spraggs Mill in the late 1700s through to his death in 1815 when his son John Miles (1781-1848) took over. Another son James Miles (1779-1865) ran the Melbury Abbas Mill.

The research into our families began to look like a spider's web with branches being held together by smaller threads – all adding up to the

discovery of a dynasty of millers dominated by our family names of Haskoll (various spellings), Miles (various spelling) and Lush. Other names also associated with running the mills in this part of Dorset include: GILLINGHAM, SCAMMELL, BISHOP, SHARP, GEAR, PARSONS, HUNT.

Our 4th great grandfather Thomas Miles was the grandson of the miller James Miles (bef. 1684-1724) who was the son of the miller John Miles (1635-1703) who was married to Hannah Haskoll (1635-1703) great niece of the miller John Haskoll (1586-1654) we mentioned above as one of the very early millers in the area. You can begin to see how this web of millers was woven. Romantically it would be lovely to think that all the marriages between the families were *love matches* but it is highly likely this was an early example of a family business empire being created and preserved.

Our 4th great grandmother Mary Lush (who married Thomas Miles) also had milling in her family through her brother Joseph Lush (1744-1829) who was the proprietor of Cann Mill from 1790 to 1807 but also inherited the lease for the “Grist Mill at Melbury Abbas” from his father-in-law Robert Gillingham (nk-1791). Joseph Lush and his wife Ann Gillingham (1760-1800) had three daughters: Mary, Ann and Catherine – all of whom married millers.

The stories that are the most interesting from our research concerns two women. The first was Mary Lush (1780- 1858) daughter of Joseph and Ann (above). Mary married the miller William Bishop (1780-1813). We haven’t been able to discover which mill William was running or working at but by one year following his death in 1813 Mary was the proprietor of the Cann Mill which she continued to run until 1831 when the mill was taken over by her brother-in-law Joseph Scammell (1795-1856). Mary and William had four boys with two of them following in the tradition of becoming millers: William Bishop (1803-) and Samuel Lush Bishop (1805-1872) who married Thomas Miles grand-daughter Sarah Miles (1803-1856) and so the web is continued.

The other story relates to a woman called Ruth BLANDFORD (1833-1919) and yes, as in Blandford Forum and a very old surname from the

area. Ruth joined the milling dynasty by marrying Richard Thomas Miles (1832-1872), who was the grandson of our Thomas Miles through both his parents as they were cousins. Sadly, Richard died very young and Ruth, just like her relative Mary Bishop (nee Lush) took over the running of not one mill but during her life time she was the proprietor of three mills.

Ruth first took over running Spraggs Mill after her father-in-law (Samuel Miles) died in 1880. Ruth went on to run French Mill (from 1889 to 1901 when her son Charles Leopold Miles (1855-1933) took over and Cann Mill from 1899 until her death in 1914 – a remarkable woman, a mill proprietor for 34 years.

Ruth and Richard had 10 children and 6 of their sons became millers plus one of their daughters married a miller.

We have been very fortunate in being able to visit Dorset and to see Melbury Abbas Mill, French Mill and Cann Mill though only Cann Mill is still operating. Below are photos of these mills as they looked in 2019. Melbury Abbas Mill (also known as Barfoots Farm Mill)



Melbury Abbas Mill (also known as Barfoots Farm Mill)

In 2019 we visited Cann Mill and met the owner Michael STOAT whose father bought the mill from a member of our family most likely a

descendant of Ruth Miles (nee Blandford) and her husband Richard Thomas Miles. At this stage we haven't been able to identify the last Miles to own Cann Mill. Michael Stoa, a 5th generation miller comes from a milling dynasty from Watchet in Somerset. When you have time and you are in the area please visit Cann Mill in Dorset where you can buy different types of organic stoneground flour.



Cann Mill

Footnote:

This research is an ongoing project and we would like to hear from anyone who has information about the mills in Melbury Abbas and Cann in Dorset.

If you are interested in the mills of Dorset, specifically those around Melbury Abbas and Cann our report on the millers in our family (*The Miles, Lush and Haskoll family Millers in Dorset*) can be accessed through the Mills Archive <<https://millsarchive.org/>>The names of all the millers we discovered working in this area are included in the report. You can also email <anewman@netspace.net.au> and a copy of the report will be sent to you.

What's in a Photograph?

Graham Searle

When I started researching the SEARLE family, all I knew was that they had lived in Margate after moving from Edenbridge. I had no further information, as my father had passed away when I was 16, and, as usual I hadn't asked about the family's history. I had photographs of my parents' wedding, and a picture of my father as a young man. Beyond that, I knew very little, apart from a few stories that my mother told me. Some years later whilst browsing through the Readers' ads in a photographic magazine, my eye was caught by the name Searle. A lady had seen a family group photograph in a second hand shop in Brighton. She purchased it, thinking that someone may be interested in it. The reason being, that on the reverse of the photograph was written the names of all the sitters! These were people that I had been researching, so I contacted the lady and she kindly posted a copy to me. I've attached the photograph in question. The astonishing thing was that Ann WHITMORE looked exactly like my dad in a dress. Ann died in December 1904. Her husband Thomas died in 1884.



ED: If anyone would like a copy of the image and/or names of all the sitters, please send me an email at <editor@dorsetfhs.org.uk>

New Transcriptions

June Clist

Researchers often find the baptisms of some of their ancestor's male siblings only to discover that they cannot uncover what happened to them thereafter. If this is the case our new transcriptions which have recently been added to the Members only section of our Society website, <www.dorsetfhs.org.uk> may be of help. The details are as follows:

DORSET MONMOUTH REBELLION 1685

The Monmouth Rebellion occurred in 1685 when the Duke of Monmouth, exiled illegitimate son of the late King Charles II, rebelled against his recently crowned uncle, King James II of England. Monmouth believed the English people would join him in rising against James II, a practicing Catholic. He landed in June at Lyme Regis, Dorset, with 82 followers and quickly raised over 4,000 men, but he was unable to rally the gentry to his Rebellion. On July 6th his army of peasants was totally defeated on the plain of Sedgemoor, Somerset, 500 prisoners being taken by the Royal Army. Monmouth escaped but was soon captured and taken to London where he was beheaded nine days later.

After the Battle of Sedgemoor which ended the Rebellion there followed the Bloody Assizes which were a series of trials starting at Winchester on 26th August 1685. From there the court proceeded through the West Country to Salisbury, Dorchester and on to Taunton, before finishing up at Wells on 23rd September. More than 1,400 prisoners were dealt with and although most were sentenced to death, fewer than 300 were hanged or hanged, drawn and quartered. Some 800–850 men were transported to the West Indies where they were worth more alive than dead as a source of cheap labour. The most notorious man for giving out many death sentences was Judge JEFFREYS who was known as the 'Hanging Judge' at the 'Bloody Assizes'.

DORSET BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 1805

The Battle of Trafalgar (21 October 1805) was a naval engagement fought by the British Royal Navy against the combined fleets of the

French and Spanish Navies during the War of the Third Coalition (August–December 1805) of the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815).

Result: British victory

Location: Between Cadiz and Cape Trafalgar, ...

Date: 21 October 1805

DORSET SWING RIOTS 1834

The Swing Riots were a widespread uprising from 1830 by agricultural workers in southern and eastern England in protest at agricultural mechanisation and other harsh conditions

Researching Before the Internet

Celia Williams

I began my research in 1983, shortly after moving to Dorset. I had just discovered a letter received by a late aunt asking whether she was related to a man in Canada. This intrigued me so I attended a WEA Course run by the late Daphne HILLS (the driving force behind the founding of our own Dorset Society) and immediately joined the East Dorset branch of the S & D FHS at Daphne's suggestion, attending meetings in Broadstone. These classes and meetings, plus one or two books, got me started. The "Bible" of family history research then was "*Beginning Your Family History*" by George PELLING. Later, the Dorset FHS was founded, and our own research facilities were set up in due course.

In the '80s there were very few indexed records, meaning hours of looking through original records, or documents on microfilm and microfiche. One advantage of this was that any errors in transcription were your own, and therefore less likely to be useless rubbish because a transcriber had no local knowledge. Actually handling the old documents and books was a wonderful experience. The oldest book, I think, was at the Buckinghamshire County Record Office where I made notes from a Parish Register with its earliest records in the 1600s.

We were very fortunate in having a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in Parkstone. We could use their

microfiched and filmed indexes and filmed documents such as Parish records in their Library, but in general we had to travel to wherever records were kept. These were mainly in the London repositories or in other cities and towns in County Record Offices, Museums, Churches and Chapels. Before volunteers from family history societies organised the mapping of cemeteries, noting all the legible information from the gravestones and indexing it, we spent many hours in cemeteries trying to decipher names and dates. Naturally it was much easier if families had lived in a small area for generations, but more difficult if they moved about frequently or originated in many Counties, involving long journeys, hotels etc.

For me that meant many day trips to London with the Dorset FHS (early starts, late returns) or longer periods staying with family or friends whilst working on my more recent central London families. Holidays were often dual purpose, to include earlier research in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Essex, Somerset, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey - and that was before I began looking at my husband's Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Lancashire roots. If only I could find an ancestor in Dorset!

London provided the sources of much essential research for beginners. The Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes for England & Wales (many still handwritten) were held in huge leather-bound books with leather handles, alphabetically in Quarters - with quite a few books for each Quarter, especially the handwritten ones. I believe these Indexes had been kept at Somerset House, but by the time of my research in the '80s were at St Catherine's House. Overseas/ Consular Births, Marriages and Deaths were also kept there in much smaller books. Fortunately, I didn't need Scottish or Irish records then or that would have entailed still more travelling! You needed to be fit and have strong arms & shoulders as the Indexes, especially the handwritten ones, were very heavy and often very tightly packed on the shelves - and the top shelves were high for me to reach. On one occasion I recorded that I had checked over 120 volumes in the day!

It was important to note exactly which volumes had been checked, and when, as books were frequently in use by other researchers (especially One Name researchers who might keep a single book for hours) or they

might have been withdrawn for typing or re-binding. It would be easy to miss an entry without checking these on a later occasion.

Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates were available in 2 days if we wanted to collect them. This was useful for continuing with the next steps if we were staying in London for a few days.

Before The Public Record Office at Kew & its predecessor in Myddelton Street existed to bring many records together, 1841 – 1871 Censuses were available on film in the Portugal Street Repository (we had to be there early as there was always a long queue at opening time - & often throughout the day). Without indexing we had to check all through the films unless we had a complete address (even so, streets could be divided between quite a few Enumerators' Districts, making folk even harder to locate); many original legal documents were kept in the impressive Chancery Lane building; Wills (which could be read and details noted for small fee or a copy could be supplied for a little more) were then in Somerset House. Other main repositories were The Guildhall Library and The British Library (former building), which were slightly further away from the main research centres, and, a little further away still, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) had, and still have, a large Library in South Kensington. There was also one small archive I used several times in Victoria – probably for Westminster records - and no doubt there were other similar local archives throughout the different London boroughs.

Family History Societies were beginning to transcribe & index some Parish Registers, though there were fewer Societies then and naturally we had to be a Member to access them.

The Mormons organised the transcription of the 1881 Census by volunteers from family history societies which is why the 1881 Census is free to search. (I transcribed part of Sherborne).

The Federation of Family History Societies was well established by then, as were The Society of Genealogists and The Guild of One Name Studies, but at that time I felt they were rather elitist so far as beginners were concerned.

Until computers began to come into general use, records would traditionally be kept on index cards filed in shoe boxes! Family Trees were drawn by hand and correspondence was by snail-mail. By the 90s I had an Amstrad PCW and used the Mormon PAF system on it. I moved up to a full-sized desktop computer a few years later, and more software, like Family Tree Maker, for keeping and transmitting information on computers, gradually came into use.

Early contact with other researchers was helped by visitors' books held at some of the archives, where we could enter the interests we were researching there; Family History Societies published Members' Interests in their Journals, but of course, that could entail joining quite a few Societies; Family Tree Magazine appeared where we could advertise our interests, and I bought Issue 2 and received Issue 1 free of charge. I still take it, and think it's the best! Another useful publication for many years was the International Genealogical Research Directory (now defunct), published annually in Australia, but it included many subscribers' interests from Britain as well as from elsewhere in the world.

I know that it is so much easier and quicker to do our research on-line nowadays, even though we are wise to refer to the original sources to validate what we download in case of transcription errors or assumptions. Nevertheless, I still believe that we derived more satisfaction when we found an elusive ancestor by doing our own research the hard way in those early days!

Keeping you Updated

In these uncertain times, please keep looking at the Society website for updated news. Also e-news updates which are sent via emails regularly to our members.

Home and You

Gillian Brockway

When I was going through my Mum's things after she died I found this poem she had kept. It was written by my Dad when he was away in the war and for four years wrote many letters which I still have tied up in a bundle but have never read. I think this is a lovely poem that Dad wrote and thought I'd like to share it.

Dedicated to my beloved wife, Rowie



I picture in my memory,
Those happy days we knew.
Before I sailed across the sea
To a land out in the blue.

Away from England's pleasant
shores,
To a land of sea and sun.
To do my bit for England's cause.
Till victory is won.

And so until my dreams come
true,
I'm afraid I'll have to stay.
With all those lovely thoughts of
you,
To help me on my way.

And as we sit together dear,
When my work is done.
I'll tell you how I missed you,
In the land of sand and sun.

Love Jack

Society Services

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

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

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

Transcriptions and Indexes

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

Facilities for visitors to Treetops

In addition to the Transcriptions and Indexes: -

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

Members Only

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulation

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

DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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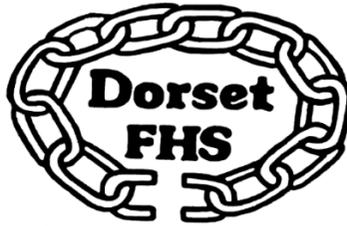
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*Unless otherwise indicated, all postal correspondence to be sent c/o
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NEEDING RESEARCH ADVICE?**

Our experienced volunteers are here to help

Contact us by

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

Recycle your Printer Cartridges

Recycle4Charity will make a donation to the Society for every 'virgin' (not recycled before) printer cartridge received.

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

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

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