



The Greenwood Tree

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society



40th anniversary year



The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

President: Sir MERVYN MEDLYCOTT Bt.F.S.

Registered Charity No. 1010351

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SOCIETY ADDRESS

PO Box 4502, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6YL

Tel/Fax: (01935) 389611

E-mail: sdfhs@btconnect.com

Website: www.sdfhs.org

The day-to-day running of the Society is managed by the officers and the Executive Committee, all of whom are volunteers.

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**The SDFHS Family History Centre,
The Parade,
Cheap Street,
Sherborne.**

**Satnav code:
DT9 3BJ**



Opening hours:

Monday 10am–1pm, Thursday 10am–4pm,

Friday 10am–1pm, Saturday 10am–1pm

(closed Bank Holiday weekends)

Other times by appointment.

For more details see inside back page

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

Please quote your membership number in all correspondence and when requesting services.

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When e-mailing, please also give your postal address, especially for *The Greenwood Tree* items. We may need to pass on your message to a non e-mailer.

If asking for the help of another member, please send a s.a.e.

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Patricia Spencer, Membership Secretary, SDFHS, PO Box 4502, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6YL



The Greenwood Tree

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

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Editor

PO BOX 4502
SHERBORNE, Dorset DT9 6YL
Email: rwbarber@tiscali.co.uk

Please include a full postal address and quote your membership number in all correspondence.

The Editor welcomes articles, no longer than 1500 words. They can be handwritten, typed or sent on disk, but material sent by email attachment makes the Editor's life easier. Photographs and other illustrations are particularly welcome. Digital images should be scanned at a minimum of 300dpi. The Editor may need to reduce the length of an article if space is limited, and there is no guarantee that an article will be accepted, or in which edition it will appear.

DEADLINES:

Edition	Deadline
February	1 December
May	1 March
August	1 June
November	1 September

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Chairman's Musings

Family History Season is upon us. Years ago I would never have believed that there was a season for family history - after all it is a hobby that you can pursue all year, isn't it? However, once the new series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* starts on TV there seems to be a surge of interest. Our members notice it at the sessions they run to help the public. All summer I was in Wells Library on the second Saturday of the month. We struggled to get one or two people; in September we had six. The session at Burnham-On-Sea library on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at which I also help, did not attract the usual 16 people during July and August, but now we are fully booked again.

I suppose the summer is a time to get out and visit the sites associated with our ancestors rather than sitting at the computer looking at websites, or is it that the grass is growing and so are the weeds and we ought to do some gardening?

So now is the time to look over what we have already found and, hopefully, plan our research for the coming few months. It is unfortunate, but sometimes the list of items we want to cross off just gets longer. Top of mine is to find the marriage of my great-grandparents. I have been looking for 30 years so I'm beginning to think that they did not bother. After all, they moved around a bit (in 1881 they were on the Isle of Wight, in 1893 their first child was born in Peterborough, they then had two more children in Axminster, one in Bath and two in Gillingham). If someone arrives next door and says they are 'Mr and Mrs Smith', you do not ask to see their marriage certificate. With no old-age pension there was no need to produce a certificate for benefits purposes.

I have recently come across a family member who gave his occupation in 1901 as 'Private Investigator of Criminal Matters and Matters concerning Private People Merchants etc'. Unfortunately I've lost track of him after 1901. I found his family in Sussex in 1911, with his wife in the workhouse infirmary where she had just given birth to a child, and the children in the local Children's Home. I have visions of him lying dead in a ditch somewhere. Perhaps he is one of the 513 'Unknown Males' listed in the GRO index between 1901 and 1911. Investigating the life of Daniel PARDO is definitely on my list.

What else is there? Well, I would like to find out what my family did during WW1. My paternal grandfather, who was a cabinet maker, became a mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps and his four brothers joined the army. I have a copy of my grandfather's service record, but those of my great-uncles seem to be amongst the 'burnt' records. My maternal grandfather had a very unusual forename, so I would not expect difficulty in finding him, but I cannot. Still, with more records coming on-line since I last looked perhaps it is time to try again.

I'm sure that you all have your own lists. Perhaps this year one of your mysteries will be solved by examining one of the new records that have come on-line. Remember, if a record is not there it does not necessarily mean that record does not exist; it could mean that it has been lost or is not yet on-line - keep looking!

Ann-Marie Wilkinson

Editorial

They say time seems to speed up as you get older, but it's hard to believe that with this edition of *The Greenwood Tree* I shall have been editor for three years. Not as long as some of our former editors: Chris Storrar completed seven years, and Colin Dean eleven. If you look back through old issues of *The Greenwood Tree* you are aware of the enormous dedication of some of the earlier members of our Society, the officers, post-holders and volunteers. We are greatly in their debt.

I was pleased to be able to announce the release of the CD of the first 40 years of *The Greenwood Tree* at the recent Open Day in Yeovil. It is always satisfying to bring a project to completion, and again the Society should acknowledge those whose time and efforts made it possible, in particular volunteer Wendy Lugg, Stephen Hibberd at Aurora, and my daughter Jen Murfitt-Barber. The CD seems to have been well received, and over 70 have now been sold, a useful addition to the Society's income. Members can now look back and read any edition, and possibly release some space by disposing of old paper copies. Its value to me as editor is considerable. I can search through all 159 issues of *The Greenwood Tree* in less than a minute. So, for example, if I need to know whether a particular subject has been written about before, or to check the reference to an article, it's much easier than looking through old paper indexes. The CD should also be useful to volunteers at the Family History Centre in Sherborne when dealing with enquiries, or to local groups who hold surgeries and help-sessions locally. Most of all it's a record of the Society's activities, a major resource when someone comes to write a definitive history of the Society.

As we come to the end of the Society's 40th year we can only speculate what the next 40 years will bring. But if the journal is to survive to the end of its 41st year it will need more contributions from you, the members. Get writing!

Bob Barber
Editor, *The Greenwood Tree*

The First 'Boss' of Bridport Grammar School

Peter Meech records one man's contribution to education in a Dorset town.

I cannot definitively prove the claim that my maternal grandfather, Walter Ferris HILL, was the youngest headmaster in England when appointed to Bridport Secondary School in 1906. But the fact that he was put in charge of a secondary school before his 30th birthday is evidence of a man with special qualities.

Born in Hackney, then Middlesex, now London, on 16 June 1876, Walter was the youngest of five children, four of whom survived into adulthood. His parents, Henry and Phoebe (née FERRIS), originally from Exeter, were both teaching in Bishops Tawton, also in Devon, in 1871 but had moved to Hackney in the mid-1870s.

In due course all of Walter's siblings, one brother and two sisters, also became teachers. It is therefore no surprise that the youngest member of the family attended St John's Training College, Battersea, the first training college for schoolteachers in England, founded in 1839-40. Here, as a first-year student, he was awarded worthy book prizes in the summer of 1896: *A Smaller Classical Dictionary* for 1st Division, London

Nonetheless it was described in 1906 by Frederick Treves as 'a wholesome, homely, county town, with an air about it of substantial simplicity'.

What attracted Walter to the town was the prospect of becoming headmaster of Bridport Secondary School/Pupil Teachers' Centre in 1906. The school, originally located in the Unitarian School Rooms in Rax Lane, had 67 pupils and two female assistant teachers.

Walter clearly had ambitions for the co-educational school, working hard to persuade the local community of the need for better provision. After a considerable struggle, approval was given to build on land donated by the COLFOX family on St Andrew's Road. The new school building finally opened on 30 September 1909 and, as Bridport Primary, is still in use today. But it was not until 1928 that it metamorphosed into a Grammar School following the appointment, it is said, of a teacher of Latin. It acquired new premises in 1999 and eventually became the Sir John Colfox Academy in 2015.



Staff of Bridport Secondary School 1910

Top row: Unidentified student teachers

Bottom row: L to R: Mr A.E. CHAMP, Miss E. WITHAM, WFH, Miss M. FIELD and Mr F. STORER

Matriculation, and *A Dictionary of Roman and Greek Antiquities*, a 2nd prize for School Management. He later gained an external BA from London University.

In 1901 Walter was still living at home, together with his parents and unmarried school master/school mistress siblings. By now all these were in their mid-20s to early 30s. But on 23 July 1903 at St James's Church, Clapton, he married Gertrude Mary PECK (b1878), whose father, like Walter's, had moved to Hackney from a small country town, in his case Redenhall, Norfolk.

Within three years the couple moved from London to Bridport, Dorset, reversing the direction their parents had taken. Since the late 19th century the town had been in economic decline, having lost its hemp growing and shipbuilding industries.

Walter and 'Gertie' (as he called her) had three children: Ronald Walter (1908-71), my mother Kathleen Mary (1912-1987) and Margaret Ann (1919-). It was as pupils at the school that Kathleen and Fred MEECH (1911-67) met and became sweethearts. They had both qualified as teachers by the time of their wedding in 1936 and moved, like her grandparents, to London. Kathleen, as a married woman, was initially barred from teaching and Fred went on to become a deputy head.

For much of Walter's time as headmaster he lived at 77 East Street with his family and a succession of boarders, girls from neighbouring villages and towns, who returned home at weekends.

Walter's professional competence was recognised by the school's governors regularly approving increases

in his salary. In the period 1916-24, for example, it was raised from £300 to £684 p.a. (£27,500 to £37,000 in today's prices).

As headmaster he was known to be strict but fair, attracting the nickname 'Boss' Hill. But in 1930 he demonstrated a very different side to his character in donning drag to play Mrs Mustapha, Aladdin's widowed mother in *Aladdin and Out. A Coming of Age Frolic*. The show had been Walter's own idea, part of a fund-raising initiative to celebrate the school's 21st birthday. The three performances also succeeded in raising almost £100 (roughly £5,500 today) for school funds.

When he retired in 1937, the school's Old Grammarians' Magazine wrote in tribute of 'Mr Hill's inspired teaching, thoughtfully prepared lessons, high standards of work and conduct, his intense dislike of any "moral twilight", of his ideals of personal service. In these and many other ways his influence has been profound'.

In retirement, the Hills moved to a new house, St Petrock, on the Burton Bradstock Road. After Gertie

died in 1940 he married Janet ROBERTS and died at home on 20 March 1951, aged 74.

In its front page obituary the *Bridport News* (23 March 1951) referred to Walter having also been a churchwarden and honorary lay preacher at St Mary's Church for over 35 years and having conducted upwards of 1700 services in 46 West Dorset churches. In addition he had been a member of the local St Mary's Masonic Lodge, serving a term as Worshipful Master in 1933.

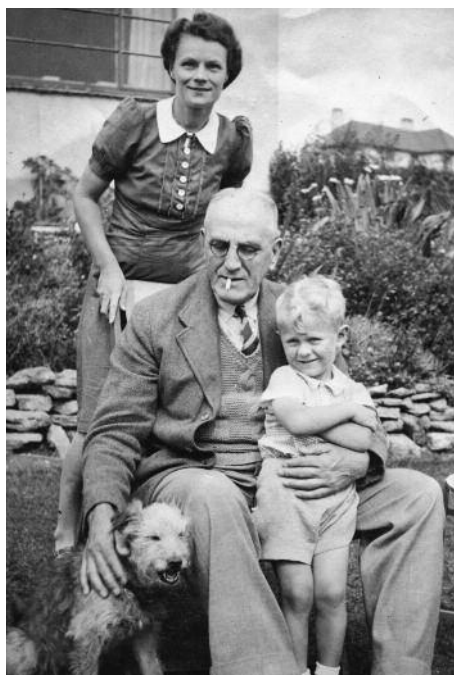
Both my brother Tony and I moved away from London to pursue academic careers (yet another migration from the capital). And as one of Tony's daughters is now a college lecturer, the Hill/Meech tradition of education continues into a fifth successive generation.

Peter Meech

12 Tinneys Lane, Sherborne,

Dorset DT9 3DY

phmeech@gmail.com



WFH with Kathleen, Peter and Terry the dog, Bridport, c.1945

In 1926 St John's College merged with St Mark's College, Chelsea, to become the College of St Mark & St John (aka Marjon). It moved to Plymouth in 1973, becoming the University of St Mark & St John in 2013.

Gussie - a remarkable lady

Gussie, my maternal grandmother, was a remarkable lady. She was born on 28 October 1888 in Torquay, Devon, of parents Daniel MASTERS, landscape gardener for the Duke of Bedford, Torquay, and Jessie Ann ARSCOTT. She was supposed to be called Olive, but Dan registered grandma's name as Gussie Lavinia. The famous author Agatha Christie was also born at Torquay, in 1890, but it seems Gussie never met her, as Agatha was privately tutored while Gussie went to a primary school - which she hated. However, she loved music and, in her teens, she met Yeovil Town Band Leader Alfred William EWENS when the band visited Torquay for a concert. Alfred played Eb trombone; he also had absolute pitch and could play seven instruments perfectly. Gussie was smitten! She and Alfred (who was just one day younger) married on 4 July 1908 in Yeovil. Alfred was a glove manufacturer, owning factories at Star's Lane, Goldcroft, and a tanning works on St Michael's Road. He also owned a leather-embossing works at Beer Street, managed by George HEARD. Bill SIMS managed the tanning works. I might also mention that William 'Bill' SIMS was a cornet player in Alfred's band and had married Gussie's sister, Winifred Ann.

Alfred was the only child of parents William Pardy Ewens (born 19 October 1864 in Yeovil) and Minnie Augusta MOON (born 14 December 1867 in Shepton Mallet). These details were found in the Ewens' family Bible and backed up by the 1871 census for Shepton

Mallet when Minnie Augusta was a 'scholar' aged 3, with parents Frederick H. Moon (25) and Emma (26). By the 1881 census the Moons were in Yeovil. Letters from my aunt, Coral CHAINEY, told me that she and her elder siblings used to spend summer holidays 'at our relatives, the Moons, on their farm at Hardington Mandeville', leaving me to wonder if this 'good old farmer's family in Somerset' bears any relation to Frederick Augustus Moon, featured in *The Greenwood Tree* of November 2014 (pp 110-111).

Alfred and Gussie had five children:

Myra Winifred (born 18 March 1912 in Torquay) was a music teacher (piano and violin) and married a farmer, my father, Vaughan Robert 'Jack' TAYLOR (born 28 October 1913 in Hamilton, Victoria, Australia).

Beryl Elsie (born 26 April 1913 in Yeovil) was a home glover. In September 1939 in Yeovil she married Francis 'Frank' Thiepval STEER, a dairyman of Misterton, Crewkerne.

Ralph William (born 6 March 1916 in Yeovil) was a painter and decorator who was married in December 1939 to Violet GUPPY.

Coral Lavinia, born 21 September 1920 in Yeovil, was also a home glover. She married Hugh Oliver CHAINEY, an accountant, on 1 July 1962 in Yeovil.

Graham Cory (born 23 May 1930) was a police patrolman. He married Gloria Christina FLAGG of Mudford on 21 June 1953 in Yeovil.

This brings me onto your issue of May 2014



Wedding Reception of Gussie Ewens and Reg Spiller at Odcombe, 1 May 1947.

Top row, L to R: Myra Winifred Taylor (née Ewens); Vaughan Robert 'Jack' Taylor; Ralph William Ewens; Violet Ewens (née Guppy); Reg Spiller; Gussie Lavinia Ewens; Gussie's mother, Jessie Ann Masters (née Arcot); Graham Cory Ewens; Beryl Elsie Steer (née Ewens); Francis 'Frank' Thiepval Steer; Percy Ransom, of Sherborne, friend to Coral Lavinia Ewens.
Bottom row, L to R: Roderick Graham and Robin Andrew Keith Taylor; Colin Ralph and Heather Maureen Ewens; Anthony John Alfred Steer.

regarding May Pole Dancing (p35). Following Alfred's untimely death from cancer, at the age of 49 (died 17 July 1938 in Yeovil), Gussie married the band's euphonium player, Reginald SPILLER, at the Houndston village church on 1 May 1947.

The reception was held at the Odcombe pub. I was six and not allowed in the pub but played with other children on the village green while watching the young lasses dance with coloured ribbons around the maypole. After six years of marriage Reg died, and because her sister Winifred had also passed on, Gussie married the widower, Bill Sims, and lived with him at 92 Glenthorne Avenue for many years. He had a sudden heart attack and dropped dead in the garden. Having outlived three husbands, in July 1979, at the age of 91, Gussie flew out to Perth, Western Australia, for a month's holiday with me, my wife and family. She was delighted with the climate, the many tourist spots and the granny flat I had built for my mother Myra. As a widow she followed us out to Australia.

Not only was Alfred the leader of the Yeovil Town Silver Band, he also led the Yeovil Salvation Army Brass Band and I remember Gussie showing me a group photo saying, "All my husbands are in it! There's Alfred, there's Reg and over there is Billy." None of our family knows what happened to the photo. Its former place in the photo album is empty. For Gussie's 93rd birthday her elder son Ralph and family gave her a cassette recorder and tapes. She used five tapes to record her life history, with a remarkable memory for names, places and dates. I possess these tapes and am converting them onto CDs for posterity. How lucky can you get?! Dear old Gussie died at the age of 98 on 10 December 1986 in Yeovil and was buried at Yeovil Cemetery next to Alfred, her soul mate. A remarkable lady.

R.A.K. Taylor

31 Thatcher Street, Waroona
Western Australia 6215

A TRIBUTE TO A FORMER BANDSMAN.

Moving spirit behind the Yeovil Town Band when it was reformed after the war, and associated with it for over 20 years as Treasurer, Secretary, and Bandmaster—Mr. Alfred William Ewens, has passed away after a long period of ill-health at the age of 49.

Not only in Yeovil, but by bandsmen throughout the West Country, will there be affectionate memories of a musician and composer who had done more than any other person to provide his native town of Yeovil with a band whose achievements in past years were considerable.

It was largely through his untiring efforts and keen enthusiasm that the band were provided with a complete set of instruments at a cost of £1,000. This sum was raised by concerts and other events organised by Mr. Ewens, while a number of instruments were given by local business people.

All his life, Mr. Ewens had been devoted to music, he could play any band instrument and was also a composer of many hymns, and band pieces. Many instrumentalists to-day owe their success to the

early training given by Mr. Ewens. Before becoming associated with the Town Band, Mr. Ewens had, for a number of years, been connected with the Salvation Army Band, and was instrumental in forming a boys' Band. He had been Bandmaster of Somerset British Legion Band, the number of prizes this combination gained in contests being a tribute to his fine leadership. It was an indication of the high esteem in which Mr. Ewens was held in the band world that so many famous bands visited Yeovil. His friendship with the late Lt. J. Ord Hume, one of the most famous composers of his day, who composed over 700 marches, had much to do with the success of the Town Band, he frequently came to Yeovil to coach the band on the eve of a contest, and many townspeople will remember the band concerts he conducted in the Sidney Gardens.

His one regret must have been the temporary disbandment of the Band which he had so largely been instrumental in forming, and the most fitting memorial to him would be for Yeovil Town Band once again to take its place as the foremost band in the West of England.

Yeovil Review, August 1938, p14



Photo by

THE YEOVIL TOWN SILVER PRIZE BAND

[Whitcomb & Son, Yeovil.]

Captain Joseph Charles Perrett - part 2

In our last issue Captain Perrett recalled his seafaring activities up to the end of 1852. We left him in Racine after a trip to Port Washington on the schooner *Cleopatra*. Here he continues his account...

After spending a pleasant winter, I commenced the season of 1853 on the schooner *Liberty*..., but she was too small for my ideas, so I left. I made one trip on the schooner *Venus* thence to the *Hayden* for one trip to Muskegon, from her to the brig *Constellation*, where I stopped until the last trip to Buffalo.

My first promotion to second mate was on the *Constellation*. I then came to Chicago on the barquentine *Mary Stockton*, which closed the season of 1853. I then left Chicago for New Orleans via the Chicago and Alton Railroad to Alton, which was the roughest ride I ever had. From Alton we took the steamboat to St. Louis and then took a deck passage on a deck boat for New Orleans, which we reached in twelve days. I then shipped on the *Gynosure* from Mobile to Liverpool with a cargo of cotton, [and] got acquainted with John ELSEY, with whom, in after years, I sailed and owned vessels. During the passage from Mobile to Liverpool we experienced very rough weather but finally reached there in thirty five days. From Liverpool I went to my home in Somersetshire for about two weeks.

John HAWKINS, my cousin Joseph PERRETT, Samuel SAWYER and myself then left home for Liverpool, where we expected to take a steamer for New York. We fell in with a party of three or four on the train that were going to Grand Rapids, whilst we were eating dinner at the hotel. They came in and told us they had bought tickets for New York via the Inman Line or, as it

was then called, the Liverpool, New York and Philadelphia Steam Ship Co's steamer *City of Glasgow*. We hurried off to the ticket office but found we were too late, berths were all taken. We in our ignorance ... felt like kicking ourselves for not having attended to things sharper. The next steamer left in two weeks so we engaged our passage on the ship *John C. Calhoun*. We experienced a very rough passage of (I think) seven weeks from Liverpool to New York. When the N.Y. pilot came on board the first question he asked was if we had seen anything of the *City of Glasgow*, [as] she was never seen after she left Liverpool...

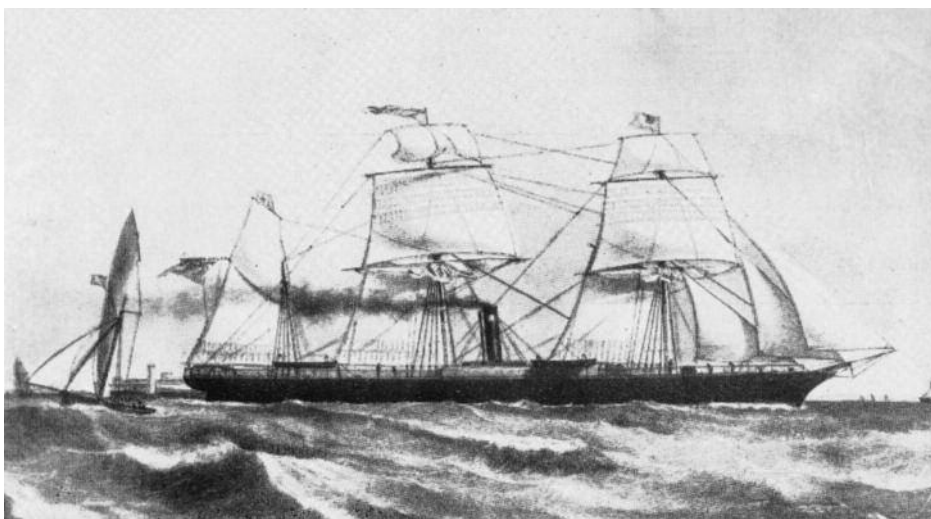
After arriving at New York, Hawkins and Sawyer went to Troy, New York, whilst Joseph Perrett and myself went to Buffalo and shipped and sailed on different vessels until the close of navigation in 1854, when we met brother Tom at Chicago and started out for Iowa. We went by rail to Galena and by stage to Dubugree and thence on to Dyersville, where we worked for Mr. DYER the most part of the winter for one dollar a day. We were first sent to what is now Manchester with a surveyor to lay out the town. We afterwards built a bridge across the river and returned to Dyersville, where we cut up hogs, salted pork, cut ice and did anything and everything we were told to do.

About the latter end of April, brother Tom and myself started out on foot to find Government land to make a home. [On] our first day we reached Manchester, on the second Strawberry

Point, third day West Union, the fourth day the Log Tavern about two miles from the present town and county seat of New Hampton, where we were detained for several days on account of the high water. At the time the Government owned land at and around New Hampton, just on the east side of the town, [where] for the first time in my life I fired a rifle and killed a deer. From there we went on to Chickasaw and thence to Bulor's Grove, [where] we stopped several days with 'Uncle' BULOR, a genuine frontiersman. There we had a terrible snowstorm and when we got up one morning we had half an inch of snow on the bed and the same all over the room... The above place is now known as Marble Rock, Floy, Iowa.

After reaching Marble Rock and before the snowstorm, we went to Charles City Land Office for plots - no roads or even tracks, nothing but section and quarter stakes and the sun for a guide... We had to cross the river from the Tavern to the Land Office, leaving a third party in the skiff. We crossed over alright but coming back I took the oar with no-one in the bow. Brother Tom stepped in and took the stern seat so as to swamp the boat. We held on to the boat and waded across, went to the Tavern and went to bed while the landlord dried our clothes. The next day we returned to Bulor's Grove and that night the blizzard came on, which blew the snow through the house. I waited a few days and with no prospect of the snow melting, we consulted and finally concluded that brother Tom should wait until the snow passed off and fine weather set in, he to select land etc. and I to start from Chicago to sail again. Tom was to get half of whatever I earned and I get half of his.

I started out on Sunday morning - no track of any kind and I made as near as I could a S.E. course for Clarkesville. Many of the snowdrifts were so deep and soft that I had to crawl over them. I stopped overnight a little West of Clarkesville and the next night at Jamesville. I was very near snowblind and could not see over half a block. The next day I started out and broke tracks through seven inches of snow and reached Independence about an hour after dark, a distance of thirty seven miles. At the hotel



SS City of Glasgow of 1850 was a UK single-screw passenger steamship of the Inman Line, which disappeared en route from Liverpool to Philadelphia in January 1854

the people would scarcely believe me; one man with a team said he was two days driving the same distance. The last hour of my walk was somewhat exciting for the howl of the wolves was terrible. Judging by their noise you would think there were hundreds of them.

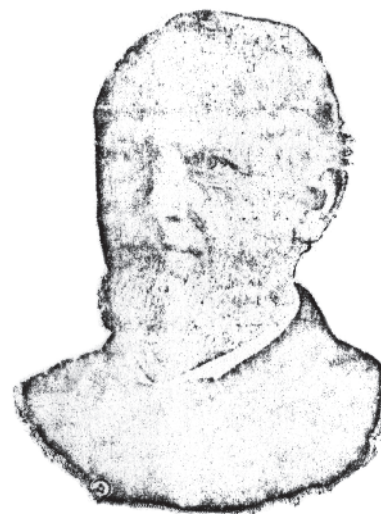
Nothing unusual happened from there to Chicago, where I shipped with Captain McCOMBER to go to Cleveland and join the brig *Racine*. This was in the spring of 1855 and, when we arrived at Chicago, cousin Joe Perrett shipped with us..., during which time... the crew had overloaded her with a deck load of timber and she, having no ballast, capsized, [losing] the foremast [and] her entire deck load, and the crew were picked up by our old friend Captain Tom HUTCHINSON. The hull was afterward picked up by a propellor and towed to Chicago and left in my care to unload, strip and lay up for the winter. Joe and myself started for Rock Falls. This wound up (for us) the season of navigation for 1855.

We took cars for Dubuque and from there to Charles City by stage. We then hired a rig to take us to Rock Falls, where we arrived alright and found brother Tom at the Hotel Johnson. Rock Falls was a new town being laid out, but a few months previous it contained four log houses, one frame hotel, one logstore and one sawmill. A few days after we arrived brother Tom and Mr. JOHNSON started out for Dyersville, Dubuque County (about one hundred and thirty miles), with a yoke of cattle and a wagon to get furniture and provisions to keep us over the winter. After experiencing one of the roughest trips ever made in the west, they returned more or less frostbitten and tired. I can assure you that there was great rejoicing at Rock Falls when they returned. While brother Tom and Mr. Johnson was away I helped with 'Uncle' Joe and

others to dig a grave to bury an old man and his wife that were found froze to death on the prairie.

This winter we, brother Tom, Joseph Perrett and myself lived in a log cabin and did our own cooking, washing etc. I killed seven deer so that we lived on pork and venison. We worked every day getting out rails to fence in our land. In the spring we began breaking up more land, planting corn, potatoes etc. but by the 4th of July I was convinced I would never make a good farmer, so Joe and myself set out for Chicago where I shipped before the mast on the brig *Andes* for Bay City. On our return to Chicago, I shipped as first mate on the *Tuscola*. We made our trip to Grand Haven and, on our return, the captain went to his home at Racine and left me in charge as master. On my second trip as master we were caught in a very heavy gale and the owner felt anxious for the safety of his vessel and she in the charge of one so young as I was. But we got to Chicago all right and sailed up to the ferry without any assistance. Meanwhile three vessels were wrecked on the Illinois Central Breakwater, one entire crew lost. The owner, Captain S. JOHNSON, was highly pleased with my management, as he claimed we came in in better shape than any vessel during the day. He promised to give me a vessel to sail, which he did, and he proved to be the best friend I ever had. We made a few trips and then laid up for the winter of 1856/7.

We took the railroad to Dubuque and Jamesville, which we reached all right, [which] was the end of the stage route. We had quite a little baggage and sundries to take out to our new home in the west but not much hope of getting it there. Finally we bought a load of pork and flour off a man that had a good team on condition that he would deliver that and our baggage to



Captain Joseph Charles Perrett

Rock Falls, which he did. After three hard days' work, we had to unload a number of times and carry our whole cargo over the snowdrifts. We found that dead hogs was a very difficult thing to carry through three or four feet of snow.

I believe Sarah visited her brother Joseph in America on at least one occasion when he and his cousins were laying out new towns (cities?). Joseph went on to become one of the most respected and powerful businessmen in North America, almost controlling the lumber trade on the Great Lakes and laying out and paving the streets after the Great Fire. I have met several of his descendants and I am attempting to continue his story. He did not live to a great age, dying at the age of 61.

C. S. John Sparkes
Cossington, Bridgewater
johnandvaleriesparkes@yahoo.com

Ridout Symposium and the Ridout Archive

The Society organised a RID(E)OUT Symposium in August this year to publicise the Bill Ridout Archive. This contains the research bequeathed to the Society by the late Bill Ridout and has been made available with the aid of a memorial fund established by Bill's old friend, Orlando Ridout IV. The Symposium was a great success, with contributions from Barry Rideout, Roger Guttridge and Karen Francis. Barry Rideout is a retired lawyer living in West London; Roger Guttridge was, of course, once the editor of *The Greenwood Tree* and is now a journalist and author of 18 books, including *Dorset Smugglers* and *My Smugglers and other Ridouts*; and Dr Karen Francis runs a yDNA one-name project and is author of *The Ridouts of*

Sherborne. Roger Guttridge was confident that he had resolved the long-standing argument of how to pronounce the family name - it was *Ride-out* - whereas Karen Francis found that she couldn't stop pronouncing it as *Rid-out*. No doubt members of the family will continue to be divided on this question.

We are very pleased that Karen Francis has agreed to become the Ridout Archivist and take charge of the Bill Ridout Archive and the other Ridout/Rideout material held by the Society.

Overleaf, Karen explains her long-standing association with the Ridout name and her plans for the Ridout archive.

Barry Brock

I remember well, with great affection, my maternal grandparents who lived all their days in Bath. A decade or so ago I decided to find out more about Reg and Elsie Ridout (née BEATON) - mild curiosity soon became a time-consuming passion for Ridout family history!

I met the late Bill Ridout in 2006, although we'd been emailing for quite a while. He'd spent many years transcribing the research notes of another Ridout whose work was kept at the Society of Genealogists in London. The 'other Ridout' was Arthur George (1852-1939), a bank manager from Kent. Arthur had corresponded with other Ridouts of his era, visited places to which we no longer have access and seen records that no longer exist; his data are irreplaceable.

Over the years, the SDFHS has become a magnet for Rid(e)out material. As well as having been

bequeathed Bill's entire genealogical work, the Centre in Sherborne also houses many Rid(e)out family trees and other assorted papers; this is very fitting as most Rid(e)out roots are very deeply planted in this lovely rural town. I am honoured and, I'll admit it, excited at being appointed the Archivist for this great collection. My task will be to oversee the cataloguing and digitisation of the material in hand, and of any future acquisitions, and to make data more accessible for Rid(e)out researchers both at the Centre and remotely. I shall aim to share the discoveries we make along the way by means of occasional articles in *The Greenwood Tree* and perhaps presentations in Sherborne. As well as my Rid(e)out yDNA study I have an online blog (www.the-ridouts.com) through which I can be contacted.

Karen Francis

The Rise and Fall of Walter Rydeowte of Sherborne (1564-1643)

William RYDEOWTE was a moderately wealthy tenant-in-chief with land and property in the Dorset towns of Chettle and Sherborne. When William died in 1603 he left his estate to nephew Walter Rydeowte in trust for Walter's two-year-old son William.

Walter Rydeowte appears in the *Sherborne School Register 1823-1900*¹: 'Circ 1575. RIDEOUT, Walter, of Sherborne. BNC Oxon 1580 Governor 1605, Warden 1611'. The *Alumni Oxoniensis 1500-1886*² confirms his year of matriculation: 'RIDOUT, Walter, of Dorset, pleb. Brasenose College., matric entry under date 18 July 1580 aged 16' suggesting Walter was born about 1564. The term 'pleb', meaning plebeian, meant that Walter was regarded as a commoner rather than as a son of an aristocrat or gentleman.

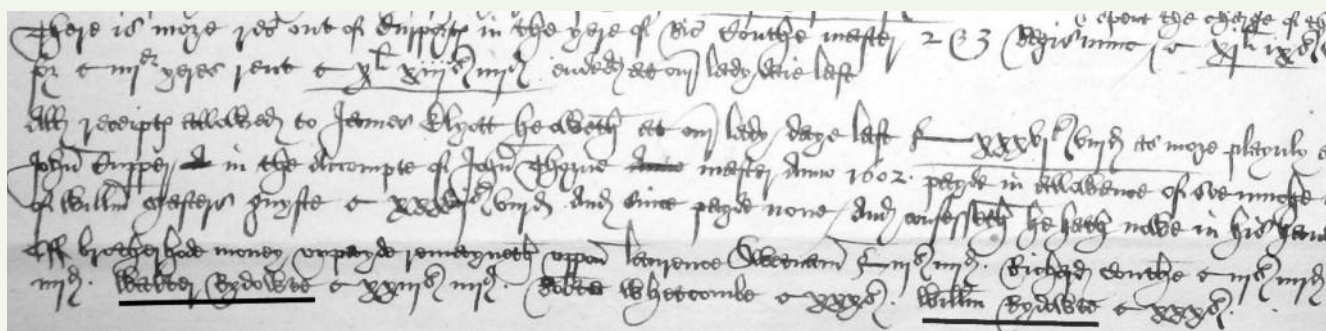
Several records of Sherborne Almshouse and Sherborne School, kept at Dorset History Centre (DHC), bear testament to Walter's involvement in the governance of both institutions, dual roles usually assumed by the town's leading citizens. Walter's earliest mention at the School was dated 27 August 1605³; Almshouse accounts were signed by Walter in 1608 and 1609, when he was Master⁴.

Anecdotal evidence of Walter's colourful character is illustrated in a Chancery Case in 1623⁵. Walter had attempted to collect unpaid rental money from a tenant called STANDEN:

Johan ye wife of ye said Standen tooke a long rise out of ye hedge and sette upon your Orator and threw stones at him. Wherewith her boye sett a greate Mastiffe dogge att your Orator in so much yet if your Orator having then but a Cudgell in his hand not well defended himselfe from ye said Mastiffe he had torne out his throate.

It is telling that Walter thought it wise to arm himself with a cudgel before trying to collect the rent! At the end of the plea Walter's profession is revealed: 'Your Orator being an Attorney-at-law....'. Several cases in Chancery, instigated by Walter, were surprisingly helpful in revealing the identity of his wife, the dates of his children's weddings and the names of other family members; they also suggest that he was content to use his position as attorney to his own advantage!

Walter seems not to have been shy in speaking his mind; the guidebook of the Almshouse of SS John,



Sherborne Almshouse accounts 1609

These responsibilities probably fell on Walter's shoulders when he inherited his uncle's estate, thus elevating his wealth and social position in the town. The Sherborne Manor Survey of 1614 shows that Walter was granted 'diverse houses and lands' as a freeholder in 'Sherborne Manor' (rent 14s 8d), 'Castleton' (£5 0s 4d) and a dovecote at Barton Farm; in return he had to swear fealty to the Lord of the Manor.

Sherborne outlines an unfortunate incident with Brother Ridout:

In 1637 Walter Ridout, when ordered to pay a certain sum of money, spake many undecent and high words... amongst other words hee sayd Mr HELE of Clifton Maybank had never a hound of a bigger mouth than the Steward Mr WRIGHT had!

*The Sherborne Almshouse Register*⁶ shows that Walter RIDOWTE, gentleman, was 'chosen as brother' on the 7 December 1605 and the Almshouse records (erroneously filed under Sherborne School) show he was asked to leave 37 years later, on suspicion of having Roundhead sympathies. Walter did not intend to give up his position without a fight; he made a statement to the House in his defence, thus providing me with possibly the most intriguing insight into the man that I could have hoped to find⁷. In his meticulous legal hand, Walter crammed nearly four thousand words onto two sides of foolscap parchment; it took several weeks to decipher the words and meaning of a document, written sixty days before the beginning of the English Civil War. The original statement, a genealogical gold mine of information, may be seen at the DHC. Here are just a few extracts:

- Mr LYFORD and some others of the company may remember how Mistress COOTH at the Account taxed me at the table for being quarrelsome with her husband; not so quarrelsome as he was with me when he laid violent hands upon me. His wife, you see, begins to talk, but women must talk at home and not in the church nor in the Almshouse.

- Can you find any such precedent in the [Alms]house that a young upstart, as young CHETMILL is, being then Master should such person to make an order and to set a fine upon his ancient head for speaking indecent words...And what was this order for? For saying a spade is a spade, for saying old Wright would out-row any hound [Sir John] Hele [of Clifton Maybank] had, which I do not deny. Do not all know that he did row me out from the upper end of the room even to the door with indecent cries "send for Mr Lyford, send for Mr Lyford" [William Lyford was Vicar of Sherborne]. "Mr Ridout, you did none so disgrace yourself in your life" which many other disgraceful words which I did hear. But old brother Cooth did slanderously charge me that I did call old Wright 'dog' which I deny, for I make a great difference between a hound and Mr Cooth's mastiff dog for a hound is more genteel and contented compared to a hound for his scent. And therefore he may be more fittingly compared to a hound for his scent, for he took such a scent of my Lord Bristol's good diet that they could not tell how to be rid of him for he would eat as much as two men!

- ...I challenge Richard SPEED, that Hotspur [rash and impetuous person], for he has been, if he is not now, a great usurer [lender of money at inflated interest] and has not made restitution to Nathaniel DANIELL, whose children cry out against him for a mortgage he took of their father's mill for £60 for half a year; and would not lend his money longer unless Daniell would pull out one of his children [remove him as a life on a tenancy] and put one of Speed's into the lease. Therefore let him stand by for his voice is worth nothing.

- ...young Master Chetmill gave me disgraceful words that I was a thatcher... That when this young gent was Master, I coming into the room, he sitting above all in the window, I saluted all but did not stoop low enough it seems for this young master, for he reprimanded me that I came in very irreverently. Whereupon, at another meeting there I taxed him for it and told him I had been bred at the University and at the Inns of Court and was not now to learn manners from a weaver's loom ... I was not bred a thatcher, nor my father neither; he lived at

Shillington, nine miles off, where his living was well known to be worth a hundred pounds a year and cost him to my uncle £110 or more in my bredd. Sir Thomas FREKE [1563-1633, MP] was no butcher, though his grandfather was one, [Sir] Nathaniel NAPPER [1588-1635, MP] was no fishmonger, though his grandfather was one.

- He that has five plough lands of inheritance may by the Ancient Law write 'gentleman', which I had and more before I passed it to my sons. And the herald came down in the country many years ago and compelled myself and Thomas SWETNAM to take arms [the right to bear a coat of arms]. Heretofore I assume no more than is lawful for we were both bred at the university and at the Inns of Court.



Almshouse of SS John, Sherborne

I pursued Walter's claim to Arms; there is no formal record (not uncommon for early grants) at the College of Arms, but months of research have confirmed that some of his descendants did indeed bear Arms, the blazon of which is: 'Azure a Trefoil Argent between three Mulletts Or.' I call this line the 'Blandford Rideouts'; they are quite a well documented family whose way of life reflected their ancestor's status and wealth.

Although Walter's statement is subscribed to the effect that the appeal was rejected, the Sherborne Almshouse Register shows that his replacement in the House was admitted on 2 July 1644, seven months after Walter's death. Maybe he wasn't expelled; I hope not after giving so many long years of service. According to his epitaph, Walter died on 22 October 1643 and was buried in the churchyard of St Lawrence in Folke. A wall plaque includes a verse which he composed himself:

Here lyeth a true christian now at quiet rest, who whilst he lived was by ye world oprest, but prayed be God he overcame this evill and vanquished hath ye world, ye flesh and devil.

I have no doubt that Walter was an argumentative, curmudgeonly chap but I'm glad I found him.

Karen Francis
3 Durlston Close, Llandaff North
Cardiff CF14 2LY
ranaridibunda@hotmail.com

¹ Thomas Cooper Rogerson, 1900

² Joseph Foster, 1888-1892

³ DHC: S235/D1/1/3

⁴ DHC: D/SHA/A177 and 178

⁵ TNA: 19 James I, 7th February 1623 Ridout vs Standen

⁶ Ann Clark (ed), 2013

⁷ DHC: S235/A2/5/2

Hunting a smuggler

Roger Guttridge was editor of *The Greenwood Tree* from 1980-81 and first published about his smuggling ancestors in 1980 (GT v5.2, pp13-14). Here he updates his lifelong relationship with a notorious ancestor.

We all enjoy having a skeleton or two in our family history cupboard, but I wonder how many can say that an ancestor's notoriety has shaped their entire career. When I first began investigating the smuggler Roger RIDOUT, little did I know that he was destined to lead me into a career in journalism, a sideline as an author and columnist on Dorset history and a place on the local public speaking circuit.

It all began in 1967, when I was a pupil at Blandford Grammar School and was required to produce a 5,000-word project on a local history subject of my choice. Short on ideas, I asked my mother, who suggested that I ask my maternal grandfather, Jim Ridout, of Fiddleford, near Sturminster Newton, to tell me the family legends about our smuggling ancestors. He had heard these from his grandfather, William Ridout, in the 1890s, and they all centred on Roger Ridout, the leader of a gang that ferried cargoes of brandy, tea and other goods from the coast to Fiddleford Mill, where they were hidden to await removal to other destinations.

One legend told how Roger was carrying a jar of barm of fast-acting yeast from Fiddleford brewery (where the Fiddleford Inn is today) to his home at Okeford Fitzpaine when he was challenged by an exciseman. "Would 'ee like t' smell un?" asked the smuggler, handing over the jar and giving it a shake. As the officer pulled out the stopper and put his nose to the jar, the contents spurted into his eyes and nose and Ridout was able to push him into a ditch and head off across the fields.

At other times Roger would leave a tub of brandy on the doorstep of a Sturminster Newton JP, Mr DASHWOOD, to buy his silence.

In those days of intense village rivalry, Roger could expect a hostile reception from other citizens of Sturminster. When a mob tried to pull him from his horse in Bridge Street, he said to the animal "What would 'ee do ver thy king?" - at

which the horse reared up and kicked in someone's front door. My grandfather told me the horse was called Ridout's Ratted Tail.



Mill Farm, Okeford Fitzpaine - former home of Roger Ridout

When excisemen banged on Roger Ridout's own door one night, intent on arresting him, the smuggler climbed down knotted sheets from his bedroom window at the rear and made his escape.

But the law eventually did catch up with him and he was jailed at the County Prison in Dorchester. According to my grandfather, when Roger's wife Mary made the 40-mile round trip on foot to visit him, she would have a pig's bladder of ale and a tube hidden in her clothing so her husband could enjoy a secret drink through the bars.

Most of these stories are obviously impossible to prove, but I was able to confirm that Roger served time at Dorchester. The Calendar of Prisoners, which I found at the county archives, lists his arrival on 6 April 1787, describing his trade as 'miller' and his parish as Okeford Fitzpaine. He had been fined the considerable sum of £40 for 'smuggling' but, impressively, paid the fine in full to Thomas PRICE, Officer of Excise, within two weeks, and was released.

As well as confirming one of the family legends, the prison records also solved a fundamental genealogical problem. Soon after starting my research, I discovered that there had been generation after generation of Roger Ridouts from the 17th century to the

present day. I could not be certain which one was the smuggler until I found his prison listing. This Roger was my great-great-great-great-great grandfather.

The prison records unexpectedly added to my growing collection of family history skeletons. One of Roger's sons, also called Roger, served three months at Dorchester in 1915 for poaching, while the smuggler's grandson, Joseph Ridout (my great-great-great grandfather), followed in their footsteps in 1825, after being fined

£100 for smuggling. He never paid the fine and served 12 months in default.

From the Okeford Fitzpaine parish registers, I learned that Roger and Mary were married in 1756, when both were aged about 20, and that they had seven sons (no daughters) and many grandchildren. They were buried in the churchyard in 1811 and 1809 respectively aged 75 and 73. Their lives coincided with the heyday of smuggling in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Mary was one of the two Mary HANCOCKs baptised at Sturminster Newton in 1736, but tracing Roger's origins proved a greater challenge. I searched the registers of 31 Dorset parishes before finding his baptism, in February 1736/7, at the chapelry of Farrington in the parish of Shroton or Iwerne Courtney. He appears to have been the only child of William and Susannah Ridout of Farrington, a grandson of Roger Ridout of Farrington and a great-grandson of Richard Ridout of Shillingstone.

The baptism breakthrough provided several bonuses. As well as extending the Ridout family tree by several generations, it also gave me my first Tudor ancestors, Roberte (died 1591) and Edith KEYNELL (or KENNEL). They were the great-great grandparents of Mary

Kennell, wife of the smuggler's grandfather Roger Ridout (born 1680). Here I was reaping the benefit of having ancestors in Iwerne Courtney parish, where the registers survive unbroken from 1562. Two more bonuses came through the smuggler's mother, Susannah. She was the daughter of Thomas APPOWELL (or APPOYLE), yeoman, of Fiddleford, who died in 1746 leaving in his will his leasehold dwelling house, orchard and appurtenances at Fiddleford to the 10-year-old Roger, on condition that he allowed Susannah to live there for the rest of her days. Roger and his cousin Elizabeth CLARKE jointly inherited Thomas' leasehold estate 'together with several closes and premises' at Sturminster Newton.

The Fiddleford connection perhaps gives a clue as to why Roger Ridout chose to store his contraband at the nearby mill in later years: he would obviously have known the miller and farmer well. It also extends my family's connection with Fiddleford back to the 17th century, when the Appowells first appear in the records there. This connection was broken in the 19th century but renewed in 1895, when my great-grandparents opened Fiddleford's village shop (and later post office), which my grandparents kept on until 1965. I lived there in my teens.

An article on Fiddleford, published in the 1895 volume of *Dorset Proceedings*, included a colourful, page-long description of the Ridout gang at work, naming Roger as the 'leader for many years' and his horse as Ridout's Stumped Tail - a slight variation on my grandfather's version, but then Roger would have had more than one horse during his long career!

The writer was H C Dashwood, grandson of Dashwood the JP, and he offers what may be a clue as to why Roger found it necessary to bribe the old man with brandy - or perhaps to thank him for turning a blind eye. He reports that about 1794 his father (then a boy) and grandfather were riding late at night when they witnessed 'the string of horses in the narrow road between Okeford Fitzpaine and Fiddleford with the kegs and other contraband goods on the horses'.

He continues: 'One or two men, armed, generally were in front and then 10 or 12 horses connected by ropes or halters followed at a hard trot, and two or three men brought up the rear. This cavalcade did not stop for any person, and it was very difficult to get out of their way, as the roads, until the turnpikes were made in 1824, would only allow for one carriage, except in certain parts. The contraband goods were principally brought from Lulworth and the coast through Whiteparish and Okeford Fitzpaine, through the paths in the woods to Fiddleford, and then distributed'.



A smuggler's half-anker brandy tub in the Dorset County Museum. Each cask held about 4.5 gallons

I duly completed my school project and showed it to the only published author I knew as a teenager, Sturminster Newton's own local history writer, Olive Knott. She was kind enough to read it and wrote the comment: 'Worthy of publication'.

Almost half-a-century on, I'm not sure I agree with her, but at the time it was all the encouragement I needed and it fired my ambition. The project subsequently appeared almost verbatim in *The Dorset Year Book 1968-69*, while a spin-off article called 'My Ancestor was the Smuggler of Fiddleford Mill' was published in issue number four of *Dorset: the County Magazine* (now *Dorset Life*) in 1968.

In an earlier version of the present article, published in *The Greenwood Tree* in Spring 1980, I speculated that Roger 'may have been employed by Isaac GULLIVER, the most successful of all Dorset smugglers', whose will when he died at Wimborne in 1822 was worth £60,000. Subsequent discoveries have confirmed that there was a close connection. At the National Archives at Kew in the early 1980s, I read in the Poole

Custom House Letterbooks that 'We find that Isaac Gulliver, William Beale and Roger Ridout run great quantities of goods on our North Shore between Poole and Christchurch...' BEALE would have been Gulliver's father-in-law or brother-in-law, so it sounds as if Roger was a business partner rather than an employee. Other documents confirm the connection, although details of the arrangements are not entirely clear.

My friend Beresford Leavens, a direct descendant of Gulliver, recently wrote a book about his ancestor in which he revealed that the FRYER banking family, into which one of Isaac's daughters married, were financing the smugglers with high-interest loans. This is one possible explanation of how a humble miller from Okeford Fitzpaine got his hands on £40 at fairly short notice in 1787.

Meanwhile, the articles I wrote on smuggling and Roger Ridout in 1968 helped me to land my first newspaper job as a trainee reporter with *The Western Gazette* at Yeovil in 1970 and led to my first book, *Dorset Smugglers*, published in 1983. Other books followed, including *Dorset Murders* (1986), the research for which led to yet another surprise Roger Ridout revelation. While researching the Dorset Assize Court records at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, I came across brief details of a murder trial at Dorchester in 1781, when the four defendants included Roger and Mary Ridout and their eldest son William. All four were acquitted but I have never been able to discover what this was all about.

My career in journalism has so far spanned 45 years, during which time I have also written 17 books and given more than 2,000 talks on smuggling and other history topics. And in a sense I owe it all to Roger Ridout the smuggler. When I spoke to a roomful of retired Customs and Excise officers in Bournemouth a couple of years ago, I told them I was not the first member of my family to make money from smuggling but I was the first to do it legally. They seemed to believe me...

Roger Guttridge
roger.guttridge@btopenworld.com

John Cleal: my Waterloo ancestor - part 1

Inspired by the article on *James Buckler, rifleman at Waterloo* (GT volume 40, no.2, May 2015, p35), Anne Brady has written about her own Waterloo ancestor. This first part takes us to the battle and John CLEAL's role in it. The 200th anniversary of the battle was celebrated on 18 June 2015.

John CLEAL (1791-c1860) is my 3xgreat-grandfather on my father's side. He was baptised in Ilminster, Somerset, in February 1791, as John Savidge CLEAL, the son of James and Elizabeth (née SAVIDGE). This is the only record I have found of his mother's maiden name being used. In 1819 John married Susannah TAYLOR in Ilminster and went on to have six children. Briefly, these were as follows: Hannah, baptised in 1819, married George CLARKE at St John's, Bethnal Green, in 1843. Mary Ann was baptised in 1823, and nothing more has been found for her.

Henry Taylor, born 1825, married Mary Ann HILL at St George, Hanover Square, in 1846, and emigrated to New Zealand about 1865. No children have been found for this couple, unless some of the infant or child deaths in London belong to them. Louisa came along in 1826 and married Thomas HATCHER at Lyme Regis, Dorset, in 1848. In the 1851 census they were living next to her parents in Ilminster. There are seven children I know of to this couple. Next in line was William, baptised in 1829, and again nothing more is known of him. Last in the family was Charles, born in March 1831. He married Sarah REMINGTON in London and also emigrated to New Zealand about 1865. Sarah died in 1871, and Charles married Rosa Elizabeth HILL later the same year. Although I am not aware of Sarah having any children, Charles and Rosa went on to have eleven, one of whom was my great-grandfather, Alfred.

Checking the family before I left for a trip to England last year, I remembered that on two different censuses John described himself as a 'Pensioner'. Since old age pensions were not introduced in England until the early twentieth century, this had to mean that he had been in the army and was in fact a Chelsea Pensioner. With so many records coming online I was lucky to find two that referred to him: first his discharge, as John CLAYHILL, from the 1st Foot (Royal Scots) Brigade, with the reason given as 'wounded in the right hand at Waterloo'. This was a very exciting find! (I think it likely that the way they wrote his surname is the Somerset accent as interpreted by his admitting officer - hopefully someone local will correct me if I am wrong.)

Here is a transcript of what I found on Ancestry:

Royal Scots Regimental Registers of Pensioners, 1st Foot	
Admission -	26 Apr 1816
Name -	Jno CLAYHILL
Age -	26
Private -	6 [yrs] 7/12 [mths]. Plus Waterloo 2yrs [they got extra years 'service' added on for important battles, so that meant a greater pension rate]
Total Service -	8 [yrs] 7/12 [mths]
Rate Pd -	9 [pence per day]
Complaint -	Wounded in the right hand at Waterloo
Where Born -	Ilminster, Somerset
Trade or Occupation -	Labourer
Remarks -	5' 3", brown [hair], grey [eyes], brown [complexion]

So he must have joined up about October 1809, when he would have been 19. Agricultural labourers were much preferred in the army to those with 'softer' occupations such as weaving, as they were fitter, stronger and more hardened to an outdoor life, as well as having already learnt to take orders. Although the minimum height requirement was 5ft 4in, men who were under 20 were expected to still be growing, and if they were 'good specimens' were still accepted.

Then his medal entitlement came up on findmypast:

Waterloo Medal Roll 1815	
Name:	John CLAYHILL
Rank:	Private
Regt:	3rd Battalion, Royal Scots
Sub-unit:	Captain Thomas Moss's Company No 3



- The 3rd Battalion was the only one belonging to the 1st Regiment of Foot (aka the Royal Scots) which saw action at Waterloo. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were overseas, one in India and the other Canada. I do not yet know if his entire army career was with the 3rd, but if it was, the
- 1809: CORUNNA; February - arrived England; to Ireland; 16 July - to Walcheren; Siege of Flushing; to England
 - 1810: Portsmouth; March - to Peninsular; July - joined field army; BUSACO
 - 1811: FUENTES D'ONORO
 - 1812: Badajoz (served as Wellington's bodyguard); SALAMANCA
 - 1813: Burgos; VITTORIA; SAN SEBASTIAN; Bidassoa (first British regiment to enter France); Pyrenees; Nivelle
 - 1814: NIVE; Bayonne; September - to England
 - 1815: May - to Ostend; QUATRE BRAS; WATERLOO; Paris; Army of Occupation; brought up to strength by drafts from [?] Battalion
 - 1816: Army of Occupation

following is a list from the Royal Scots website of where they were stationed during his time in the army:

The 3rd became part of Sir Thomas PICTON's 5th Brigade, the Reserve, when Napoleon escaped from Elba and returned to France. Picton's Reserve was composed of the brigades of Major-General Sir James KEMPT and Major-General Sir Denis PACK (who commanded the 3/1 Battalion), along with Colonel von VINCKE's Hanoverian brigade. The 5th lost nearly a third of their men at Quatre-Bras, the battle which had taken place 48 hours prior to the 18 June, after which they marched through pouring rain to the Mont St Jean ridge at Waterloo. Personal diaries of the time talk about using a clay-covered blanket as protection, and their knapsack for a pillow. Many men did not even try to lie down once they arrived but spent the night standing. Next morning they were stiff and sore, but around dawn the rain finally started to ease, and glimpses of the sun could be seen. The morning was spent cleaning and reloading their rifles and scrounging for food in the surrounding fields - often coming across French soldiers engaged in the same search.

The battle did not commence until close on 2 pm, when 17,000 French attacked the ridge, fired in by 80 guns and supported by 800 cavalry. As they charged over the top, they were surprised to find just how many troops were massed against them and were hit with the first volley from 3000 rifles of the seven battalions of the 5th Brigade. Most of the French front ranks crumpled and fell there and then.

John's discharge papers revealed that he had received a gunshot wound in his right hand, although just when in the battle he was hit will never be known. Low-velocity gunshot wounds were inflicted by musket balls, which frequently deformed or fragmented on impact. Wounded men were helped by their comrades into the middle of the square, close to the colours, waiting for a chance to be removed to wherever the one surgeon and two assistants appointed to each battalion had set up their instruments.

'At four o'clock,' remembered Ensign Gronow of the 1st Foot Guards (part of the 5th Brigade), 'our square was a perfect hospital, being full of dead, dying and mutilated soldiers'.¹

Private Cleal was amazingly lucky to live, as the risk of infection was great, and in fact men had a better chance of surviving if the affected limbs were amputated immediately. Primary amputations were often 30% fatal, but secondary operations, if infection set in, cost 45%. A good surgeon could take an arm off in a minute and a leg in two.² I am not sure if his discharge papers would have mentioned if his arm had in fact been removed. There were between two and three thousand limbs amputated that day.

After the first volley from his Brigade, General Picton, still suffering from wounds received at Quatre-Bras that he had not reported and dressed in a shabby greatcoat and dusty top hat (after losing his luggage in Brussels), waved his umbrella to signal a bayonet charge. Picton himself was killed almost immediately afterwards, shot through the right temple as the French brigades and Quiot clashed with the English Division. Major-General Kempt later took charge of the Brigade. 'After their bayonet charge they obeyed orders to return to their line on the crest of the slope on the Anglo-Allied centre-left, thereby closing any gaps that Napoleon might have exploited if they had - maddened by blood-lust - followed [the French] corps to the bottom of the slope and beyond.'³

The final result of the battle is known to every child. John Cleal did not take his discharge until April the following year. The 3rd Battalion was part of the Army of Occupation, but I think it more likely that the wounded were returned to Britain as soon as transport was arranged. John became an out-patient of the Chelsea Hospital and went home to Ilminster to pick up his life as best he could.

The second part of this account will deal with John Cleal's life after the battle, and as a Chelsea Pensioner, and describe my researches at The National Archives in Kew.

Anne Brady

8c Green Rd, Panmure, Auckland 1072, New Zealand
anne.brady@xtra.co.nz

¹ *The Field of Waterloo* by Paul Davies, p260

² *Ibid.* p343

³ *Waterloo: Napoleon's Last Gamble* by Andrew Roberts, p71

Caddys in and out of Dorset

Anyone who has spent much time searching in registers and other lists of names in Dorset or, to a lesser extent, Somerset, must have come across the name CADDY. The densest population of them has been in Cornwall, but they have been in Dorset for hundreds of years. There are instances of the name in the 17th century in Lydlinch, Netherbury, Broadwindsor, Sherborne, East Stour and Litton Cheney. Hine's *The History of Beaminster* says the name appears in court rolls there before 1640, and mentions the baptism of William Caddy in 1585.

As far as I know, though, relatively few lines have been drawn from the 18th century to the present day. My own Caddy pedigree (it was my mother's maiden name) has been traced back to the marriage of John Caddy and his first wife, Mary CRABB, in Burstock in the early part of that century. The parish register before that is missing and I have not found the name in the previous one. As previously mentioned, there are earlier

instances in Broadwindsor, which almost surrounds Burstock. This line was mentioned by Donald Williams (we are fourth cousins once removed) in the November 1996 issue of this journal in his article *Grandfather Hodges from Greenham* (GT v21.4, p145). As far as I know all the identified descendants beyond a few generations are from John's son Benjamin (by his second marriage, to Elizabeth HARDY).

Another line still extant descends from David Caddy, whose children appeared in Holwell from 1704. Also flourishing are the issue of another David Caddy, who was born about 1744 in Piddlehinton. I believe that there are living descendants of John Caddy and Betty ABBOTT, who married in Buckhorn Weston in 1795, but I do not think that I can yet identify them. I can write with greater confidence of the many descendants of Joseph Caddy, who married Maria DARE in Hawkchurch in 1777 while living in Axminster.

Another line, shorter than these, peters out in my data in the late

19th century, but probably through a lack of information rather than multiple deaths without issue. It is that of William CADEY, who was born around 1781 in Portland. I am in a similar position with another Piddlehinton descent, from Thomas Caddy, who was born there about 1795.

I think that appearances of the name in Somerset result from migration, and I am sure that this is true of the many instances in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, where the name can be seen in records largely from the late 19th century. These present us with the problem of distinguishing Cornish from Dorset-descended Caddys. Of course some travelled further, with Caddys settling in North America and the Antipodes, living in South Africa and even marrying in Mesopotamia.

I shall be pleased to exchange information on Caddys in and from Dorset and Somerset and their descendants. If you are connected to one, you may find that we are related, but perhaps you are willing to risk that.

Jeremy Wilkes

52 Mount Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9LF
jeremy.wilkes@one-name.org

Monte Video Camp, Weymouth

Lieutenant Keith Aubrey TUNKS served in the 1st Field Ambulance, Reinforcement 4, Australian Army Pay Corps in the First World War. He wrote back home regularly and sent letters, articles and photos to local newspapers, including this piece to *The Cumberland Argus*.

Australian and N Zealand Base Depot, Monte Video Camp, Weymouth, 21 November 1915

An account of his experiences written by Lieutenant Keith Aubrey TUNKS

So much was written, and no doubt is still being written and published, of the doings in the various military encampments throughout Australia, that it may perhaps be of unusual interest to readers to learn a little in regard to the Australian and N Zealand camp here. The camp was established some six months ago for the purpose of accommodating and the further training of soldiers of the Commonwealth Military Forces who have been invalided to England from the Dardanelles with either sickness or wounds, and are now almost fit for return to the front. Weymouth is about 130 miles distant from London on the South Coast, and is considered one of England's finest sea-side resorts. The camp itself, however, is situated some two miles out from the township at a village known as Monte Video or Chickerell. The site is on a large hill overlooking the sea, and rather in an exposed position. The men are not accommodated in tents as perhaps would be imagined by the people at home, but wooden huts large enough to hold about forty men are provided. I fear we **Colonials Find It Rather Cold** in this country during the present season, and would find it more comfortable if we considered ourselves hot-house plants and lived in glass houses; but then of course we could not throw stones, and some of us became so careless at Gallipoli that perhaps at times we may forget to pull down the blinds. Beds are provided for each man, in the form of a mattress filled with straw upon a wooden framework. Each man is issued three blankets, and a fire is provided in each hut, so that altogether the men are reasonably comfortable. An account of the procedure of the men from the time their furlough after discharge from hospital has expired may be interesting. On the date of expiry the men have to report at the London offices in Horseferry-road at about 10 a.m. There they undergo a medical examination, and it is decided whether they are in a fit state to go into camp or should be sent to a convalescent home. In the former case, if a man is fit, he is sent to Weymouth by the midday train from London, arriving at Weymouth about 5.30 p.m., where at the station he is met by a motor which conveys him to the camp. Here a hot meal awaits him, after being issued with eating utensils and blankets, and being shown his quarters in a hut which is set apart for the sole use of new arrivals. On the following morning he is ordered to parade at 9 a.m. All particulars are then taken, and he is added to the strength of the depot. Again, a medical examination is necessary, as all men in depot are classed either A, B or C, the A's being the fit men who are able to return to the front, B's the temporarily unfit men who may in a short time be fit or may be altogether unfit for further service, and C's the permanently unfit; that is, men who are useless for further active service and are to be **Either Invalided Home or Given Home Service** either in England, or their respective countries. The A's of course have to undergo further training in the form of route marches, etc., and for them the first parade is at 7 a.m., so that Reveille is sounded at 6.30, rather an early hour to rise on these cold mornings. Breakfast is served at 7.45, after which the men are free until 9.30 a.m. - the morning parade, which generally takes the form of a route march in Weymouth and back, lasting until 11.45 a.m. Dinner is served at 12.45 p.m., and the afternoon parade is sounded at 2. Another route march generally follows until 4 p.m. From that hour men are granted leave passes until 9

p.m., which enables them to visit Weymouth or go anywhere to please themselves. Tea is at 4.45 p.m. - rather an early hour - but it is quite dark then, and more convenient. I venture to say that the food served to the men in this camp is of better quality and in more variety than any received either in Australia or Egypt. Meals are carried out in an orderly manner, the men lining up outside the various mess huts, in each one of which permanent mess orderlies are employed to serve the food to the men, wash-up and attend to the meals generally, so that there is no messing about cleaning mess-tins, dixies, etc. Cooks have been appointed from among the men and have proved themselves very efficient. I omitted to say that most of the duties in and around the camp are performed by the "B" men. The "C" men, of course, amongst whom are cripples, do very little in the way of drill, but most of them enjoy walking at their leisure. From time to time men are picked from the A division **To Form a Draft to Return to the Front** They are then issued with full equipment - not the web equipment originally issued them at home - but leather articles, which are more durable although perhaps a little uncomfortable at first. Also, from time to time, men are selected from the "C" class unit for return home to either Australia or New Zealand. At present we have a few more in an auxiliary camp at Westham, midway between here and Weymouth. A band has been formed in camp, and now is performing very efficiently. On Thursday evening last they gave their first public performance before a crowded audience in one of the Weymouth halls for charity purposes. A barber's and tailor's shop has also been established, of which the men take full advantage. Here, as in every other camp, the Y.M.C.A. control a hut and are rendering great service to the men. They provide refreshments at moderate prices and also arrange concerts and lectures several nights each week. The Salvation Army people are doing similar work. Mails are distributed to the men regularly three times daily, and up to the present the manner in which letters have been coming forward is very satisfactory. The authorities have even gone so far as to provide a small **Picture Palace within the Camp**, where quite a large number of men pass away the evenings. No doubt you wonder how we manage with washing arrangements in this bitterly cold weather. Every effort has been made to promote comfort for the men, and hot water showers are provided as an absolute necessity. A splendid motor service between the camp and Weymouth has been established, and there is no difficulty in reaching town comfortably. Week-end leave is granted to men on application, and many take advantage of this privilege for visiting London, travelling as they do, at half rates. I may add that the colonials continue - to uphold the good name they have established for themselves in this country, and conduct themselves generally in an orderly manner when dealing with civilians. At present most of the men who are able to afford it are dispatching Christmas gifts to their friends at home, taking advantage of the arrangements made for articles to be forwarded free of duty. Many of the men have also sent articles such as warm clothing to their comrades in Gallipoli, and much more would be done in this direction if a guarantee could be given that the men there received the goods. Everything considered, there is nothing to be desired, and were one to

visit the camp he would find us all, **Australians, N. Zealanders and Maoris**, a very happy family. Of warm clothing we require none, but my experience is that if Australians at home desire to forward gifts to their relatives and friends at Gallipoli, not here, send them balaclava caps, writing material and cigarettes, not in separate small parcels, but if possible a number of people combine and send large parcels consigned to the Officer in Command of any particular Regiment. In this way it is almost certain that the men for whom the articles are intended will receive them. Cork or asbestos boot insoles would also be much appreciated by the men. - Yours faithfully,

KEITH A. TUNKS (No. 1796)

Lieutenant Keith Aubrey Tunks was evacuated from Gallipoli with dysentery. He served in England for the rest of the war and returned to Australia on the *Osterley* 22 May 1920 to 7 July 1920 NSW

*Submitted by Paddy Thompson
Redlands North, The Hays
Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3HP
paddythompson42@gmail.com*

Weymouth honours its WW1 ANZAC heroes

On Monday 1 June 2015 there was a service and wreath-laying at Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, to mark exactly 100 years since the first batch of 200 injured Anzac troops arrived in Weymouth from Gallipoli; eventually there would be 120,000 who passed through the town. Phil Sherwood had organised most of the service for the South Dorset Group of the SDFHS along with Weymouth and Portland Residents' Association and The Westham Community Group. It was a very moving service, which was conducted by the Mayor's chaplain, Father Richard Harper, who opened with the story of the ANZACs in Weymouth:

On this day 100 years ago the first batch of Anzac soldiers evacuated from the beaches of Gallipoli arrived at Burdon's Military Hospital (now the Prince Regent Hotel on the Esplanade) to recover from their physical and mental scars, so that they could return to active service, or if not to be repatriated to their homelands.

They were the first of nearly 120,000 Anzacs to pass through the hutted camps and hospitals at Weymouth until 1919. The first camp was opened at Monte Video in Chickerell, followed by other camps set up at Westham, Littlemoor and finally in The Verne Citadel, as the great battles on the Somme and at Passchendaele sucked in ever greater numbers of troops from the British Empire. By the end of the war. eight Anzacs awarded the Victoria Cross had passed through the depot, known affectionately to the troops as 'Wey Aussie'.

Sadly 90 Anzacs, mostly from Australia, died in Weymouth and lie buried in these war graves around us. We are here to remember their sacrifice and that of all the Anzacs who came to Weymouth. Of the 90 buried here few died as a direct result of injuries received in combat. Many died of the Spanish 'flu

epidemic in 1918 to 1919. Others died from the effects of gassing in the trenches, while others died from diseases such as tuberculosis, dysentery and meningitis - some had acquired these diseases on the long voyage from Australia or after training in Egypt, and were considered unfit for active service on arrival in England. A few were found drowned in Weymouth harbour or had committed suicide due to depression. Many soldiers carried the effects of shell shock for the rest of their lives.

Three readings were given by members of our group: Pam Yallop and Tomasa and Phil Sherwood, using the words of ANZACs who had passed through the camps together with an article from the

on behalf of The Westham Community Group, followed by Jennie McGowan on behalf of The Somerset and Dorset Family History



From L to R: Tammy and Phil Sherwood; Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Councillor Christine James; Australian Simon Kleinig

Society. Australian Simon Kleinig, the President of London Legacy charity, also laid a wreath. Serving Australian Captain Jada McKenzie came from Plymouth to lay a wreath and serving New Zealander Lt. William Brewer also laid a wreath. This was followed by two-minutes' silence and the playing of the Last Post by bugler Diane Bartlett.

After the service Captain Jada

McKenzie said how moved she was that people in Weymouth were still remembering these soldiers.

Most of those present then went to the Esplanade in Weymouth for an unveiling of a plaque outside the hotel where the



Front row, from the L: New Zealander Lt. William Brewer, Australian Captain Jada McKenzie and Jennie McGowan of the SDFHS, with their wreaths

local press describing the arrival of the first troops.

Following the first reading and prayers, wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice. The Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Councillor Christine James, laid the first wreath

first soldiers stayed. The plaque was paid for by Alan Quartermaine, whose Australian grandfather had been at Weymouth as one of the injured.

Jennie McGowan and Phil Sherwood, South Dorset Group

What's in a name: Ainslie and Stanfield

Why is a surname used as a middle Christian name? In the Durham and Yorkshire side of my family this was usually the mother or grandmother's maiden name. Sometimes the name of a godparent (or rich relative) was used. However I came across these two examples in my Dorset family which were intriguing:

Ellen TREVETT (b 1868) was the sixth child of Henry Trevett and his wife Matilda (née STANFIELD), born at Winterbourne Steepleton, Dorset. At the age of 23, in April 1891, she was a cook in the household of Elizabeth ANDREWS in Wyke Regis. A daughter, Ellen Louise Ainslie Trevett, was born on 6 September 1891 in Winterbourne Abbas, with no father's name on the birth certificate. By 1901 Ellen Louise has taken the name of FORSEY, as she had married Charles Forsey in 1893.

I was intrigued by the additional forename of Ainslie, and a check of the 1891 census for Weymouth revealed that the only Ainslie in Weymouth at that time was an Albert AINSLIE, who was a Scottish footman, employed by J Macpherson LAURIE, a physician born in Scotland, living at Greenhill Towers, Radipole, Melcombe Regis. Alfred Ainslie returned to Glasgow as a bank messenger and by 1901 was married with a seven year-old son. Was he also the father of Ellen Trevett's child? It seems likely, especially since in the 1911 census, when Louise was a servant with the POORE family at Bay View, Augusta Place, Weymouth, her place of birth is given as Edinburgh; presumably she knew her father was Scottish and her employer got slightly the wrong end of the stick! I have not found either a marriage or a death of Ellen Louisa Forsey/Trevett/Ainslie in England, but a possible marriage in Cook County, Illinois, in 1916.

So perhaps quite a simple explanation of that unusual name — but how about this one?

One of Ellen Trevett's older brothers, Robert Stanfield Trevett, the third child of Henry and Matilda, emigrated to America and became a farmer in Ellisburgh, Jefferson, Massachusetts. A tale told by his son was that Robert had to leave England in a hurry

after striking his boss and leaving him unconscious or perhaps dead: 'his brother had a ship and let him sail to America that night'. His granddaughter remembered him having a temper and being not the most sociable person. I offered to look into this to see if anything could be corroborated.

Robert Stanfield Trevett (b 1860) married Annie Maria BAGG (then aged 17) in Winterbourne Steepleton in 1881, and their first child was born a couple of months later. The first four children were all boys: the first three were given names familiar to the family (Henry Robert, William Charles, James Standfield) but the fourth, baptized in Symondsburry in November 1886, when Robert was a shepherd, was named Herbert Cary Batten Trevett. Soon after this baptism, in early 1887, Robert left for America on the *Nevada*, his family following a year later (no immigration records found for them). This ship was owned by the Guion Line, one much used for immigrants of steerage class, so not likely to have been linked to Robert's family.

A search of these unusual names revealed that Herbert Cary George BATTEN (known as Cary Batten) was a local barrister and magistrate and, in 1885 and 1886, the Liberal Parliamentary candidate for that area of Dorset (Dorset West). He was later twice High Sheriff of Bristol. It is hardly likely that Robert and Maria were such staunch supporters of the Liberal Party that they named a child after their candidate (after all they wouldn't have had a vote). Had Cary Batten got Robert out of a scrape? So far I have not found any newspaper report of an incident which could have led to Robert fleeing the country, but if anyone can shed any light on this, or has any suggestions as to the explanation of this choice of names, I would be glad to hear them.

*Rachel Mayers
4 Mount Pleasant
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 3BZ
Rachel.mayers@btinternet.com*

Listening to *The Greenwood Tree*!

Four years ago my eyesight deteriorated so seriously that I could no longer read. My current vision can best be described as misty/cloudy - somewhat similar to constantly peering through net curtains! However, the good news for me (and fellow-sufferers) is that there are now a bewildering number of machines/devices to enable you to "read" again.

My personal favourite, and the most versatile, is the Apple iPad Air tablet. I have owned one now for almost two years and can say without exaggeration, it is worth its weight in gold! In addition to allowing me to conduct email correspondence, as I used to when fully sighted, and 'surf' the Internet in all its vastness, it also allows me

to access again the hallowed pages of *The Greenwood Tree*. Our editor, Bob Barber, kindly emails the PDF version of the GT and my iPad simply 'reads' it back to me.

The standard iPad can easily be switched to its 'voice-over' mode, to allow it to 'speak' to you, by simply triple-pressing the on/off switch. Once activated, it is then just a matter of double-finger tapping the PDF icon to open the file. When successfully opened, it can then be 'read' by a single, upward triple-finger swipe. Though occasionally it may read across the columns rather than down, and obviously it doesn't describe illustrations (though it does 'read' captions), I would say that it is 95% accurate most of the time. So,

if you have a visual disability, and possess some computer or keyboarding skills already, this might be something you might like to investigate yourself. The benefits that I have accrued from discovering the use of the voice-over facility on an Apple iPad (other brands of tablet are available) have been literally life-enhancing!

Note - you don't have to be a computer geek to cope with all this - I'm not by any stretch of the imagination. There is plenty of advice/information available on the RNIB website:

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/information-everyday-living-using-technology/computers-and-tablets>

*Robin Ansell
ansell5131@tiscali.co.uk*

A brief history of *The Greenwood Tree*

Introduction

This brief history of *The Greenwood Tree*, the journal of The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society, has been written to mark the 40th anniversary of the Society. Up to and including this November 2015 issue there have been 160 issues: 40 volumes each of four parts. While it is not possible to summarise the whole 40 volumes, this account will highlight the main changes in the journal; in doing so it will touch on aspects of the wider history of the Society. When someone comes to write this, the contents of 40 years of *The Greenwood Tree* will be an invaluable resource.

The Society was launched in September 1975 at a meeting in Yeovil Library following an initiative by Mervyn (later Sir Mervyn) Medlycott, who had sought expressions of interest by publishing letters in the *Genealogists' Magazine*, *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset* and the local press. Sir Mervyn, first Secretary and Chairman of the Society and then President, has written a brief account of *How it all began* (v40.3 p67).

It was clear from the beginning that as well as organising meetings, starting projects and other activities the Society needed some means of communicating with its members. Thus the first issue of *The Greenwood Tree* was produced, towards the end of 1975. It was headed NEWSLETTER OF THE SOMERSET AND DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY and labelled Vol. 1, No. 1. *The Greenwood Tree* was up and running.

The first Newsletter

(v1.1, late 1975)

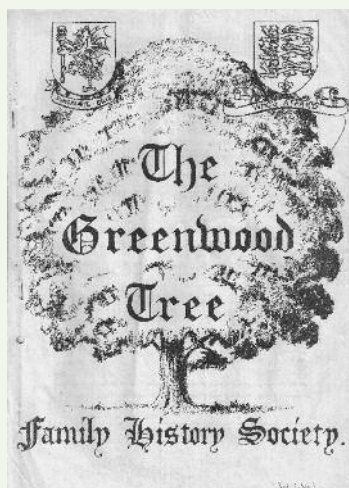
The first issue of *The Greenwood Tree* consisted of 12 A4 pages typed double-sided, with an outer cover. It introduced the main players in the Society with short biographies. The first newsletter editor was Donald Gill. In his Editorial Notes (published without attribution) he indicated that the title had been borrowed from one of Thomas Hardy's Wessex novels. However, no pretensions to literary

excellence were implied; it was merely intended to produce an interesting and readable newsletter of help to readers keen on family history, whatever their level of experience or knowledge.

As well as news and informative articles there would be contributions from the members, who were invited to express their views, hopes and criticisms as well as to send contributions outlining their interests: surnames, locations and dates.

The first cover of *The Greenwood Tree* consisted of a drawing of a tree together with the arms of the two counties. Superimposed on the tree was the title and underneath the wording 'Family History Society', both in Gothic script. The cover design was executed by David Chant, a teacher of art, history and drama in Eastbourne (v2.1 p14). The cover served well and was used for the first 24 issues (v1.1 to v6.4), each issue printed with a different colour cover.

By the second issue (v1.2) a heading "The Greenwood Tree" Newsletter of The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society was used at the top of the first inside page and supplemented the lack of information on the cover.



*The first ever issue of
The Greenwood Tree, late 1975
The inside header started in v1.2*



Problems, Problems, Problems...

(v1.2-v3.4; Spring 1976-Autumn 1978)

Although members seemed reluctant to send original articles, there was no lack of 'members' interests' - requests for help with a particular line of research. A new feature, *People, Places and Problems*, was started in the second issue (v1.2), and has continued to the present day. Don Gill, the first editor, was clearly struggling with the range of tasks involved in producing the Newsletter, 'from the arrival of original material to the day when the Newsletter copies disappear over the post office counter'. Typing was done by the editor and a volunteer, George Spiller. In these early days envelopes were addressed by hand, by the editor's wife: 2072 in the first 11 Newsletters.

To ease the burden Jimmy Martin was recruited as editor of the PPP section in Autumn 1978



Jimmy Martin

(v3.4), a role he held until his death in early 2005. However, all was not well, and a dispute between the editor and the treasurer over the cost of producing the Newsletter, and the need to increase the number of pages, contributed to the editor's decision to resign (v40.3 p72). In his letter as outgoing editor he wrote:

It is with great regret and sadness that I have felt unable to continue in the capacity of Hon. Editor...The job of Editor is very demanding, requiring, as it does, at least some interest and involvement in all the Society's activities, as well as the technical preparation of copy for the printer. It is time-consuming, and carries with it many problems and many worries, but can also be very rewarding...

Don Gill handed on to Gerald Pitman, a well-known local historian from Sherborne.

The Journal begins

(v4.1-v6.3; Winter 1978-Summer 1981)
Gerald Pitman's editorship started with some changes. The Executive Committee decided that the title 'Newsletter' should be changed to 'Journal', from v4.2.

The printing of the Journal was placed in the hands of C J Creed of Broadoak,



Gerald Pitman

Bridport; John Creed was a distant relative of Thomas Hardy (v4.1 p4). However, the Pitman reign did not last long - seven issues in all up to Summer 1980 (v5.3). In his valedictory note he wrote:

As the Society expands and interest in our works increases so also does the need arise for an editor who can make the Journal his or her one and only interest. Correspondence comes in by nearly every post from our world-wide family. A full-time staff would solve the problem but we are a voluntary Society run by volunteers.



Roger Guttridge

The crisis was averted when Roger Guttridge, a local journalist, reluctantly agreed to take on the role

as, he emphasised, 'acting honorary editor'. He kept things going for four issues. He recalled (V40.3, p72):

my newspaper background is very evident. As well as increasing the type size for the benefit of older readers, I also introduced a double-column format, bold headlines, pictures when available and one or two additional regular features, such as *Spotlight on a Parish*. Some of these changes have been retained, with adaptations, to this day.

At the AGM in Yeovil in May 1981 (v6.3 p52) he reported on the changes he had introduced, including increasing the number of

pages from 20 to 24. Indexing of the Journal had also begun. But the temporary arrangement of the editorship was raised again, and Roger advised the election of Bernard Knight as a replacement editor.

Stability, and another crisis

(v6.4 - v14.2; Autumn 1981-April 1989)
Bernard Knight took over in Autumn 1981 (v6.4). By the next issue he had modified the front



Bernard Knight by his grandchild, aged 4

cover to include a list of the contents superimposed on the tree, a move not without controversy.

Since the first issue, published at the end of 1975, each volume of *The Greenwood Tree* had overlapped the calendar year. This somewhat illogical numbering system was changed at the end of 1987. Bernard Knight wrote in the Autumn 1987 issue:

Ever since Vol.1 No.1 *The Greenwood Tree* has been "dated" by English seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. But we are told that this is confusing to readers in the Antipodes. Well - of course! So with the commencement of Vol.13 we shall change our "dating" to January, April, July and October. Sorry, Australia. Sorry, New Zealand. It took 12 years for the penny to drop, although January is Winter with us here. Proof wanted...?

As the Society grew, so did the size of the Journal. The 96 pages of volume 6 had grown to 144 by volume 13, with 160 pages for volume 10. Even so, there were still occasions when there was not

enough space for everything. The editor explained (v11.1 p2):

Why should we make apology for success? We noted recently an entry...from member no.2500! But it does mean that, with such a large membership, our journal receives more copy than heretofore. We are committed to producing certain regular items...and space is limited. Hence, by and large, we operate a "first come, first served" basis. We were surprised to hear of one contributor who was surprised that his item didn't appear in the *next* edition. We thought that an explanation would be appropriate.

Bernard Knight carried things forward until the April 1989 issue (v14.2). His death in office presented the Society with a major problem.

An interregnum, and an editor emerges

(v14.3-v19.3; July 1989-August 1994)
The next issue (v14.3) was produced somehow by a hurriedly constituted editorial working party.

Ken Andrew was listed as editor from October 1989 (v14.4) until Marcia Evans, who had been doing most of the work, formally took over as editor from



Marcia Evans

October 1990 (v15.4). At the AGM in September 1990 Marcia Evans was able to report that the working party had managed to produce four issues on time. She proposed that from 1991 the timing of the issues be changed to February, May, August and November. This would allow a full report of the AGM to appear in November and to ascertain which members had renewed before the February issue was sent out. The working party had sent out a questionnaire and the findings were being implemented. The layout had been rationalised, and all the content was relevant to family history. Names and addresses were published so members could communicate

Family History Centre Events

Date	Event	Price
Thurs 19 Nov. 2.00pm	<i>The 1939 Register - The Home Front from your own home.</i> Myko Clelland, family historian and partnership and outreach manager for Findmypast will describe the upcoming release of the 1939 register, one of the biggest family history record sets to be released in recent years.	No charge but advance booking is essential
Sat 21 Nov. 2.00-4.30pm	<i>Sherborne's Industrial Archaeology.</i> Budding local historians, Barry Brock, Graham Bendell and George Tatham will guide another journey through Sherborne's commercial and industrial past. In <i>A Sherborne Engine Maker</i> , Graham will reveal all he knows about William Henry Pasley and his family. Barry will then consider <i>The Dorsetshire Brewery - the Baxter years</i> , before looking at <i>Fives Courts</i> in Sherborne. After a refreshment break, Graham will take us on <i>A View From The Slopes In 1860</i> with an in-depth look at an early photograph of Sherborne, while considering later photographs of the features to be seen. Barry will then bring things to a conclusion with <i>What and Where Are They?</i> - a quiz for local historians and a chance for some audience participation. George Tatham will again chair proceedings and will talk about some of his own research.	SDFHS Members: £10 Non-members: £12
Sun 6 Dec. 10.00am-4.00pm	Our Family History Centre will be open during Sherborne's Festive Shopping Day. Our research volunteers will be on hand to help with your enquiries and we will have new and second-hand books for sale as well as coffee/tea and mince pies. Please do call in if you would like a break from shopping.	No charge and no need to book in advance
Sat 23 Jan. 2016 2.00-4.30pm	<i>In the Parish.</i> In the first of two talks Ted Udall will describe records which are (or may be) available for genealogical research in a typical parish, including Parish Chest documents, Poor Law records and tithe maps. In the second talk he will look at information of a more general nature, including newspapers and trade directories, finishing off with a look around the Dorset parish of Halstock.	SDFHS Members: £10 Non-members: £12
Sat 20 Feb. 2.00-4.30pm	<i>From Altar to Archive: The Life and Works of Canon C. H. Mayo (1845-1929).</i> Luke Moulard, local historian and genealogist, will review the life of The Rev. Charles Herbert Mayo who spent all his clerical life in Dorset. When not tending to his congregations, he dedicated his time to looking into the county's rich history, leaving behind an extensive collection of books, pedigrees and manuscripts. At the time, he was one of the county's most eminent historians, so how is it that his name has now been largely forgotten? With the aid of his correspondence and private research papers, this talk will examine Canon Mayo's contribution to Dorset's heritage, and seek to understand the man behind the text.	SDFHS Members: £10 Non-members: £12

**THE NUMBER OF PLACES
FOR ALL EVENTS IS
LIMITED SO EARLY
BOOKING IS ADVISED**

Other Events

3 November 2015 Friends of Somerset Archives

Sue Berry

Crime and Punishment

Somerset Heritage Centre is at Brunel Way, Langford
Mead, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF

For more information about forthcoming meetings visit the
GENEVA pages, hosted by GENUKI <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

14 November 2015

10:30am – 3:30pm

Explore your archives

Celebrating 60 years of Dorset's archive service
Dorset History Centre

7 - 9 April 2016

WDYTIA

NEC Birmingham

SDFHS Publications

SOMERSET 1851 CENSUS INDEXES

Index of surnames giving the parish

Master index of Somerset £4.70 UK, £7.15 sea-mail

Indexes of Surname only giving Folio No.

each costs £2.20 UK, £4.65 sea-mail

Vol. 1	West Somerset
Vol. 2	Taunton Area
Vol. 3	Bridgwater Area
Vol. 4	Yeovil Area
Vol. 5	Wincanton & Frome
Vol. 6	Wells, Shepton Mallet Area
Vol. 7	Wedmore, Cheddar & Axbridge

SOMERSET 1841 & 1891 CENSUS INDEXES

each costs £2.20 UK, £4.65 sea-mail

Except 1891 Master Vol. £4.70 UK £7.15 O/Seas

Vol.29 (1891) & 35 (1841) £3.55 UK, £7.10 O/S
1841 Master Index of surnames,

2 vols A to I & J to Z. £4.70 U.K., £7.15 O/S each

Vol. 1	Wincanton & Milborne Port
Vol. 2	Evercreech & Nunney
Vol. 3	Bruton & Castle Cary
Vol. 4	Exmoor, Dulverton & Minehead
Vol. 5	Kilmerdon Area
Vol. 6	Somerton & Langport
Vol. 7	Wellington & District
Vol. 8	Wedmore & Axbridge
Vol. 9	Milverton, Stogumber & Wiveliscombe
Vol. 10	Bishops Lydeard, Stogursey & Stowey
Vol. 11	Marston Magna Coker & Ilchester
Vol. 12	Yeovil
Vol. 13	Frome & Rodden
Vol. 14	Wells
Vol. 15	Chard & Ilminster
Vol. 16	Taunton St. Mary & Wilton
Vol. 17	Taunton St. James
Vol. 18	Chewton Mendip & Stoke Lane
Vol. 19	Shepton Mallet, Pilton & W.Pennard
Vol. 20	Bishops Hull & Creech St. Michael
Vol. 21	Crewkerne & Merriott
Vol. 22	Glastonbury & Street
Vol. 23	Pitminster & Coombe St. Nicholas
Vol. 24	Kingsbury Episcopi & N.Curry
Vol. 25	Martock & S. Petherton
Vol. 26	North Petherton & Ashcott
Vol. 27	Huntspill & Wembdon
Vol. 28	St. Decuman's & Old Cleeve
Vol. 29	Bridgwater (1891 Parts 1 & 2) see above
Vol. 30	Burnham & District

Also available - 1841 only

Vol. 31 Midsomer Norton & Wellow

Vol. 32	Clutton
Vol. 33	Lyncombe & Widcombe (Bath)
Vol. 35	Walcot (Parts 1 & 2)
Vol. 37	Weston & Twerton
Vol. 38	Keynsham & Chew Magna
Vol. 39	Wrington, Blackwell & Blagdon
Vol. 40	Portbury & Nailsea
Vol. 41	Clevedon & Yatton
Vol. 42	Weston-super-Mare & Banwell

SOMERSET MARRIAGE INDEXES

each costs £3.00 UK, £5.40 sea-mail.

Vol. 1	Taunton St. James 1610-1701
Vol. 2	Taunton St. James 1702-1723
Vol. 3	Taunton St. James 1724-1754
Vol. 1	Taunton St. Mary 1558-1673
Vol. 2	Taunton St. Mary 1674-1718
Vol. 3	Taunton St. Mary 1719-1754

SOMERSET ITEMS ON FICHE

	U.K.	O/Seas
Master Index of 1851 census	1.50	2.40
1851 census Vols 1 - 7 each	1.50	2.40
1891 census Vols 1-28 & 30 each	1.50	2.40
1891 census Vol. 29 (2 parts)	1.50	2.40
1841 census as available, each	1.50	2.40
1841 census Vol. 35 (2 Parts)	1.50	2.40
Somerset marriages, as above, each	1.50	2.40
Taunton burials 1813-1837	1.50	2.40
Hatch Beauchamp Parish registers	1.50	2.40

DORSET 1841 CENSUS INDEXES

each costs £2.20 UK, £4.65 sea-mail except Master

Vol. Master Index £4.70 UK £7.15 O/S

Vol. 1	Bridport, Allington & Bradpole
Vol. 2	Poole, Canford Magna & Hamworthy
Vol. 3	Weymouth, Melcombe & Wyke Regis
Vol. 4	20 Parishes around Bridport
Vol. 5	Beaminster, Broadwindsor, Netherbury & Stoke Abbot
Vol. 6	Dorchester & Neighbouring parishes
Vol. 7	Lyme Regis Area
Vol. 8	Portland, Abbotsbury, Maiden Newton & District
Vol. 9	Puddletown District & Parishes around Weymouth
Vol. 10	Parishes around Evershot
Vol. 11	Gillingham Area
Vol. 12	Stalbridge & Sturminster Newton
Vol. 13	Wimborne Area
Vol. 14	Winfrith Newburgh & Milton Abbas Area
Vol. 15	Cranborne & The Tarrants
Vol. 16	Shaftesbury Area

Vol. 17	Blandford Area
Vol. 18	Cerne Abbas Area
Vol. 19	Hawkchurch & 5 other W.Dorset Parishes
Vol. 20	Sherborne Area
Vol. 21	Christchurch Area

DORSET 1851 CENSUS INDEXES

Index of Surnames giving the parish

Master Index of Dorset £3.70 UK, £6.15 sea-mail

Indexes of surname & forenames, giving age, birthplace, occupation, folio & page number.

Each costs £2.20 UK, £4.65 sea-mail

Vol. 1	Weymouth
Vol. 2	Portland Area
Vol. 3	Dorchester
Vol. 4	Maiden Newton Area
Vol. 5	Poole Area
Vol. 6	Bridport Area
Vol. 7	Corfe Castle & Wareham Area
Vol. 8	Sherborne Area
Vol. 9	Bere Regis Area
Vol. 10	Sturminster Newton Area
Vol. 11	Shaftesbury Area
Vol. 12	Blandford Area
Vol. 13	Wimborne Minster Area
Vol. 14	Lyme Regis Area
Vol. 15	Beaminster Area

DORSET 1891 CENSUS INDEXES

£2.20 UK, £4.65 sea-mail

Master Index of Surnames giving the parish

The following are an almost complete transcription

Vol. 1	Shaftesbury, Cann & Motcombe
Vol. 2	Cranborne Area
Vol. 3	Wimborne Area
Vol. 4	Weymouth
Vol. 5	Fontmell & Gillingham
Vol. 6	Stalbridge & Sturminster Newton
Vol. 7	Portland & Abbotsbury
Vol. 8	Lyme Regis Area
Vol. 9	Purbeck Area
Vol. 10	Parishes around Weymouth
Vol. 11	Poole & Parkstone
Vol. 12	Canford, Kinson & Longfleet
Vol. 13	Bere Regis & District
Vol. 14	Beaminster Area
Vol. 15	Sherborne Area
Vol. 16	Bridport Area
Vol. 17	Blandford & District
Vol. 18	Dorchester Area
Vol. 19	Cerne & Milton Abbas

DORSET ITEMS AVAILABLE ON FICHE

	U.K.	O/Seas
1841 census Vols 1 - 21	1.50	2.40
1851 census Master Index.....	1.50	2.40
1851 census Vols 1 - 15	1.50	2.40
1891 census Master Index.....	1.50	2.40
1891 census Vols. 1 - 19	1.50	2.40
Swanage census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	1.50	2.40
Wareham census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	1.50	2.40
Corfe Castle census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	1.50	2.40
Purbeck Boundary parishes 1841, 1861 & 1871	1.50	2.40
Lyme Regis Burials 1813 - 1837	1.50	2.40
Dorset Landowners of 1871	1.50	2.40
Dorset Wills 1821 - 1858 (set of 3 fiche)	1.50	2.40
S & D "Absconders" 1801 - 1858	1.50	2.40
Dorset Militia Ballot Lists (Vol. 1 East, V2 West) each ...	1.50	2.40

CD-ROMS

	U.K.	O/Seas
1851 Dorset census Index	11.55	14.00
1891 Dorset census Index	11.55	14.00
1891 Somerset census Index	11.55	14.00
Portland Historic Sources Version 2	16.10	17.75
Somerset War Memorials	14.05	16.50
East Dorset Superfamily	11.50	13.95
Photos & Information on 300 Dorset Churches	16.55	19.00
Histories of some Parishes in Dorset & Somerset	16.55	19.00
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East & West Coker Parish Records etc.	11.10	12.75
Methodist Centenary Rolls (Som. & Dor.)	16.10	17.75
Lytchett Matravers Poor Law Records	8.60	10.25

OTHER SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

	U.K.	O/Seas
Lyme Regis Burials 1813 - 1837	3.35	5.80
Taunton Burials 1813 - 1837	3.35	5.80
Swanage census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	4.70	7.15
Wareham census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	4.70	7.15
Corfe Castle census index 1841, 1861 & 1871	4.70	7.15
Purbeck Boundary Parishes census 1841, 1861 & 1871	4.70	7.15
Rural Blacksmiths in Parish Life by Marcia Evans.....	14.45	18.00
Dorset Volunteer Soldiers 1794 - 1798	2.70	5.15
Dorset PCC Wills & Admons 1821 - 1858	4.70	7.15
S. & D. "Absconders 1801 - 1858	4.70	7.15
Dorset Militia Ballot Lists (Vol. 1 East Vol.2 West), each	4.70	7.15
Growers of Hemp & Flax 1782 - 1793 (book & fiche)	3.25	4.90
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"Voices That be Gone", The Victorian Parish of Castleton	13.85	16.10
10,000 Fallen Remembered on Dorset War Memorials ..	9.95	13.55
Now with CD, pictures and extra information		
Dorset Centenary Methodist Rolls	6.20	8.65
Somerset Centenary Methodist Rolls	8.70	11.15
Bristol Centenary Methodist Rolls	8.70	11.15
Wellington Churchwardens Accounts	14.90	19.35

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SDFHS Publications

Book Sale News

PARISH REGISTERS

	U.K. £	O/Seas £
Aisholt.....	8.75	12.30
Almer	6.20	8.60
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Chedzoy	10.05	13.60
Chelborough, East & West.....	6.20	8.60
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Cutcombe	8.75	12.30
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Enmore	11.05	14.60
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Goathurst	11.75	15.30
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Spaxton (2 vols)	16.30	20.75
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Treborough & Withycombe	8.75	12.30
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West Buckland	12.05	15.60
Winsham (2 vols)	16.30	20.75
Wootton Courtney	8.75	12.30

INDEXES AND BOOKLETS

Assessment of the Hundred of N. Petherton 1649	4.65	7.10
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Somerset Surname Index Vol.1	4.40	6.85
Subsidy Returns for South Somerset 1601 and 1628	4.70	6.35
Index of Somerset Estate Duty Office Wills 1805-11	11.55	15.10
Index of Somerset Estate Duty Office Wills 1812-57 (2 parts).....	26.00	29.95
Index of Somerset Probate Inventories.....	12.05	15.60
Index to Somerset Settlement & Removals 1607-1700	6.15	8.55
Surnames in Marriage Licences & Allegations 1583-1681	8.45	10.85
Criminal Register Indexes Vol.1 1805-16 (Som & Dor)	19.30	23.00
Wilton Gaol (Taunton) Description Register 1806-1818	3.00	4.65
Wilton Gaol (Taunton) Description Register 1818-1825	3.00	4.65
Wilton Gaol (Taunton) Description Register 1825-1830	3.45	5.90
Wilton Gaol (Taunton) Description Register 1830-1841	3.45	5.90
Wilton Gaol (Taunton) Description Register 1841-1843	2.80	4.65
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1733 Freeholders List	4.65	7.10
Officers List Somerset Local Militia 1808-11	4.15	6.55
Roll of 1st & 2nd Battalion Somerset Militia 1758..	4.65	7.10
Eastern Battalion Muster Roll 1805	2.05	3.90
Chancellor's Farm Accounts 1766-67 (Mendip Hills)	4.65	7.10
Dorset Contiguous Parishes	1.55	3.40
Chilton Polden Tithe Apportionment 1839	10.30	13.85
Clevedon St.Andrews Churchwardens Accounts	8.45	10.85
Somerset Criminals 1805-30, 2 vols. sold as a pair	15.00	18.55

Please note that the prices quoted here include postage and packing, either within the United Kingdom (UK) or by surface mail overseas (OS). All the Society's stock of books etc may be purchased over the counter from the Research Centre in Sherborne for the normal retail price of the publication.

A printed catalogue may be requested from our Sherborne Research Centre; please send an A4 self-addressed envelope, stamped for the large letter basic rate. The catalogue may also be found on the Society's web site - www.sdfhs.org (from the home page select 'Sales', 'Society Bookshop', and then select the particular file of interest).

Price Increases

Please note that, last August, the Society increased the postage and packing element of the price of books etc sent out by mail. All the items on this page, and the previous page, show these revised prices. A full catalogue is available on our web site, and a printed catalogue can be obtained for our Sherborne Research Centre as indicated above.

Additional Titles Available

40 YEARS OF THE GREENWOOD TREE A complete set of 40 years of The Greenwood Tree on either a CD or a memory stick, supplied as searchable PDF files. It is possible to access all editions in a single search.

CD..... UK £ 9.85 / OS £11.70
Memory stick UK £12.30 / OS £13.70

GWR BOOK OF REFERENCE - YEOVIL BRANCH LINE CD Contains the names of the owners, lessees and occupiers of the parcels of land required by the Bristol and Exeter Railway (later part of the Great Western Railway) for the construction of the Yeovil branch line, running from Durston, near Taunton, to Yeovil via Langport which opened in 1853.

CD UK £ 5.85 / OS £ 7.70

Books etc on Sale

The prices of the following items have been reduced.

Hawkechurch (Banfield & Austin) The story of a West Country village inspired by the recollections of Jack Banfield.

Was £14.95, now £10.00 over the counter.

Posted: UK £13.35 / OS £18.60

The Book of Poole - Harbour and Town (Rodney Legg) This book traces the history of Poole from pre-Roman times to the present day, and includes over 200 photographs. A thoroughly researched work.

Was £19.95, now £13.00 over the counter.

Posted: UK £16.85 / OS £21.60

Long Sutton as 'Twere (Redvers Burt) A fond evocation of times past, the community evolving over two or three generations.

Was £7.50, now £4.50 over the counter.

Posted: UK £ 6.50 / OS £10.00

A Somerset Airman The story of an RAF armourer, who grew up in Frome on a small family farm. The story begins with an account of life on the farm, and continues with Eric's conscription into the services, and his time in foreign parts away from loved ones in a sleepy Somerset town.

Was £7.99, now £4.00 over the counter.

Posted: UK £ 6.00 / OS £ 9.50

Titles no Longer Available

The Book of Portland (Dorset Books)

Fordington Remembered (Dorset Books)

Map of Dorset by William Kip, 1610 (Maps)

All books on pages (ii) and (iii) can be obtained from: SDFHS Booksales, PO Box 4502, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6YL. Cheques made payable to SDFHS, with orders please. Payment by VISA or MASTERCARD accepted. Minimum card order £5. We are not able to accept orders placed by email with payment using credit/debit cards. This Society complies with The Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013. For confirmation of order by post, please request confirmation and supply a stamped addressed envelope.

SDFHS Services

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE CHARGES

We try to keep our charges to a minimum, and believe we have been successful in keeping prices at a lower level than those charged by comparable organisations. Our charges for research undertaken by Volunteers and for SDFHS Database searches are as follows:

Entry fees: there is free entry for members wishing to use the Family History Centre facilities; non-members pay a day visitor's fee of £2.

Use of Ancestry and/or Findmypast: a £1 fee for anybody, whether member or non-member, who uses Ancestry and/or Findmypast.

Photocopies and computer printouts: there is a 25p charge per A4 sheet when items are printed or photocopied.

Volunteer's research:
SDFHS Members - £5 an hour
Non-members - £10 an hour

SDFHS Database search charges: a specific surname search in the Society's database will also incur the minimum fee of £5 (this includes a print-out of up to one page of data entries i.e. up to 27 baptisms or 39 marriages). Each subsequent page of data entries (and included print-out) incurs a further charge of £2.50.

If you would like a Society Volunteer to undertake research on your behalf, please email
(or write in with) your enquiry to:
email: sdfhs@btconnect.com
post: Research, PO Box 4502, Sherborne, DT9 6YL

To assist our volunteers and to avoid duplication, it is important that you provide all the information you have obtained already.

THE GREENWOOD TREE BACK NUMBERS

We may be able to provide a copy of a back number - email or write in with your request. Each edition costs £5 (UK) or £6 (OS), including postage.

We can provide an index from
The Greenwood Tree of names being researched:
1992-6 - £3.50 (UK) or £4 (OS), including postage;
1995-9 - £3.50 (UK) or £4 (OS), including postage.

We can also provide an index of names being researched and main articles in post 2000 editions:
£1.50 per year (UK) and £2.00 per year (OS), including postage.

PEDIGREE AND FAMILY TREE SERVICE

We will search the Society's large collection of donated pedigrees and family trees:

- (1) For a list of the principal names in the collection, ask for the 'Names List 2012' at a cost of £4 including postage.
- (2) To search for an individual or family, use the form at the end of the 'Names List 2012' or on the Society's website, at a cost of £4 for up to 5 items (including postage), either individuals or families.
- (3) To provide photocopies of pedigrees or family trees identified in the 'Names List 2012' costs 25p per A4 sheet (plus postage).

You may pay by credit card
(minimum payment £5) or cheque.

MILITARY LOOK UPS

We have a large amount of information and material held in our Library and are lucky enough to have the help of Col Iain Swinnerton, who writes widely on military research, to help with any specific requests.

BURIALS INDEX

For details contact:

David Hearn
9 Barton Hey, Bishops Lydeard, TAUNTON,
Somerset, TA4 3NL
heardave@btinternet.com

DORSET MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Lists of parishes transcribed to date - no charge + SAE,
Overseas - request estimate.

A SURNAME search for the whole of DORSET
- £1 members, £2 non-members

A SINGLE name search in a SPECIFIC parish
- £1 members, £2 non-members

Max. 6 parishes per enquiry

Large SAE with all enquiries: Overseas - request estimate.

Also see Society website. Minimum credit card payment £5.

Also can be found on www.findmypast.com

DISCLAIMER: This Society does not sponsor any professional genealogists, whether members of the Society or not. The Society cannot be held responsible for the quality of service given by those who advertise either in the Society Journal, on its web site or by the circulation of members. The Society does not derive any monetary benefit from such research.

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Any enquiries to:

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**Advertisements featured in this publication are relevant
to our hobby but do not imply endorsement**

among themselves. A letters page had been introduced and a wide variety of articles published. More contributions were sought - an ever-recurring theme.

During the interregnum of 1989 the Society changed its printer from Creed's to FWB Printing Ltd in Wincanton, a company it stayed with until 2015.

Marcia Evans decided to stand down as editor in 1994 to spend more time with her family history and to complete a second degree. Her last editorial appeared in August 1994 (v19.3, p76) in which she announced the impending arrival of a new editor, Colin Dean.

The Dean era

(v19.4 - v30.4; November 1994-November 2005)

Colin Dean, *The Greenwood Tree's* longest serving editor, produced his



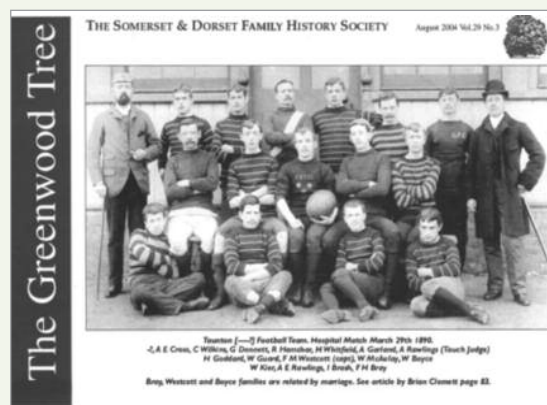
Colin Dean

first solo issue in November 1994 (v19.4), after a six-month period shadowing Marcia Evans. In all he completed eleven years and compiled 44 issues of

the Journal. Colin's contribution to creating the Journal we recognise today has been immense. Firstly, out went the old cover with the contents list superimposed on the tree. A new design in February 1995 (v20.1) marked the Society's twentieth year and lasted through its twenty-first. From now on the cover changed more frequently; a fourth design in 1997 (v22.1-v22.4) was followed by a fifth, which lasted two years from 1998 (v23.1) to the end of 1999 (v24.4). Subsequently, each issue has had a different cover design, usually highlighting features inside.

Whereas previously photographs had been rare, they rapidly became an important feature, giving the Journal its lively, magazine-style appearance. The issue for February 2000 (v25.1), marking the Millennium, included a photograph on the front for the first time. From then on special issues came

thick and fast. August 2000 (v25.3) was the 25th anniversary issue; May 2001 (v26.2) brought the 100th issue (by Colin's calculation - surely v25.4 was the 100th) and August 2005 (v30.3) an issue featuring articles on Trafalgar to mark the 200th anniversary of the battle. Of particular note was May 2002 (v27.2), a 72-page extravaganza entirely devoted to the Channel Islands and its links to Somerset and Dorset ancestry. One particularly controversial issue was August 2004 (v29.3), the infamous 'Football' issue. Colin, a lifelong fan of Newport County (sad or what?), wrote in his editorial: 'football and family history...the hobbies don't seem to mix. Yet if you had any able-bodied young males among your ancestors anytime after 1860, the chances are they played football...Newspapers reported the matches and published photos'. Why controversial? Because much of the journal was printed in 'landscape' mode, to better accommodate a typical team photograph. Readers got tired of continually twisting the journal round and back.



The infamous 'football' issue

Colin Dean's swansong came in November 2005 (v30.4), the 30th anniversary issue, which included a digest of all the previous 29 years.

The mature Journal

(v31.1-v40.3; February 2006-August 2015)

The arrival of a new editorial team was announced at the end of the 30th anniversary issue (v30.4). Two editors were needed to continue the Dean legacy; Chris Storrar and Anthony (Tony) Darby had both had editorial experience and Tony Darby was a former journalist. Amazingly, two other people had expressed



Anthony (Tony) Darby and Chris Storrar

interest in being editor and three others in joining an editorial team. This period is marked by a consistency of style and layout. The cover was changed to have a uniform green background with the tree in the top left corner next to the title. A list of the more significant articles was included with photographs. A standard 32-page issue became the usual format. Unfortunately Tony was unwell and increasingly unable to contribute to the editorship. He was the second editor to die in post and after two years Chris was left to carry on alone. It is a tribute to her expertise and dedication that the Journal maintained its excellent reputation, recognised throughout the family history community. When I took over from Chris she was invariably helpful and supportive, and after

one issue shadowing Chris, and one issue being shadowed, things seemed much less daunting. I was helped initially by Barbara Elsmore but after two issues Barbara stepped back to concentrate on improving links with the regional groups.

Two things I carry in my mind from talking to Chris. Firstly, the Journal belongs to the members, and it's the editor's job to reflect their interests and

concerns, and secondly, that our Society covers two counties - each needs its fair share. I hope I have been able to maintain that tradition.

The regulars

Although the Journal belongs to the members, the role of the regular contributors has been vital in giving structure and character to the publication. *People, Places and Problems* had existed from the beginning, but other features emerged, including the *Spotlight* articles highlighting particular parishes in Somerset or Dorset. A

number of authors have contributed, most particularly Thelma Monkton and Betty and Alan Nineham. More recently Mike Whitaker has written *Spotlight on Dorset* and Colin Dean a slightly different format with his *Snapshot on Somerset*. Andrew Plaster has carried on the *Spotlight* tradition for Somerset.

Computer Corner, written by our present Chairman, Ann-Marie Wilkinson, was introduced in the 25th anniversary issue (v25.3). This regular column to help and advise members on the use of computers has addressed the growing importance of computers and the internet and continues to the present.

Teresa William's *What the papers said* (formerly *In the news*), with interesting snippets from old newspapers, on a wide range of topics, has been running since August 1999 (v24.3). *Looking Back*, by former editor Chris Storrar, similarly features items from past issues of *The Greenwood Tree*, and has been running since February 2012 (v37.1). Similar pieces had been written by Colin Dean when he was editor.

Colin Dean's *Secrets from the Centre* was introduced in February 2014 (v39.1) to highlight some of the rare, sometimes unique, material to be found in the Society's Centre in Sherborne.

Editorials and Chairman's comments have been regular features, with occasional gaps, in general reflecting the current issues of concern to the Society.

Glittering prizes

The excellence of *The Greenwood Tree* has been recognised by the members from the beginning, as each editor added his or her particular ideas and improvements. The Journal was voted The Best English-Language Family History Society Magazine worldwide in 2002, judged on the 2001 issue. It had been commended in 1996 and 1998 and runner-up in 1997, 1999 and 2000. Colin Dean had at last made it! The award, organised by the FFHS, is known as the Elizabeth Simpson award. After winning, Colin Dean was elected to the judging panel and was its chairman

in 2005 - which seemed a good time to retire as editor. Chris Storrar continued the trend, winning in 2009 and 2011. Unfortunately your current editor has been unable to repeat the triumphs of his predecessors, and the future of the Elizabeth Simpson award is currently in some doubt.

How is it done today?

Original copy arrives in all forms, from hand-written letters, photocopied items of varying quality to well produced, digital text. All have to be read and given the editorial once-over. Obvious spelling and grammatical errors are weeded out, with some pruning of unnecessary text. The idea is to

For the technically-minded the publishing software used is a combination of QuarkXpress 9, Adobe Photoshop CS6 and Adobe Illustrator CS6. The green colour used is Pantone 377 and the typeface for the majority of the issue is called FreebornSB. The Journal is printed by offset lithography.

What next?

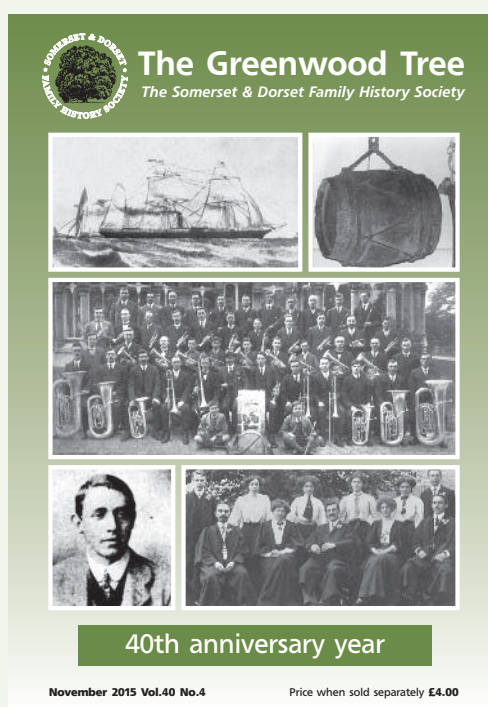
What will *The Greenwood Tree* look like 40 years from now? Will it exist in its current form. Will it exist at all? All printed newspapers and journals are facing major pressures, from rising production costs and loss of advertising revenue, mainly due to the impact of the internet. Our Society has similar problems, with loss of membership, our main source of income. The cause is the same - the internet. In the past the Journal was the main means of communication with the Society and between members, but this is no longer the case. Family historians identify less with their local society and more with whichever website they subscribe to. A journal produced every three months can never compete with the immediacy of email and social media. The Society is responding to this with a much improved website, Facebook pages and members' forum. The challenge for *The Greenwood Tree* is to find innovative ways to integrate with these while maintaining the reputation for quality which it has established over its first 40 years.

Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank three former editors, Roger Guttridge, Colin Dean and Chris Storrar, for thoughts, insights and support. Peter Meech and my long-suffering wife Gail have helped with proof-reading and comments on layout, content and style during my editorship. Finally, thanks are due to the excellent service provided by Aurora Print and Design (and previously FWB Printing Ltd), in particular Stephen Hibberd their typesetter and designer.

Bob Barber

Editor, *The Greenwood Tree*, 2013-15




Issue 160: 40 years of The Greenwood Tree

maintain the house style while preserving the author's own idiosyncrasies. A plan for the layout, page by page is drawn up, and the edited copy taken, usually on a memory stick, to the layout artist at the printers. After discussion, a first proof is produced, using desk-top publishing software, and printed. There will be gaps to fill and contributors to chase, but the general appearance of the final issue will be emerging. The proofs are corrected, missing items added and the process repeated. On a third loop the final, detailed proof-reading takes place. Discussions with the membership secretary determine the final numbers for the print run.


Computer Corner




This time I am going to look at customising your internet browser so that you can find the websites and information you use more easily. Firstly what do you have as your 'home' or 'startup' page on your internet browser? Have you changed it from the default? You could change the opening page to the SDFHS home page so that you do not miss any news from the Society. You could also 'bookmark' the page so that it appears on the toolbar and is easy to find again. Both these tasks are easy. I use Google Chrome and I can set it up to open a number of pages when it starts up. It is fairly straightforward to do, but you may need to sign in first. In all browsers the best way is to

follow the instructions on the help menu. In Chrome you need to click the  in the top right hand corner of the page to find the help menu.



You then see a drop down menu:

New tab	Ctrl+T
New window	Ctrl+N
New incognito window	Ctrl+Shift+N
History and recent tabs	▶
Downloads	Ctrl+J
Bookmarks	▶
Zoom	- 75% + 
Print...	Ctrl+P
Find...	Ctrl+F
More tools	▶
Edit	Cut Copy Paste
Settings	
Help and about	▶
Exit	Ctrl+Shift+Q

If you then click on **Help and about** a further menu will appear and you should select **Help centre**. This opens in a new window and then you can search for what you want to do. Then just follow the instructions given. In this case they are:

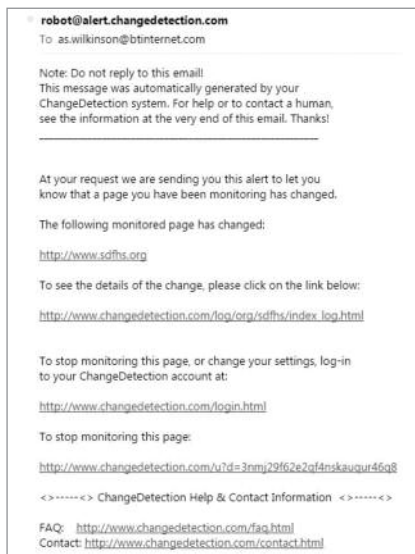
- In the top-right corner, click the Chrome menu 
- Click **Settings**. (If you're using a Chromebook, click **Show advanced settings** at the bottom of the page.)
- Under On startup click **Open a specific page or set of pages**
- Click **Set pages**
- Enter the web address of the page you want to see when you open Chrome.
- Click **OK**

Other internet browsers such as Firefox and Internet Explorer will work in a similar way, just find the help menu and follow the instructions.

In Chrome it is easy to bookmark a page, again the icon is in the top right hand corner, this time it is the star  icon. When you are on any page you wish to bookmark just click the star. You may need to tell your browser to display the toolbar - just follow the help instructions. On my screen Chrome can display a dozen bookmarks and more can be access using the  icon on the far right hand side of the screen.,

Another thing that you can do is to monitor when a webpage changes so that you do not miss anything new from a website. To do this you have to use a free website which will send you an email whenever a page changes. I use www.changedetection.com :

The screenshot shows the ChangeDetection.com website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, Webmasters, Directory, Compare, and Help. The main content area has a 'welcome' message and a 'monitor a page' section. The 'monitor a page' section includes a form with fields for 'Page Address' and 'Send alert to', and a 'Next' button. There's also a 'log in' section with fields for 'email' and 'password', and buttons for 'log in', 'sign up', and 'help'. A 'search' bar is located at the bottom right. The footer mentions 'recent changes to the internet'.



This is free to use, all you need to do is to sign up giving your email address and create a password for the site. You can then enter the page (or pages) you wish to monitor and the website does the rest. When a page changes you receive an email (see left).

Then all you need to do is to click on the link to the page you are monitoring. The email even gives you links so you can change what you are monitoring. I only monitor the home or news page of a website, but you may want to monitor something else. However, a word or warning, do not try to monitor something which changes frequently - you will be overwhelmed with emails!

I hope that these suggestions will help you get more out of your internet browser.

Ann-Marie Wilkinson

SDFHS website: online Shop and Projects

Building on the successful introduction in 2014 of the secure PayPal facility on our website for paying subscriptions, we are now extending this to give members a fully functional one-stop online shop, where you will be able to pay subscriptions, buy publications, book for events at our Family History Centre or make donations to the Society by adding purchases to a shopping basket. At the end of the process you will be able to pay either with your PayPal account, if you have one, or with most credit/debit cards.

As this edition of *The Greenwood Tree* goes to press, there is still some work to do before the shop will be fully operational but we hope that it will be up and running by the time you receive this mailing. It will take us a while to upload the publications so we would ask for your patience if you are unable to find immediately the particular book or CD that you would like to order. There will be link to the shop on the main horizontal menu bar of the website: www.sdfhs.org

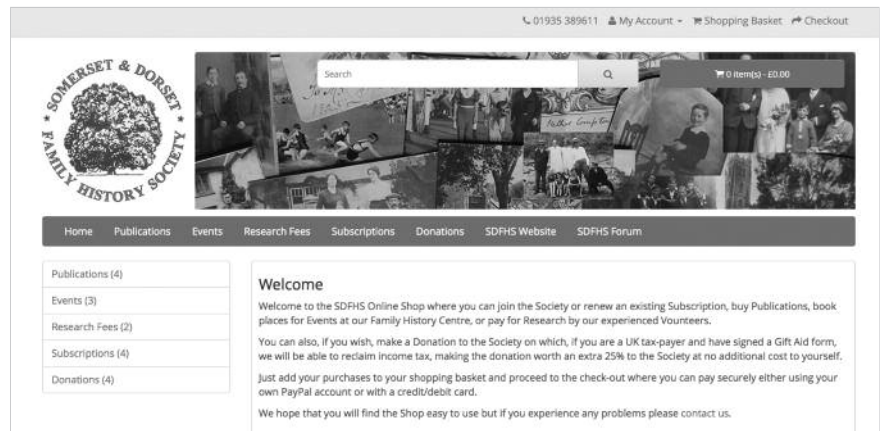
Another innovation on the website is the introduction of a new menu item 'Projects' (www.sdfhs.org/sdfhs-projects) where you will find summaries of the official SDFHS research projects which aim to collect, transcribe and make available data which will be of assistance to members and other researchers engaged in studies of family history in Somerset and Dorset.

Now that so much of the 'basic' data for genealogical research is readily available on-line, the Society is starting to concentrate on collecting and publishing information from less well-known sources, such as cast lists, school records, sports team lists, etc., which can provide a rich source of previously untapped data for both counties. We would welcome suggestions for new projects, especially if you would be willing, and able, to undertake the research yourself. Please contact the Family History Centre if

you would like to help with any of the current Projects, or suggest a new one.

Finally, an easy way to keep up-to-date with all our news is to make our website: www.sdfhs.org the 'home page' on your own computer/tablet. This will give you easy access to live feeds from our blog, Facebook page and Twitter account as well as our own news items.

Patricia Spencer
sdfhsmembership@outlook.com



SDFHS Open Day and AGM, Yeovil 2015

Saturday 19 September 2015 dawned foggy, but the forecast was fair. By 9:30 the main hall at Yeovil College had been set up and, in nearby classrooms, the various stalls and service providers were ready to receive members to the Society's AGM and Open Day.

After registration and a few minutes to catch up with old acquaintances it was time to usher everyone into the main hall, where the Society's President, Sir Mervyn Medlycott, gave a brief introduction, outlining the events which had seen the Society launched back in 1975.

The morning's main speaker was *The Greenwood Tree* Editor Bob Barber, who used a lively account of the first 40 years of the Society's journal to announce the official launch of the digital version on CD and memory stick. Part of Bob's talk consisted of a double act with former editor Colin Dean, who entertained the audience in his own inimitable way. Well done to both of you - I only wish I'd had the foresight to video the performance!

The 40th AGM of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society then took place, starting at mid-day. As is usual on such occasions there was little debate about the standard fare on the agenda, but the Treasurer's report of a profit (returned after several years of deficit) prompted a vote of congratulations from Colin Dean to



Bob and Sir Mervyn face the audience

all those concerned. One change agreed was the re-introduction of the option of 3-yearly membership. The final item (proposed changes to the Constitution) did cause some lively debate, especially the clause about the quorum for Executive Committee meetings. The amended 2015 version of the Constitution will be uploaded to the Charity Commission website.

After a short break for the buffet lunch, the final speaker of the day was Dr Ed Lorch from the Tintinhull Local History Group

(Tintinhull is a small village about 5 miles from Yeovil). Ed spoke about reading between the lines of recorded history in order to tease out information on our medieval ancestors' lives. *Anecdotes from Medieval*

Village Life highlighted how the commonplace experiences of 15th century people can seem totally alien to us today.

And so, the events of the day successfully completed, it was time to bid farewell to Yeovil College (thanking the staff for their efforts) and start looking forward to next year in Sturminster Newton. Thank you to members of Yeovil group who helped to make the day run smoothly.

Ted Udall



Ted Udall directs proceedings at the AGM



Christmas is coming

We all have a friend or relative who seems to have everything. What can you get them for Christmas? Well, have they ever shown an interest in family history? Why not buy them a year's subscription to their local Society - even better, a subscription to the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society.

Copy the subscription form in this edition of

The Greenwood Tree, or download a copy from our website:

<http://www.sdfhs.org/membership/membership-about/>

Or why not buy them one of our new CDs (or a USB memory stick) of the first 40 years of *The Greenwood Tree*?

Prices

(CD): over the counter £9.00; posted £9.85 (UK), £11.70 (OS)

(memory stick): over the counter £11.00; posted £12.30 (UK), £13.70 (OS)



Monumental Inscriptions Projects

Barry Brock mentioned in his piece *Somerset and Dorset Projects* (*The Greenwood Tree*, May 2015, v40.2, p46) the large scale projects on Dorset and Somerset Monumental Inscriptions, managed respectively by John Damon and Delia Horsfall. Neither John nor Delia have reported progress to members in this journal for some years; I trust they will not object to my doing so, having a unique overview of both projects.

DORSET

All the C of E churches and churchyards throughout the county have been surveyed, together with many non-conformist and the civil cemeteries of Sherborne, Sturminster Newton, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Fordington, Wimborne Minster, Poole and Bridport (Bridport to 1900 only).

About two-thirds of these surveys were made by members of our Society, most notably by Olive and John Damon and the East Dorset Group, but also by the West Dorset Group and the South Dorset Group and a number of individual members, particularly Brian Webber. About one-third of the surveys were made by the Dorset FHS, mainly in east and central Dorset and the Poole area. John Damon and the East Dorset Group have prepared a database of our 'two-thirds', which is available for search, together with paper copies, at our Family History Centre in Sheborne. John Damon has tried, but so far failed, to put the database online through www.findmypast.com. Our Executive Committee are currently making representations to the Federation of Family History Societies about our difficulties with www.findmypast.com to try to get this database online eventually. There are paper and computer file copies at the Family History Centre of all the 'one-third' of compilations made by the Dorset FHS. The Dorset History Centre in Dorchester also holds a good collection of paper copies of surveys of all compilers.

Some civil cemeteries have not yet been surveyed, and I have not heard of any plans to embark on them, namely for Weymouth, Dorchester, Lyme Regis, Swanage and Blandford Forum. Incidentally John Damon has recently moved from Wimborne to Hermitage, Dorset.



Members of the East Dorset group under the instruction of Dr H Leslie White recording in Cranborne churchyard in 1978 GT v3.4 p52

SOMERSET

In Somerset we have made good progress, though with much still to do, both for surveys and database compilation. There are two databases, but for a rather unfortunate reason. These are an original database, now superseded, and a new one being compiled by Delia Horsfall. In the latter stages of Peter Abbott's compilation of the original database, a lot of faulty inputting of material was occurring, which was corrupting the value of the database and sending searchers 'off the rails'. Delia sensibly decided to start a new database, incorporating all the good quality material of the original one and newly inputting all the faulty ones. This took several years to complete, but we are now forging ahead with new material. The 'old' database is still on www.findmypast.com for what it is worth, but this must be used with caution. The new database is not online and is only available at our Family History Centre.

Solid coverage of MIs in C of E churches and churchyards, nonconformist and civil cemeteries are on Delia's database roughly southwards and eastwards of an imaginary line between Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington to the Devon, Dorset and Wiltshire borders and up to the Mendips; also some places beyond Wellington as far west as Brompton Regis and Brushford on the south side of the Brendons, with Minehead, Porlock, Selworthy, Hawkridge and Simonsbath in the Exmoor area.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s both the Mid-Somerset and Yeovil Groups were much involved in surveys, led by Thelma Munckton, Pat Cotton and Pat Jenkins in the Mid-Somerset Group and myself in the Yeovil Group, whilst the Taunton Group did Pitminster, Langport and Staplegrove, and more recently, the Frome Group did Rodden, Great Elm and Buckland Dinham. Sue Simpson copied Vallis Road non-conformist cemetery, Frome, and I understand has since gone on to copying Holy Trinity, Frome, whilst Delia Horsfall and Diana Ingram did Christchurch, Frome a couple of years ago. I did St John the Baptist, Frome, back in 2009, 'pour encourager les autres', which it has succeeded in doing! Thelma Munckton, Pat Cotton and Pat Jenkins have since 'joined their ancestors' - an apt term, I think, for family historians who have died!

I found myself going on to filling in all the parishes which other people hadn't done, but have now reached a stage, beyond Taunton and Bridgwater, where there is not much else I can do on day trips within a reasonable distance of my home near Sherborne. I am currently copying at Wilton, Bishops Hull, Cannington, Lydeard St Lawrence and Combe Florey, with plans to do Bishops Lydeard, Stogursey and Over Stowey in 2016. I shall then stop and help Delia with her database.

However, about ten years ago Ann Leigh started to copy memorials around the Quantocks with her husband, Chris, from their holiday cottage at Bicknoller, and have so far completed 18 parishes as far west as Dunster and as far east as Otterhampton.

They have recently retired to Bicknoller from their former home in Birmingham, and are continuing with renewed energy, with plans to do lots of copying in Exmoor, although they are currently completing St Decumans, Watchet and West Bagborough.

By agreement with the Bristol and Avon FHS we have not done surveys north of the Mendips, as that society recorded memorials in all churches and churchyards in the former county of Avon (now two north Somerset unitary authorities) as long ago as the 1970s to 1990s. However our database does include some north Somerset material, such as Victorian and Edwardian copies at the Somerset Heritage Centre, including many memorials in the vicinity of Churchill just east of Weston-super-Mare, copied by Mr Baker of Mere, Wilts c1898-1904. His survey of 93 memorials in Winscombe churchyard of 1901 appears to be complete. These early copies are useful, as they include many memorials which have long since disappeared, even before the Bristol and Avon FHS made their survey there. Some parishioners in recent years, quite unaware that the Bristol and Avon FHS have already surveyed their parishes, have made new surveys, which they have published and been most kind and sent us copies. We have put these on our database, for Backwell, Congresbury, Nailsea, Saltford and South Stoke. Delia Horsfall herself has resurveyed Freshford and Wellow, whilst I did the same for Loxton in 2009, mainly to incorporate Mr. Baker's copies of 1900.

Material for about 300 parishes are on Delia's database, out of the 487 parishes in the historic county of Somerset. A further 20 parishes I have copied in the past five years have not yet been put

onto the database, for places around Burnham, Bridgwater, Taunton and Milverton. All Ann Leigh's compilations around the Quantocks also await placing on the database.

Wiveliscombe MIs were copied by Susan Maria Farrington and published in her book *Sancti Stones* (2001). I think she will eventually be agreeable to us placing her material on our database, but she has asked us not to do so at the moment, until remaining stocks of her book have been sold, which is not unreasonable.

Carhampton MIs were copied in 1986, but are only available at the Somerset Heritage Centre, in D/P/car 23/11-16. A volunteer is needed there to input these onto our database forms.

I do not intend to copy memorials in the two civil cemeteries at Taunton, really too large a job for me on my own some distance from my home. I hope some others will get on to them eventually. The 1850 to 1920 section of the larger Taunton Cemetery has already, some years ago, had many of its memorials cleared away, no doubt unrecorded, when it was turned into a public park. However I did copy memorials at Wellington Cemetery and St John's Cemetery at Bridgwater, whilst Miles Kerr-Peterson and 'The Friends of Wembdon Road Cemetery' have recently completed the copying of Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater, which they have placed on the website www.bridgwatcemetries.org.uk.

Mervyn Medlycott
The Manor House,
Sandford Orcas
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4SB

The Shothole mystery

Eleven years ago I was carrying out some family research at Bryanston in Dorset where my husband's maternal great-grandfather had served as huntsman to Lord PORTMAN for many years. His name was Joe MOSS and his wife was Agnes. They were living at Shothole. I was able to compile a great deal of information and some photographs of the places where this couple had lived. Then I discovered that a great mystery surrounded the events of 1897-98 concerning Agnes.

She was incarcerated somewhere locally in May 1897 having been accused and found guilty, without any form of trial, of stealing her husband's savings. It seems that Joe Moss had savings of £150 in a cash box which he kept in a cupboard in a little room next to the dining room. This box was found empty in a tank near the house after a fire had broken out in a shed behind the Moss's house. It had chisel marks where the lock had been, so had been

forced open. The Blandford and Bryanston fire engines attended and soon extinguished the flames in the shed. Eight policemen attended after the theft was discovered and two carpenters who had been working at the house were accused and arrested. They 'smarted' at the accusation and were cleared. The strangest fact was that on the day that the money went missing Joe Moss, walking with his son, 'suddenly' remembered that the cash box was unlocked. It seems that without any delay Agnes was labelled the guilty part, with very little evidence. This was known locally as 'The Shothole Mystery'

Joe Moss was considered a bit of a rogue by Lord Portman's steward, who had already dealt with him on a number of occasions about mismanagement of milk for the hounds, which seemed excessive, and the number of chickens and ducks which he kept. It seems that Joe had a thriving side-line in selling milk and eggs.

This may explain how he managed to accumulate savings of £150!

On 27 May 1897 Joe Moss took his wife to Spetisbury to travel by train to ? Agnes is recorded as saying she didn't know whether she was going to a prison or a lunatic asylum. On 4 September 1898 Agnes was present at Bryanston Church for the Harvest Festival. She had spent a year away. Many people felt that she had been unfairly treated and that, in fact, it was her husband who had stolen his own money by forcing open the cash box with one of the carpenter's chisels. Joe Moss was given £15 by Lord Portman in consideration of his 'loss'.

I have been unable to locate any references to Agnes Moss attending Court, what her sentence was, or where she was placed for a year.

Ginny Goodall
"The Firs", Three Gates, Leigh
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6JQ
ginny@kgg67.plus.co

People, Places and Problems

Members' Research Interests

We encourage mutual help between members by providing opportunities to share research interests.
Please send enquiries to the The Editor, SDFHS, PO Box 4502, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6YL, rwbarber@tiscali.co.uk

Golda M. Packer, 8B Avonmore Avenue, Trinity Gardens, 5068 South Australia has previously sent a PPP enquiry (GT vol 40.2, p52) about her 2x great-grandmother Mary Rawes BAKER (MRB). Golda wanted to know if MRB had any siblings, and in the absence of any response or other information has concluded that she probably did not. This was reinforced following a WAKE family reunion in April 2015, when Golda met a fellow researcher who had reached the same conclusion.

Golda has a further query about a John Russ Baker who is mentioned in the will of Edward Russ Baker (ERB). ERB was the son of Edmund and Isabella (née TOTTLE) and married Sophia CRAD(D)OCK on 20 April 1786 at Holton in Somerset. ERB died on 18 September 1796 at Pitcombe. In his will he left everything to his two young sons, John Russ Baker and James Baker. If they died as minors all was to go to his wife Sophia and at her death to his brother John Russ Baker. Custodians of his two sons were friends Samuel BURGE of Dimmer and John RUSS of Clanville, Castle Cary. Sophia was executrix. Golda has the following information about a John Russ Baker, and wants to know if he is the child mentioned in the will. Golda's John Russ Baker was baptised on 15 March 1787 at Holton, the son of Edward [Russ] and Sophia Baker. This JRB married Mary RAWES on 30 October 1806 in Guernsey. He died on 21 May 1858 in Clanville and was buried in Castle Cary leaving no will. Their child MRB was born in Castle Cary in 1809 and married Cornelius Wake on 30 June 1832 in Winchester, Hampshire. Their eldest child was Anna Maria Craddock Wake, born c1832 who died of measles aged 13 in 1846 in Barrow, Somerset.

Frances Houghton, 2 Beanhill Crescent, Alveston, Bristol, BS35 3JG houghtonfrant@btinternet.com emailed:

Please can anyone tell me what became of my grandfather's sisters, Emily Louisa (born 1891) and Elizabeth (born 1893) NORMAN? They lived with their parents, William and Mary Ann and older brothers Henry and Willie at Plud Farm, Stringston, Somerset until their mother's death in 1908. Their father died in 1911. Brother Henry went to Mountain Ash, Glamorgan and worked in the mines. He married there in 1921 and died there in 1925, just before his daughter was born. Brother Willie (my grandfather) moved to London and joined the Metropolitan Police. He did not keep in touch with his sisters after his marriage in 1911. However, on visiting Plud Farm in 1959 my parents were told that shortly before their visit there had been two other visitors, an elderly lady and her daughter. That lady said she had lived there years ago and wanted to see her childhood home just once more. My grandfather seemed sure it was his sister Elizabeth. I look forward to exchanging information with someone.

Muriel Parkinson, Apple Barn, Great Street, Norton-sub-Hamdon, Somerset, TA14 6SG; muriel.parkinson@btinternet.com emailed: I live in Norton-sub-Hamdon. In the vestry of St Mary the

Virgin there is a marble memorial to George YEATMAN (GY), who died on 7 November 1823 in his eightieth year. It was erected by the pupils of the boarding school he kept in the Parish. No one in the village knows who GY was. He must have been a well-respected person to have such a memorial. Although his death and burial is in our parish records I can't find his grave. The map of the graveyard has an X where perhaps the burial took place. In late 1890 there was a fire in the tower, all the timbers were burnt and the bells fell down. The marble memorial appears undamaged but has been put in the vestry high up on the wall and now part is covered by some cupboards.

The Somerset Heritage Centre has no record of GY being appointed as a teacher in Norton-sub-Hamdon. In his will, dated 1824, he left £30 to Hannah MILFORD of Thorverton, Devon, spinster and the residue of £450 to Joan BIDDLECOMBE, spinster, presumably housekeepers. Witnesses were Th^o[?] White ADAMS, Charles COX and Mary GREENHAM. The latter two names are still known in our village.

I found in the *London Apprenticeship Abstracts, 1442 - 1850* a record of GY having an apprentice, Robert BIDDLECOMB; the transcription reads:

Biddlecomb Robert son of Joseph 'Thorncombe' near Chard, Somerset, 'linman' to George Yeatman, 6 Octo 1775, Vintners' Company; Birth County Somerset.

I think GY was baptised in Mosterton, Dorset on 30 September 1744. Is there any chance anyone has heard of him and can add something to the story? How or is he connected to the Vintners' Company if he was a teacher?

Muriel was previously chairman of Norton-sub-Hamdon History Society (now closed)

Andrew Plaster, 11 Stuart Street, Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9QG andrew@plaster5178.fsnet.co.uk;

James COX married Ann CARPENTER in 1755 at Keynsham, Somerset and they first lived in Queen Charlton and later in Keynsham. He was baptised in 1729 at an Independent chapel in the hamlet of Whitley Batts, which is on the A37 road between Pensford and Chelwood. His siblings were also baptised there, but the youngest George at Farmborough in 1739. I would like to have information about the history of the chapel. I do not know whether it was demolished or converted to a dwelling. I noted that Chapel Farm exists in that hamlet and is now a rehabilitation centre for dogs. Their parents were John and Elizabeth Cox (née COLLINS) of 'Houndstreet' (sic. Hunstrete) in the parish of Marksbury. They were married at Stowey in 1725 and she was of Marksbury. John was baptised in 1696 at Farmborough. I traced his ancestral lineage back to around 1576 - still of Farmborough. Edmund Rack's *Survey of Somerset* (1781-87) states, 'handsome tomb is erected to the memory of the Cox family of this parish...'. I wonder if that one was the same family. I shall find out, when I go to there next.



This year we commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli Peninsular campaign. The land battles fought on three fronts by British, Australian, New Zealand and French troops, began after naval action, on 25 April 1915, a day now recognized each year as Anzac Day. The operation was called off in November 1915 and by the middle of January 1916, a complete evacuation had taken place, leaving only the numerous graves of those soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice. The following newspaper extracts honour the memory of our brave ancestors who fought in the brutal actions in the Dardanelles.

**BATH CHRONICLE and
WESTERN GAZETTE**

Saturday 19 June 1915

Private NETLEY killed in Turkey: Mr Ernest Netley of the Ram Brewery, Widcombe, Bath, has just received news of the death of his brother, Private W H Netley of the New Zealand contingent from wounds received in action at Gallipoli on May 8th. Pte Netley was a Bathonian, 31 years of age and had been in New Zealand for about eight years. He joined the Auckland Battalion during the autumn and proceeded directly to Egypt with the Expeditionary Force. He was a nephew of Mrs C HOLLOWAY of Cheap Street, Frome, who has at present nine nephews serving at the Front.

**TAUNTON COURIER and
WESTERN ADVERTISER**

Wednesday 29 September 1915

TIDINGS WANTED of SOLDIERS REPORTED 'MISSING.' The proprietors of this newspaper have much pleasure in announcing that they will, during the War, insert, gratuitously, the names of those who have gone to the Front and are 'Missing' and invite information or news about them, which must in the first instance be addressed to the Editor of this paper.
BEDWELL, Pte T C, 5th Dorset Regt,

Missing in Gallipoli, of Moor Cottage, Chickerell, Weymouth. BEDWELL, Pte F, No 10196 D Comp. 5th Dorsets, Missing 21 August in Gallipoli, of Buckland Rippers. HARVEY, Pte F J, 5th Dorsets, Missing in Gallipoli, of Ansty, Dorset. HERRIDGE, Pte C H, No 12574, B Comp. 11th Division, 5th Dorsets, Missing 21 August in Gallipoli. PASS, Captain A D, 1st Dorset Yeomanry, Wounded 21 August, Hill 70: Sulva Bay: now Missing.

WESTERN GAZETTE

Friday 1 October 1915

POOLE: War Items: Captain Edmund C CARVER, formerly in command at the Naval Base, Poole, is reported as having been wounded in action in the Dardanelles. This report was in the List of Casualties issued by the Admiralty on Friday last.

The death in action at the Dardanelles is announced of Mr Harry Love BALSTON, who was serving with the Australian forces. The deceased who was a son of the late Mr Alfred Balston (owner of the Poole Twine Mills and twice Mayor of the ancient borough), and a brother of Mrs Charles CARTER and Mrs Owen Carter, was about 48 years of age and had emigrated to Australia about twenty-five years ago.

Private John James GOULD of the 5th Dorsets with the British Mediterranean Forces, whose death in action in Gallipoli on August 7th is reported, was the son of Mr and Mrs W H Gould of Blue Boar Lane, Poole. He was only 19 years of age and was formerly employed at Carters Pottery. On the outbreak of war he joined the 5th Dorsets. A nephew of the well known local footballer, Charlie Gould, young Gould was a prominent player in the Carter's Potteries FC. His brother, Gunner W H Gould is serving with the RFA, in France while another brother is employed in making ammunition.

**BATH CHRONICLE and
WESTERN GAZETTE**

Saturday 2 October 1915

Sapper A C CALVERT: The eldest son of Mr and Mrs C J Calvert of 1 Belgrave Villas, Bath, has given his life for his Country at the Dardanelles where so many gallant Britishers have fallen. Sapper Alan Cuthbert Calvert was educated at

King Edward's School, Bath, and on leaving was articled to Mr M A GREEN, architect of Prince's Buildings. From this office he obtained an appointment at Nuneaton and proceeded from the Midland to become an assistant to an architect at Llanelly. He was there when War broke out and immediately enlisted in the 1st Welsh Field Company, Royal Engineers. The unit went to the Dardanelles early in August and his parents received several interesting and cheerful letters from their son describing the fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsular. The last letter was dated 5th of September, three days before he was killed in action. Mr Calvert received the sad news on Friday in the form of a telegram. Deceased was 24 years of age. Another of Mr Calvert's sons, Trooper Maurice J Calvert of the North Somerset Yeomanry who met with a serious accident in Bowood Park, is quite recovered and left that Camp with the 2nd Regiment this week. Much sympathy is felt with Mr and Mrs Calvert in their bereavement.

NOTE: Sapper Calvert's father, Mr Charles James Calvert, died in November 1919 aged 67 after a heart attack. An obituary appeared in *The Bath Chronicle* for Saturday 15 November 1919.

WESTERN GAZETTE

Friday 15 October 1915

ROLL of HONOUR: THORNE: Died of Wounds received at Gallipoli, Lance-Corporal W C Thorne, (5th Service Battalion, Royal Irish), of Layton Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

**TAUNTON COURIER and
WESTERN ADVERTISER**

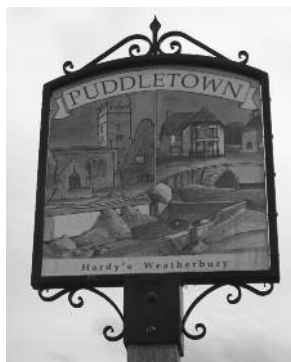
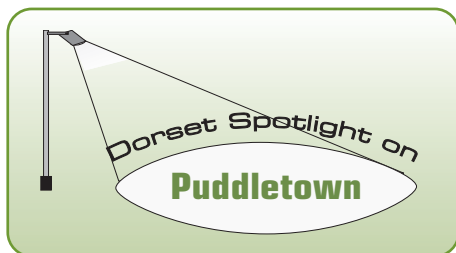
Wednesday 24 November 1915



ROLL of HONOUR: Lieutenant J HASLOCK (pictured) KILLED IN ACTION.

Lt J Haslock, the son of the late Mr J B Haslock of Crewkerne, has died on a Hospital ship from wounds received in Gallipoli. Lt Haslock, who joined the Gloucestershire Regiment as a private, rapidly rose and was finally gazetted to a Lieutenancy.

Teresa Williams



Puddletown village sign

Puddletown is Thomas HARDY's Weatherbury in *Far from the Madding Crowd*. If you've seen the latest film version of that splendid book, bear in mind that the 'Weatherbury' scenes were actually shot in Sherborne. Puddletown is in the land of Piddles and Puddles, just a few miles from Dorchester. It is a big village of about 1500 people; indeed, once it was

a small market town. It probably grew up around the junction of two major routes - the road going west towards Dorchester and the road going north-east to Blandford and Shaftesbury. In recent years the A35 has been considerably improved and now by-passes the village.

The village is roughly square in shape, with the church at its centre. The church of St Mary the Virgin is a delight, having been largely overlooked by the Victorian restorers. When you open the door, the smell of old wood hits you. It is still furnished with box pews, each with its own door and peg to hang your hat and coat on. You were snug and private in there, and could be seen only by the vicar preaching from the three-decker pulpit or by the musicians in the west gallery. The interior was re-fitted between 1634 and 1637 and has been largely untouched since. Look round and reflect that this is what a village church would have looked like nearly 400 years ago.



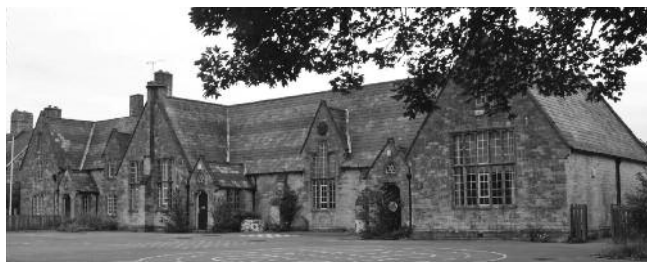
St Mary the Virgin, church interior
Copyright Maigheach-gheal and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

There are monuments aplenty for the ancestor-seeker to study - but only if you are descended from the nobility or gentry. Big Houses abound hereabouts - Athelhampton and Waterston were both seats of the MARTIN (or MARTYN) family and Ilsington House

belonged to the Earls of Orford. In the Athelhampton Chapel there are brasses and effigies of various Martins. Another name you will see frequently is BRYMER. John Brymer was a significant figure in Puddletown history. He bought the Manor (Ilsington House and most of the village) from the Earl of Orford in 1861. The 4th Earl of Orford was a member of the WALPOLE family. They were absentee landlords, their seat being in Norfolk. It was John Brymer who tidied up the village. Other names I spotted were ALNER, BRUNE, CUNNINGHAM, HELPS and HOOTON. If you seek a trace of more humble ancestors, climb the steep stair to the west gallery and study the names carved deeply into the ledge, the work of bored singers with sharp pen-knives. It is said that members of Thomas Hardy's family have recorded their presence here - his grandfather was a member of the church band. The War Memorials are in the church. It would be easy to spend the rest of the day exploring the church but there is a lot more to see.

Just outside the churchyard, behind a high wall, is the imposing pile of the The Old Vicarage and Dawnay House. The Old Vicarage dates from the mid 1500s and Dawnay House, attached to it, was an extension to the vicarage added by the Hon. Henry DAWNAY, vicar from 1722 to 1754. Not for the first time, you will be amazed at the lordly style in which 18th century vicars lived. Dr Dawnay, however, has left records of his ministry - the people he visited etc. I think that these are available in the Dorset History Centre in Dorchester.

At right angles to Dawnay House are gates and a drive leading to what is now described as The Old Manor (was there ever such an overworked name). This used to be Ilsington House - it is now, I believe, a care home. The Brymer family, who bought the estate from the Walpole family in 1861, have left their mark all over Puddletown - literally. Many of the houses, the village school and the former Reading Room were built in a sort of mock-gothic style - you will see shields on them bearing the initials of the Brymers. Having said that, the village school (in the High Street) is a particularly handsome building; it has been described as 'a good, unspoiled example of a Victorian village school.' I noted, with certain sadness, that it's presently up for sale. The terrace of houses opposite the village shop is another good example of Brymer-gothic.



Puddletown - former school

The most photographed building in Puddletown must be Stephens' shop, now called Troy House, in The Square. With its thatch, its pillars and its Venetian window it is unique. Whether the Stephens in the old name refers to the family of Humphrey STEPHENS, I do not know. He was a Methodist, who built a chapel

just outside Brymer land - Brymer clearly did not like Dissenters. Another interesting house in that part of the village is Tudor Cottage, in Mill St. With its flint and stone banding, mullioned windows and thatched roof, it bears the date 1573. It was the home of the well-known Dorset writer and broadcaster Ralph WIGHTMAN. It appears to be the oldest house in the village (bar, maybe, bits of the Old Vicarage) but who knows what may be lurking under some of those rebuilt, re-roofed, restored cottages. Puddletown was also home to the ANTELL and SPARKS families, both related to Thomas Hardy. Tryphena (there's a name few of us have on our family trees) Sparks was Hardy's cousin, a young woman who had a considerable influence on him.



Troy House

Follow Mill Street until you reach the miniature three-arch bridge over the River Piddle. Here the water is sparkling clear and inches deep. Turn left and follow the river until you

reach Blandford Road. This part of the village is called The Moor and in Rev Dawney's time it was the site of

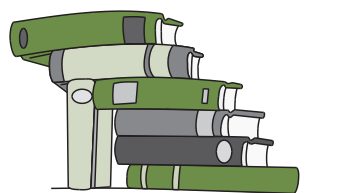
the children's poorhouse - he records it as accommodating 22 children. In looking at the rural idyll you see now, you can forget just how hard life was - Hardy recalls a shepherd boy who starved to death; the autopsy revealed just a few scraps of turnip in his stomach.

Once, the village had six pubs. Today The Moor is the location of Puddletown's only remaining pub - the Blue Vinny. Though of no great age, it is warm and welcoming and serves good food and beer. Blue Vinny is a Dorset cheese, made from unpasteurised milk and I was able to buy a piece at Puddletown's Post Office

Puddletown hit the headlines in 1976, when King Edward the Martyr held his Council Meeting (a sort of Saxon Cabinet) here. At Domesday (1086) it was a big village of maybe 200 to 300 people. Then it lapsed into the long torpor of the Middle Ages, about which we know little. By 1595, the Martyns had gone - the male line died out, leaving four daughters, none of whom wanted to live in Athelhampton. In all probability the village changed little in the 200-plus years from the refurbishing of the church in the 1630s to the one Brymer bought and remodelled in 1861. But now it is tidy and prosperous, with old cottages renovated and much new housing filling in the gaps. Ralph Wightman wrote, back in 1965, that 'only the elderly have any roots in the place', to which he adds; 'but this is not necessarily a bad thing'. Well, it's a point of view.

Mike Whitaker

mjowhitaker38@gmail.com



Book Reviews

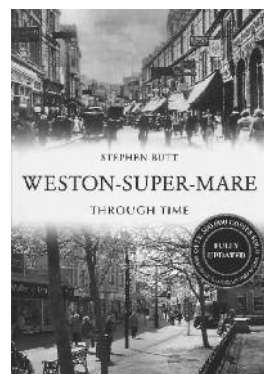
This is an updated version of local-boy Stephen Butt's comparison of pictures of this famous seaside town in older times, matched with today's views. A surprising number of large Victorian houses survive and other 'replacements' have matched

Weston-Super-Mare Through Time

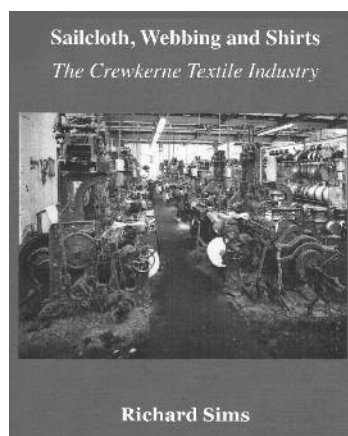
their predecessors well. But this is also a modern seaside family resort; a visit would be enhanced by taking a copy of this book, helping you to spot buildings you might otherwise not notice.

Weston-super-Mare Through Time, Stephen Butt, 96 pages, fully illustrated, published by Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4EP.

Available from SDFHS Booksales:
Over the counter £14.99; posted UK
£16.95; OS £20.50



Sailcloth, Webbing and Shirts; The Crewkerne Textiles Industry



This is a superb A4 bound presentation of the history of this vital local industry as it related to the Somerset town, which included factories and home-workers. The surprise is the large number of quality photographs, very well-produced and complimented by diagrams. Existing former buildings which now serve other uses are highlighted, including *Twinford* alongside Chinnock Brook, former warehouse *Brook Barn* now two dwellings, and Richard HAYWARD's flax workshop adjacent to *Old Beams*,

where his father lived. There are short family trees of the said Hayward, plus BIRD, MATHEWS AND HASLOCK and Arthur HART and like all good family history books, a name index.

Sailcloth, Webbing and Shirts; The Crewkerne Textile Industry, Richard Sims, A4 size, 166 pages, fully illustrated, published 2015 by Studio 6 Publishing, St Michael's Trading Estate, Bridport DT6 3RR.

Available from SDFHS Booksales:
Over the counter £15.00; posted UK
£18.35; OS £23.60

The Victoria History of the Counties of England; Somerset. Vol XI Queen Camel and the Cadburys.

Few if any researchers will not know of this definitive series so we are fortunate to have been presented with the latest edition which in some detail covers the histories (with respective authors) of Catsash Hundred, Queen Camel, North Cadbury, South Cadbury, Compton Pauncefoot, Maperton, Sparkford, Sutton Montis and Weston Bampfylde, all by M C Siraut, who also shared authorship of North and South Barrow with Robert Dunning, while sections on sites, buildings and the built character included sections by Matthew Bristow and Elizabeth Williamson. Within its 232 A4-size pages there are 94 illustrations and 15 maps, the latter especially drawn by Cath D'Alton.

They are not big on ordinary people's surnames but they present enough detail of the environment that our ancestors experienced. Taking a sketch map of South Cadbury parish in 1842 as an example, the fields, woods and of course the 'castle' are shown, as are the locations of the various buildings at the time. Church, inn, rectory, poorhouse are shown, plus dots to indicate other dwellings. That surely narrows down our search.

A magnificent piece of work, now available for visitors to our Society Library at Sherborne. Those unable to visit may avail themselves of the Society's research service. Details are recorded on the inside back cover of each edition of *The Greenwood Tree*.

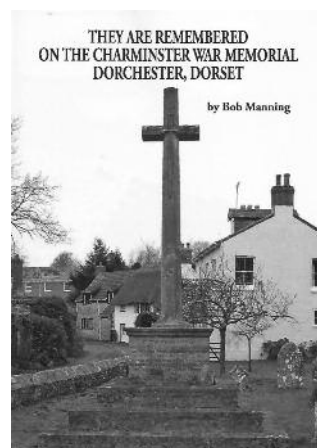
Charminster War Memorial

SDFHS member Bob Manning of Charminster near Dorchester has produced a neat, A5 glossy 96-page book which gives details of the 22 men from the village who died in WW1, the nine from WW2 and, something of a bonus, the 10 whose names appear on the nearby former Herrison Hospital memorial. Bob goes to tremendous detail, an example being Private Herbert Charles CLARKE, who died in Palestine and is buried at Ramleh War Cemetery. There were several Clark(e) families at the time and entries for this same family

seemed to be both with or without the 'e'. Even tracing a person with the first name Luke has proved difficult. A quality production, something of a model for this type of publication.

They Are Remembered On The Charminster War Memorial, Dorchester, Dorset, Bob Manning, 96 pages, illustrated, available from Bob Manning, 21 Vicarage Lane, Charminster, Dorchester, DT2 9QF
Email: bobmanning@uwclub.net

Book reviews by Colin Dean



Membership Subscriptions

If your membership of the Society expires at the end of 2015, you will find a subscription renewal letter enclosed with this mailing (printed on the reverse of the address insert).

At the Annual General Meeting on 19 September 2015, members approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee that a discounted three-year subscription rate should be re-introduced, so you can now either continue to renew your subscription on an annual basis, or renew for the next three years (expiring at the end of 2018) at a reduced annual rate. The subscription rates are listed in the renewal letter.

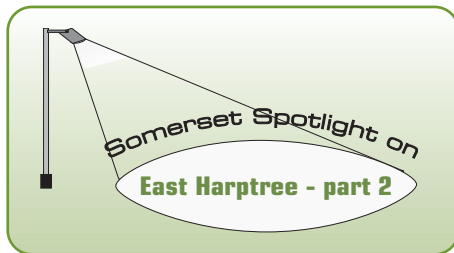
We now have a number of ways you can pay your subscription:

- Sterling cash if you are able to call at our Family History Centre in person. Please do not send cash through the post;
- Sterling cheque payable on a UK bank - we regret that we are unable to accept personal cheques in other currencies;
- Credit/Debit card, by completing the form at the bottom of the letter. Your card details will be destroyed as soon as we have taken payment;
- Securely at our new online shop (link on the website: www.sdfhs.org) using PayPal - either with your own PayPal account, if you have one, or by credit/debit card;
- Direct transfer to our bank account: Barclays Bank plc, Taunton Branch, Sort Code: 20 85 26. Account name: The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society. Account No: 30817880.

If you pay using PayPal or by direct bank transfer, please ensure that your membership number (next to your address on the mailing insert and letter) is quoted as well as your name.

We very much hope that you will wish to continue your membership of the Society and will look forward to hearing from you.

Patricia Spencer
Membership Secretary
sdfhsmembership@outlook.com



There are four large houses in the parish. Harptree Court was probably built around 1745, although the earliest surviving deed dates from 1811. It was bought by Earl WALDEGRAVE in 1804, who sold it to the Gurneys in 1860. Frank Taylor, their butler, lived there until 1873, when he sold it to W W KETTLEWELL. In 1920, his son, Col H W Kettlewell sold it to Charles L HILL.



Harptree Court

Mrs W W Kettlewell retired to Harptree House when her husband died. It once belonged to a Mr HOOPER, one of whose sons was Dr William Hooper, the father of the Church Missionary Society. There is a tablet in the church to his memory. Eastwood Manor was built by Charles KEMBLE in 1874 of banker stone; it has been owned since then by MARDONS, LAMBERTs, WARDELL-YERBURGHs and ROBINSONs, and was used as a nursing home until 1994. Summerleaze, in Townsend, was a secondary private school for boys for 40 years, but was closed just before the First World War. It is now a private house.

Right in the centre of the village, with the school, theatre and shops in close proximity, is the village clock, which was a gift of Mr WW Kettlewell, and was erected in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Clock Tower has its inscriptions *Heaven's Light our Guide* and *Time Flies Don't Delay*. The Theatre (or it may be called village club) was built by the Kettlewells in 1889, and managed by the Rector and Church Council who rented it from the owners for village activities. In September 1945, Col Kettlewell offered to sell the Theatre to the village for £1,200. The original Co-operative Stores were started in 1899 by the Kettlewells, when they found that people were getting into debt to the local shopkeepers. The premises were afterwards purchased by the Kettlewells, and became the property of the members. At one time the Co-op employed eight people, with two vans touring the valley doing deliveries. The Co-op was closed in 1972, and it became the 'Village

Stores', now closed a few years ago. Its replacement, a community shop, is based in the Theatre building.

The village school was founded by John Newton in 1653. The school records start in 1893, when 113 children were taught in two small rooms. The building was an old converted cottage then, although a new room had been built on in 1807. A new classroom was built in 1899 for 40 children and an infant room in 1901, with a cloakroom, to increase the capacity to 140. From the school records the following entries can be found:

- June 1894 - Have had all the slates scrubbed and relined by the boys of the 1st class
- October 1894 - School was closed last week for potato picking.
- November 1894 - Owing to excessive floods school closed 3 half-days this week.
- March 1897 - Children used paper in upper standards for the first time.
- August 1901 - New porch built by W.W. Kettlewell.
- March 1904 - Slates abolished, and children admitted to school at 3 years of age.
- September 1939 - Arrival of evacuees from Bristol with 2 masters.
- September 1948 - The school became an under 11, the seniors going to Bishop Sutton.

The school still receives money from the Plumley Charity, which was set up in 1615 by William PLUMLEY, Gent, who left all his land in Glastonbury and Catcott for the use of the poor in East Harptree. In 1911 part of the money was used to set up the Trust for the school, Plumley's Educational Foundation, which still benefits the children. A plaque was recently erected on the front wall, and it says '350 years of Learning and generations of memories A.D. 2003'.



East Harptree village school

Around 1870 there were six inns in the parish: the Waldegrave Arms (between the church and the school), The Castle of Comfort (in the south of the parish on the Mendips), The Lilacs, Live and Let Live, and two more at Proud Cross and in Middle Street. Only the first two remain.

The churchyard is higher than the fields around owing to successive burials. The church path is made of old tombstone slabs laid upside down. Behind the church there are four interesting gravestones, their inscriptions include the following:

- (1) Charlotte, the wife of Rev DAVIDSON, died in 1841, the daughter of T G BRAMSTON Esq of Skreens, Essex,
- (2) John Rogers LAWRENCE, Senior Captain in the Honourable East India Company's Naval Service, died at South Widcombe in 1854, aged 84

- (3) William HOOPER Lieut RN died in 1861, aged 62, third son of John Hooper Esq of Hendford House, Yeovil, Somerset, and Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Thomas Gardiner Bramston of Skreens, Essex
- (4) Frances Isabella EDWARDS, youngest daughter of Brigadier General Edwards, died in 1832, aged 24. Her sister Elizabeth Saunderson TATE, wife of Capt W A Tate of HEIC Service, died in 1836, aged 36, also another sister Mary Anne RIDDELL, relict of late Capt A N Riddell, died in 1839, aged 37.

A former Catholic chapel, dedicated to St Michael, is situated to the north of Townsend, just past Summerleaze. Services are now held at West Harptree Parish Church. A Methodist chapel, on the road towards West Harptree, is now converted to dwelling houses called 'Chapel House' and still bears an inscription 'United Methodist Church' on its front wall.

A number of accounts of life in the parish have been written in the last 100 years. In 1927, Mrs W. Kettlewell of Harptree Court published a small book entitled *Trinkum Trinkums*, which describes life in the village through her observations from 1875 to 1927. In 1953 the Women's Institute produced for a village history competition to celebrate the Queen's coronation a *History of East Harptree*, which contains many observations of contemporary village life. Jon Budd compiled for the millennium *East Harptree, Times*

Remembered Times Forgotten. Ian S Bishop recently published *Around Harptree*, featuring dozens of rarely-seen photos of the bygone area.

The village is now a very pleasant and affluent community, with many of the old cottages and homes comfortably converted. Agriculture and mining for lead and calamine were once the mainstay of East Harptree: the whole village is honeycombed with old mine workings.

Holdings at Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton for the parish of East Harptree include the parish register dating from 1663; Bishop's Transcripts, from 1597 but with gaps; Churchwardens Accounts (1728-1919); Overseers Account Book (1728-1812); and Vestry Minute Books (1851-1922).

Andrew Plaster
andrew@plaster5178.fsnet.co.uk

Andrew Plaster, the *Somerset Spotlight* series co-ordinator, would particularly like to receive articles for our series. Such articles can feature a history of the parish including historical connections and events in the parish, notable residents, your family history situated in the parish etc. This would be of particular interest to our out-of-county and overseas members. Articles for this series should be emailed to andrew@plaster5178.fsnet.co.uk

Group News

Frome Group Closing

It is with regret that we report that the Frome group will be closing at the end of this year and the Committee will be dissolving the group in its present form. A number of meetings have been held asking for people to come forward to take on the running of the group but without success. Among the reasons for closing the group was the lack of support from Society members locally. A small informal group may continue concentrating on the Frome area, but this depends entirely on the support from the present group. The Frome group was formed in 2004.

FROME	
Frome Library, 7.30pm last Tuesday of each month.	
Wendy Miller-Williams, Frome Library, Justice Road, Frome BA11 1BE. (01373) 462215	
Nov 30	Group Social and Quiz – bring a plate of food and bottle to share
Dec	No meeting
Jan 25	Early Genealogical Sources in the Frome area – Michael McGarvie
Feb 22	The 1901 Census – Steve Wilkinson

*Frome group's original
programme of meetings:
GT v29.4, November 2004, p151*

Gerry Burdall

East Dorset Group News

Rob Curtis returned in June to talk on *Turnpikes and Coaching Days*. Rob divided his talk into four parts: The history, forms of construction and development of roads from pre-Roman times to the turnpike era; the different forms of travel and the developments and improvement of the wagons and coaches; Coaching Inns; and the end of the turnpike and stagecoach era with the coming of the railways in the 19th century.

Rob described drovers tracks, mainly used to move animals, Roman Roads and then the turnpike era. He dealt with the crude forms of road construction and surfacing and the roles of Telford and Macadam. The responsibility for upkeep of roads started with churches and monasteries, then parishes from 1555, followed by the turnpikes and finally local authorities from 1888.

The first Turnpike Act was in 1663; the first in Dorset was 1753 with a length of the road which became the A30. Duties to provide milestones were imposed on turnpikes and surviving examples of milestones were shown. We learnt of the multitude of charging systems and common exemptions such as foot passengers, funerals and soldiers. The unpopularity of tolls and the ensuing problems of disputes and damage to gates and toll houses were emphasised as the turnpike movement grew apace in the 18th century. By 1770 there were over 500 Turnpikes, primarily on lengths of road which still form part of the country's arterial road system. Many were not a financial success and mortgaging of future tolls was common. The last turnpike road was created in 1857 and the trusts had disappeared by the 1880s, largely as a result of competition from railways. The wheel has now turned full circle however with the advent of toll roads on the motorways.

Rob emphasised the increasing role (and eventually staggering numbers) of horses involved. We learned of the role and practices of Stage and Mail coaches to reduce journey times and comply with rigorous timetables. Despite advances in construction, travel by coach always remained a very uncomfortable, exhausting and dangerous experience, including the possibility of meeting the odd highwayman.

Rob concluded his talk by referring to the three turnpike trusts affecting Wimborne. These were

Puddletown and Wimborne, Blandford and Wimborne and Poole (Poole, Wimborne and Cranborne). Several members had ancestral links with aspects raised in the talk. The Treasurer for example had links with the mail coaches in Bath, and the Chairman claimed a toll-collector who occupied the toll house he showed on the old wooden bridge across the Thames at Putney.

In July Sue Thornton-Grimes presented *An introduction to one-name studies*. Sue is a member of the Guild of One-Named Studies (GOONS) and is the Guild's Regional Representative. She outlined the history of the Guild, which was founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the FFHS. The Guild became a registered charity in 1989 with its principal object being to advance one-name studies. To qualify for registering a one-name study one needs to have a significant body of data relating to the surname and its variants. A one-name study is a project researching all occurrences of a surname, as opposed to studies of multiple surnames such as a pedigree or descendency. Some one-name members restrict their research geographically, but to register a surname a member must commit to researching on a world-wide basis. Researchers also study the etymology and derivation of the surname. Some Guild members combine their research with a DNA project, and make use of online networking services such as Facebook.

Membership of the Guild is open to anyone interested in one-name studies; registration of a surname is not a condition of membership. The Register of One-Name Studies is published annually and the Guild's magazine, the *Journal of One-Name Studies*, is published quarterly.

Sue emphasised the benefits of joining the Guild which include: An annual conference; one-day seminars held nationally and regionally; projects; an award-winning website at www.one-name.org; advice on setting up your own website with publicity on the Guild's website; an on-line mailing list and the Guild's Rootsweb; advice on organising a one-name gathering and many other useful handouts.

The Guild also runs a marriage index; a Guild 'marriage challenge' linking the BMD indexes to their related parish register entries; a probate index search containing references in wills to persons with surnames not the subject of any one-name study and an inscription index. There is also an 'adopt a local newspaper' project where an individual member agrees to research a local newspaper and index names found. To meet the concern of members that compilations are lost when researchers die, the Guild has created an electronic repository for members' one-name records.

At its foundation, the Guild had about 200 members and now has slightly more than 2,600. The Register includes 8,400 surnames and variants. Members have come from over 30 countries: some 3000 having lived in Britain; 400 in North America and Canada, 200 in Australia and New Zealand. Dorset boasts some 45 members.

At the members' evening in August, *Every picture tells a story*, members showed family photos.

Wendy BARNES's father had originally been sent to India with the 7th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment. His unit was shown in transit on the dockside at Alexandria. He later saw action in

Mesopotamia and had kept a book recording his experiences which was now in Wendy's possession.

Mary DUNFORD showed two photos of her husband's grandfather in uniform. On enlistment he had been assigned to the Royal Sussex Regiment but was later transferred to the Royal Engineers (Hampshire Division). Part of his war service had taken place in Italy, something of a forgotten war zone in WW1. He was there assisting the Italian forces who were then our Allies.

John BOYS' father's studies at Cambridge had been interrupted by service in WW1. He had spent almost the entire war in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. John had a photo of his father seated among fellow prisoners, with a German guard.

Pat Hilbert has identified from a photo a medal which was awarded to a member of the Dorset Regiment killed on 21 August 1915 in the Gallipoli Campaign. Pat's research has found civilian and military records, including the War Diaries for the date of the soldier's death, and its commemoration on the Cape Helles Memorial.

Linda Bunting had a photograph of her paternal great-grandmother Elizabeth STROHACKER and 5 of her younger descendants. Linda described her research into the Germanic name: Strohacker had been changed to STOCKTON to overcome the anti-German feeling during WW1.

Chris DEANE had a photo including 7 people from 3 earlier generations of his family, the oldest being his 2x great-grandmother born in 1811. His second photo showed two people in the 1930s, one an unnamed elderly lady standing in front of her house. Chris had been able to confirm his provisional identification of the lady as his maternal great-grandmother Emma WOODLEY by identifying the house on Google Street Scene.

Sheila SIMONS' photograph was of her great-grandfather, born in 1860 in Malvern. He was shown in 1907 working on the building of the Rotherhithe Tunnel. Sheila's research revealed the astonishing number of places to which he had had to move for work, including Bombay.

John DAMON's photo depicted an early laundry van displaying the name Damon from Garfield Road, Bishops Waltham. The registration plate commenced AA. Despite extensive investigation the precise identity of the Damons involved in this laundry remains a mystery, although John has traced various other relatives employed in the laundry business, including a family who appeared in ships' crew lists as laundry operatives on liners travelling the world.

Alan BROWN's photos were of two very different sisters, Charlotte and Phyllis ORCHARD, his maternal great aunts. Charlotte with her husband had emigrated to Perth in Australia, but had always kept in touch with her family in England. But the family had lost all contact with Phyllis. Alan's research showed that Phyllis had also emigrated to the same area of Australia and was sure that this was known to Charlotte. Phyllis's 'disappearance' was probably due to the fact that as a widow she had formed a common law marriage with a George Brown, who was already married.

Pat Hilbert
GPHilbert@aol.com

John Marshall - an obituary

John Royston Marshall was born at Southmead Hospital in Bristol on 21 December 1947 to parents Katherine (who was known as Kitty) and Tom (who was known as Roy). Sadly John lost his father to leukaemia when John was only nine years old and so he lived with his mum, a tough lady, and her father, Grandad Lillycrop. John won a scholarship to attend Queen Elizabeth Hospital School in Bristol, a private school for boys, and his most vivid memory of his time there was that he had to wear bright yellow socks! John was also a member of the Air Cadets as he harboured an ambition to become a pilot; sadly, they thought he would make a good navigator instead. This wasn't good enough for John, so when he left school

he went to work for the University of Bristol as a computer operator, remaining there until the early 70s when he went to work for British Aerospace as a computer technician. It was while working there that he first became a trade unionist joining APEX, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, and rising to become their shop steward at British Aerospace.

John joined the SDFHS in 2003 and was a stalwart of the Society, holding several of the key roles. He was Vice-Chairman from 2006 to 2008, when he took over as Chairman, a post he held until



2012, with a break for ill-health. He then acted as Treasurer for a year. He was a regular contributor to

The Greenwood Tree, and spoke widely at regional group meetings and in the Centre in Sherborne. His experience over a wide range of interests was vast; his knowledge of aviation, railway, naval and military history, was always willingly shared. He was particularly interested in photographic

interpretation. He will be sadly missed by many members in the Society.

John passed away peacefully on 29 June 2015. He was 67 years old. Our sympathies go to John's wife Mary, and their family.

Pedigree and family tree collection

One of the sources of material unique to the Society is its collection of Dorset and Somerset pedigrees and family trees. In May 2013 (GT vol 38.2, p35) we reported on recent donations, including Brenda Tunks collection of documents relating to Dorset HARDY families, and in May 2014 (GT v39.2, p48) Colin Dean's *Secrets from the Centre* piece highlighted some of the larger pedigrees held on the open shelves in the FHC in Sherborne. Volunteers Dorothy Bower and Wendy Lugg are responsible for maintaining the pedigree database and dealing with requests from members and other researchers. Here Dorothy describes how the pedigree database works, and illustrates how it is used to help researchers contact others interested in the same family lines.

Thanks to the generosity of members and others, the Society is able to continuously add to its pedigree collection, and now has a searchable database containing almost four thousand individual pedigrees and family trees. All new members are sent a form to submit to the Society with their personal pedigrees, some of which may contain many hundred names and

details. Larger pedigrees, family trees and personal family history books are held in the FHC library at Sherborne. Information held in this resource is used to assist researchers and volunteers, and a search can be made for a small fee for both members and non members.

For example, recently we were able to help a member in America who is researching his DUCK family in Somerset. The Society were gifted a pedigree by Ivan Duck with details which date back to the early 1600s. The family was at that time in the Kingsbury Episcopi and East Lambrook area. We were able to make a connection to an entry in the early 1800s and have put the two members in contact.

Following a request from Australia by Donald Grey-Smith we assisted with his research into the BRYANT family from the Bridgwater area, who emigrated in the mid 1800s. Using information from our pedigree database together with additional research we were able to update Donald's records. He then revised and published his family history, entitled *Boat People of the Empire*, a copy of which we hold in Sherborne. Earlier this year we received another request for help concerning the same Bryant family,

again from Australia. We were able to put the researcher in touch with Donald via his publisher.

The collection of Somerset and Dorset pedigrees is unique to our Society and we would greatly appreciate additional pedigrees and family histories relating to the two counties.

Dorothy Bower



The larger pedigrees and family histories on the open shelves in the FHC

Research and Society News

Francis Frith Collection

Images of UK cities, towns and villages from the Francis Frith Collection are now available on ancestry. The photos are primarily topographical - of towns, landmarks and landscapes. These include thousands of individual streets, churches, castles, landscapes, businesses, bridges, municipal buildings and locations that have been important in individuals' lives.



Founded by Francis Frith in 1860, the company published over 300,000 photographs which were sold to tourists as souvenirs, and later as postcards. Frith is recognised as one of the great pioneers of photography. He is best known today for the amazing archive his company created. Today the Collection is famous as an outstanding record of British towns and villages over 110 years and provides a lot of information about everyday life over that period. The company continues to add to the archive and publish in the Frith tradition.

A quick search on Taunton produced 259 hits with dates between c1869-c1960, and Lyme Regis produced 421 hits between 1890-1965

FreeREG

Members will be familiar with FreeBMD, the combined efforts of volunteers to compile the first comprehensive index of the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales.

FreeBMD is part of FreeUKGenealogy project, which also includes FreeCEN (census data) and FreeREG (parish registers). The search engine for FreeREG has recently been updated as part of work to overhaul all of the FreeUKGenealogy websites. The updated website was called FreeREG2, but is now accessed by the usual FreeREG link: <http://www.freereg.org.uk/>

At present the database holds about 33 million records and it is important to know which registers have (and have not) been transcribed. Information about this and general hints on how to search the database can be found in the help menu. The main improvements include the ability to search all three types of records (baptisms, marriages and burials) at once, as well as the ability to search across all counties (within a given date range). It is possible to include (or exclude) other family members mentioned in the record, and to include nearby places. FreeREG is now updated daily, so it is worth returning to the website from time to time. You may find this blog useful: <http://essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk/freeregs-new-look/>

Civil Divorce Records, 1858-1914

Ancestry has recently updated its records of the papers relating to UK civil divorce proceedings that followed the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act, previously only available from TNA. Divorce in the UK changed in 1858 when the 1857 Act took effect. Among other things, this law removed divorce from the jurisdiction of the church. Though divorce still remained primarily a privilege of the wealthy, it no longer required the intervention of Parliament as it had in days past. Women were also given more access to divorce if they could prove both adultery and an accompanying cause such as cruelty, desertion, or bigamy. Later reforms would give women more control over property they brought into a marriage and more custody rights. TNA describes the records in this database as follows:

Files of papers arising from petitions for divorce, judicial separation, declarations of legitimacy, applications for protection of a wife's earnings, etc, in the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes and Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. Some later files also relate to appeals from decisions of magistrates' courts in matrimonial causes....

In most cases the files have been weeded and contain only minutes, pleadings and decrees, but in certain selected suits, illustrating particular kinds of proceedings, papers have been preserved in their entirety. The end date for records in this database is determined by privacy laws. These records also include petitions for separation or to have a marriage nullified.

National Probate Calendar 1858-1959

Findmypast has released access to the National Probate Calendar for England and Wales, previously only available on ancestry. The whole text in the index

 Probate Calendars Of England & Wales 1858-1959

Find out if your ancestor left a will or was mentioned in one. Search more than 500,000 people listed in the probate calendars between 1858 and 1959. Each entry gives the date of the will and lists at least the executor and administrator of the will, and sometimes the main beneficiaries. This can show you connections to other branches of the family or close associates and give you other avenues to explore.
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YEAR	Give or take YYYY -/+ 2yrs
FIRST LETTER OF SURNAMES	
FULL TEXT SEARCH	"George Bernard Shaw"
ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS	
 Search Probate Calendars Of England & Wales 1858-1959 Clear search	

had been scanned by optical character recognition software, so in principle you can carry out searches previously not possible, for example an address or the name of an executor. For more information read Peter Calver's excellent newsletter:

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/midaug15news.htm>

eBay Expert?

Does anyone fancy selling second-hand books on eBay for the Society? We are often given quite valuable books, with permission to sell these to raise funds for the Society, but seldom find takers at Fairs or Open Days. If you think you could do better by selling the books on eBay, please let me know,

by contacting me at the Centre or by email. You would probably need to live within easy reach of Sherborne to be able to collect the books.

Barry Brock
01935 389611
sdfhs@btconnect.com

Group Programmes

All members of SDFHS are welcome at any or all of these Group Meetings. Why not plan your visit to Somerset or Dorset around one or more? Contact the Programme Organiser beforehand and you'll be well looked after. **It is advisable to check date, time and location before travelling a long distance.**

BLACKMORE VALE

The Exchange, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1FH.
Commencing 7.30pm Meetings: second Wednesday of the month

James Pitman, 15 Belmont Close, Shaftesbury SP7 8NF.

james.pitman@talktalk.net and Judy Hodges

judy.hodges948@btinternet.com

Nov 11 WW1 (In House)

Dec 9 Bonny Sartin

2016

Jan 13 TBA

Feb 10 TBA

SOUTH DORSET

St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Rd, Weymouth, DT3 5EW
Meetings will commence at 2.00pm with tea/coffee,

followed by the talk at 2.30 pm

Meetings: third Friday in the month

John Yallop 01305 776008 or theyallops@tiscali.co.uk

Nov 20 How Did They Get There? - *Ted Udall*

Dec No Meeting

2016

Jan 15 A visit to the Dorchester History Centre for a behind the scenes tour. Numbers limited

Feb 19 Thomas Fowell of Belfield - *Joyce Fannon.*

EAST DORSET

Hilda Coles Learning Centre at the Priests House Museum in Crown Mead, Wimborne (evening access is via the rear doors off Crown Mead and adjacent to the library), 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Meetings: third Monday in the month

Pat Hilbert, 32 Lancaster Drive, Verwood, Dorset BH31 6TG

01202 821478 or GPHilbert@aol.com

Nov 16 My Clergyman Ancestors - *Chris Deane*

Dec 21 Members' evening - Quizzes, Brickwalls and Family History Queries

2016

Jan 18 Newspaper Research - *George Hilbert*

Feb 15 Newfoundland Connection - *Roger Guttridge*

TAUNTON

Kilkenny Court, side of railway station car park, 7.30pm.

Meetings: first Tuesday each month.

Sue Burne, 6 Townsend Lane, Chilton Polden TA7 9EL

01278 722706 or sueburne@aol.com

Nov 3 Gunpowder, Treason & Plot - *Lynda Hotchkiss*

Dec 1 Group social evening and quiz

2016

Jan 5 My Family Stories, True or False - *Bob Steed*

Feb 2 The Boys - *John Lowe*

FROME

Upstairs Frome Library (Rear Entrance),

Justice Lane, Frome BA11 1BE. at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Meetings: last Tuesday of the month, except Aug and Dec

Sue Simpson 01373 464118 or cfsimpson@aol.com

Nov 24 World War 1 Medals of Frome Men: A look at medal collecting and researching the men they belonged to. - *Adrian Hockedy*

Dec No Meeting

2016

January TBA

WEST DORSET

Loders Village Hall Saturdays 2pm-4.30pm

Meetings: second Saturday in the month

Brian Webber 01935 812347 or

mrwebber@btinternet.com

Nov 14 A to Z of Family History: an alphabetical journey through some less well-known sources - *Dr Janet Few*
Dec Xmas Lunch - TBC

2016

Jan 9 AGM and Members' session: 'Were any of our ancestors part of, or close to, a major event?'

Feb 13 My Family and Other Smugglers - *Roger Guttridge*

MID-SOMERSET

The Residents Lounge, Bluestone Court, Oxendale, Street, 7.30pm

Meetings: second Thursday of the month

Steve Wilkinson, 4 King Alfred's Way,

Wedmore, Somerset BS28 4BB

01934 712724 or as.wilkinson@btinternet.com

Nov 12 Arnos Vale Cemetery - *Alan Bambury*

Dec 10 How did they get there? - *Ted Udall*

2016

Jan 14 TBA

Feb 11 TBA

WEST SOMERSET

Memorial Hall (Doll Museum) Main Street, Dunster

(Parking - main street or public car park

before entering the village from Minehead)

Meetings: last Wednesday in the month 7pm for 7.15pm

Mrs Jane Sharp, 8 Liddymore Rd, Watchet TA23 0DQ

01984 639428 janeyb8@hotmail.co.uk

Nov 25 Group Meeting - Help and Advice

Dec No Meeting

2016

Jan 27 Group meeting - Members' contributions -

An interesting ancestor

Feb 24 Visiting the Somme - *Jane Sharp*

SEDGEMOOR

St. John's Church Hall, (behind the church) Church St.,

Highbridge, TA9 3HS 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Lin Hoddinott 51 Church Road, West Huntspill,

Highbridge. TA9 3RZ

01278 789637 or linhoddinott@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings: first Thursday of the month

Nov 5 Edwardian Music brought to life - *David Sutcliffe*

Dec 3 Local speaker and group members - *Christmas buffet*

2016

Jan No Meeting

Feb 4 Doctors of Wedmore 1600s - 1900s - *Hazel Hudson*

YEOVIL

Holy Trinity Church, Lysander Road,

Yeovil (opp B&Q), 7.30pm

Meetings: second Tuesday in the month

Ted Udall tedudall@hotmail.com

Nov 10 Live update on what's new on the Internet - *Jane Ferentzi-Shepherd*

Dec 8 Why there is no statue of Ian Botham in Somerset - *Mike Bolton*

2016

Jan 2 Anecdotes of church, community and civil war in Somerset - *Ed Lorch*

Feb 9 TBA



SDFHS Family History Centre, Cheap Street, Sherborne

Family History Centre

The SDFHS Family History Centre, the Society Headquarters in Sherborne, is the first port of call for family historians with an interest in Somerset or Dorset and is an excellent base for our many out-of-county and overseas visitors. Our friendly volunteers are on hand to get you started or to provide more specialist advice. The Centre has fast broadband connection and a network of 6 computers which visitors may use. We also subscribe to ancestry and findmypast websites. So those with interests outside Somerset and Dorset will still find the Centre a great resource.

The Society bookstall holds a wide range of books for purchase.

The Centre has a meeting room holding up to 35 people available for hire at a modest hourly charge.

Opening times:

Mon, Fri & Sat 10am-1pm

Thurs 10am-4pm

For more details see our website:

<http://www.sdfhs.org/about-us/headquarters/>

Contact us:

Somerset & Dorset FHS

PO Box 4502

SHERBORNE

Dorset DT9 6YL

Email: sdfhs@btconnect.com

Tel/fax 01935 389611

Satnav postcode DT9 3BJ

Library

The SDFHS Library is housed in the Family History Centre in Sherborne. The main holdings are for Somerset and Dorset and include a comprehensive range of books on the two counties as well as a large number of parish register transcriptions.



Our village files contain histories, details of churches and other notable buildings, press cuttings, brochures and leaflets of local interest.



The library also holds reference material on family, local, social and military history. Although books may not be borrowed our volunteers can make searches and provide photocopies. A thorough search lasting up to an hour costs £5; photocopies 25p per sheet.



Become a Volunteer

The Society always welcomes new volunteers, who can either work at the Society's Family History Centre in Sherborne, or remotely, from home. Volunteers, who will need to be 'computer literate', play a huge part in welcoming visitors to the Centre and in caring for and adding to the Society's records and databases.

A wide variety of tasks is covered by our two category headings: Research Assistance and Projects Assistance.

Research Assistance:

Volunteers who offer to provide research assistance will welcome visitors to the Family History Centre, explain and, where necessary, demonstrate the facilities available and provide advice and assistance to individuals when required. At other times, these volunteers will deal with research requests made by Society members and members of the public who are not able to visit the Centre in person. From time to time, volunteers may represent the Society at fairs and open days run by other genealogical and similar organisations.

Projects Assistance:

Not everyone wishes to participate in such an active way, so there are numerous opportunities for volunteers to help the Society by providing projects assistance. Projects include transcribing information from original documents; maintaining and updating the Society's databases; collecting and collating information from various sources; and undertaking original research; although this is by no means an exhaustive list.

If you are interested, please contact: Barry Brock, Family History Centre Manager.

email: sdfhs@btconnect.com - post: PO Box 4502, Sherborne, DT9 6YL



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2 Greenditch House, Parsonage Lane, Chilcompton BA3 4JU

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

**The SDFHS Family
History Centre,
The Parade,
Cheap Street,
Sherborne.**

**Satnav code:
DT9 3BJ**



Opening hours:

Monday 10am-1pm, Thursday 10am-4pm,
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Other times by appointment.

For more details see inside back page



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