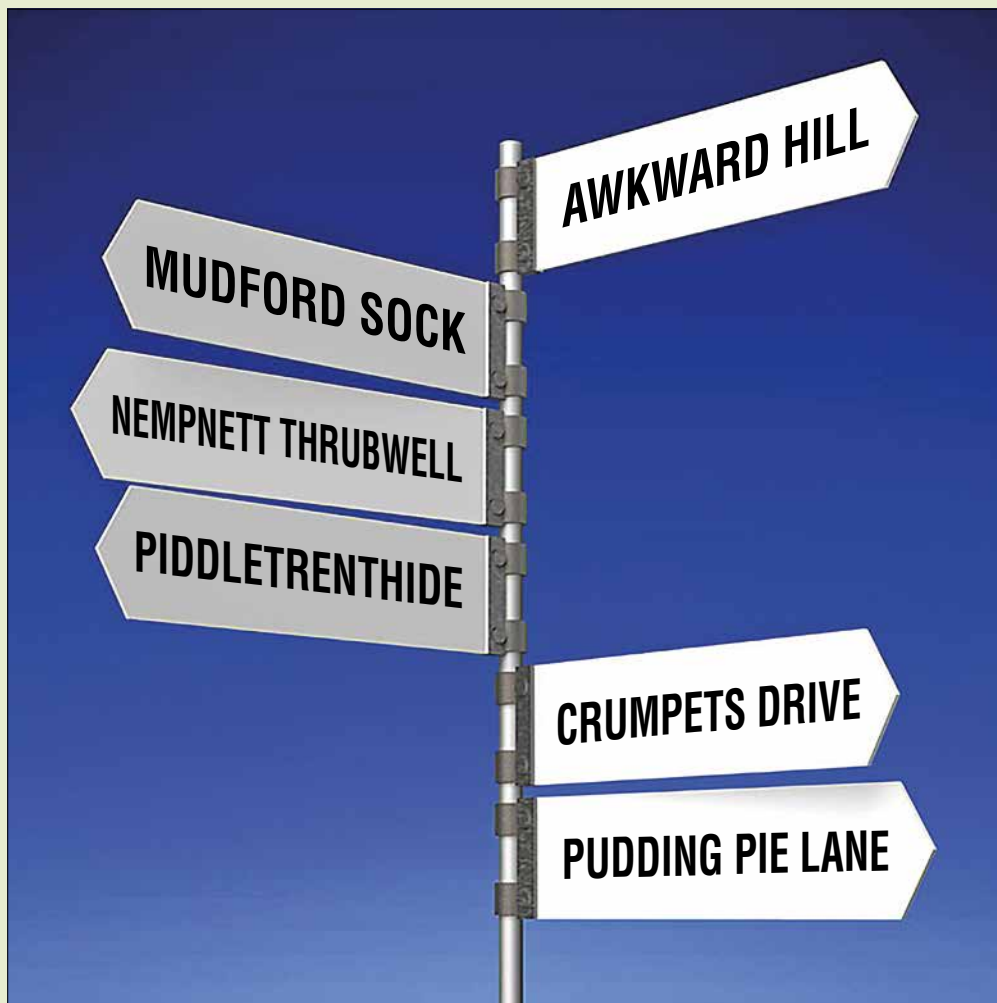


The Greenwood Tree

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

Unusual Names



And Places



The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

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Vice-chairman: Jennie McGowan

Secretary: Ted Udall

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Subscription Rates for 2023

Annual: UK Individual £18. Overseas Individual £22.

eSub £15 (electronic version of *The Greenwood Tree*).

Three-years: UK Individual £50. Overseas Individual £62.

Those joining mid-term receive earlier editions of *The Greenwood Tree* for that year.

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The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

Volume 48 No.3 September 2023 **ISSN:** 0307 9872

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DEADLINES:

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
December	15 October
March	15 January
June	15 April
September	15 July

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

Front cover – The signpost bears the names of unusual village or street names found in Somerset and Dorset.

The editor welcomes articles of any length but you are advised to contact him in advance if you plan to send one longer than 1,000 words. They should be sent by e-mail attachment with at least one photograph or illustration. Digital images should be scanned at a minimum of 300dpi.

There is no guarantee that an article will be accepted or in which edition it will appear. All articles may be edited and shortened as necessary for publication.

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Design, layout and printing by:

Creeds Design & Print Ltd
9c Corbin Way
Gore Cross Business Park
Bridport
Dorset
DT6 3UX

View from the Chair

Hello everyone. Hope you are all keeping well and had an enjoyable summer persuading family to tour round ancestral villages or learning something new regarding your family background while staying indoors and avoiding the heat.

I am delighted that the ground floor at our headquarters in Yeovil is now up and running. We have seen an increase in visitors and I am exceedingly grateful for all the Society's wonderful volunteers in helping with this. As always, if you feel you would be able to volunteer for an hour or so we would love to hear from you. It is not necessary to be an expert. Some visitors just need a helping hand to start their research. You can learn more via the insert in this magazine.

This month's edition asked about unusual family names. Christian names are generally chosen by a name at the time – kings, queens, close family members or biblical names. It is reasonably easy to find where they stemmed from. However, sometimes middle names are overlooked. My husband's great-great-grandfather Henry was sadly drowned in a tragic sea accident involving an East India ship off the coast of Deal, Kent, in January 1816, leaving 13 children and a pregnant wife. The child born later that year was named Edward Owen Dalrymple PETTET.

I was intrigued by the name Dalrymple and thought it might be a family name which I had not yet discovered. However, research at the East India office in London and newspapers revealed that it was actually the name of the captain of the ship. A strange choice for a name and the reason for it, I may never know.

Back in the summer of 2008 I was enjoying a day at a family history fair in London when I was told that my name had been suggested as a possible candidate to be the chairman of this Society. I was very surprised, but after some thought decided to accept the honour. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last five years, watching the Society grow from strength to strength despite the challenges of Covid. After five years I now feel the time has come to step back and hand over the reins, especially as my health is giving me another type of challenge. From the AGM in September therefore I will be tendering my resignation and hope that someone will come forward to take my place. It is an important but not onerous role and I do hope someone will step forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further details.

Thank you as always for your support.

Rita Pettet, Chairman

In the Genes

If you had been able to peep through the window of my home office as deadline day approached for this edition of *The Greenwood Tree*, you would have seen a man with a furrowed brow and might have heard a great sigh of frustration. I was beginning to think my chosen theme of *Unusual Names and Places* was a total flop. The cupboard was nearly bare and I was wondering if members and readers would be happy with a very thin magazine, possibly padded with whimsical articles written by the editor merely to fill space.

But a late appeal for contributions did the trick. The slow drip of stories suddenly turned into a flood and, after wondering if I would be able to put out a 28-page edition, I was able to revise up to 32 and, as stories continued to arrive after deadline, it was back to a more robust 36-pager.

There are some cracking stories among them too, many of them from first-time contributors. While I love the reliability of my regular correspondents, it is always good to hear from readers who have decided to take the plunge and share their family tree tales with other SDFHS members for the first time.

I was a bit surprised that unusual people's names predominate as the West Country has more than its fair share of odd and entertaining place names. But you will stumble across some wonderful people's names as you thumb through this edition – from Gotobed GOOBY to John BYTHESEA, Trudia De ZWAAN and Unity HOUSE. There is the strangest tale too of a group of children named after two members of parliament in an act of political retribution. You will not be disappointed, I am sure.

As our chairman Rita PETTET has written elsewhere on this page, the Society has taken a major step forward by opening up the ground floor of our Yeovil headquarters, providing not just easier access for visitors who no longer have to climb the narrow stairs to the upper floors but more visibility to passers-by. We hope this will increase interest in what we do. You can read Ted UDALL's report inside and see some photos of the new area.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Rita who is standing down as our chairman after five years at the helm, covering most of my time as editor of *The Greenwood Tree*. Rita has done an outstanding job as head of the Executive Committee and has been a great supporter of the magazine and a constant source of encouragement for me personally. I wish her all the best for the future and hope her eventual successor will emulate her achievements.

Paul Radford, Editor

Gotobed GOOBY – a Much Married Man

Alison JOHNSTONE thought someone was having a laugh when she found the name of one of her husband's ancestors.

Over many years I have enjoyed researching the extended family with **DAVIES**, **SMITH** and **JONES** at various places around the UK and Ireland. These have been challenging but rewarding even though none of my ancestors seem to have done anything of note. Quite boring really. There are many ag labs, a few trades people and, so far, only one who has been on the wrong side of the law. He ended up in Australia and I am still trying to find out how he got there around 1858. I know it is him because an Australia marriage certificate indicates he was a widower (big lie) and named his three children (all remaining in UK).

Imagine my surprise when looking in Cambridgeshire for my husband's family, Tom **JOHNSTONE** (1941-1997), his mother Persis **READ** (1920-2007), her father Harold **READ** (1881-1938), his father Tom **READ** (1846-1894), his mother Elizabeth **COLE** (1817-1894), her mother Mary **HAYLOCK** (?-1826), I arrived at her father William **HAYLOCK** (1761-1836),

who married a Mary **GOOBY** (1764-1832), who was, yes, the daughter of Gotobed GOOBY. I could not believe it. I thought someone was having a laugh.

From Bishop's Transcripts we know that Mary GOOBY, the fourth child, was born in 1764, married in 1784 and died in 1832 in the parish of Witchford, Cambridgeshire. Her father Gotobed GOOBY was buried in Witchford in 1805. I have found only one baptism of a Gotobed GOOBY. That was in 1734 in Wilburton, not very far from Witchford. With such an unusual name it seems safe to assume it must be the same person. According to the Bishop's Transcripts, Gotobed GOOBY was married three times – firstly in 1757 to Mary **AUNGIER** who died in childbirth in 1764, secondly by banns in 1776 as a widower when he married Mary **BOYDON**, who was a widow, thirdly by banns in 1787 as a widower when he married widow Martha **HAYLOCK**.

Searching further, there are large numbers of people with

the surname of GOOBY in the Fens of Cambridgeshire. In the small parish of Witchford there were 28 baptisms, 14 marriages and 29 burials between 1600 to 1800. I have yet to link them up. According to Family Search results data there are 1,910 people who have the surname GOOBY in UK and Ireland, while in the United States there are 8,247. The GOOBY family have spread far and wide – Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, Asia, the list goes on. I am in touch with a descendant of a Richard GOOBY a possible brother to Gotobed GOOBY who lives in The Fens of Cambridgeshire. It gives me the confidence to say that Gotobed GOOBY is a real person.

Alison Johnstone

Editor's Note: The surname GOTOBED or GOTOBEDDE can be traced back to the 13th century in Cambridgeshire and may have denoted somebody who had a bed in their house, a rarity in those days. It is most unusual, though, to find it as a first name.

Apple and Custard in Gussage All Saints

I am a big fan of a Facebook page called *Bygone Dorset*. It is a great source for family historians or anyone with a Dorset connection. A few months ago, there was a post from the *Blandford Express* (www.theblandfordexpress.com) on place names and someone responded by pointing out the existence of Sweet Apple Farm and Custard Hill in Gussage All Saints, Dorset.

It coincided with one of those lightbulb moments when something you had been looking for was staring you in the face. My husband's 6xgreat-grandfather Thomas **CUSTARD** married Susanna in the 1770s and I had never been able to track her down. I had recently found a marriage entry in Lychett Minster for Thomas **COSTARD** and Susanna **TOOP**, from

the parish of Lower Gussage. They spent the rest of their married life in Sturminster Marshall where they raised five children.

I had to dig deeper to see if there was a connection between Thomas **COSTARD** (**CUSTARD**) of Lower Gussage and Custard Hill in Gussage All Saints. Google directed me to the University of Nottingham <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk> Survey of English Place Names. The Survey is one of the longest running of its kind. Since the 1920s, English Place Name Society scholars have been working on a county-by-county survey of England's place names, which can now be accessed digitally.

Custard Hill possibly derives from cot-stow, a collection of cottages, so any thoughts of his

family owning a slice of the Dorset countryside were soon destroyed. I have been researching the **CUSTARD** name for more than 40 years and various suggestions have been thrown up as to its origins – the Huguenots, Coastguard and dear General **CUSTER**. There are obvious links to Bird's Custard but the name probably derives from costermongers (street sellers) or costard apples.

I have yet to find Thomas **COSTARD**'s family, so there might still be a connection to Custard Hill. The Survey is one of those hidden gems for family research.

*Caroline Custard
(c.custard@btinternet.com)*

The Naval Career of John BYTHESEA

The second man to win the Victoria Cross had a distinguished naval career, retiring as a Rear Admiral, though his active service ended with a reprimand for running his ship aground off Malta. His unusual surname has now died out.

Local heroes are always worth a mention, especially one with an unusual and memorable name. One such was John **BYTHESEA** (1827-1906). Born, educated and buried in Bath, he was only the second man to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The BYTHESEA family has for generations had connections with Axbridge, Bridgwater and Compton Bishop in Somerset as well as Trowbridge in Wiltshire.

John BYTHESEA was the youngest of five sons of Rev George BYTHESEA (1792-1853), Rector of Freshford in Somerset and Mary **GLOSSOP** (1815-1869). He was born in Bath on 15 June and baptised in his father's church on 6 July 1827. John's paternal grandfather was Henry BYTHESEA (1749-1814), one of a family of clothiers who owned Week (sometimes written Wyke) House near Trowbridge in Wiltshire. John's brothers all had careers in the army but John joined the Royal Navy, after education at Grosvenor College, Bath. The College opened in 1837 and John must have been one of the first pupils. His father lived nearby at 20 Grosvenor Place for many years.

John BYTHESEA entered the Navy in 1841. He was appointed mate in 1848 after passing his examinations and rose to the rank of lieutenant in July 1850 on HMS *Arrogant*. In 1854 *Arrogant* was sent to support the campaign in the Crimea and it was while serving there that the action took place for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross, together with stoker William **JOHNSTONE**. They ambushed couriers carrying dispatches to the Russian commander on Wardo Island in the Baltic. The incident took place in August 1854 but was not reported in the *London Gazette* until 24 February 1857. The citation reads:

"On the 9th August, 1854, having ascertained that an Aide-de-Camp of the Emperor of Russia had landed on the Island of Wardo, in charge of a mail and dispatches for the Russian General, Commander BYTHESEA obtained

permission for himself and William JOHNSTONE, a stoker, to proceed onshore with a view to intercept them. Being disguised and well armed they concealed themselves until the night of the 12th, when the mail-bags were landed, close to the spot where they lay secreted in the bushes. The mails were accompanied by a military escort, which passed close to them, and which, as soon as it was ascertained that the road was clear, took its departure. Availing themselves of the opportunity, Commander BYTHESEA and the stoker, attacked the five men in charge of the mail, took three of them prisoner, and brought them in their own boat on board the "Arrogant"."

Queen Victoria

On the strength of his exploits, he was given command of a gunboat, HMS *Locust* in March 1855 and was promoted to Commander in May 1856. John BYTHESEA was presented with his medal by Queen Victoria herself at an investiture in Hyde Park on 26 June 1857. Stoker JOHNSTONE's award exemplifies the intention of the Victoria Cross to acknowledge acts of bravery irrespective of rank.

John BYTHESEA later served in China where he was highly commended for his 'intelligence and energy'. He was promoted to Captain on 15 May 1861, possibly the youngest in the Royal Navy at that time. In 1862 he served on the Royal Commission on the Defence of Canada. He returned to active service but was invalided out in 1864 while serving in Africa. The following year he acted as Naval Attaché in Washington. In 1867 he was appointed Captain of HMS *Phoebe*. His last sea-going command was as Captain of the battleship HMS *Lord Clyde*. In 1872 his career was blighted when the ship ran aground off Malta while going to the aid of a stricken paddle-steamer. John BYTHESEA and his navigating officer were court-martialled and severely reprimanded. Neither served at sea

again.

His active career now over, in 1874 he was appointed Superintendent of Marine Affairs in India. He was responsible for reorganising the old East India Company naval service. In 1877 he was promoted to Rear-Admiral and finally retired from the Royal Navy. He received a number of awards, including Companion of the Bath in 1878 and Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1880.

He married Fanny Belinda **PRIOR** at St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick, in 1874 and shortly afterwards they left for India. They travelled extensively before returning to England in 1880. They eventually settled at 22 Asburn Place, South Kensington, where he died on 18 May 1906, aged 79. His obituary appeared in the *London Times* on 19 May 1906. He was buried in the Bath Abbey cemetery on 23 May with full military honours. A brief description of the funeral appeared in the *Times* the following day, with a list of the principal mourners. A memorial service was held at his local church, St Jude Kensington. There are several memorials to members of the BYTHESEA family in St Peter's church in Freshford, including one to John BYTHESEA and his four brothers. There is also a headstone to him in Bath Abbey Cemetery.

Name's Origins

BYTHESEA, including its many variants, is one of a small number of topographical surnames which have retained a preposition at the beginning. Similar names are ATWELL, BYGRAVE(s), BYWATER and UNDERWOOD. REANEY's *Dictionary of British Surnames* gives one possible origin as 'dweller by the watercourse or drain', from the Old English 'seoh', a Somerset term referring to inland lakes or pools. One family story gives a fanciful account of an ancestor rescued as a foundling from the seashore and given the adopted name by a benefactor. The first recorded use of the name I have

found was in the purchase in 1310 of property in Cannington (near Bridgwater) by William **BITHARSE** and Pavia his wife. There are a number of occurrences of the name between the early 14th and early 17th centuries recorded in the Bridgwater Borough Archives.

It is unfortunate that this unusual surname has died out. Remarkably, there are five generations (including John BYTHESEAs) in which the male descendants either did not marry, or whose marriages produced no children. The last record in the registrations of births, marriages and deaths was that of John's widow, Fanny Belinda, who died in 1925. However, the name survives today in Axbridge in the Bythesea Charity, a gift of Thomas BYTHESEA in his will of 1625. His direct descendant, Samuel William BYTHESEA (1801-1871), gave land in Axbridge to support the continuation of the charity. Samuel William lived at the Hill in Freshford and also gave land

to Trowbridge on which Bythesea Road now stands.

John BYTHESEA's Victoria Cross was sold at auction by Spinks in London on 19 April 2007. The



John Bythesea with his Victoria Cross.

hammer price was £135,000, somewhat above the estimate of £90,000-£100,000. Unfortunately, his other medals had been stolen some years earlier. The VC was bought by Lord **ASHCROFT** and is now in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

For those wishing to know more about the BYTHESEA family there are detailed genealogies in Ken ROGER's account of *Wyke House and the Bythesea Family* (Trowbridge History, Volume 5, pp12-24, 2010) and my article *Bythesea Family in Axbridge – extending a pedigree* (Notes & Queries for Somerset and Dorset volume XXXVII (part 378), pp229-240, September 2010). I am happy to supply more details and sources for anyone interested.

My thanks to Bea FAUSOLD, an SDFHS volunteer, for drawing my attention to this unusual surname.

Robert Barber
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A Dutch Aunt Named Trudia DE ZWAAN

In 1911, the **De ZWAAN** family were living at Pine Road, Upper Parkstone, Poole. Gerard, a bricklayer, was the head of the household with Sophia, his wife. The first three daughters were all born in Holland. The other children were born in Dorset. Trudia Sophia, the eldest daughter was a dressmaker aged 21.



Trudia De ZWAAN.

Harry **BENNETT** married Trudia Sophia De ZWAAN in 1916 and they had two children, Trudia Cornelia (Connie) 1917 and Ina

Doreen. They lived at The Chalet, Pottery Road, Parkstone. Harry was listed as a 'Carpenter & Joiner and Portable House Builder etc'.

My grandmother, Ethel Hilda BENNETT (Hilda), relied very much on her elder brother, Harry BENNETT for building works. When she married William E.L. **LACY** in 1923, Harry helped build their first house – Dorwin at Stanley Green, Poole. After William died in 1929, he built her a new bungalow – Little Holme in Arley Road, Parkstone.



Connie and Ina.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s I used to stay with my grandmother Hilda for the summer holidays. She would take me round to see Auntie Trudia at her house which had a huge workshop attached. Harry BENNETT had died in 1937 but there were later generations of BENNETT carpenters who continued to use it. I was allowed to peep inside and marvel at the timber and machinery inside. The gravel lane past the workshop led towards the clay pits. Sometimes we could watch a mechanical digger load clay into wagons on a narrow-gauge railway leading to the South Western Pottery.

My late mother, Olive **DAMON** was good friends with Connie and Ina (Connie'n'Ina). The sisters were very close in their retirement and lived in adjacent flats near Whitecliff, Sandbanks Poole.

I have not done any further research into the De ZWAAN family, so I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any information,

John Damon
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From Rural Somerset to London Lady's Maid

Maria SCRIBBINS was born to a working-class family and ended up rubbing shoulders with the aristocracy. Her great-grandson Rick WILMOT wonders how it all came about.

Maria **SCRIBBINS** was born at Burton, Stogursey, near Bridgwater on 18 July 1848. She died on 16 March 1903, aged just 54, and is buried in our family grave in St Pancras Cemetery, Finchley. Her husband, Edward, died on 2 October 1915 in Enfield. Their son Edwin was my grandfather. He married Alice Maud **HOWE** on 19 August 1905. Edwin died on 11 September 1939 and Alice on 11 February 1969.

The Somerset of 1848 must have been mainly rural, with most working-class people doing jobs as farm labourers. Maria's father, William **SCRIBBINS** was born in Stogursey in 1808. His wife, Elizabeth, née **HAWKIN(G)S**, was born in Holford, Somerset, in 1813. In 1861 it is recorded that William was a 'labourer working in a garden', and Elizabeth was a dressmaker. Maria, who was 12 in 1861, had a seven-year-old sister named Elizabeth. Maria was at school in 1861. Their house was in a street called Colpool, Cole Pool, or Colpoole, and it was in the village of Burton. Burton is about a mile inland from Bridgwater Bay in the Bristol Channel. William probably had brothers and extended family. Records show that **SCRIBBINS** is quite a common name around the area.

In 1851 the family lived next door to an uninhabited house. In that year the family comprised William, 45, Elizabeth, 38, John, 13, Thomas, 10, Mary Ann, 8, Emma, 6, Maria, 2, and Henry, two months. It is difficult enough to comprehend what life must have been like in 1851 for a family of eight in the middle of the countryside. No public transport, no telephone, no radio or TV, no inside toilet and possibly only a village pump for fresh water. Only a public house and a parish church would have been available for the people. They probably grew their own fruit and vegetables and kept chickens

and maybe other livestock. Some of the family still lived in Stogursey in 1871. Looking at Burton today with the use of Google Earth, we can see there are few buildings and it is nearly all farmland. One of the buildings must be the church.

Portrait

Maria must have left home before she was 22 as she turns up in the 1871 census working in London as a lady's maid. How did she get the job? Who did she know at that age who could give her a job in such a place? Her address is recorded as 72 Lower Brook Street, Mayfair, the home of Sir Henry **HOLLAND** and family, about five minutes' walk from St George, Hanover Square. We think that Caroline **HOLLAND** (1834-1909) painted some pictures of Maria. I remember



Painting of Maria believed to have been done in Italy when she accompanied Caroline.

my grandmother telling me that my great-grandmother was Maria **SCRIBBINS** as if she had been someone important. Naturally, at a young age I had little interest in great-grandparents.

So, in 1871 Maria is the Lady's Maid (to Caroline **HOLLAND**?). It is not clear when the position began or when it ended. We can assume that married women were not ladies' maids so her employment

must have ended by the time she married Edward **WILMOT** on 25 January 1877.

How did they meet? In the 1871 census, while Maria was in service to the **HOLLANDs**, Edward **WILMOT** was employed as a butler at 42 Great Cumberland Place, about a mile's walk from the house at Brook Street.

The marriage certificate shows some interesting stuff (I have the original certificate). Edward's 'place of residence at time of marriage' is given as Great Marlowe, Bucks. Maria's is St George, Hanover Square. The fathers, George **WILMOT** and William **SCRIBBINS** were bailiffs. The witnesses at the wedding were Thomas **SCRIBBINS**, Alice **BAKER** and Caroline **HOLLAND**. The vicar was Francis J. **HOLLAND**. He was the second son of Sir Henry **HOLLAND** (1788-1873) by his first wife and therefore half-brother to Caroline and Gertrude **HOLLAND**. Caroline and Gertrude were daughters of Henry and Saba **SMITH**, daughter of Rev Sidney **SMITH**. It seems a little odd that Caroline **HOLLAND** was one of the witnesses.

In 1878 Edward and Maria had a son, Edwin, who was born at 4 Clarendon Terrace, Leytonstone Road, Stratford, on 13 March.

Handwriting

Maria's parents, William and Elizabeth, also went to London. In the 1881 census they were living in West Ham. I do not know when they moved

and I cannot find them in 1871. William died in Burton, Stogursey, in 1883. I believe he went home to die. Elizabeth died in West Ham in 1888 and is buried in West Ham Cemetery.

Maria's sisters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth, both left Burton. They have stories of their own. In 1881, Edward and Maria were managers of the Wallace Arms Coffee Tavern, 2 Bethnal Green Road,



The three SCRIBBINS sisters with Maria in the middle.

London. Other than the reference to it in the 1881 census, I can find nothing about the place. In 1891, they were managers of The Green Man, Euston Road. In 1901 they were lodging housekeepers at 52,

had one child, my grandfather, Edwin WILMOT. Edward was still there in 1911 and so were Maria's sisters who, by then, were both widows.

In the family bible, Maria may

Osnaburg Street, Euston, where Maria died aged 54 on 16 March 1903. She died of Chronic Brights Disease, acute rheumatism and pneumonia.

Edward was with her when she died. They

have made the first entry or it could have been Edward. Whoever it was had nice handwriting. The sad thing about her and, of course, other family members is the loss of diaries and letters. They were all educated and I believe Maria would have kept a diary.

If there is anyone reading this who think they are connected to this family and would like to get in touch, my email is rick_n_jane2004@yahoo.com (underscores both sides of n).

Rick Wilmot

The Many Names of Petroville DREW

Peter MEECH tells the story of his 3xgreat-grandmother with the unusual first name of Petroville – and a string of other aliases.

Petroville. It conjures up an image of a small US town in the 1950s with Chevrolets and Studebakers at its rundown filling station. Google, however, informs us that it is the name of a 'flying retro-future RV from an alternate universe'. No, this does not make much sense to me either. But Petroville really was the moniker of my 3xgreat-grandmother... at least at one point in her life.

I came across her when researching the family history of my mother, Kathleen Mary HILL, born in Bridport in 1912. Both of Kathleen's grandparents, Henry HILL (1843-1915) and Phoebe, née FERRIS (1842-1917), were originally from Devon and started a tradition of teaching in the family that continues to the present. For example, their son Walter Ferris HILL (1876-1951) became the first headmaster of Bridport Grammar School in 1928, which had previously been Bridport General School and is now the Colfox School. Three of Henry and Phoebe's four surviving children were given FERRIS as their middle name – and all became teachers.

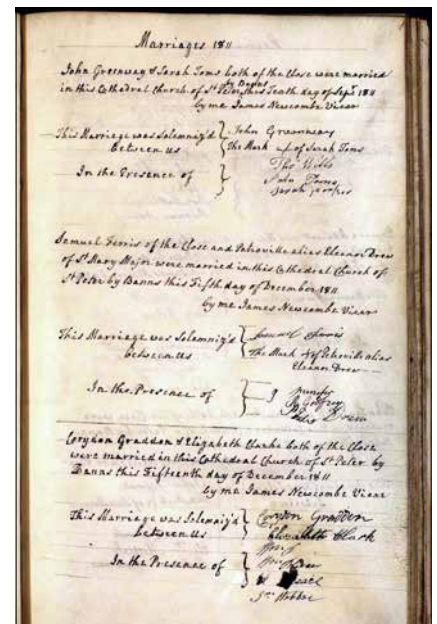
Phoebe's parents were Samuel FERRIS (1816-92), a Devon currier, i.e. a specialist leather worker, and Charlotte PUNSEFER (c1812-99) – another rather unusual name – while her grandfather was another Samuel FERRIS (1785-1840).

A Mistake?

This, then, is where we meet Petroville DREW (1790-1881), the woman with the odd name whom Samuel married in 1811. At least that is how she appeared in the marriage register from Exeter Cathedral – "Samuel Ferris of the Close and Petroville alias Eleanor Drew of St Mary Major". This certainly bears a resemblance to her mother's name, which was variously spelled Petronel, Peternell or Petronella HOWARD (1749-1848). Of course, it might simply have been a mistranscription, since Petroville had in fact been baptised Peternella in Crediton. The witnesses and even the bridegroom might unwittingly have agreed to the mistake, since it is possible they could sign their names but could not read or did not do so carefully enough.

Why, I wonder, was an alias permitted? One explanation might be that the bride was indicating her dislike of a version of her mother's name, albeit misspelt. Being illiterate, she could only mark with an X by way of giving her consent.

At any event, by the time of her son Samuel junior's baptism in 1816 in Talland, Cornwall, she had chosen to be recorded as Eleanor rather than Petroville. However, during the four decades as a widow after her husband's death in 1840 she changed her name yet again, appearing in all five censuses from



The marriage of Samuel FERRIS and Petroville DREW in the Exeter register.

1841 to 1881 as Ellen FERRIS.

Even that is not the end of the story, because on her death and subsequent burial in Exeter on 3 September 1881 she was officially recorded as Peternella FERRIS. Maybe her son Samuel chose this, thereby linking his mother's baptismal (and disliked?) name to that of the grandmother he would have known as a child? We can only speculate.

Peternella, Petroville, Eleanor, Ellen, Peternella. Multiple names, one mysterious woman, one full circle.

Peter Meech

Playing a Game of Hyde and Seek

In researching first names, Tim COOK comes across a number of sources for unusual ones in family trees. One of his forebears was named after a local member of parliament.

My **HYDE** (or **HIDE**) ancestors were concentrated around Milborne Port, Somerset, and can be traced back with a reasonable level of certainty to a Richard HYDE (c1516-1594). The HYDEs were fairly static around Milborne Port for at least a couple of centuries, with only the more adventurous ones getting as far as Sherborne and Goat Hill. It is only in the 18th century that they started spreading out further across Somerset and Dorset and, in time, globally.

There is another distinct cluster of HYDEs around Loders, Dorset, which is apparently not linked to the Milborne Port group, though of course there could be a connection further back. In some areas of Somerset and Dorset from the 19th century these groups overlap adding to the fun of trying to complete some branches of the tree.

Much of the history of the HYDEs of Milborne Port was published in 1992 by the late Kenneth Peter HYDE of New York (my third cousin, once removed). My late mother, Pamela **COOK**, worked with Kenneth Peter, especially on her branch, continuing until recently when, due to her deteriorating health, I took on the mantle. It turned out that we were not the first family historians of the HYDEs.

For 40 years Joseph HYDE (1815–1901) was parish clerk of Milborne Port and, during that time, he extracted all the HYDE births and marriages from the parish records, recording them in a little notebook, now in my possession. It is unclear how the notebook came from Joseph, a second cousin 5xremoved, into our branch. Perhaps he wrote out several versions for various of his HYDE cousins? He also seems to have had an aversion to recording any of the burials, which is a little

odd. However, it is a useful cross reference and helps to confirm that there have been no losses in the records in more than 130 years. One poignant bit of text in the notebook when describing himself is the sentence “...who is the last male of the forgone name in the parish in 1894.”

Wax and Wane

Having set the scene, I will get on to the theme of this edition, *Unusual Names and Places*, using the HYDEs of Milborne Port as a case study. Leaving aside the wax and wane in popularity of names over time, in my experience there would seem to be three or four sources of unusual names in family trees:

- Obscure religious names (except perhaps to serious scholars of the bible).
- Maternal surnames passed down as second forenames.
- Similarly paternal surnames passed down as second forenames, specifically for so-called base born children.
- Commemorative names.

An obvious category not in this list is the use of a father's second name used as a first name for the son, often carrying on over several generations. I have not checked for this in the HYDEs but my paternal family, the COOKs had that tradition, though all common

names. Having said that, the number of Williams in the HYDE tree is getting a little out of hand.

Sometimes these unusual names can help in confirming relationships, especially when carried over a few generations. Equally if the same name, obscure or not, is used in more than one branch of the family living in the same area at the same time, trying to work out who is who is difficult and the unusual name does not help nor hinder.

Onesiphorus, a New Testament name from 2 *Timothy*, appears three times in our HYDE tree (1689-1730, 1723-1795, 1749-1808), a grandfather, father and son, moving over the generations from Milborne Port via Corton Denham and Godmanstone to Fordington. There is a fourth contemporary Onesiphorus HYDE in North Cadbury but no family link has been found, despite the suggestive name link.

Old Testament

Another obscure religious name is Theophilus, a name which appears in the bible in Luke and Acts, along with the female derivative Theophila. Theophilus HYDE (1597–1660) and Theophila HYDE (1694-1694) are in Milborne Port some three generations apart and not in a direct line, so the name

is not particularly helpful in confirming connections. A second Theophila HYDE is in Milborne Port in 1670 but no link to our tree has been found yet.

Other HYDEs obviously favoured the Old over the New Testament, with two sisters, Keturah (1786-1854) and Peninah (1787–1787), both born in Milborne Port. Keturah was the wife of Abraham and Peninah appeared in the book of Samuel. A second Keturah HYDE



Joseph HYDE plaque.

was buried in Milborne Port in 1832, and while no link is proven, it seems possible that the name is coincidental and that this Keturah married into the family, rather than being a HYDE spinster, though no such marriage has yet been found.

The final unusual name on a religious theme, at least for this article, is Angel. It is a much more common name than the others, though today in the UK a relatively rare one, except perhaps for fans of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*. It is, though, still common in Spain and the United States. Eight Angel HYDEs appear in the tree, all in Milborne Port, with another three potentials in the region that may link. Perhaps the oddest is two apparent half-brothers, both surviving to adulthood, but born some 30 years apart. There is some doubt over this due to the father's age at his second marriage to a younger woman but other facts seem to fit. Trying to unpick the Angels has proved difficult with several cousins with the name at similar dates. Research in the letters of Thomas **MEDLYCOTT** of Ven House, Milborne Port, has helped with two of the Angel HYDEs as they had dealings with the MEDLYCOTT family but many questions remain.

MP's Name

One of the Angel HYDEs had a brother – Temple Luttrell HYDE (1780-1780), which allows me to jump to another category of unusual names – commemorative ones. Of course, the question here is why Temple Luttrell HYDE? A little bit of research into parliamentary history (<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org>) shows that Temple LUTTRELL was returned as the Member of Parliament for Milborne Port in 1774, 'on the interest of Thomas Hutchings MEDLYCOTT' and served to 1780. Temple Luttrell HYDE's father, James HYDE (1741-1815), was recorded as one of the 120 electors of Milborne Port in 1774. It therefore seems clear who James voted for, or at least

wanted people to believe he voted for. However, this election was particularly contentious with some dubious electoral practices, even by rotten borough standards, and by 1780 LUTRELL and MEDLYCOTT had fallen out – so supporting the MP against the local landowner may not have been wise. It does seem, at least to modern eyes, an odd choice in naming a son.

Maternal Surnames

The other category is the use of a maternal surname as a second forename, which I am sure many of us have come across in their tree, there being many examples in our HYDE family. This seems to have become more common from the 19th century, which mirrors second forenames in general becoming more common. In most cases the name only passes



The grave of Charles HYDE.

to the next generation, though occasionally it persists for two generations or indeed skips a generation, presumably to honour a much-admired grandparent. There are many examples of the use of the maternal surname as a second forename in my HYDE tree.

These can be extremely useful in confirming family links.

One interesting example of this is my great grandfather William Percy Gruncell HYDE (1868-1954), born in Nether Compton. Ellen **GRUCCELL** (1836-1918) was my 2xgreat-grandmother, hence the third surname but while William Percy's birth certificate correctly includes Gruncell, in Nether Compton's parish records it is recorded, only partially legibly, as Grant, which Ancestry transcribes as Ernest. This highlights the dangers of believing everything you read and then trying to find records in online databases.

Second Forename

As well as the maternal surname being used as a second surname, there are also many examples in our tree of HYDE being used as a second forename. One of my great-grand-aunts, Ellen Kate HYDE (1861-1953) married a Henry Charles **TRUTCH** (1839-1916). Of their four children, two daughters and one son were baptised with the name Hyde as a second (or third) forename.

More rarely you come across examples of an apparent paternal surname used as a second forename for a so-called base born child – a not so subtle hint as to who the father was perhaps? In 1833 my 3xgreat-grandfather Charles HYDE (1811-1878) married Elizabeth King **HAGGETT**. Elizabeth's baptism in Sherborne records no father and her mother's occupation is listed as servant. There are KINGS in Sherborne at the time, of about the right age, who could have been the father. However, no relevant entry has been found in the Bastardy returns for Dorset.

As an aside, the Kenneth Peter HYDE mentioned above, generously sponsored the restoration of our common ancestor Charles's grave in Milborne Port.

Tim Cook

Ancient Names Used by My Early Family

Richard SMITH wonders whether his 4xgreat-grandparents were avid churchgoers. One might think so, considering the old Hebrew and biblical names they gave some of their 13 children, including Bethania and Kerenhappuch.

Samuel **HILLIER** (or **HELLYAR**) and his wife Mary **JOYCE** were married at Lydlinch, Dorset, in June 1784. Their first son was baptised Samuel on 26 December 1784 at Sturminster Newton. Samuel derives from the Hebrew and means 'God has heard'. It is not known why or when he moved to Walcot, Bath, but young Samuel married Constance **ROOKE** there on 13 March 1814.

One of their five children was a daughter Ebeth (short for Elizabeth?) baptised in Bathwick, Bath, on 19 November 1819. Ebeth is from the Hebrew meaning 'oath of God'. Samuel is described as a grocer on the baptism records. He died at Bath in 1844.

Samuel senior's next son was baptised Reuben at Sturminster Newton on 17 December 1786. The name is biblical and means 'Behold a son'. In the bible, he was the eldest son of Jacob and Leah, and the name features again in later generations of my family. Reuben was a gamekeeper, and followed his work to Tillington, Sussex, where he married Mary **WARDEN** in 1819. He died there in 1862. His effects totalled £40 6s 4d.

The oldest daughter Bethania was baptised at Woolland, Dorset, on 14 July 1789. Bethania in Hebrew means 'house of figs' while the town of Bethany was the home of Lazarus, the man Jesus raised from the dead.

Cassia Tree

Bethania had a daughter Adelaide, baptised at Woolland on 2 April 1809, but who died and was buried there on 9 April 1811. The name of the father is not known. Bethania moved away to Bath – did she go before her older brother Samuel? She married Thomas **HAYNES** in Bath on 11 May 1813, then she married John **WILTON** at St Paul's, Bristol, on 9 September 1833. She died in Bath on 4 February 1855.

The next daughter was Kezia, baptised at Woolland on 25 March 1792. Kezia was the second daughter of Job in the bible and

means 'cassia tree' in Hebrew.

It appears that Kezia followed her sister and brother to Bath as in 1837 she married Richard Wilson **TODD**, an ironmonger, at St Paul's, Bristol. Living in Bath, they had four children, but two died as infants. The date of Kezia's death is unclear.

After Kezia came Jemima, a name derived from the Hebrew word meaning 'a dove'. Jemima was also the youngest of Job's three daughters in the bible. She was baptised at Woolland on 5 May 1795 and married Benjamin **MILLER**, a farmer, there in 1816. Although they had 10 children, none were given unusual biblical names. Jemima died at Woolland in 1876.

The next born was their son Daniel, derived from the Hebrew meaning 'God is my judge'. He was baptised at Woolland on 8 January 1797 and he married Charlotte **BARNES** at Blandford Forum, Dorset, on 30 October 1815. In baptism records he is described as a servant groom. Charlotte died at Blandford aged 61 in 1856 but I cannot find a definite death for Daniel.

Samuel and Mary's eighth child was named Kerenhappuch when baptised at Woolland on 17 February 1799. Kerenhappuch was the youngest of the three daughters of Job, and in Hebrew means 'child of beauty'.

Kerenhappuch married three times – to William **BUSH** of Poole at Woolland on 17 February 1819 (he died there in June 1840), to Arthur **SPINNEY**, a blacksmith at Shaftesbury, Dorset, in April 1841 (he died there in December 1853) and to John **HORDER**, a widower, back at Woolland on 30 August 1854. Kerenhappuch died there in March 1855.

Mysterious Uncle

The name Kerenhappuch does appear once more when Reuben and Mary mentioned above baptised one of their daughters in Tillington in 1829.

Samuel senior's next daughter

was baptised Clementina, which derives from the Latin word 'clemens' meaning merciful. She was baptised at Woolland on 13 February 1801 but sadly died and was buried there on 3 March 1806.

Jesse is a biblical figure, regarded as an ancestor of Jesus, while the Jesse Tree, often highly decorated, originates from the Book of Isaiah. Samuel Senior had two sons baptised Jesse – the first on 28 March 1802, who then died and was buried at Woolland on 20 October 1802. They quickly had another son baptised Jesse on 16 October 1803 and he seems to have followed his gamekeeper brother Reuben to Tillington in Sussex, where he married Millicent **BRIDGER** on 28 May 1829. In the 1861 census, Jesse is described as a servant. He died at Tillington in 1862.

Their last son was baptised Shadrach, which is of Babylonian origin and is a name that also appears in the bible in the Book of Daniel. He was baptised at Woolland on 3 March 1806 but is an enigma as I can find nothing about him. He does not appear in the 1841 census for Woolland. Did he change his name, or go abroad, I wonder?

Their twelfth child was baptised Angelina which derives from the Greek word 'angelos' meaning 'a messenger of God'. She was baptised at Woolland on 25 November 1804 and she married James **MULLETT**, a gardener, there on 17 May 1837.

It is interesting to note that James and Angelina had two sons – Shadrach, baptised at Woolland on 28 June 1838, and maybe named after his mysterious uncle, and Meshech, born on 22 October 1844. In Hebrew the name means 'a guest of the king' and is also a name linked to the Book of Daniel. Meshech is missing in the 1861 census but joined the Royal Navy as a boy sailor. His first ship was HMS *St Vincent* in October 1862. His fate after that is unclear.

Shadrach worked as a gardener,

married Ann **TROKE** at Wimborne, Dorset, in 1860 and died at Farnham, Surrey, in 1884.

Although later generations had some quite large families, none of the children were baptised with the unusual biblical names used by Samuel and Mary.

Churchgoers or not, Samuel and Mary must have led a busy life looking after their large family, most of whom survived beyond childhood.

My family **HILLIER** connection with Woolland ended with Robert **HILLIER**, son of Samuel and Mary,

who appears as a widower in the 1861 census, aged 69. He died at Woolland and was buried there on 12 July 1867.

Richard Smith
orchidgrower@btinternet.com

Political Shenanigans and Retribution

In the Somerset town of Ilchester in 1818, some 26 children were baptised with the same set of unusual middle names. What would have prompted the officiating clergyman to have done such a strange thing?

In 1866, my great-great-grandfather Henry **SIBLEY** inherited the King William Inn in Ilchester from the then innkeeper John **WEST**. Henry was a baker and twice-married John was described as his uncle. Not having previously found a connection between the **SIBLEY** and **WEST** families a search began which turned up a fascinating set of events.

Looking on FreeReg, I discovered a child who was baptised on 23 May 1818 at St Mary Major, Ilchester, and given the name William Merest Coffin **WEST**. Even allowing for the fact that a mother's maiden surname is sometimes used for a middle name, this combination of middle names seemed a bit strange. Stranger still was the note at the bottom of the record stating: *"On this day the rector baptised 22 children giving them all the middle names of Merest and Coffin which are the surnames of the two local MPs."* A further four children were similarly baptised on 19 June 1818. Something was going on here...

At this time Ilchester was a Parliamentary constituency and a notorious rotten borough. Ilchester was also referred to as a 'potwalloper' borough, meaning that the right to vote was exercised by all inhabitant householders not receiving alms (a household being theoretically defined by having a separate hearth on which a pot could be boiled).

Sir William **MANNERS** of Hanby Hall, Lincolnshire, bought the patronage of the borough in 1802 for £53,000. This gave him the power to control and manipulate the voting in the local elections and it was his parliamentary seat in



King William House.

the early 1800s. However, it is said that he maintained his position by demolishing the houses of his opponents and putting them in the workhouse. which meant they were not able to vote. It is also reported that around this time bribes of £30 a man were offered to secure votes, said by the local apothecary to be the usual price at Ilchester.



The Manor House at Ilchester.

Pangs of Childbirth

In 1818 Sir William **MANNERS'** candidates, one of whom was his son, were not elected. Instead, John **MEREST** and Sir Isaac **COFFIN** were voted in.

In revenge, **MANNERS** had the workhouse pulled down and the inmates turned out in the middle of winter, which led to a petition against his conduct, debated in the House on 2 April 1819. The petition stated: *"63 men, women, and children, from one month to upwards of 80 years, were all turned out into the street, without knowing of a place of shelter themselves at the most inclement season of the year. Some of them were able to get together some straw in the town-hall. Some of them betook themselves to the fields. Among the people so turned out, there were several pregnant women, and one daily expected the pangs of child birth."* The House declined to interfere in relations between a landlord and his tenants and the vendetta continued, but **MANNERS** never recovered the seats.

Ilchester was abolished as a separate constituency by the Great Reform Act of 1832.

So, the Rector in 1818 in naming so many children (with or without the parents' agreement?) with the middle names Merest and Coffin leaves little doubt as to his political affiliations. The children so named would be a reminder of the events of that year for the rest of their lives.

Andrew Davey

The Name with 400 Variants

Research by Richard Warwick KELLAWAY revealed a surname originating in a Normandy village which spread to the British Isles and to other parts of the world with spelling variations ranging from de CHAILEWAI to CALLOW and KELLY.

Most of us involved with genealogy have, at some stage, wondered about the origin of our family surnames. More so perhaps with a one-name study but also, sooner or later, with our other family forebears. There are several different sources for those surnames and different stories to match them. Mine is one.

My surname **KELLAWAY**, for example, has few matching letters with its stated Normandy origin of the village of Caillouet in the department of Eure. The Vikings raided and settled in what is now northern France in the years 800-900 AD. To be known as Normans, they intermarried with the local people and adopted their language. They would take the name to the British Isles.

Later I came to learn that, due mainly to the limited literacy of those times, partially because there was no K in the Latin-based French language, during the last 1,000 years there had been more than 400 different spelling versions of our name. Some have no phonetic similarity. Some have Cs, some Ks, both of which used all the vowels, plus Y, and among them, some abbreviated variants of the name, such as **KELWAY** or **CALWAY**. People could be given several versions, even in the same written document.

The different spellings have often been assumed to indicate different families. The more populous US **CALLAWAYS**, who have lived in the Americas for more than 350 years, thought they differed from the UK **KELLAWAYS**. DNA, however, proved otherwise. Through DNA, I recently discovered a distant **CALLAWAY** cousin of mine in Australia. Two hundred years ago his forebear joined the Royal Navy at Plymouth where the family spelling was then commonly with the C, rather than the dominant K in Dorset.

Medieval research had initially indicated our **KELLAWAY/CALLAWAY** families have a reasonably well-defined descent

from Philip **de CHAILEWAI** in Worcestershire and Wiltshire in the 1160s. However, in an earlier record Roger **de KAILLEWI**, was also known as Roger **de CAILLY**.

Apparently, an alternate form was used by some individuals into the 1300s. Today the longer spellings continue, together with short variants such as **KELWAY**, **CALWAY**, **KELLOW** and **CALLOW**.

The shorter original **de CAILLY** has become **CAYLEY**, **CALEY**, and similar, with **KELLY/KELLEY** in Devon.

Normandy Villages

The two Normandy French villages of Caillouet and Cailly sur Eure were only a few kilometers apart.

We now recognise the two families as related, descending from Osbert **de CAILLY de BRIONNE**, who as Duke William's cousin was envoy to King Edward the Confessor in England shortly before the Conquest. His father Gilbert **de EU de BRIONNE** had been Willam's guardian when his father was killed. His son Guillaume apparently crossed with the Conqueror and acted as his Viceroy in France while William was in England. His grandson William had a few properties listed in the Domesday Book.

The name is an example of derivation from a place name or location. Commonly it would have been the name of the original family living there, although an existing place name might also be adopted by a family who moved there.

Caillouet in French means a pebbly place and could be assumed to predate the family. In England, to some extent, the reverse was the case. The Wiltshire **KELLAWAY** family manor, today known as Kellaways, was used by those who came from that location – by our family, for about 250 years, as **de CAILLEWAY/KAILLEWEY** etc, then for 350 years by the **LONG** family who lived there from the 1500s, initially as **LONGE DE KELWAYES**.

Just as the **LONG** family might

add our place name to theirs, our family adopted others. Some **CALEWE DE WESTONS** from Stalbridge Weston in Dorset in the 1200-1300s, became **WESTONS**.

Some **CAILLEWAYS** from Stafford Barton in Devon became **STAFFORDS**.

Relating principally to the Wiltshire family manor, even when well away from the manor, most families today have long since lost the 'de', although our Devon family from the 1200s never used it.

Dialectic differences from one area to another could cause considerable differences in spelling as well as pronunciation. In addition, the local priest, clerk or scribe might also have come from a different part of the country, even France. There have been more than 400 variants of our name.

In the late 1200s, early 1300s senior family members were known as **le CALEWE**. In French 'de' means of, or from, a particular place, whereas 'le', of course, means 'the'. Caillou in French is a round pebble or stone and, in Old English, Calo apparently meant bald. Our thought has been that a Caleweye, sometime in the 1200s, was perhaps 'the bald'. The spelling continued for a few generations before reverting to **de KAYLEWAY/CAYLEWAY**.

There was an interesting situation in the north where Richard **de KELLAWE** was the powerful Palatine Prince Bishop of Durham from 1311-1316. Seemingly different, the final 'e' would have been the Latin 'e', and residual French e acute, pronounced 'ay', as in cafe. Later the e was gradually dropped and the name came to be spelt **KELLAW**, **KELLOW**, or **CALLOW**, with quite different pronunciation.

Originally many of today's names derived from an occupation, of which there were many. It would have been a simplistic means of differentiating a person. Such as John the clerk, Henry the baker, James the cook. Among many others, **ARCHER**, **FISHER**,

GARDENER, SMITH, TAILOR. Jabez **KITCHINGMAN** was one of my great-grandfathers.

Alias Dictus

Perhaps the most interesting origin for a surname, an occupational name could originally have involved the use of an alias. What began as the Latin *alias dictus*, meaning 'said otherwise', the use of the early aliases is still not fully understood but this could be the origin.

We found in 1445, Thomas CALAWEY alias **CHAMBERLEYN**, while in 1492 William **WEBBE**, alias KELLOWE, was mayor of Salisbury. Both are occupational names.

Records in the Dorset Parish Registers of the 1500s could describe a family as KELLAWAY alias **CLARKE**, or CLARKE alias KELLAWAY. One of the records confirmed the individual was actually a clerk, an important position in those times. The alias could continue for generations, either way, and today descendants may have either name, and know nothing of the alternative alias option.

There were also other occupational aliases which were used perhaps to differentiate between individuals. Another of our Dorset aliases was **GEORGE**, which seems to have originated at, or near, Marnhull in Dorset, as

interestingly also did the CLARKE alias.

Names could be of appearance or description – such perhaps as LONGSHANKS or REDHEAD. Religion had a strong place in early society. My maternal grandfather was named **CHRISTIAN**, the family dating back to the 1500s, with an earlier Robert **CHRISTIAN** in 1251. No doubt originally with the religious connotations seen in our more recent Wesleyan families.

Other common surname examples, called patronymics, identify descent from the father – so the son of John could become JOHNSON, and of Thomas, THOMPSON.

Conversely, it seems our name could be adapted in other European locations. In the Low Countries, the Coats of Arms from Bruges include that of the de CALUWE/KALUWE family. King Edward IV spent a short time there in exile in 1470-71. Members of the **PHILIPPO** family have similar DNA to ours, and may also date from the late 1400-1500s. Our family traded there and had property at Calais until it was recovered by the French in the mid-1500s. There are original CAILLOUETs in France and Louisiana today.

My own pre-Huguenot forebears had the name **FEVER**, anglicised from the French **le**

FEVRE (the smith). Jacques le FEVRE was an early leader of the Reformation movement in Europe. My own FEVERs apparently arrived in England shortly after 1523, when Jacques lost the Royal protection he held for a time. England was then still Catholic but later, when the country was strongly Protestant under Queen Elizabeth, one was described as a priest and was presumably Protestant.

Later still, in the 1700s, members of my FEVER/FEAVER family were Church of England vicars and rectors. Those spelt FEAVER were presumably avoiding unpleasant connotations.

Locational names can usually be more definite in determining the origin of a family and the connection between the members. Other occupational, descriptive, patronymic, names present a few more problems and may have different origins.

Today all names can be researched, often deep back into history. While name variants and distant relatives can be confirmed, sometimes contradicted, by DNA.

There is much to learn and to fascinate from the study of our own family surnames.

John Warwick Kellaway

Union of Nehemiah and Unity House

Lara WEBSTER looks into her JARMAN ancestors and finds family connections between Dorset and Wales and a link with the hat trade.

While researching the family tree of my husband James **TONGE**, I came across his maternal great-grandfather Wyndham **JARMAN** (1863-1941). This seemed to me a slightly unusual name and I thought perhaps it had Welsh origins as he was born in Cardiff. I was also at a loss, initially, to know how he had come to marry a Dorset lass – Eliza **RIDEOUT** (1864-1951) of Fontmell Magna. Further delving revealed that the JARMANs hailed from Bridgwater, Somerset, and that only Wyndham and his younger siblings were born in Cardiff. Similarly, Eliza's younger siblings were born in Cardiff too.



Eliza and Wyndham JARMAN

The JARMANs had moved from Bridgwater to Cardiff somewhere between 1856 and 1857 with the RIDEOUTs moving from Dorset sometime between 1873 and 1876. Eliza was the daughter of Thomas RIDEOUT (1837-1915) and Angelina **MERFIELD** (1837-1905). The latter had among her uncles

the delightfully named Nehemiah MERFIELD (1809-1889), who in a family researcher's dream married one Unity **HOUSE** (1821-1901) in Compton Abbas, making them a joy to track through the records even if there is no direct link to the immediate family tree.

Returning to the JARMANs, it would seem that Wyndham's grandfather and great-grandfather were hatters by occupation. I would love to find out more about the industry as, so far, I have found out very little.

Lara Webster

The Mystery of Crockers Folly

Alan CROCKER was naturally drawn to a story about a small row of cottages called Crockers Folly in Weymouth, the town of his birth and upbringing. Were they to do with his family? And why give them the negative soubriquet of 'folly'?

One might assume that a person named **CROCKER** built the cottages or caused them to be built. Were they related to my ancestors who lived in and near Weymouth? The siting of these otherwise ordinary labourers' cottages seems to have had a bearing on their name.

The cottages are marked and named Crockers Folly on a map of Weymouth, dated 1857, by Pierse **ARTHUR**. The Admiralty Hydrographic survey of 1850, which extended its coverage far up the tidal Weymouth Harbour, covering the adjacent land, did not show Crockers Folly.

The scholarly Maureen **ATTWOOLL**'s view was that these cottages were built in the 1850s when the only other buildings on the west side of Weymouth harbour were those of the gasworks, built about 20 years previously, and also the brick and tile works. The latter, also of some years' standing, was perhaps three quarters of a mile upstream. Both businesses had docks or jetties. Crockers Folly was built about 250 yards from the gasworks on the landward side.

This group of three or perhaps four joined cottages remained as an isolated group of dwellings for many years. The route to it from town led from the old harbourside, passing the gasworks along a lane. In 1856 a new Melcombe Regis cemetery was laid out close to the brick and tile works, with funerals from that parish travelling there via the Town Bridge on Weymouth harbourside and the lane past the gasworks and Crockers Folly.

In 1859, a toll bridge was built from Melcombe Regis, reaching the

western shore of the harbour about halfway between the gasworks and the brick and tile works. There was only a slow expansion of building from the western end of the toll bridge. For about 10 years from 1870 an isolation hospital was the nearest new neighbour for Crockers Folly, about 300 yards further along the lane... nearer the cemetery.

I note that **ARTHUR**, a civil engineer, designed that first toll bridge as well as compiling the 1857 map. He was also noted for expressing his views in a forthright manner, with a somewhat barbed wit. Perhaps it was he who coined the name Crockers Folly, or at least established it in print. The 1864 Ordnance Survey map showed these cottages, so named, while in the 1871 and 1891 censuses the addresses of these cottages are also Crockers Folly. I believe that they lost that identity in the first few years of the 1900s, when all properties along that lane became part of Newstead Road.

Dirty and Smelly

Did **ARTHUR** or others regard the folly of these cottages to be their proximity to a notably dirty and smelly gasworks, and the large area of marshy ground that ran to the west? My great-grandfather, Levi **CROCKER**, lived very near to Crockers Folly from 1875 until the mid-1890s, together with his wife and most of their 13 children. They lived for several years in one of a small row of labourers' cottages sited between the Weymouth harbourside and the gasworks.

From 1880 they rented, successively, various cottages in

terraces built close to or on the site of the then-demolished isolation hospital. Those cottages were part of the slow growth of residential developments that had begun in about 1879. Levi and his family, in all these addresses, would have been no more than four or five hundred yards from Crockers Folly. I wonder what they thought of it all? Did they know any of the residents? None of the residents in the two censuses that I could access were **CROCKERS**.

Would Levi have thought it funny or an embarrassment? Levi and his siblings – only sisters were still alive by this time – appear to have had no connection to Crockers Folly. Levi himself was a discharged gunner from the Royal Artillery, invalided home from the Crimean War. He lived on his pension and such labouring work as his badly crushed arm allowed. His sisters were married to labourers or were in domestic service.

It seems that the mysterious **CROCKER** is not readily found. An internet search offers no 'breadcrumbs'. There may be clues in the records – if any exist – of the then Earl of Ilchester, who owned that marshy land and much around it, known as Littlefields. Was Crockers Folly on his land? The cottages may otherwise have been built on the edge of gasworks land. Are there records still of that long-gone private company? I am resigned to never knowing more about that mysterious **CROCKER** who gave his name to a terrace of cottages.

Alan Crocker



Weymouth harbourside.



The old gasworks.

A Village Like Lush Places

A community in the far west of Dorset is known under a fictitious name by more than 100,000 readers of a national magazine. Our assistant editor reveals all...

About 15 years ago, I was on an Open University creative writing course and our tutor encouraged students to get into a regular writing habit.

So I decided to write, in a light and humorous way, a blog based on life in my Dorset village. I didn't want everyone to know its precise location so I racked my brains for a suitable name. I also (at that point) wanted to remain anonymous, to give me more creative freedom and be a different voice to the Margery HOOKINGS that I was as a local newspaper journalist.

The pen name I came up with was Maddie **GRIGG**, a combination of my maternal grandmother's first name and my paternal grandmother's surname. I figured that was better than the other way around, which would have been Beatrice **WITHERS**, which sounded to me like an old woman melting in the heat. So I became Maddie GRIGG, which allowed me to be much more playful than I ever could be as myself, especially if I wanted the artistic licence to stretch the realms of credulity.

For months, I wrote about my village as 'my village', which seemed a bit flat. Then I saw the cover of a fantasy novel called *The Enchanted Village*. It featured heroes, elves, goblins, giants, trolls, unicorns and dragons. Perfect, I thought.

I stuck with *The Enchanted Village* for a while and then it suddenly occurred to me. I would name my village *Lush Places* after the fictional nature column written by the hapless hero William BOOT in the Evelyn WAUGH novel, *Scoop*. BOOT is a young man living in genteel poverty in the countryside who writes nature notes for Lord COPPER's *Daily Beast*, a national newspaper. But through a case of mistaken identity (he is mixed up with a distant cousin with a similar name) he is hired to cover a civil war in Ishmaelia, a fictional state in East Africa.

It's a brilliant comic



The fictitious Lush Places looks remarkably like Broadwindsor.

novel, a slim and sparkling satire that still has relevance to this day. Part of the Wikipedia entry reads: "One of the points of the novel is that even if there is little news happening, the world's media descending requires that something happen to please their editors and owners back home and so they will create news."

The People's Friend

Scoop is of its time (1938) and some of its content is quite clearly politically incorrect today. But it's a novel I've always loved. So my village became *Lush Places*, partly in homage to the novel and the overblown writing of BOOT's nature column and partly because my village is, well...*lush*.

Nestling in the hill country in the far west of Dorset, between the twin peaks of Lewesdon Hill (the county's highest point) and its slightly shorter sibling, Pilsdon Pen, the village is surrounded by green fields and lush places.

I'd been writing the blog for a few years, charting Lush Places' comings and goings and some of the characters who populate it, friends and neighbours

who were happy to be the raw material providing I gave them different names. They included Champagne Charlie and Bubble next door, Mrs BANCROFT across the road and the publicans, Gym and Tonic.

And then I had an email out of the blue from the editor of *The People's Friend*, the world's oldest weekly magazine for women, inviting me to become a columnist. Me, a columnist? It did feel a bit *Scoop*-like. Maybe in Lord COPPER fashion, she was mistaking me for someone else. But, no, she assured me I was just what the magazine was looking for.

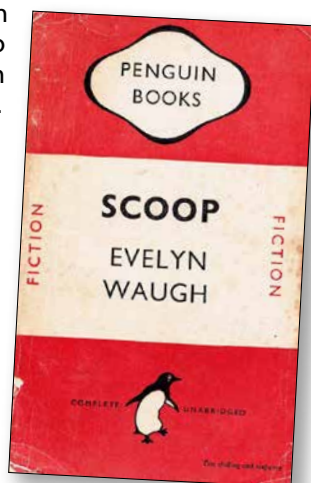
"I like your ability to write with humour about the minutiae of daily life, but with a touch of emotional depth, too," she said. Gadzooks, I could hardly believe it.

So now *Lush Places* is known far and wide – *The People's Friend* magazine has a weekly circulation of almost 125,000.

I still get messages from 'Friend' readers asking me where they can find *Lush Places* because they've looked up the name on a map and it doesn't exist. I usually tell them it's at the end of the rainbow in the far west of Dorset but, like those heat hazes on sunny roads, disappears the closer you get to it.

But if you ever venture to Broadwindsor, you just might be in the right place...

Margery Hookings



The book which started it all.

When it is Good to be Grounded

The headquarters of the SDFHS – our Family History Centre at Broadway House in Yeovil – has been expanded to include the ground floor, offering easier and better access to members and visitors.

The SDFHS has been headquartered in Broadway House, Yeovil, since the end of 2017, occupying the upper two floors. At that time, the ground floor was the local office of the Adecco employment agency, but became vacant in 2021, at which point, our landlord offered us first refusal on the lease. After due consideration, the Executive Committee decided to pursue the offer.

It has taken a long time to bring this project to fruition. Initially, we had hoped to take a sub-lease as a temporary measure. Adecco, however, were not interested and their occupancy did not finally expire until August 2022. We then had issues with solicitors, so our new lease was not signed until January 2023.

There was much to be done before the space could be opened

for business. There was a glass office interview room to be removed and carpet tiles to be replaced. There were signs on the walls which needed removal and the paintwork had to be redone. We investigated the incredibly complicated plumbing system (there is a private flat behind the ground floor office, whose toilet used a tapping from our water supply). That sorted, we had a water meter installed. Finally, furniture had to be acquired, new computers programmed and installed, along with an extended network.

Volunteers

During all the time, it was business as usual upstairs, thanks to the volunteers, who kept us going during the disruption (they also serve, who only stand and wait). Getting a window cleaner proved

far more difficult than any of us imagined. Amazingly, it all came together rather quickly at the end and we opened our doors for the first time on Saturday 1 July.

The ground floor office is now the main entrance to the Centre, using the door to the right of the former entrance. The reception desk is there, as are two computers and displays for book-sales, along with the new Starter's Corner, described on the next page. We hope to encourage people to come in off the street and look us over (we have had a few already). We are also able to cater for those who may have difficulty with stairs. With that in mind, we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help us run the Centre, so please drop in and see us if you can spare a little time.

If you do visit us, do not expect



Photos by Patricia Spencer and Ted Udall.

the furniture to be in the same place as on your previous visit – it is still a work in progress and I am sure there will be more changes.

My thanks to everyone involved in bringing this project to a satisfactory conclusion. Has it been worth it? Too early to tell, but we

all look forward to giving it out best shot.

Ted Udall

Welcome to Starters Corner

An innovation at our Yeovil Centre should prove a huge boon for those starting out on their family history research.

We hope that one of the great advantages of taking over the ground floor at the Family History Centre in Yeovil is that we may be able to entice newcomers to family history research. In the past at our current and last location, it has been necessary to take staircases up into the unknown that some may have found daunting.

After all, how many of us like to look in a café or shop window before we venture inside for the first time? Now, with large windows inviting viewing from the street, we aim to encourage those first steps over the threshold. Once inside it can often appear that everyone else knows exactly what they are doing, what they are looking for and how to go about finding it.

With the creation of Starters Corner with an accompanying Starter Pack, we hope to have something on hand that will enable the gathering and recording of the basic genealogical information that will underpin all future research. The pack contains a chart of the direct ancestors back to the set of

eight great-grandparents. There is a form to complete for each person as they are 'discovered' with the basic relevant information to source in each case.

Included is a list of possible



Photo by Barbara Elsmore.

sources and resources for starting out compiled by local members. The packs will be handed out and clarified by one of the research volunteers who will issue an open invitation to return to the Centre for further guidance and help if wished. By not turning immediately

to a computer program to locate and record these important facts but by finding what we can for ourselves, it is likely that much more understanding of the value of this important information will be gained. It is hoped to further develop this initiative in the future if it proves to be of value.

We can offer these packs entirely free to anyone who visits the Centre and who thinks that they may be able to make use of them and this is solely due to a generous donation from a long-term member of the Society. This member has spent a lifetime enjoying the knowledge that has been gained from the research undertaken first by his mother and later by himself. His wish is that others should set out and gain the rewards that are there for the taking by offering a means to assist with finding and logging for themselves the information that will set them in good stead for all their future discoveries.

Barbara Elsmore

AGM/Open Day in Weymouth

Members and visitors are all welcome at this year's Annual General Meeting and Open Day which will be held in Weymouth on Saturday 30 September. The venue is St Aldhelm's Church Centre, where the South Dorset Group hold their regular monthly meetings. There will be two talks, the first by well-known family history speaker

and author Helen BAGGOTT. Her topic is the *Empress of Ireland*, the tragic story of the sinking of a British-built ocean liner in 1914 with the loss of more than 1,000 lives. The second is by antiques expert Paul ATTERBURY entitled *Britain in Victorian Times*.

Timetable of the day is as follows:

- 9.00 am Centre open for set-up
- 10.00 am Registration opens
- 10.45 am Talk by Helen Baggott
- 12.00 Noon AGM
- 1.45 pm Morris Dancing Display
- 2.30 pm Talk by Paul Atterbury

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the day except when the talks are on.

The Tragic Voyage of John WINES

John WINES was sentenced to transportation for life for stealing 19 sovereigns. His journey to the other side of the world turned into a disaster when his ship suffered a disastrous fire and a deadly outbreak of scurvy before finally sinking as it neared Tasmania.

John **WINES** appeared before the Epiphany Sessions at Wells on 30 December 1833 charged with stealing 19 sovereigns from Chew Magna resident Hannah **CLARK**. He was handed the maximum sentence of transportation for life, a verdict which effectively condemned him to more than a year in purgatory with a tragic ending.

John had been born in 1798, the son of Robert and Unity WINES of South Petherton and younger brother of Frederick and William. A flax worker, he moved to Chew Magna in north Somerset where he married widow Phoebe **SAGE** on 3 May 1826. She was 12 years older than John and had three children, Priscilla, Mary Ann and John. Three months after the wedding, Phoebe gave birth to their son Frederick.

John started his prison sentence in Shepton Mallet Gaol but was taken to Ilchester Gaol a few days later where he was recorded as '5ft 7, with a stout build, dark complexion, a round face and dark brown hair.' They asked John questions about his family and he told then he had a wife and child and he could also read and write.

On 27 January 1834, John was moved again and received on to the *Justitia* Prison Hulk in Woolwich on the River Thames. These ships were the final point at which prisoners would be in their homeland. The *Justitia* was a 260-ton hulk and had been used for the transportation of criminals to the former colonies. Each hulk would hold between 200 and 300 convicts in horrendous conditions. Because they were open plan, having had all the cargo holds and cabins removed, disease was rife in the cramped conditions and spread rapidly among the men, as there was no way to separate the sick from the healthy. This meant

the mortality rates were high – it is estimated one in three inmates died on these hulk ships.

Almost a year later, on 12 December 1834, John WINES boarded the convict ship *George III* which set sail for Hobart, Tasmania, known then as Van Diemen's Land, carrying 220 prisoners. The ship also had passengers, soldiers and crew, making the total on board

finally put out the fire but there was a huge amount of damage to the ship and many of the onboard supplies and provisions had been lost.

It is quite possible John was one of those who helped to fight this fire – he certainly would have been witness to this horrific sight. Ships were made of wood and would not have had firefighting equipment on board. Despite the consequences of the fire, Captain MOXEY, taking advice from his ship's surgeon, chose to continue the route they were set on, rather than put into port at Rio or the Cape to replenish supplies. WYSE later admitted that the lack of provisions and the substitution of cocoa for oatmeal in the convict's diet resulted in scurvy quickly appearing among the

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of *Chew Magna*
in the County of *Somerset* in the Year 1826

John Wines of this Parish
Bachelor
and *Phoebe Sage Widow* of this Parish

were married in this *Church* by *Banns* with Consent of
this *third* Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *twenty six*
By me *Mr. Hall Vicar*

This Marriage was solemnized between us *John Wines*
The Mark of Phoebe Sage

In the Presence of *Thomas Clark*
John Saw

No. 103.

Marriage of John WINES to Phoebe SAGE.

308. Some of the passengers were the families of the crew and soldiers. Built in 1810, the *George III* was commanded by William Hall **MOXEY**, and the surgeon superintendent was David **WYSE**, who was making just his second voyage on a convict ship.

Flames Spread

The following details are taken from newspaper reports and the inquest into what happened to the *George III*. Six weeks after setting sail, on 27 January 1835, the ship caught fire. The flames spread quickly and threatened to ignite two copper casks of gunpowder which would have caused the ship to sink with all on board. Crew, soldiers and prisoners alike fought to put out the blaze. Two of the convicts, William **NELSON** and David **JONES**, bravely carried the casks of gunpowder away from the fire, scorching their hands as they lifted the copper containers. They eventually managed to control and

convicts. By the time the *George III* was spotted near Port Davey along the Tasmanian coast, 12 prisoners had died of scurvy and about 60 were reported as sick, 50 of them confined to bed. Surgeon WYSE urged the captain to set course for their final destination without delay. After much checking of the charts, the decision was taken to sail down the D'Entrecasteaux Channel between the North and South Bruny Islands. It was not favoured by captains as it was notorious for violent storms. However, MOXEY was under huge pressure to get the *George III* into port, and made the decision to head through the channel, knowing they could always anchor if needed, as it was known as good anchoring ground.

Uncharted Rock

The *George III* had been at sea exactly four months when it entered the channel on the morning of 12 April. It had been a long and difficult voyage and getting the

ship, its crew, passengers and prisoners on to dry land was now the priority. The ship would have needed serious repairs before it could make any return journey, adding to delays and expense. The journey in the channel started well, the weather was mild and the visibility under the moonlight was good. Suddenly at 9.30 pm the leadsman on watch cried 'quarter less four' and Captain MOXEY ordered the ship to put hard a-port. Almost immediately the ship struck an uncharted rock. Today this is marked on maps as King George Rock. The sea was smooth and a jolly boat was lowered to inspect the damage. A swell had by now started and the sea began to break, causing the ship to move violently, resulting in those on deck to be knocked over by the water.

Suddenly the mainmast crashed over the starboard side, and after the mizzen topmast broke away, the bulwarks below decks gave way. The ship and crew were now in real danger. The boat which had been lowered to make an inspection could not be brought up against the ship to take any of the passengers and crew off, but did pick up some who had been thrown into the water. In charge of the boat, was third mate **FIELD**, who was now instructed to find somewhere safe to leave his passengers and to return at once. FIELD thought he was only about 15 miles from Hobart and set off in the hope of getting help. Unfortunately, they were actually 60 miles from Hobart and did not get there until the following day.

Meanwhile, back on the *George III*, efforts were being made to launch the longboat. It had only been about 15 or 20 minutes since the ship had struck the rock but the water was already swirling over the main deck and everything was happening very fast. Captain MOXEY, in his efforts to free the longboat, which was now floating

across the deck and getting tangled up in rigging, was seriously injured but was dragged into the boat. As it became free of the wreckage Surgeon WYSE rushed forward and clambered in.

MOXEY returned with five men to the *George III* after leaving WYSE with the 36 they had landed on the shore. The captain then took 40 or 50 passengers into the longboat to take to shore. At one point the ship was on her beam ends and slowly sinking but when the mizzenmast broke off, she righted slightly, leaving half of the deck under water. News of the disaster had reached Hobart and two government brigs and a paddle-wheel steamer were ordered to the scene to help rescue survivors.

Death Toll

When the *George III* left England she had 308 persons on board, of which 220 were male prisoners. Allowing for deaths during the voyage and the birth of two children (officers' wives were travelling on the ship), there were 294 persons aboard when the ship struck the rock. Of these 161 were saved and 133 drowned. The death toll was almost exclusively confined to the prisoners, of whom 81 were saved and 127 perished. An inquest was held after the tragedy and although it has never been fully established what happened, some of the evidence was bleak and frightening.

The prisoners had been locked up below decks when the ship hit and began to take on water. They begged to be let out and some began to break out, using saws and hammers in desperation as the situation became more and more frightening. The inquest heard that two or three shots were fired, possibly as distress signals. But convicts who survived told the inquest the shots were fired at the prisoners trying to break out. It was claimed that two convicts

were killed though no gunshot wounds were found on the bodies, according to the coroner's jury. The jury heard that most of those who died had done so before the mainmast fell. The inquest heard many conflicting accounts of what exactly happened that night, as to whether shots were fired at the prisoners to keep them under control or if the shots were distress signals calling for help. What is true is the huge number of convicts that died that night compared to the crew and military on board.

When the final list of names of survivors and those who died was published, John WINES was confirmed as one of those who died. Whether he made it off the ship and into the sea and drowned or was trapped in the prison cells, is not known. The story made the press back in England, with many reports and letters written about the appalling tragedy and huge loss of life. John's family probably never knew of his fate and what happened to him. What we do know is that, at some point, the family, including John's wife Phoebe, changed the family surname from WINES to **WHITE**.



Memorial to victims of the *George III* shipwreck.

The rock that sealed the fate of the *George III* is now clearly marked on shipping charts and is called the King George Rock. On Southport Bluff, Tasmania, there is a monument to the lives lost on the *George III* shipwreck.

Clare Brown

Victorian Bibles Offer to Family Member

If you are related to the **BAKER** or **TWOSE** families from the Wellington and Rockwell Green area in Somerset, the following may be of interest to you.

The Society has been contacted by a member of the family who would like to find a new home for two Victorian Bibles and a photograph album free of charge

to a family member.

Please contact the editor (thegreentree98@gmail.com) who will pass your details to the person concerned.

John WESLEY's Family Link with Dorset

John and Charles WESLEY, founders of the Methodist movement, came from a family of mainly dissident preachers with Dorset connections dating back to the 15th century. Richard SMITH explains.

Were you aware that the founders of the Methodist movement in this country, Rev John **WESLEY** and his younger brother Rev Charles WESLEY, had early family connections to West Dorset? John (1703-1791) was the 15th child and Charles (1707-1788) the 18th child of the Rev Samuel WESLEY and his wife Susanna – but I will return to the Rev Samuel and his sons later.

It is unhelpful that early records of births and marriages in the 1600s for the relevant Dorset parishes are thin on the ground or non-existent but it seems the family name of WESLEY started off as **WESTLEY** or **WESLY**.

Their direct Dorset connection seems to have started with Bartholomew WESTLEY whose birth is unclear though some reports suggest he was born at Charmouth in 1596, the third son of Sir Herbert WESTLEY of Westleigh, Devon. Sir Herbert's connection to Charmouth though is uncertain. However, the name of WESTLEY had connections to Dorset going back much further – a John WESTLEY was Vicar at Sturminster Newton in 1435 and a John WESTLEIGH was Rector at Langton Matravers, near Swanage, from 1481 to 1488.

Bartholomew studied physics, theology and medicine at Oxford University and is reported to have lived in Bridport where he preached at the suburb of Allington. The early 17th century pulpit from where Bartholomew is said to have preached is now held in the Bridport Museum.

It is believed the WESTLEY family had earlier connections to Ireland. In 1619, Bartholomew is thought to have married Ann Loftus **COLLEY**, daughter of Sir Henry COLLEY of County Kildare. In about 1636, they had a son John WESTLEY but his birth place is not known.

Dissenting Clergy

At this point, I should mention the state of religion in the Church of England in the 1660s. After the death of Oliver **CROMWELL** in September 1658, the restoration of

the monarchy led to the crowning of King Charles II. The King introduced The Book of Common Prayer in 1662 for use in all religious services and with it the Act of Uniformity, passed in August 1662, decreeing that all clergy had to adhere to it. Those who dissented had to leave the Church of England. As a result, some 2,000 dissenting clergy (one-fifth of all beneficed clergy) lost their appointments and living. It was known as The Great Ejection.

Bartholomew WESTLEY was a devout Christian. He had been appointed Rector of the parish of Charmouth from 1645 to 1662 and also of the parish for the nearby village of Catherston Leweston in 1650. It appears, however, that Bartholomew was ejected from his living at Charmouth, before March 1662 when the Act of Uniformity was passed, to make way for the appointment of a nominee of the Royalist party. He then had to leave his living at Catherston later that year too.

The 1662 Act was followed in 1665 by what is known as the Five Mile Act, where clergy had to move at least five miles from any previous parish where they had preached. In 1668, Bartholomew sold his house in Charmouth and spent his last few years living in Lyme Regis, helping the townsfolk as a physician.

The timing of Bartholomew's death is unclear. William **BEAL**, author of his biographical notes, suggested that Bartholomew was married twice, quoting a Deed of Arrangement dated 11 November 1659 referring to 'Mary my new wife'. There are no records of the death of his first wife Ann, or of the place and date of a second marriage. There are burial records at Lyme Regis for a Bartholomew WESLY on 15 February 1671 and his wife Mary on 13 July 1671. These would support the above but does not explain other references suggesting Bartholomew outlived his son John, who died in 1678, and that he died at Lyme Regis in February 1680. If correct, the lack of any 1680 parish record of

a burial could be explained by the then vicar omitting it due to Bartholomew's earlier preaching.

His son John, who had been born about 1636, may have been educated at the free school in Dorchester which had been founded in 1539. He then went to Oxford University where he was granted an MA degree when aged 21. BEAL records that, after leaving Oxford, John lived and worked in Melcombe, Weymouth and Radipole with local Christians and seamen. In 1658, he was appointed Rector of the parish of Winterborne Whitechurch. The church still has a chalice dating from about 1600 which may well have been used by John WESLEY in his time there.

Patriarch of Dorchester

In 1658, aged 22, he married Mary **WHITE**, said by some references to be niece of Dr Thomas **FULLER** and daughter of Rev John WHITE (1575-1648,) Rector of Holy Trinity and St Peter's churches in Dorchester from 1606 to 1648 and referred to as the Patriarch of Dorchester following the town's Great Fire of 1613, as well as the founder of Massachusetts.

John and Mary are thought to have had a large family though only four children are known. They had three children baptised while living at Winterborne Whitechurch, namely Timothy in 1659, Elizabeth in 1660 and Samuel in November 1662. They were baptised in the 15th century font, which is still in use at the church. There was another son Matthew, born before Samuel, although no details of his birth survive. He became an eminent surgeon in London.

Samuel was educated firstly at the free school in Dorchester under Henry **DOLLING** until 1677, before being sent to continue his education at various academies of dissenters in London. He then studied at Exeter College, Oxford from 1683 to 1688 and gained an MA. He married Susanna **ANNESLEY** in London in November 1688 when he was 26 and she was nearly 20

years old. They went on to have 19 children, of whom three boys and seven girls survived beyond infancy. None of the children were born in Dorset.

It was Samuel's choice to amend the family surname from WESTLEY to WESLEY. He was appointed Rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, in 1695 and it is there that famous sons John and Charles WESLEY, founders of the Methodist church, were born.

His father John had to leave the parish of Winterborne Whitechurch after the Act of 1662, preaching his last sermon on 17 August 1662. Before that, John was persecuted by the authorities for illegal preaching and spent time in Blandford Prison, being released on 24 July 1661. He also spent six months in Guildhall Prison, Poole, three months in Dorchester Prison and was jailed on at least one other occasion.

Refuge in Somerset

His actual movements after 1662 are unclear. BEAL records that he tried to move to Weymouth where he was much respected, telling the town corporation of his plan but that this was rejected by them early in 1663. He was also called by dissidents in Poole to preach for them, helping to start a nonconformist movement there. At some point, a friend offered a cottage rent-free at Preston, on the outskirts of Weymouth but,

following the passing of the Five Mile Act in 1665, the family had to move away. Reports say they sought refuge in Ilminster, Bridgwater and Taunton in Somerset, with John often preaching daily. At some point he probably returned to the cottage at Preston for Samuel's education at the free school at Dorchester, perhaps from 1669 to 1677 when Samuel left the school at the age of 15. The house at Preston still exists. Originally two cottages, it is now one house called Manor Cottage.

John died in 1678 and reports say he was refused a burial within the church at Preston as was the privilege reserved for parochial clergy but was buried in the churchyard without a gravestone.

His death almost ended the direct link of the Wesley's family to Dorset. But not quite, as John WESLEY is recorded having preached to enthusiastic audiences at Shaftesbury in September 1750, and Corfe Castle, Langton Matravers and Swanage in October 1774. He visited Weymouth and preached at 14 Gloucester Street (now called Epworth Villa) on 6 September 1776, it thus becoming the first Methodist meeting place in Weymouth. A plaque placed on the building in 2013 by the Wesley

Historical Society commemorates the event.

The now elderly John WESLEY is also recorded as having twice travelled through Dorset from Salisbury to Exeter in February 1785 and February 1787 en route to Exeter. It is not recorded on either occasion whether he stopped to preach where his forebears had lived and preached in earlier years.

He did though get to preach at Swanage in August 1787 after he and his friend Dr Thomas COKE were stranded briefly in the town by a bad storm en route to the Channel Islands. They were given shelter by a Presbyterian minister and John preached in his church. The hall at Swanage built in 1705 still survives today.

Meanwhile, his brother Charles died in 1788 having left a legacy, not only of the new Methodist movement, but also of the more than 6,000 hymns he had written during his lifetime. Some legacy.

So, there is some uncertainty about facts regarding

Bartholomew at the start of my story but no doubt about the achievements of Charles and John, with West Dorset playing an important part in their family history.

Richard Smith



John WESLEY plaque in Weymouth

Next Edition – Mysteries and Puzzles

The theme for the December 2023 edition of *The Greenwood Tree* will be *Mysteries and Puzzles*.

'If only' is one of those expressions we all use when talking about our family history research. If only I had asked my father about his experiences in the War. If only I had asked my grandmother where her mother's family had come from. If only someone had written down the names of the people in those mysterious family photos we all seem to have.

We all have mysteries we wish we could clarify and puzzles we would love to solve. So send in your stories about those mysteries and puzzles and what you have done to try to resolve them. Who knows? Someone might read about them in *The Greenwood Tree* and provide you with the missing link which makes sense of it all.

Please send contributions to thegreenwoodtree98@gmail.com by 15 October. If possible, send us a photograph or image to accompany it.

Reminder – stories are always welcome on all family history topics and do not have to be restricted to the current theme.

Paul Radford, Editor

The Plight of the Somerset Peasantry

An article by Ted UDALL in the June edition of The Greenwood Tree about the plight of the Dorset Labourer gave a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the rural poor.

Linda FRIEND examines how language was used to demonise the poor of Somerset.

In his book *Social Investigation and Rural England 1870-1914*, Mark FREEMAN reports that society considered the rural poor to be “unimaginative, ill-clothed, ill-educated, ill-paid, ignorant of all that is taking place beyond his own village, dissatisfied with his position and yet without energy or effort to improve it.” This was a harsh and comprehensive condemnation of the impoverished and underprivileged classes, informed by an unequal class system.

In the 1840s, the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, with the newly centralised workhouse system, was well under way. Fear of the harsh treatment meted out at the workhouse was intended to make the poor submissive and cast long shadows.

Even though workhouses were finally abolished in 1929, when my maternal grandfather went into a nursing home in 1962, he was ashamed to be housed in the old workhouse building. Little had been done to disguise its antecedents – the long wards with narrow beds were the very picture of the intentional humiliation afforded to the workhouse inmate. Similarly, my paternal grandmother, who died in 1969, lived in fear of being admitted to the local geriatric hospital, formerly the Workhouse Infirmary.

In 1999, when my friends, John and Maureen WEEKS, were researching John’s book for the Millennium, *Chedzoy Life on the Somerset Levels*, they showed me an interesting article published in 1846 in the *Bridgwater Times* and *Somerset County Chronicle* concerning the poor of Chedzoy, which presented a stark picture of rural poverty. I subsequently viewed the microfilm source and discovered that the article was part of a series of 24 similar articles about rural poverty, together with four editorials and 15 associated letters of varying length. They were published in the *Bridgwater Times* between 22 October 1846 and 23 May 1847.

Living Conditions

The editorial published on 22 October 1846 announced that a series of articles concerning the lived conditions of *The Somerset Peasantry* had been commissioned following a similar series about the *Dorsetshire Labourer* published in the *London Times* between June and August 1846. The letter written to *The Times* by the Rev Sidney OSBOURNE (the same letter cited in Ted UDALL’s article) suggested that an investigation in Somerset “would furnish many proofs of a similar state of things”. The editor of the *Bridgwater Times* took up the challenge to corroborate his claims. The Somerset series comprised visits to 43 villages. However, at six he held no interviews, only providing descriptions of the living conditions in those places. One assumes he interviewed random subjects rather than seeking a representative sample of village dwellers. Although my personal interest is discursive language, the articles also presented fascinating details about wages, conditions and diet.

The Somerset articles were written by a journalist and ethnographer identified only as ‘Your Inquirer’. However, in an article published in *Somerset Notes and Queries* in 2003 (vol XXXVI, part 363, p18), local historian Paul MANSFIELD proposed that there was evidence to suggest that the “gentleman, well-dressed” was John BOWEN, a retired engineer who had close links as a contributor to the newspaper. Much research into the conditions and causes of poverty exists but it appears that, at that time, the rhetoric underpinning poverty considered it to be a normal and acceptable social state, authorised by God. The original version of the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (Cecil Frances ALEXANDER, published in *Hymns for Little Children* in 1848) informed Christian society that “The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made

them high and lowly, and ordered their estate.”

‘Your Inquirer’ stated his intention was to improve the lot of the poor by bringing its conditions of existence to the attention of middle-class society. The article drew several responses, both for and against the writer’s standpoint, but they were generally critical of the poor themselves for failing to work hard enough to improve their state.

I had expected that the outcome of my discursive analysis of the language used in this rich seam of data for my Master’s Thesis in Cultural and Media Studies would see ‘Your Inquirer’ describe the poor in less derogatory terms but this was not actually the case. While evidently sympathetic, he constructs them as morally weak and susceptible to ‘indecent’ and ‘vice’ due to the inevitable practice of large families having to share sleeping quarters, rather than condemning the lack of adequate housing. In fact, his discourse of immorality was, if anything, more critical that the dominant laissez-faire attitude which viewed poverty as a character defect, constructing the poor as lazy and generally undeserving of relief.

‘Your Inquirer’ found his subjects, or should I say objects, of enquiry to be ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed and in the *Bridgwater Times* dated 5 November 1846 the writer stated “I should hope sir that my series of articles will set the minds of men of influence and station in the country to devise a means to meet the evils which at present exist and that this will stimulate them to the performance of a duty that has been too long neglected.” However, the dominant discourse of the time characterised the poor as either ‘deserving’, and worthy of charitable assistance, or ‘undeserving’ and, therefore, socially and morally inferior.

Linda Friend

The SWAINs of Seavington St Michael

Christine HOWARD researches her farming family which she can trace back more than 200 years in the same Somerset village.

My great-grandfather Hugh **SWAIN** (1877-1935) was born in Seavington St Michael, one of nine children, although two died in infancy. The surviving children were Hugh, Edwin, Frank, Bert, Mark, Emma and Mary. All except Edwin lived in Somerset their whole lives. They came from a farming family which I can trace back to 1754 in Seavington.

Edwin (1868-1930) joined the Coldstream Guards in 1887 until 1908 when he became a Chelsea Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, where he died in 1930. He had married Elizabeth **WADE** (1870-1951) but he does not seem to have been with her when he died. Of his two sisters, Emma (1875-1958) died a spinster and Mary (1870-1910) married Charles **BRAKE** and had three children.

All the brothers joined the army in World War 1, presumably conscripted, because they were relatively old by 1914. They were lucky enough to survive. When Hugh returned from service, he and his family settled in Chard where he worked as an ironmonger's warehouseman at Halse & Son of Fore Street. Hugh died at the age of 58 on 18 June 1935 at home at 103 Combe Street, Chard. Because he was not that old by today's standards, I decided to obtain his death certificate. It yielded horrific details – he had died of stomach cancer and gangrene of a foot, all of which must have been incredibly painful. I could not find a burial record so presumably he was cremated. He was survived by his wife and their five children, including their daughter Dorothy (1903-1994), who was my grandmother. He was also survived by his father, William Pelham **SWAIN** (1847-1938).

Oldest Inhabitant

Hugh's somewhat premature death encouraged me to research his father and brothers in more detail and I discovered some surprising information. William Pelham **SWAIN** was something of a celebrity in his village when he died on 15 January 1847 as he was Seavington



Hugh **SWAIN** with his wife Bessie **CASTLE** on their wedding day, 19 June 1902, with brother Mark **SWAIN** and his wife Annie.

St Michael's oldest inhabitant (90 years) and this was reported in the *Somerset County Herald* and the *Taunton Courier*. The reports said he spent all his life in the parish and had started work as a farm labourer at the age of eight, his wages being one shilling a week. He was married at the age of 19 on Christmas Day 1866 to Charlotte **STUCKEY** (1847-1932).

Turning to Hugh's brothers, Frank **SWAIN** (1872-1958) was a farm labourer in Yeovil and married twice. He had nine children with his first wife Rosa **PITMAN** (1873-1925). His second wife was Florence **GOAD** (1872-1942).

When Bert **SWAIN** (1882-1967) returned from World War 1, he became a carpenter in Seavington and married Alice Rose **HUTCHINGS** (1881-1959) in 1930 with whom he had four children.

Next, I looked at his brother Mark (1883-1940). When he returned from World War 1, Mark resumed his work as a carter at Manor Farm, Seavington. He had married his wife, Margaret (Annie) **HUTCHINGS** (1883-1982) on Christmas Day 1906 and they also had four children, two of which were twins.

In my research last year, I was excited to find a photo of the workers at Manor Farm, including Mark and Annie, on the Seavington St Mary Web Museum site. Annie is holding Edwin, with Mark sitting (left) in front of her and his father, William Pelham **SWAIN**, kneeling on the right of the photo.



Workers at Manor Farm, including Mark and Annie **SWAIN**, young Edwin, and William Pelham **SWAIN**.

In December 2022 my research into the brothers yielded even more interesting details. We holidayed at Warner's, Cricket St Thomas and while we were there we took the opportunity to visit Seavington St Michael where I knew some of my **SWAIN** ancestors were buried in St Mary's Church.

We found the **SWAIN** graves quite easily as they were in front of the church. First we found the grave of Mark and his wife Annie. Nearby was the grave of Bert and his wife Alice and also of their son Sidney and his wife Florence. Finding the grave confirmed that Bert had died in Seavington on 21 August 1966.

In between these **SWAIN** burial plots was another larger gravestone and I wondered if it was William Pelham **SWAIN**. Unfortunately, the inscription is not legible and I have not been able to confirm whether this is correct.

We then went inside the church where there were photos of local people and I was amazed to see that Mark **SWAIN** was among them. Mark had worked at Manor Farm all his life for the **VAUX** family. The photo was taken on 5 September 1927 and shows the church bellringers.

Christine Howard



Mark **SWAIN**, middle of bottom row, with church bellringers.

Roundup from Dorset History Centre

Latest News

It has been good to see a gradual increase in the number of enquiries and personal visits to DHC in recent months. There is no obvious reason for this and generally the numbers balance out over the course of a year. It is always our hope that with increasing amounts of material available via the online catalogue, more people will find a subject or theme to research. After nearly 13 years of Dorset's family history resources being available via Ancestry.co.uk, we still receive a large number of hits each year – suggesting that the interest in personal histories replenishes and revives over time. During 2022-23 for example there were around 2.5 million views of images hosted on the site.

For anyone with an account with online media company *History Hit* it is possible to view a recently released piece on one of Kingston Lacy's most notable (and notorious) occupants – *The Incredible Story of William J BANKES – Adventurer, Collector, Spy*. The piece features DHC's very own Luke DADY, the archivist who led the cataloguing of the Bankes collection.

PERCY Map of Sherborne

We were delighted to receive a huge and beautifully illustrated map of Sherborne dating from 1834. It was gifted by legal firm Porter Dodson to Dorset History Centre where it will be accessible to the public in perpetuity. The parchment map which measures 200x130 cms had for several decades been the focal point of interest in the firm's board room but due to an office relocation it proved impossible to accommodate the huge map in the new premises.



The PERCY map of Sherborne.

The map was created by cartographer Thomas **PERCY** who had been commissioned by the **WINGFIELD-DIGBY** family of Sherborne Castle. Two copies were produced. The map is unusually detailed and visually appealing and shows the town of Sherborne and a wide swathe of countryside around it. Each plot is numbered. Information about owners and land usage can be found in the map's accompanying book of reference or 'terrier'. Features on the map are colour coded e.g. dwelling houses in pink, churches in black, industrial buildings in grey, arable land yellow-brown and pasture in green. The quality of the workmanship is still evident nearly 200 years later. It is a vital resource for anyone interested in the history of Sherborne and stands as a fine example of early 19th century cartography.

Thomas HARDY Campaign

As you may be aware, DHC along with its support charity Dorset Archives Trust, has been running a fundraising campaign to pay for the cataloguing of the archives of Thomas **HARDY**. We require £68,000 to employ an archivist to work on this large and complex collection which is currently almost invisible to the outside world. We were delighted to be successful in our application to The National Archives who from a highly competitive field allocated a maximum £35,000 to our project. This leaves us with a total of £26,000 to raise – a task we are starting immediately. The fundraising is being hosted by the Trust's website: <https://www.dorsetarchivetrust.org/project/unlocking-thomas-hardy-fundraising-to-open-up-access-to-the-finest-hardy-archive-in-the-world>

We would of course welcome any donations. We hope to start the project later in 2023.

Conservation Tools

by Jessica Pollard, DHC Conservator

If you have visited the Dorset History Centre during June and spent time in the reception area you may have seen the display showcasing some of the many tools and a few commonly used materials that can be found



DHC conservation tools.

in the conservation studio. Some may look familiar, others not so much. There is a curved needle perfect for sewing books, a porcupine quill useful for holding down tiny flakes of pigment after consolidation, tweezers that enable me to grip things precisely and manipulate small items with care or a small, sharp lifting knife that can easily separate leather from board.

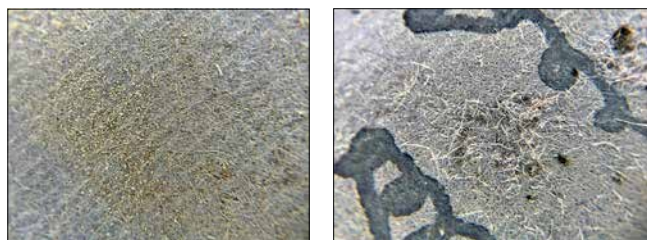
However, I have chosen to highlight a slightly different tool that I have been using recently. It is a small macro lens that clips on to your phone over the camera, enabling you to not only use your phone as a microscope but to take instant photos of the enlarged image. It is very convenient as it can be used in situ without the difficulty of trying to position an historic document under a traditional microscope stand, or having to connect to a computer as required with a USB microscope. It is small, lightweight, easily transportable, cheap and requires no instructions.



The macro lens.

But what am I typically using a microscope like this for? I'll explain a few examples.

Exploring the paper surface – a document may appear to be in a good, stable condition but once under the microscope the paper substrate reveals its deteriorating state. The document on the left has already undergone cleaning due to historic mould damage, but by looking closer we can see that tiny particles still cling on to the paper fibres and therefore further cleaning will be necessary.



The image on the right is from a document that was going to be surface cleaned and shows damage to the paper surface barely visible to the naked eye. However gentle we are during the cleaning process it always carries the risk of abrasion and therefore knowing that the paper surface is already weakened means that cleaning is kept to a minimum and carefully monitored throughout. It also indicates that a consolidation treatment could be beneficial to provide strength and improve long-term stability.

Identifying prints – knowing what type of print you are treating can be incredibly important. It can be used as an aid to help date the work or ascertain whether it is an original etching, for example, or a later photomechanical or digital printed copy. Print identification may also give an indication of the ink used. Different inks can react in very different ways depending on their material composition, for instance they may respond poorly to certain solvents, or they could be water soluble and therefore water-based treatments may need to be avoided.



Left: the rosette pattern of dots distinguishes this printing process as offset lithography, a planographic photomechanical printing technique that combines lithography, photography, and

offset printing.

Right: The buildup of ink along the edges of the print reveal this is a relief printing process, such as woodblock, or wood engraving. The force of the press pushes the ink outwards causing it to pool at the edges of the printed area.



Identifying leather species – distinguishing which animal was used to make the leather on a bookbinding enables like-for-like conservation treatment. It may also provide insight into place of origin or the historic availability of certain skins.



Left: The even distribution of hair follicles identifies this leather as from a cow. Right: Two rows of follicles are visible, indicative of a two-coated fleece. This tells us it is a goat skin.

Getting up close with inks – with the naked eye the sand crystals resting on the text in the image to



the left look like bits of glitter. But what would glitter be doing on this manuscript? With the macro lens you can see they are actually crystals. These crystals are either caused by an excess of inorganic salts from the iron-gall ink itself or remnants of blotting sand the scribe used

to speed up the drying process during the writing of the manuscript. Although easily removed, whether by accident or deliberately, it is important not to brush these small crystals away during use or cleaning as they provide fascinating evidence of materiality.

The enlarged image of decorative lettering on the right shows the crumbling nature of the silvery pigment, highlighting its instability and therefore the need for careful handling, or possibly remedial conservation treatment.

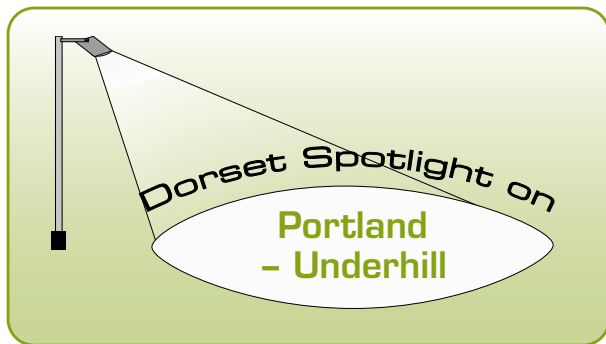
As you can see, this is a very handy addition to my tool kit. I hope this has given a small insight into the macro world of conservation.

You can read more blogs from DHC at: <https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/>

The best way to stay in touch and to hear about all the current work at DHC is via the e-newsletter. You can sign up for this by following the instructions here: <https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/newsletter/>.



*Sam Johnston
Service Manager for Archives
and Records*



Portland is the most southerly part of Dorset. A pear drop-shaped chunk of limestone, geologically related to Purbeck, it dangles from the mainland by the pebbly thread of Chesil Beach. Although not quite an island, it retains a number of island characteristics including a deep suspicion of outsiders. In Thomas **HARDY**'s novel *The Well-Beloved* (set on Portland) he called it the Isle of Slingers, a nod to the idea that Portlanders would chuck stones at kimberlins (a kimberlin was anybody who was not a Portlander). While in days gone by, it was not unusual for villagers to have disparaging nicknames for the inhabitants of other villages (Cuckoos, Mice, Bulldogs etc), Portland is the only place I have come across where they had an all-encompassing nickname for everyone else.

Portland is about four-and-a-half miles long by one-and-three-quarter miles wide and has a population of about 13,500. Ecclesiastically, it is one parish, though served by three churches. To find Portland, take the A354 from Weymouth, head west and keep going until you can go no further.

Portland is a number of separate communities, but not really separate enough to be described as villages. There is too much of Portland for one Spotlight so I have divided it into the two parts the island naturally falls into – Underhill and Tophill. As Underhill is the

part we arrive in, we will start there. Underhill is composed of three communities – Castletown, Chiswell and Fortuneswell.

If your ancestors came from Portland they will have been quarrymen, fishermen, or had connections to prisons or the Royal Navy. Castletown is where we see the naval connection. The Royal Navy was here for about 150 years, from some time in the 1850s to 1995, when the Sea Training Centre left for Devonport. The Royal Navy is also responsible for Portland Harbour. Over a period of about 50 years, from 1848 to 1905, four massive breakwaters were built, enclosing about four square miles of sea. With typical Victorian enterprise, much of the labour was provided by the newly-built prison and the raw material was dug from the stone quarries high above us. Castletown is rather sad now. Once there was almost an entire street of pubs catering



Chiswell and Chesil Beach.

for thirsty sailors (and a branch of GIEVES & HAWKES to tailor the officers' uniforms). Some of the pubs have gone, some are derelict and only the Royal Breakwater Hotel survives.

D-Day Centre

Other maritime reminders abound. There is the D-Day Centre where you may see a jeep, a Sherman tank and a torpedo of the sort that was manufactured at WHITEHEAD's factory, just a couple of miles away at Wyke Regis. The factory closed in 1994.

American visitors will be drawn to a board listing the names of about 475 American servicemen. These were the first wave of the 29th US Infantry Division, who left Portland for Omaha Beach on 6 June 1944. The board also records their fate, with so many listed as 'killed in action'. Nearby is something else unique to Portland, safely locked in behind its railings, the *Silver Star*. She is a lerret. A lerret is an open boat, about 16 feet long, propelled by two to four pairs of oarsmen. Unusually, it was pointed at both ends which apparently made it more manoeuvrable in the heavy tides off Chesil Beach. The *Silver Star* is one of only three or four of these once ubiquitous craft still left.

Castletown gets its name from Portland Castle, built by Henry VIII in 1520. It was one of a whole string of coastal defences, guarding



Portland Castle.

harbours and running from Essex to Cornwall. Portland Castle faces Sandsfoot Castle in Weymouth across the harbour but Sandsfoot is in much poorer shape. Portland Castle was the residence of the Governors of Portland – it is now in the care of English Heritage.

Mackerel Fishing

Castletown faces the harbour. Chiswell, our next stop, backs on to the beach. Chiswell, said to be the oldest settlement on Portland, was originally a fishing community. Here, in the mackerel season (April to October), your Portland ancestors would have fished for mackerel with seine nets – an open boat (a lerret like the *Silver Star*) towed a circular net around the shoal and people on the beach hauled on it, ever tightening round the fish and drawing them on to the beach. There is, of course, as any old Portlander would tell you, a lot more to it than that. If your ancestors were involved in mackerel fishing anywhere along Chesil Beach, from West Bay to Portland, try to get hold of a copy of Sarah ACTON's book *Seining Along Chesil*. It is an oral history, full of family details and those lists of names that we love.

Chiswell's houses were dug into or even built on top of the great shingle beach, as the Cove House Inn still is. The centre of the village is Victoria Square (now largely a roundabout) but many times in Portland's history, it has filled with water from storm-driven tides overtopping the massive sea defences. You will notice that there are gaps between the houses on the seaward side, narrow alleys called 'Opes'. These alleys gave passage up to the beach but they also acted as channels for carrying seawater away. (One of these opes, I noticed, was called No Ope). Chiswell has seen many catastrophic floods, in 1763, 1824, 1942, 1978, 1979 and 2014. Look at the *Cove House Inn* on a fine spring day, with drinkers on the terrace and reflect that more than once since it was built in the 18th century, its doors and windows have been smashed in and shingle dumped on its roof by cataclysmic tides.

Royal Pudding

Rising up from Chiswell is Fortuneswell. Once this was the business centre of Portland, its narrow streets lined by small shops. Some of those shops are now empty and looking rather sad. Those streets are steep – as Thomas HARDY says in *The Well Beloved*, "... houses above houses, one man's doorstep rising behind his neighbour's chimney..." Fortuneswell is home to Portland's oldest pub, the *Royal Portland Arms*. This was a favoured retreat of King George III, during his frequent Weymouth holidays in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, though the building we see today was extended and remodelled in late Victorian times. When we see the phalanx of security surrounding our present royals, it is difficult to imagine King George

III turning up, with entourage, for some mutton and a double helping of the landlady's (Mrs **GIBBS**) Royal Pudding at this rather ordinary pub.

They managed to find enough level ground to build a church at Fortuneswell – St John's. It was built in 1840 but, because of the restricted site, it is orientated North-East to South-West, not the usual East-West. It is still in use (but firmly locked when I tried the door).

As I said at the beginning, Portland has a number of insular idiosyncrasies. There are traces of a Celtic, pre-Conquest inheritance system – partible inheritance, where the assets were divided equally among all the sons, as opposed to the feudal system



Cove House Inn.

of primogeniture, where the eldest son took the lion's share (so as to maintain the estate intact). Then there is the taboo regarding the little lop-eared furry animal, sometimes referred to as 'underground mutton' whose name must never be spoken. So I will not tempt fate and speak it. Let us just say that Beatrix **POTTER** wrote a story about one called Peter.

So, we will continue our steep climb to visit Portland's Tophill for our next Spotlight.

Mike Whitaker



Fortuneswell street.



The subject of names is quite complex and research into it shows more than 15 different categories from which surnames evolved.

Names denoting 'Son of' were among the earliest surnames then a large number came from a description of an occupation (CARPENTER, BAKER, SHEPHERD, WEAVER, DRAPER), to ones identifying a personal or physical attribute (JOLLY, LONGMAN, SMALL, HARDMAN, REDHEAD, SHORT). Names can reflect colours (WHITE, GREEN, BLACK, LEMON), birds (DOVE, EAGLE, SWAN, SWALLOW, PEACOCK), fish (PIKE, ROACH, SALMON), the weather (GALE, FLOOD, SNOW), or season (WINTER, SPRING), country (ENGLAND, IRELAND), or county (HAMPSHIRE, BUCKINGHAM) and places (READING, DERBY, LINCOLN). Surprisingly, many clergymen had appropriate surnames (POPE, CHURCH, TOOGOOD, GOODENOUGH, BISHOP, FAITH).

So far as Christian names are concerned some parents chose Latin (SEPTIMUS, DECIMA, NONUS, OCTAVIA), or Greek names (DIONYSIA, ZEUS, DIONYSUS), or ones from the Bible (DANIEL, ABRAHAM, LOT, JACOB, AZENATH). The names of famous people and battles were very popular (WELLINGTON, NELSON, ALMA, INKERMANN, SCOTT, GLADSTONE, NIGHTINGALE), provided a choice of many thousands. Surnames and mothers' maiden names were often given to boys, while girls could be baptised with a feminine version of their father's first name (ALBERTA, HERBERTINA, ARTHURINA, RUPERTA). Names used flowers (VIOLET, PANSY, PRIMROSE, DAISY, ROSE, LILY) or Jewels (EMERALD, RUBY, PEARL, SAPPHIRE, OPAL). There are more categories still, but finally, a few descriptive names probably not encountered too often nowadays (SHEEPSHANKS, BROADBELT, BROWNFIELD, SHEEPWASH).

BATH CHRONICLE

Thursday 21 February 1765

"On Friday last, one Farmer **GEAR**'s wife of Misterton, one mile from Crewkerne in Somersetshire, was delivered of Three Children, all Boys, who were christened on the same Day by the names of MATTHEW, MARK and LUKE. On Saturday morning they all died. They were large children: the woman is likely to do well."

BATH CHRONICLE

Thursday 27 March 1800

"THE HEINOUSNESS of the SIN of WILFUL MURDER

A SERMON preached in the Parish Churches of Staple and Bickenhall in the County of Somerset. On the occasion of the execution of RICHARD **WILLIAMS** in the Murder of THOMAS **LAVER**. By the Reverend CHARLES **TOOGOOD**,

To which is added an Appendix, containing some Account of the said Murder, and of the Trial of RICHARD WILLIAMS and JAMES **PODGER**, and the execution of Richard WILLIAMS, together with a few remarks on the *Conduct of the Jury* and the *Office of a Juror*.

SHERBORNE: Printed by W **CRUTWELL**; and sold by J **JOHNSON**, St Paul's Churchyard: at **NORRIS**, Taunton: **MOORE**, Ilminster; **JOLIFFE**, Crewkerne; **HODGES**, Sherborne; R **CRUTWELL**, Bath; and by His Newsmen."

BATH CHRONICLE

Thursday 8 January 1829

"Death: Died on Sunday, January 4th at Lyncombe, near Bath, Mrs Keturah **HOOPER**, aged 76 years, for over half a century a respectable inhabitant of this City."

NOTE: The name KETURAH means 'Incense' in Hebrew. Keturah is mentioned in the Book of GENESIS. She married Abraham after the death of his first wife Sarah, and was the mother of six sons, IMRAN, JOKSHAN, MEDAN, MIDIAN, ISHBAK and SHUAH.

BATH CHRONICLE

Thursday 8 January 1829

"Marriage: On January 1st at Walcot Church by the Ven. The Archbishop of Bath, Harry **JELLY**, Esq., of Widcombe Parade, to Eliza, only daughter of Mr J **CAVE** of this City."

DORSET COUNTY CHRONICLE

Thursday 20 August 1829

"DORCHESTER: The 14th anniversary meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Bible Society was held at the County Hall on Monday last when a numerous but most respectable audience assembled. The chair was taken by the Robert WILLIAMS Esq., who opened the business of the Society. Among the clergymen present were the Reverend John **PARSONS** and the Reverend Mr **GODHART**."

DORSET COUNTY CHRONICLE

Thursday 3 December 1829

"POOLE: On November 29th of a decline, aged 25 years, Loveday, 2nd daughter of Mr Herbert **MAJOR** of Long Fleet near Poole. Her amiable disposition and accomplished manners endeared her, not only to her family, but also to a large circle of acquaintances by whom her decease is deeply regretted."

DORSET COUNTY CHRONICLE

Thursday 1 December 1831

"POOLE: On Saturday last a coroner's Inquest was held on the body of **HUSSEY**, wife of James **ANGEL**, razor-grinder and rabbit-dealer, who was found drowned in the Quay. It appeared that the deceased had parted from her husband about nine o'clock the previous night, and that he had not seen her from that time until the next morning, when she was a corpse: the deceased had been addicted to drinking and several witnesses proved she was intoxicated the previous night; but no evidence whatever was adduced as to how she came into the water.

The Jury returned a verdict of 'Found Drowned.'"

SHERBORNE MERCURY

Monday 20 April 1835

"Marriage: On 9th April, A C COX, Esq., of Taunton to Emma, the youngest daughter of Mr John **SWEETAPPLE** of Foxcott near Andover."

*NOTE: The marriage took place at Andover. The bridegroom was Arthur Charles **COX**. He died aged 68 and was buried at Staplegrave, Taunton, on 25 April 1877. Emma was buried at the same place on 24 October 1895. A daughter, Maria Goodenough COX, baptised at St Mary's Church, Taunton, 6 June 1838, lived at 'The Chestnuts,' Staplegrave. She died there aged 72 and was also buried at Staplegrave*

on 10 April 1911.

WILTSHIRE INDEPENDENT **Thursday 29 August 1839**

"FROME: On Monday the 19th instant Sam. **HACKETT**, a labourer of Frome, who had buried his wife just three weeks before, was married at Marston Church by the Hon. and Reverend R **BOYCE** to Mary Ann **DOWN**. He had previously professed attachment to Mary **KING** of Westport, between whom and himself on the first Sunday after his wife's interment, the Banns were published. Meeting, however, with this *widow in want*, he changed his love and being tired of widowhood, to save time and trouble, he thought it unnecessary to change the name in the Banns, and so was there united to his fair bride without the Banns being re-published, the mistake not being discovered until the parties came together to give their signature to the marriage register.

The first love has since sent to her deceiver, reprobating his conduct and making a charge of £2 damages, threatening consequences unless duly paid."

THE WESTERN GAZETTE **Friday 23 October 1868**

"Death: Died on 16th October, Mrs Sarah **OATWAY** of Old Cleeve, at the residence of her son-in-law, LUTLEY **PUGSLEY** Esq., of Whitefield, Wivelscombe."

THE WESTERN GAZETTE **Friday 23 October 1868**

"Birth: A triple birth has taken place at Salway Ash, near Bridport, the wife of Mr **HAUKLEY** having presented her husband with three fine daughters who are all doing well. They have been named 'Faith,' 'Hope' and 'Charity.'"

THE WESTERN GAZETTE **Friday 23 October 1868**

"CREWKERNE: John **BISHOP** appeared before W **SPARKS** Esq, charged with assaulting AZENATH **WARRY** with whom he lived. Prisoner was very violent when apprehended by Sergeant **GILES**. **BISHOP** was remanded."

THE WESTERN GAZETTE **Friday 9 August 1878**

"CHEDDAR VALLEY: The annual Cheddar Valley Horticultural Society meeting has taken place in the beautiful park belonging

to Miss **BIRCH**. The weather was delightfully fine and the great Eastern Band played varied selections of music throughout the afternoon. Among the many prize winners, whose exhibits were displayed in two large marquees, was Mr **HARDACRE**, (a subscriber to the Society) for his dish of Apricots. Among the Cottagers' who received a prize for Fuchsias was Mr James **FLOWER**."

WEYMOUTH TELEGRAM **Tuesday 25 May 1897**

"Birth: On May 17th at the Police Station, Blandford, the wife of Police Constable A **COURAGE**, of a daughter."

NOTE: The 1911 census shows the family now resident at the Police Station in Beaminster. The child born in 1897 was named Hilda May Horsey COURAGE. Her mother's name was Florence Emily and her father was Albert. Two more children had been born since 1897, another daughter, Eva Florence and a son, Redvers Hector Horsey. Presumably the son was named after General Sir Redvers BULLER, V.C. G.C.B., G. C.M.G. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'Conspicuous Gallantry and Leadership' during the Battle of Hlobane in 1879. He returned to the scene of an ambush by the Zulus to rescue wounded soldiers.

WESTERN CHRONICLE **Friday 13 May 1904**

"RINGING THE CHANGES: CURIOUS EFFECT of MARRIAGE: Young ladies sometimes change their names with curious effect. The Reverend A **METCALFE** of St Peter's, Dorchester; in his parochial magazine, calls attention to the following extraordinary instance of coincidence of names.

Perhaps some of you noticed, he says; the singularity in the last 'Banns of Marriage' published in our Church – namely between 'CHARLES **ROSE** and **ROSE CHARLES**.' The bride lost her surname of 'CHARLES' but married a 'CHARLES ROSE' and so became, not only 'ROSE ROSE,' but also 'Mrs CHARLES ROSE' instead of 'Miss ROSE CHARLES.'"

CHARD AND ILMINSTER NEWS **Saturday 21 May 1904**

"On Sunday morning about 7 a.m., a serious trap accident happened at Little Hill corner. Master Fred.

GALLOP, a son of Mr and Mrs Alfred GALLOP of Grange farm, was proceeding to the milk factory with milk. The horse when passing through the village, which is only 200 yards from the corner where the accident occurred, was quietly walking, but it is supposed that something frightened it, for the animal bolted and the wheel of the vehicle caught a portion of the hedge and ran on for some distance, as one of the cans pitched into the ditch 14 yards from where the cart struck the hedge, and the other can five yards further ahead. Young GALLOP was seen two yards further on lying unconscious with blood coming from his mouth. The trap was broken into numerous pieces. Mr Levi **NORTH** of Blindmore Farm, was also going to the factory and saw young GOLLOP (sic) pass through the village, and arrived at the scene of the accident about three minutes afterwards. The horse was long gone.

Mr **NORTH** at once called Mr **HAYMAN**, who lives at the farm, and they carried the lad to Mr **WORLOCK**'s house. Mr and Mrs **WORLOCK** at once applied restoratives and a telegram was sent at once to Dr **MUNDEN** of Ilminster, and a messenger to Grange Farm to the parents. Dr **BINDER** came and pronounced that the lad had received a concussion of the brain; fortunately, no bones were broken. The sufferer is still at Mr **WORLOCK**'s, lying in a precarious condition but the doctor entertains hopes of his recovery. The horse was found about half a mile away from the spot where the accident happened eating grass by the side of the lane without a scratch upon him."

NOTE: Fred did survive. The 1939 register lists him and wife Alice (nee PAVEY) whom he married in April 1914, living at Combe Head Farm, Combe St Nicholas. Surname is GOLLOP in original documents.

Compiled by Teresa Williams

Book Reviewer Wanted

The Greenwood Tree is looking for someone willing to write regular book reviews. Please apply to the editor at thegreenwoodtree98@gmail.com

*This edition's theme is unusual names, which has been a bit of a struggle, but here goes. We will start with a couple of interesting named Somerset photographers which is easier, as we have the book and CD, *Secure the Shadow* (Somerset Photographers from 1839-1939) to work from, plus some additional research.*

Horatio Nelson KING

Horatio Nelson **KING** (1830-1905) was a photographer, dealer and stationer, also a theatrical impresario. Born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire and married twice. First in 1852 (Jul-Sept, Cheltenham) to Elizabeth Ann **Sainsbury** of Marlborough, Wiltshire (died 4 June 1861). The second time was in 1862 (Oct-Dec, Bath) to Clara Mary **Hobbs** (died 1928, Hammersmith, aged 85). The 1901 census mentions he has a son (by his second wife), also called Horatio Nelson KING who was also a photographer, born in Bath. He married Maud C, born about 1897 in Lyttelton, New Zealand.



Horatio Nelson KING
Carte de Visite.

He became bankrupt in 1859, later inventing some means of producing spectral illusions on stage in around 1863. He then went bankrupt again in April 1863 and again in January 1869 as the leaseholder of the Theatre Royal, Bath. He moved to London in 1872 and still seemed to be a photographer and was appointed the use of the Royal Arms in 1897, photographing many famous people with examples shown on the National Portrait Gallery and on various websites. He had a close connection to the British royal family and was the architectural photographer to Queen Victoria.

The THEWENETI Brothers



THEWENETI Brothers
Carte de Visite.

The three brothers were all born in Bucharest and naturalised. They always shared the same address, starting with a studio at 14 Bond Street, London. All three died at 29 Henrietta Street, Bathwick, Bath. They were all artists and worked in their photographic business from 1862-1878.

Lawrence (Lorenzo) **THEWENETI** (1789?-1878) was a miniature and portrait painter and does not seem to have married, but I have seen a daughter Sibylla mentioned and

seen online a Carte de Visite of a female called Sibylla. He died 3 April 1878, with his estate under £2,000.

Michael THEWENETI (1796?-1874) is recorded as blind in 1871. He died on 7 Feb 1874 with his estate under £3,000.

Joseph Edward **THEWENETI** (1806-1889) was married at Bathwick Church on 19 Dec 1844 to Emma Millicent **COLE** (1790-1886), daughter of John Cole, professor of music, of Bath. Emma was a professor of piano-forte and singing. She died on 5 Oct 1886 in Bath. Edward died on 3 Jan 1889, with an estate of £8,881.

There is a painting, *Portrait of a Miniaturist*, allegedly of Edward THEWENETI with his wife Emma in the Tansey Collection Ref 10726.



Portrait allegedly of Edward THEWENETI and wife Emma.

Can You Trust What You See?

Wedding group of **WILCOX** and **JOYNER** (22 Oct 1919) at Wimborne Methodist church. Outside 9 Osborne Road, Wimborne.

At the wedding of Emily Louise JOYNER, her brother Alfred William JOYNER was unable to attend as he was at sea on board HMS Ceres, so the photographer composed the attending family group in a way that created a space at the rear, knowing that he would add Alfred's image to the family wedding group later. The groom is William George WILCOX (13 Nov 1882-22 Jun 1947) with his bride Emily Louisa JOYNER (8 Apr 1885 Bere Regis - ?), later marrying again to a **GRIFFITHS**.

From left to right – Amelia JOYNER (Emily's mother), William Fred JOYNER (Emily's younger brother), Florence **WELSTED** (parents owned the music shop in West Street, Wimborne) 'The Gap' (Alfred, with the centre parting looking away from camera), best man, Gideon JOYNER (Emily's father).



WILCOX and JOYNER wedding group.

Alfred William JOYNER (born 24 Jun 1889 in Boscombe, Hampshire – died 21 Feb 1975 Poole, Dorset). (His father Gideon was a blacksmith, later buying the forge at Ashmore, Dorset). Alfred was a carpenter and wheelwright, apprenticed to the **SEEVIOURS** at Holt, Wimborne, later joining the Royal Navy, finishing up as chief shipwright.

Wedding photograph of Alfred William



Wedding of Alfred JOYNER and Dorothy CLARKE.

JOYNER who married Dorothy Margaret **CLARKE** of 18 Station Road, Wimborne at Verwood Methodist Church, (1923 Wimborne). They married by licence as he was leaving for China the following week. The parents of Barbara **MARRIOTT** (née JOYNER).



William and Emily WILCOX silver wedding anniversary.

William George and Emily Louisa WILCOX silver wedding anniversary photo of 1944. The photographer's embossed stamp in lower right corner is of J **TILLEY** & Sons, Wimborne. They lived at Sunnybank, Bayford, Wincanton. Somerset which they had built. Is that William WILCOX on the far

right, at the back of the house?



Sunnybank.

Barbara MARRIOTT (née JOYNER) donated six photos including this lovely large (11" x 9") one of William George **WILCOX** seated in an unknown make of car. It was used for weddings and funerals, belonging to the garage of **BUGDEN** & Son of Wincanton. George worked for them as a motor engineer/driver.

There is a receipt from Thomas **GREEN** & Son (Leonard C GREEN) builders & undertakers, dated 4 Jul 1947, where the executors of George WILCOX estate, get a special reduced rate for the hire of a car.



William WILCOX in car.

Dorset Photographers Book

A request – We are working to produce a similar Dorset Photographers publication to our Somerset book and CD entitled *Secure the Shadow*. So we are looking for any photos of shop fronts or interiors, ephemera/receipts etc. Really anything relating to a Dorset photographer and their business history, similar to these examples.

Walter **POUNCY**'s (Photography and Frame maker) shop in Swanage. Looking down the High Street from the bottom of Mount Pleasant Lane. Dated 1908.



POUNCY's shop in Swanage.

P William **HOBBS** (1861-1979) was a photographer, running his father's business J J HOBBS & Son (wholesale and retail stationers) in Blandford, also in Wimborne. He had a specially converted car at the rear to carry his heavy equipment. HOBBS took local photos between 1890 and 1930 but was still selling images in the 1960s. His father was John James HOBBS (1826-?).



Car of P.W. HOBBS.

Secure The Shadow

A reminder that we still have some *Secure the Shadow* books left but not many. Also our list of 5,000+ photographs, with at least one named person, is available to search on our website and can then be ordered from Yeovil HQ.

I am always happy to be corrected.

John Tanner

The School Trip That Lit A Spark

Roger GUTTRIDGE was a teenager when he discovered an unsuspected passion for researching local history. More than half a century later he is the author of 20 books, a well-known journalist and speaker and a former editor of The Greenwood Tree. Current editor Paul RADFORD met him in the latest of our series of personality interviews.

Roger **GUTTRIDGE** is practically an original. He holds the lowest existing SDFHS membership number of 3 and was one of the earliest people to join our Society even if he was not quite there at the very start. The Society was founded in 1975 and Roger, at the time a young local newspaper reporter, joined in 1977. His original number was 224 but about 15 years or so ago there was a renumbering. Only four of the first 100 original members were still registered with the Society last year.

Out of curiosity Roger attended the 1977 AGM in Yeovil and, despite resolving not to reveal his journalistic background, left the meeting as the Society's first Press Secretary. In 1980 he was prevailed upon to become the third editor of *The Greenwood Tree* when the previous incumbent Gerald **PITMAN** resigned though Roger insisted it was a stopgap measure as work left him little time for this unpaid job. He labelled himself 'acting honorary editor' and oversaw four issues but left his mark, dipping into his newspaper background to introduce a bigger type size for easier reading, a double-column format, bigger and bolder headlines and more pictures. Another innovation was the village Spotlight, which like his other changes, remains a feature of the magazine to this day.

Roger was also the first person to suggest the Society, spread so widely over two counties, should form local groups to make it easier for members to meet up and was a founder member of the very first one in East Dorset. He also instigated the meeting to form a local section in Bournemouth though that backfired when the members decided to form the rival Bournemouth Family History Group.

Roger counts himself as a Dorset man though, as with the Society, he was not quite there at the very



Roger GUTTRIDGE.

beginning. He was born in Redhill, Surrey, but his family moved to Dorset when he was just seven months old and he has lived in the county ever since. He was brought up in the Sturminster Newton area and went to Blandford Grammar School.

Field Trips

He was not to know it then but taking part in a school project when he was in the lower sixth was to transform his life. His history teacher sent the class on a series of day-long field trips to Dorchester. The project involved researching old documents in the Dorset Record Office and Dorset County Library, which were then at County Hall. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. The schoolboy was fascinated by what he could find by combing through old records and a lifelong passion for local and family history was born.

Roger was able to confirm family legends that he was descended from the Dorset smuggler Roger **RIDOUT**, his 5xgreat-grandfather on his mother's side. RIDOUT was the leader of a notorious North Dorset smuggling gang which operated from Okeford Fitzpaine

and Fiddleford Mill in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He wrote a story about the smugglers which became his first published article in 1968 in Dorset County Magazine, now Dorset Life, the magazine for which he is a regular writer and the longest serving contributor. His school project appeared in the Dorset Yearbook and became his second story in print.

He served his apprenticeship as a journalist at the *Western Gazette* in Yeovil before joining the *Bournemouth Evening Echo* where he worked for 15 years in a variety of roles, including chief reporter, deputy news editor and deputy production editor. He left to work as a freelance, leaving him more time to write books and give talks, notably on smuggling. He estimates he has delivered the one entitled *My Family and Other Smugglers* between two and three thousand times over the last 40 years. A chance meeting with the well-known Dorset author and publisher Rodney **LEGG** at a party in Wimborne had prompted him to write his first book, *Dorset Smugglers*, and he has since published many more on local history and on other topics which interest him, like murders and the paranormal.

A keen swimmer, Roger has also had an interesting career as a sports journalist, contributing many articles for the national magazine *Swimming Times* and covering the sport at three Olympic Games and two Commonwealth Games. He was also Press Officer for the GB national team in 1999 and 2000.

Yet another branch of his career has been in broadcasting and he has taken part in or advised on many television and radio programmes, notably three episodes of the BBC1 series *Murder, Mystery and My Family*.

Paul Radford

Octagonal Church Towers

In the June GT *Somerset Spotlight* article on Somerton (pp26-27), Mike WHITAKER gave passing mention to that parish's unusual octagonal church tower and speculated that there were only five others in the county. However, I can add four more to his list – Barton St David (St David), Bishop's Hull (St Peter & St Paul), Ilchester (St Mary Major) and Weston Bampfylde (Holy Cross).

This now brings the Somerset total to 10 – unless someone out there has further contribution(s) to make? Finally, the fact that (apparently) there are no similar such church towers in Dorset is a source of some puzzlement. Has anyone got any ideas?

Robin Ansell
Sherborne

TWOSE, Not TWOYE

On page 29 of *The Greenwood Tree* of June 2023, the extract from the *Bath Chronicle* of Thursday 5 July 1832 lists Charles **TWOYE** of Wellington, Somerset, being discharged from the Bath Hospital after being admitted for "Dropt hands from lead".

I think this is likely to be Charles **TWOSE**. My 3xgreat-grandmother was Sarah **ASH** (née **TWOSE**) (1792-1872). It took me a little while to work out her ancestry, in the course of which I built up a large file of **TWOSEs** (who, by the way, were almost all based in Wellington and nearby villages). Unfortunately, all the Charles **TWOSEs**, for whom I have a date of birth, were born after 1820. However, I have one earlier Charles **TWOSE** in my file who attended The Lower Meeting Independent (formerly Presbyterian) Church, Wellington, Somerset. He and his wife Hannah buried two children there – Sarah, aged 2, in 1823 and John aged 1, in 1828 – and possibly others. In 1841, only 17-year-old Mary (a weaver) and 11-year-old James were at home with their parents. By 1851, Charles had died but

James was then listed as a painter and glazier. Perhaps this was also Charles's profession – hence the lead poisoning.

A John and James **TWOSE** attended the same church and I have therefore assumed them to be relatives of Charles. Someone who has Charles in their direct line may well have researched further into this family.

Heather Sims

Who Are These Children?

I wondered if any SDFHS member could identify the children shown in this photograph of Merriott School in Somerset, taken in 1928.

The photograph belongs to my aunt and was among many items of family memorabilia which came to her through her father, Alfred **CLIFT**, born in Merriott in 1895 and her grandparents George and Alice **CLIFT** (née **PATTEMORE**). Alice was born in Merriott in 1866.

Alice and George had two grandsons, both named Robert and both born in 1920. One was my father, Robert Warry George **CLIFT**. Neither was living in Merriott at the time of the school photo, their families having moved to Gloucestershire a couple of years earlier where two granddaughters were born in the 1930s. The significance of the photo to our immediate family is therefore a mystery.

One thought is that there were many **PATTEMOREs** born and bred in Merriott and I suggest that this is a likely personal connection with the photo. I have only carried out a small amount of research into Alice's family but have discovered that she was the daughter of James (1829-1890) and Ellen (1828-1901) **PATTEMORE** and had four sisters and three brothers. Alice's father, James **PATTEMORE**, was also born in Merriott, around 1829, and



Merriott School Mystery Photo.

was one of seven children of John and Elizabeth **PATTEMORE**. Some descendants of James and John may have been living in the village during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and if so there were probably **PATTEMORE** children who attended the school in the 1920s. With Alice's grandchildren living some distance away, I expect it was some consolation to take an interest in the children of relatives much closer to home and perhaps this is why the photograph came into her possession.

I would be interested to learn if my theory is correct so please get in touch via SDFHS if you can assist.

Elaine Orchard

Future Theme?

Could I suggest that a future theme of *The Greenwood Tree* might be *What Did Your Ancestors Die Of?* How many of us actually apply for death certificates – possibly due to financial constraints and not seeing the need? But the subject is fascinating when you do see the certificates because they have changed so much over time. Indeed, some of the old causes listed are things we have never heard of or have just changed names. It is a subject that can vary from epidemics, childhood illnesses, war, accidents, suicide and goodness knows what.

I hope all goes well with the Society. *The Greenwood Tree* is as amazing as ever – by far the best area family history magazine I receive. I'm always excited when it arrives.

Janet Hall

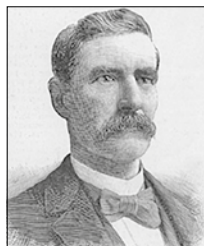
From Weymouth to Baraboo

I found the following information about a Weymouth man who went to America and did rather well. John James **JENKINS** (1843-1911) was the first of 13 children of parents Francis Kiddle **JENKINS** (1817-1867) and Mary Ann (**ATKINS**) **JENKINS** (1819-1891) of Weymouth and subsequently Baraboo, Wisconsin. The family emigrated in 1852 and John later served in the Civil War subsequently carving out a career as a judge and US Congressman. There is an excellent photograph of him on the Find-a-Grave

website. I can claim no kinship with this person – just an interest in his story as an English-born, Civil War veteran.

Extract from the Biographical Directory of the US Congress:

JENKINS, JOHN JAMES, a Representative from Wisconsin; born in Weymouth, England, August 24, 1843; attended the common schools; immigrated to the United States with his parents, who settled in Baraboo, Wis., in June 1852; served in the Civil War as a member

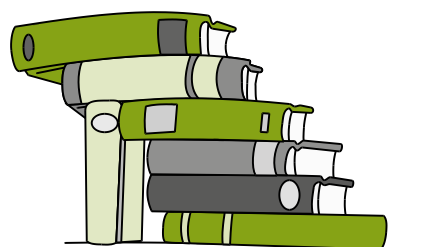


John James JENKINS.

of Company A, Sixth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865; clerk of the circuit court of Sauk County 1867-1870; moved to Chippewa Falls, Wis., in 1870; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced; city clerk and city attorney of Chippewa Falls; member of the State assembly in 1872; county judge of Chippewa County 1872-1876; appointed United States attorney for the Territory of Wyoming in March 1876 and served until 1880, when he returned to

Chippewa Falls, Wis., and resumed the practice of law; elected as a Republican to the Fifty-fourth and to the six succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1895-March 3, 1909); chairman, Committee on the Judiciary (Fifty-eighth through Sixtieth Congresses); unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1908; appointed judge of Puerto Rico by President Taft in May 1910 and served until his death in Chippewa Falls, Wis., June 8, 1911; interment in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Robin Ansell



Book Reviews

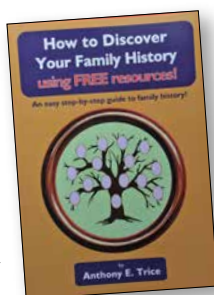
How to Discover Your Family History Using Free Resources

As the author says in his introduction: "There are many good books on genealogy covering a wide variety of detailed issues, but few seem to cater specifically for the needs of beginners in respect of what can be found where on the internet." This book aims to fill that gap.

It does not, however, ignore the fundamentals of research, giving the historical background to BMD records and their availability to the public, and dealing with basic record-keeping and how to do source citations.

The eight chapters each begin with a brief summary of the content and then, using the author's own family as examples, work through the process of finding information on a specific free website. There follows a set of exercises where the reader is tasked with finding out about famous people from the recent past.

This book provides an excellent introduction to some of the best free websites, most of which



have kept a consistent format for many years, so hopefully it will not date as quickly as some other internet-related books. Highly recommended.

How to Discover Your Family History Using Free Resources, by Anthony E. Trice, 107 pages, soft covers. Cover price £9.95, posted UK £12.95, OS £16.55,

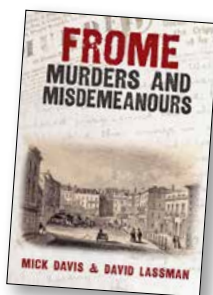
Ted Udall

Frome Murders and Misdemeanours

The authors have researched and recounted 10 tales from the 17th century until 1936 that accurately reflect their title and shed an interesting light on crime and punishment in bygone times. It is an interesting and informative read. Given the privations of so many working people I suppose I should not have been as surprised as I was by the levels of mental instability revealed. Mental wellbeing is far from a recent concern.

All authors know how difficult it is to edit objectively the work on which they have laboured long and hard but I was disappointed to find a couple of petty errors which should have been eliminated. An index would have enabled browsers to decide whether any of the stories impact on their own family histories.

I was slightly disappointed not to have found any of my own Frome ancestors mentioned, either



as villains or victims, because that would have added some excitement and interest to my prosaic family tree.

Frome Murders and Misdemeanours, by Mick Davis and David Lassman, published by Amberley Publishing of Stroud. Cover price £15.99, UK posted £18.99, OS posted £22.59.

Bob Kelley

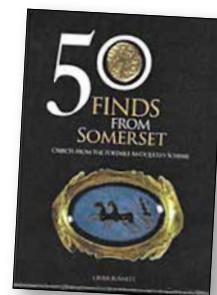
50 Finds from Somerset Objects

It takes something special to excite an old man, and this 96-page booklet certainly did the trick for me. Its quality is superb. Sturdy, pure white paper sets off the beautiful and informative full colour photographs on almost every page that illustrate the objects described, which are almost all those found by members of the public. The book reveals something of the lives of those who lived in what is now Somerset from pre-history until today, as shown by the objects they left behind, found and recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the county.

The book will not inform your family history researches, but at £15.99 it fully deserves a place on the bookshelf of any local historian.

50 Finds from Somerset Objects From the Portable Antiquities Scheme by Laura Burnett, published by Amberley Publishing of Stroud. Cover price £15.99, available from the publishers.

Bob Kelley



Booksales Information

Detailed listings and associated prices for Society publications, including census index booklets will no longer be listed herein. For further details see below.

Prices quoted here, annotated either (UK) or (OS), include postage and packing within the United Kingdom (UK) or by economy mail overseas (OS). All the Society's stock of books etc may be purchased over the counter from the Research Centre in Yeovil, for the normal retail price of the publication. Most titles are available via the Society's online shop at <https://sdfhs.org/shop/>

New Titles

How to Discover Your Family History Using Free Resources (Anthony E Trice)

A beginner's guide to researching family history, concentrating on Internet sites that can be used free of charge, thus enabling good progress to be made without incurring significant costs. The book concentrates mainly on English and Welsh records. Images from many of the sites recommended (as they were in September 2022) are included.

107 pages. Soft covers.

Over-the-counter £9.95, UK £12.95, OS £16.55

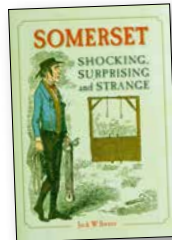


Somerset; Shocking, Surprising and Strange (Jack W Sweet)

A collection of 50 tales of murder, mayhem and mishap, ranging from Mary ADLAM killing her drunken husband in Regency Bath, a test flight crash at Yeovil and mine disasters in the Somerset coalfields, to the missing ballot papers of Langport in the parish council elections of 1894 and the Reckleford School riot of 1921. Together, these stories present a vivid picture of Somerset at its most shocking, surprising and strange.

144 pages. Hardback.

Over-the-counter £12.95, UK £16.39, OS £20.74



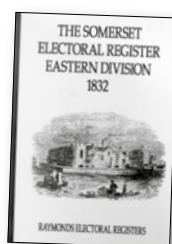
New Titles in Online Shop

The Somerset Electoral Register – Eastern Division – 1832 (Ed. Stuart A Raymond)

A facsimile of the 1832 electoral register for the eastern part of Somerset. The register provides each voter's name, their place of abode, their qualification for having a vote (e.g. freehold house, freehold farm, occupier of a house or farm), and the location of the property giving this qualification. The lists are sorted by the hundred and then the parish.

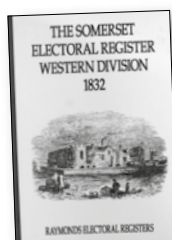
179 pages. Soft covers.

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The Somerset Electoral Register – Western Division – 1832 (Ed. Stuart A Raymond)

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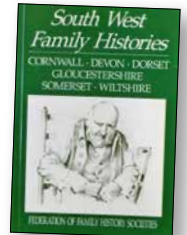
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South West Family Histories (Stuart A Raymond)

A listing of all published histories and pedigrees relating to families which were resident in the historic counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. It includes published books and journal articles, but not notes and queries published in family history society journals, except where the content is important. The book was published in 1998, so does not deal with anything published after this date.

128 pages. Soft covers.

Over-the-counter £7.50, UK £9.85, OS £13.30



Titles No Longer Available

Research in London (Basic Facts)

Carhampton Parish Records (SDFHS Publications)

Cassini Revised New Series map – 181, Minehead & Brendon Hills

Census Index Booklets

All the master census index booklets can be obtained via the Society online shop. However, the individual detailed booklets cannot, but can be obtained online via the GenFair site at:

<https://genfair.co.uk/supplier/>

somerset-dorset-family-history-society-103/

That page provides links to each set of index booklets. A full catalogue, including the census booklets, is provided on the Society website at <https://sdfhs.org/bookshop/> This page has links to download each section of the catalogue. The census booklets are included in the *Society-Publications* file.

Parish Register Books

These books are all available via the Society online shop, and a catalogue page including them as available as above (also in the *Society-Publications* file).

Other Index Booklets

These items are also available via the Society on-line shop, and are included in the *Other Categories* file, on the bookshop page of the Society website.

All books and other items can be ordered by post from: SDFHS Booksales, Broadway House, Peter Street, Yeovil, BA20 1PN. Cheques (Sterling only) made payable to SDFHS, with orders please. This Society complies with The Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013. For confirmation of an 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 £3.

Use of Ancestry, Findmypast and The Genealogist: there is no additional fee for anybody, whether member or non-member, for the use of Ancestry, Findmypast and The Genealogist.

Photocopies and computer printouts: there is a 25p charge per A4 sheet (50p charge per A3 sheet) when items are printed or photocopied.

Volunteer's research:

SDFHS Members – £5 per hour or part hour

Non-members – £10 per hour or part hour

If you would like a Society volunteer to undertake research on your behalf, please email (or write in with) your enquiry to:

email: contact@sdfhs.org

post: Research, Broadway House, Peter Street, Yeovil BA20 1PN

To assist our volunteers and to avoid duplication, it is important that you provide us with an idea of what you have found out so far.

After our volunteers have informed you of the charge for the research they have done, you may pay by sterling cheque or through the SDFHS Online Shop at the Society's website.

PEDIGREE AND FAMILY TREE SERVICE

The Society holds many sets of documents donated by members and others. The collection consists mainly of pedigrees and family trees, but also includes some copies of deeds and indentures, lists of names extracted from parish registers, a few wills and some family histories and biographical notes.

You can carry out a basic search to this collection on our website <https://sdfhs.org>.

Alternatively you can contact us by email: sdfhs@btconnect.com or by post to our Family History Centre with a specific enquiry.

Please provide the Pedigree Reference Number (if you have searched the website) and as much relevant information as possible.

There is a charge of £5 for members (£10 for non-members) including postage, to provide details of pedigrees and family trees. Print-outs cost 25p per A4 sheet. Where trees are extensive or large we are happy to provide an estimate.

You may pay by sterling cheque or through the SDFHS Online Shop at the Society's website.

SOMERSET AND DORSET MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Monumental Inscription Records have been compiled by the Society for most of Somerset and Dorset, donated by individuals and exchanged with other Societies over many years.

You can carry out a basic search to this collection on our website <https://sdfhs.org>.

Alternatively you can contact us by email: sdfhs@btconnect.com, or by post to our Family History Centre with a specific enquiry.

Please provide the MI Reference Number (if you have searched the website) together with Surname, Parish and as much relevant information as possible.

There is a charge of £5 for members (£10 for non-members) including postage, to provide details of transcriptions. Print-outs cost 25p per A4 sheet. Where the volume of information is extensive we can provide an estimate.

You may pay by sterling cheque or through the SDFHS Online Shop at the Society's website.

Data on MI's for both Somerset and Dorset can also be found on www.findmypast.com.

BURIALS INDEX

For details please contact:

Burials Index

SDFHS, Broadway House, Peter Street, Yeovil BA20 1PN

Or email: contact@sdfhs.org using subject 'Burials Index'

Somerset and (some) Dorset Burials can also be found on The Genealogist <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk>

THE GREENWOOD TREE BACK NUMBERS

With the publication of '40 Years of *The Greenwood Tree*' (available as a CD or memory stick containing fully-searchable PDFs from 1975-2015), members are less likely to require hard-copy back numbers.

Nevertheless, we may still be able to provide a copy of a back number if needed – email or write in with your request. Each edition costs £5 (UK) or £6 (OS), including postage. You may pay by sterling cheque or through the SDFHS Online Shop at the Society's website.

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The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society

SDFHS Family History Centre, Peter Street, Yeovil

Family History Centre

The SDFHS Family History Centre, the Society Headquarters in Yeovil, 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 six computers which visitors may use. We also subscribe to Ancestry, Findmypast and Genealogist 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 for classes and workshops available for hire at a modest hourly charge.

Opening times:

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10.00am – 1.00pm

For more details see our website:

<https://sdfhs.org/about/our-family-history-centre/>

Contact us:

Somerset & Dorset FHS
Broadway House
Peter St
YEOVIL
Somerset BA20 1PN
Email: contact@sdfhs.org
Tel: +44 (0)1935 429609

Library

The SDFHS Library is housed in the Family History Centre in Yeovil. 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 Yeovil, 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 the Family History Centre.

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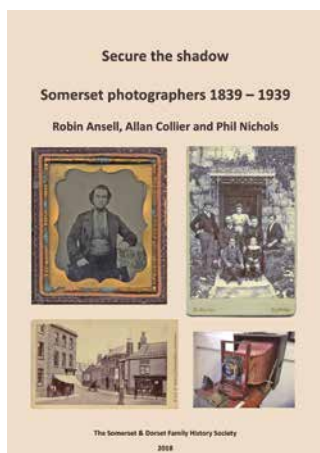
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