CONTENTS

NNWFHS Committee: 1
A Note From The Editor: 2
The Parish Church Of The Holy Trinity, Hartshill, 150th Anniversary - By Rosemary Tyler: 3
I Find My Distant Cousin Of The Same Name - By Alan Croshaw: 5
Portrait Pedigree Of Alan Lee Croshaw: 6
Charles And Hannah Croshaw. From Bedworth To Oxford, Idaho - From Alan Lee Croshaw: 7
Hartshill Chronology - By Rosemary Tyler: 8
The Ghostly Guardians of Haunted Hartshill - By Pat Boucher: 9
NNWFHS Diary - A Report From The Chairman: 10
Peter Lee Visits Moreton J Ensor: 11
NNWFHS Visit To Arbury Hall - By Wendy Cooper: 12
Notice Board: 14
New Members/ New Members’ Interests: 15

NNWFHS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
PETER LEE, 34 Falmouth Close, Nuneaton, Warwicks CV11 6OB
Tel: (01203) 381090  email 106773.1400@compuserve.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
PAT BOUCHER, 33 Buttermere Ave, Nuneaton, Warwicks CV11 6ET
Tel: (01203) 383488  email APBoucher@aol.com

MEMBERS LIBRARIAN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
CELIA PARTON, 6 Windmill Rd, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1HP
Tel: (01827) 713938

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE CO-ORDINATOR
ROSEMARY TYLER 48 Charnwood Drive, Hartshill, Nuneaton, Warwicks, CV10 OVF
Tel: (01203) 397453  email Posstyler@aol.com

MINUTES SECRETARY
STEVE CASEY, 10 Quantock Drive, Nuneaton, Warwicks CV10 8PU
Tel: (01203) 382890

LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR
CAROLYN BOSS, Nuneaton Library, Church Street, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 4DR
Tel: (01203) 384027

COMPUTER AND DATABASE CO-ORDINATOR
TOM BROUGHTON, 32 Carisbrook Road, Weddington, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 OBY
Tel: (01203) 381666

EXHIBITIONS MANAGER
NORMAN RAISEN, 79 Edward St, Nuneaton, Warwicks CV11 5RF
Tel: (01203) 384239  email NormRaisen@aol.com

SOCIAL SECRETARIES
PAT GODFREY, Fernlea, Clock Hill, Hartshill, Nuneaton CV10 OTB
MICHAEL ROBERTS, 52 Balliol Road, Burbage, Leics. LE10 2RE
Tel: (01455) 636519

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER
JILL DIXON, 189 Camphill Road, Nuneaton, Warwicks, CV10 OJR
Tel: (01203) 397083  email mdixon@mdixon.demon.co.uk

MEMBERS
STEVE MOORE, 102 Berrington Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 OBE
Tel: (01203) 396457
A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello again. It has been a very busy and exciting few months both for the society and for many of our members.

Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill celebrated its 150th anniversary in June and so we have chosen this as the subject for this edition’s cover page. We also have a number of articles etc dedicated to Hartshill including ghostly legends, the history of the church, and a report on our involvement in the church’s celebrations.

The visit to Arbury Hall was excellent. Many thanks to Wendy Cooper and Pat Godfrey for organising this. Wendy Cooper has written a full report, page 12, about this very pleasant and informative social evening.

Alan Croshaw was visited by his recently discovered American cousin, Alan Lee Croshaw. Peter Lee has been to the states to visit Moreton Enson and has also been visited by Harlow and Sue Farmer.

The committee has two new members; Jill Dixon, who has joined us to take on a new job as publications manager, and Michael Roberts, who has taken over from Wendy Cooper as social secretary. Jill will be responsible for sending out the newsletter and any orders for other publications produced or sold by the society, including our new burials index for Chilvers Coton (details on page 13).

I must say sorry to anyone who received the last newsletter with no stamp. Unfortunately they do not seem to stick too well to our new plastic envelopes. Hopefully we have now resolved the problem.

Many thanks to everyone who has written articles for this edition. Please keep them coming in, especially photographs for the family album and memory lane spots.

PAT BOUCHER
Hartshill Holy Trinity Parish Church is 150 years old this year and recently celebrated this Anniversary with various events and displays.

Its history actually begins on 30th March 1842 when the Parish of Mancetter Vestry Meeting was held to discuss forming an ecclesiastical Parish of Hartshill out of the Mancetter Parish. The population of Hartshill at that time was about 1000 and already there was a Congregational Church and a Society of Friends Meeting House, so it was decided that a Parish Church should be built, large enough to seat about 600 people. About £650 was immediately raised by the first subscribers and Mr Richard Jee, who owned the quarry, agreed to donate the stone required. Plans were made and the work begun, but when the skeleton church was almost complete in November 1843 part of it fell down, which was attributed to both high winds and defects in the building work. Little progress was made for the next few years due to lack of funds as an amount of £2500 was required in total. Eventually, thanks to a gift from the Rev. H.E. Lowe, visiting relatives in Atherstone, the building was completed.

Consecration took place in June.

In 1848, of course, the Church looked very different from how we see it today. The path to the Church, which now has a tarmac driveway and parking spaces, was originally on the north side of the Church not the south. The ground on the south side of the Church was again donated by Richard Jee. To the north of the Church was an old farmhouse, which was added to and became the Old Vicarage, built from the same stone as the Church itself. The land around the Vicarage was a gift from the Trustees of Nuneaton Grammar School. The west doorway is one of the largest to be seen on a Parish Church in England and was built in the Norman style with decorated arches and pillars with carved capitals. Below the great wheel window are four stone roundels with symbols of the Evangelists which today are unfortunately too worn to make out. However, above the window, at the base of the tower, you can still just make out the two quaint heads – one of a gossip with two tongues. The tower holds one bell which has now not been rung for many years as the tower itself has become unsafe to do so.

Originally the Church was lit by oil lamps which were suspended from the heavy oak beamed ceiling, which is now hidden by the new false ceiling erected ten feet below it. There was a small organ situated where the left hand choir stalls are now, and a pulpit on the right hand side. Over the years the Church has been enhanced by many gifts from its Parishioners, the first being a brass lectern in memory of George and Elizabeth Tippetts in 1893. Stained glass windows were also added – the first being given by the daughters of Joshua Fielding Matthews (Churchwarden) and his wife Maria in 1895. There are two other windows which commemorate Charles Abel (1905) and Catherine Grant Matthews (1907). In 1909 the Vestry was built adjoining the north side of the Church and was used for meetings and other social functions, the architecture blending in very well with the main building. In 1926 electric lighting was introduced. Major alterations were made in 1938-9 and the Church was closed whilst these took place, services being held in the newly built Church Hall. This was when the false ceiling was erected due to complaints about draughts. The gallery was strengthened and the organ moved to the centre of it. The old pulpit was replaced, and also the altar rails were replaced by the present oak ones dedicated to the memory of Miss Maud Wilson. An inner porch was added and the old pews and floor replaced as a gift from Mr Walter Tremlett. All this restoration work was carried out at a cost of around £2000.

On Saturday 29th May 1948 the Centenary Commemoration Service was held by the Rev. W.A. Richards. A recording was made of the service and a box was buried somewhere beneath the floor of the Church by the Vicar and Mr Kenneth Branston which contained a 1948 penny, a Church Service Programme and a document, contents unknown. The Centenary Celebration Funds amounted to £1000!

Over the years many other gifts have been made and last year the Church was closed for major alterations involving re-roofing and new windows and doors.

(Continued on page 4)
been made for the adornment of the Church and in 1965 the whole interior was redecorated by a local contractor having the welfare of the Church at heart. In recent years a new Vicarage has been built as the Old Vicarage was expensive to maintain and difficult to heat and so was sold off.

During these 150 years the Church has seen many activities. Summer fetes have been held on the Vicarage lawn and Christmas Bazaars in the Church Hall; many years ago the dramatic society put on performances and concerts in the Hall, Sunday Schools were held, there was a Sewing Circle, playgroup, baby clinic, Mothers Union meetings and more recently the Hartshill Windscape Handbell Ringers are based there. As Hartshill celebrates its 150th Birthday let us hope that there is much more to record for the future.

For Family Historians, Parish Registers and Monumental Inscriptions for the Hartshill Cemetery can be found both at Nuneaton Library and Warwick County Record Office. If you cannot visit in person don’t forget NNWFHS has a Research Service.

HARTSHILL 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
NNWFHS DISPLAY

The Society's first 'three day event', a display at Hartshill Church as part of their 150th Anniversary Celebrations went very well. It generated a lot of interest and quite a few people said they would be interested in attending future meetings. It was well supported also by our own members including a visit by Harlow Farmer from Virginia, U.S.A. Several publications were sold and we gained one new member.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend such a success and special thanks to the following: Roy Beebe, Pat Boucher, Judith Canning, Lesley Deeming, Jill Dixon, Sheila Dunn, Pat Godfrey, David and Sheila Hinds, Cyril Kind, Peter Lee, Rev. Adrian Mairs, Colin Outram, Norman Raisen, Linda Spiers, Barbara & Nick Trotman and Patrick Young.

North Warwickshire Co-ordinator, Rosemary Tyler with Harlow and Sue Farmer, and Capt. Graham Bibby of the Church Army.

One of Harlow’s ancestors, John Farmer, was the founder of the New England Genealogical Society. In 1671 Isabel Farmer left Ansley with her family and became one of the pioneering families of America. Harlow’s ancestors came from Ratcliffe Culey in the 1500’s. Peter Lee has been helping him to trace them and put him in contact with descendants of the other members of Isabel’s family who stayed in England after she left for America.

During his stay, Peter took Harlow and Sue on a tour of the area to look for their ancestral roots.

This new publication, which is being sold in aid of Church Funds is available from Rosemary Tyler. Price £2.50 if purchased at a meeting or £3.00 if ordered by post. Please make cheques payable to Rosemary Tyler.

If you have a photograph or an article which you would like to be published in the next newsletter please contact Pat Boucher either at the monthly meetings or telephone (01203) 383488

Deadline for all copy to be included in October issue is September 14th
When I received a snapshot of a chap standing under a large sign reading "Alan Croshaw", I was intrigued and hurriedly picked up the accompanying letter to find that this was Alan Lee Croshaw of Springville Utah standing with the staff of his insurance business under their sign. Alan had been sent a copy of the article that appeared in the Summer 1997 NHFG Newsletter, "Did the Croshaws have a role in changing English History?" He contacted me and we were both thrilled to find that we were in fact directly related, having Joseph Croshaw born Nuneaton 1753 and married to Sarah Wheway, as common ancestors, so that we were fourth cousins, one generation removed as I am that much older than Alan.

Our American cousins seem to be more historically minded than we are, since Alan and another cousin, Debra Kemper Croshaw sent me information and photographs going back to Charles and Hannah who left this country in 1869 and even of Hannah’s father! Charles was born in Bedworth in 1839 but eventually travelled as far as Barrow in Furnace for work. Iron ore had been discovered there and both steel production and shipbuilding had commenced, creating a great need for labour in a largely agricultural area. Hannah Atkins worked as a cook at Ansley Hall for three years before joining Charles in Barrow where they were married, sailing for New York in August 1869. Their first child being born two weeks after their arrival. Again Charles had to travel to find employment, which he found in the coalmines of Pennsylvania. They finally settled in Idaho.

This initial contact took place in January 1998 and when Alan wrote to me saying that he, his wife Roseann, her twin sister Rosemary, and their mother Mary Mix (a descendant of 1930's cinema cowboy Tom Mix) were coming to England on holiday and could we meet, there was only one answer.

At this stage I joined the internet (Alan.Croshaw@btinternet.com) and we were in constant communication, discussing itineraries and getting to know one another.

My wife Shelagh (nee O'Reilly) and I met them as they alighted from their train at Birmingham International and from that moment there was a total rapport between all of us, they were such nice people. Using Solihull, where they had borrowed a house, as a base we set off next morning in two cars, Mary and either Rosemary or Roseann riding with me and Shelagh acting as navigator for Alan. We took in Bedworth Almshouses, Griff House, Nuneaton Heritage Centre where Councillor Don Jacques and his wife kindly met us, The Council House where the very helpful Mayor's secretary Carol McNie showed us The Mayor's Parlour and Council Chamber. Lunch with friends at Fenny Drayton at the site of Samuel Fox's birthplace and on to Bosworth Field, finding Ansley Hall and Round Towers to complete Day 1. Early next morning we were all at Warwick Castle for a guided tour, adjourning to The Rose and Crown for a welcome lunch after which we got off the beaten track around some narrow Cotswold lanes and just savoured the countryside. Day 3 was spent at Mary Arden's house at Stratford then on to Kenilworth with a glimpse of The Castle in the rain ending up at another cousin's house - Margaret Kimberley, nee Bull, whose mother was a Croshaw and where we were sumptuously entertained.

Alan's party then motored to Edinburg, via York, returning via Keswick to our house in Altrincham four days later, where that evening Shelagh had prepared a family meal for seventeen, including seven grandchildren, whom Alan videoed to show his children. They loved our accents and there were no lulls in the conversations.

The next morning, after buying a Manchester United shirt for Alan's son Jeffrey who is a fellow fan, they left for home via Solihull and London. For us Genealogy had spectacularly come to life. It was a remarkable and wonderful experience and we are now looking forward to visiting them this Autumn.

I FIND MY DISTANT COUSIN OF THE SAME NAME
By Alan Croshaw

Did The Croshaws have A Role In Changing English History

Since writing this article for the Summer 97 newsletter I have found some more information about the Croshaws and The Battle of Bosworth Field.

When visiting the battlefield recently, I came across a booklet by Dr Danny Williams which is absolutely superb. In full colour it details and illustrates the events before, during and after the battle with gripping clarity and at under £3 is remarkable value.

What I learned from it was that it was Lord Thomas Stanley NOT Sir William, who brought the army from north of Manchester (circa Crawshaw-Booth) and this army camped the night before the battle at Ratcliffe Culey on lands belonging to Merevale Abbey.

Quite recently I discovered on an old map of Warwickshire a small hamlet near Baxterley that I later learned is now just a few derelict houses and it is called The Crawshaws! A useful piece of corroborating evidence on how the "Croshaws" came to Nuneaton.
Portray Pedigree of Alan Lee Croshaw, distant cousin of Norman Alan Croshaw

Alan’s 2 x great grandfather (Edward Croshaw born Nuneaton 1782) and Alan Lee’s 3 x great grandfather (James Croshaw born 1774) were brothers.
Charles Croshaw, son of James Avery Croshaw and Mary King, was born on August 22nd 1839 in Bedworth, Warwickshire. When Charles was nine years old his father died and at the age of eleven he went to work in the coalmines to help support the family of eight. Aged around eighteen to twenty he went to work for a large construction company at Barrow-in-Furness.

In 1860 Charles heard, for the first time, the Gospel as told by the Latter Day Saints and he was baptised in 1868. During this time Charles met Hannah Atkins, the daughter of John Atkins and Elizabeth Vale. They married in December 1868.

They set sail for the United States in 1869 and their first child, Mary Elizabeth, was born there two weeks after they arrived in New York. Charles’ brother, Thomas had travelled with them from England and he went to Utah to work on the temple in Salt Lake City. Charles went to Pennsylvania to work in the coalmines but in 1870 they also went on to Utah. Their first home there was a dugout in the side of a hill where they lived with Thomas Croshaw and his wife Louise Lloyd. Their second daughter Louisa was born here in 1870.

In 1872, with all of their possessions loaded onto a wagon pulled by a team of oxen, the travelled to Oxford Idaho. They set sail for the United States in 1869 and their first child, Mary Elizabeth, was born there two weeks after they arrived in New York. Charles’ brother, Thomas had travelled with them from England and he went to Utah to work on the temple in Salt Lake City. Charles went to Pennsylvania to work in the coalmines but in 1870 they also went on to Utah. Their first home there was a dugout in the side of a hill where they lived with Thomas Croshaw and his wife Louise Lloyd. Their second daughter Louisa was born here in 1870.

In 1872, with all of their possessions loaded onto a wagon pulled by a team of oxen, the travelled to Oxford Idaho. Thomas and Charles walked while the women and children rode in the wagon.

Later that year Hannah gave birth to a son, Charles Edward, and two years after that another son, John James, joined the family. About this time Charles homesteaded 160 acres of land south of Oxford and built a log house where they lived until a new house was built in 1881. In 1876 and 1877 Charles made two freight trips with ox teams and wagons from Corinne, Utah to the mines in Butte, Montana. In 1878, Charles and Thomas went into the sawmill business. They built roads into Cottonwood Valley and set up two mills, a shingle mill and a lumber mill. The building of the road into Cottonwood was a very hard task. After crossing the main ridge of the mountain, they had a 3 mile dugway known as “Croshaw’s Dugway”.

Charles’ brother, Benjamin, had come from England with his wife and eight children to help run the mills. They all lived with Charles and his family in their 16’x20’ home. In 1880 Hannah gave birth to another daughter, Annie Vale. She died in 1883.

In 1881 the mills were sold to a company called Fielding & Ferguson. Unfortunately Charles and his brothers were swindled and were never paid. They found themselves in debt for the mills and so Charles had to sell part of his farm and Thomas had to sell his home.

Charles served in many church positions in Oxford. He worked as a truck gardener and hauled his produce and fruit as far north as Pocatello and as far south as Logan, Utah, selling it as he went. He also, with his son in law, introduced dry farming in that area.

Hannah Croshaw died in 1912. Charles remained in Oxford and continued his work until his death in 1917. Thomas and Benjamin moved to Pocatello, Idaho where they established homes and raised their families.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1771</td>
<td>Coventry Canal completed as far as Atherstone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>398 people living in Hartshill – 209 males &amp; 189 females. 40 people in Oldbury.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803–8</td>
<td>Last open spaces enclosed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1808</td>
<td>Independent chapel built by John Dagley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Manganese ore discovered near Hartshill Castle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Sows Head Farm. New boots made of leather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Manganese mining in Hartshill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Turnpike opened between Nuneaton &amp; Atherstone via Tuttle Hill &amp; Maccetter Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>First Ordnance Survey map of Hartshill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Wesleyan Methodist church built in Grange Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840s</td>
<td>Manganese working continues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Out of total workforce of 437, 53 men &amp; 86 women employed in ribbon weaving. Clock made for tower at canal maintenance yard. Bridge built across the ford of the river Anker on Woodford Lane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Stafford – Rugby railway line opened. Holy Trinity church completed and consecrated. School built at top of school hill (South School).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>County library branch opened in the South School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Manganese now all worked out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Ribbon weaving enters decline due to French imports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Ansley Hall coal &amp; iron co. mine opened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Land comprising part of castle farm acquired by parish council for a cemetery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>APR – OCT – National coal strike. Water supply shortages during the winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Water at Chapel End had to be purchased either by the bucketful or weekly contract. New wells dug at Hartshill including a new pump on the Green. Sewage works built in Hayes Wood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900–01</td>
<td>Messrs Ireland &amp; Knight purchased Moor Wood to quarry diorite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Jee’s brickyard between Moorwood Lane &amp; Hillside commenced production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Congregational church centenary. North school opened in Church Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910–13</td>
<td>Mature timber harvested in the Hayes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900s</td>
<td>Stanley’s &amp; Drybread collieries close down. Hazel bus co. operating from school hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>The grand at Chapel End built. Stoneleigh quarry (near farm) opened to quarry diorite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950s</td>
<td>New 13,000,000 gallon reservoir built at Oldbury. De Mulder’s move to Hartshill from Nuneaton ‘home farm’ demolished to build quarry noise baffles. Nuneaton road collapses into quarry. Hartshill library (in old South school) closed and replaced with the trailer library.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hartshill, with its commanding views of the surrounding countryside, has one of the best defensive positions in Britain and, consequently, has been the site of many battles over the centuries.

Queen Boadicea’s armies were massacred here when she led the Celtic revolt against the Roman invasion. In 1016, King Cnut would have wiped out any settlement at Hartshill when he marched his Vikings into Warwickshire and they “harried and burned and slew all that they found.”

In the 13th century, Hartshill castle was built by the last members of the Hardreshulle male line. Later, in the early 1600’s, the Parker family built a manor house (Hartshill Hall) on the site of the original castle.

With such a long history it is not surprising that legends and tales of ghostly encounters abound.

Around the turn of the century there were stories of cries coming from a well in the castle grounds. They were reputed to be the ghost of a nun (there had been a nunnery at nearby Oldbury) who had, depending on which of the various versions you heard, either fallen accidentally to her death or been pushed in for breaking her vows.

By the 1940’s, Hartshill Hall was used as a pigeon loft by some local pigeon fanciers. Early one summer morning, whilst waiting for their birds to return, they heard footsteps outside the door. They took no notice, thinking it was a friend come to join them. Suddenly the room seemed to go very dim and cold, the door opened silently, and a man who was strangely dressed came in. He walked across to the window and stood there looking out before suddenly vanishing in front of their eyes. They all ran out with no more thoughts for their pigeons!

The hall was demolished shortly afterwards but, although all that remains is a chimney, the ghosts still walk.

In 1962, Mr Ken Goodall built a bungalow in the castle grounds. He died two years later but his widow, Nancy, continued to live there. Interviewed for the Evening Tribune in 1991, Mrs Mary Tyler (Nancy’s sister and the mother of Rosemary Tyler who is our North Warwickshire co-ordinator) recalled an incident which occurred in the 1960’s. Her father, Mr George Clews, was digging in the garden when he found a large slab (possibly an old slate gravestone). He half lifted it up but on seeing what was underneath he dropped it again. He never told anyone what he had seen but said he just wanted to forget all about it. Nobody could ever find the slab again.

From then on Nancy Goodall began to experience all sorts of ghostly events.

- Peter, her labrador, would follow an invisible presence around the kitchen wagging his tail happily but would not leave the room.
- Through the glass door of her kitchen she often saw the figure of a woman wearing a black hat and carrying a basket.
- Whilst sleeping at night she would be woken by ‘Old Bill’, the name she used for one particular ghost, who would try to push her out of bed.
- Walking home late one night she saw a figure on the footbridge over the castle moat. When she shouted to it, it vanished.
- One day she saw her son Jeff walk past the window and went out to ask him if he would like a cup of tea. She could not find him and eventually telephoned him. She was astonished to discover that he had not been out all day.

After Nancy died, Mr Richard Burton lived in the bungalow. He too witnessed strange nocturnal wanderers. On new year’s eve 1990 he and some friends saw the ghostly figure of a black monk walking along the walls.

One of the most famous ghosts is said to be that of Sister Editha from Polesworth Abbey. Her apparition warns of impending death so that the person concerned has time to confess their sins and be absolved. This is thought to be her way of giving thanks for shelter she received from the nuns at Oldbury when Polesworth Abbey was confiscated in the 11th century.

There are many who are sceptical about Hartshill’s ghosts but for those who have felt or seen a presence, either in their homes or abroad, the experience was very real.
I have just visited America where I met up with two old Nuneaton descendants. First of all I met one of our members: Moreton J. Ensor who lives on Cape Cod. What a wonderful part of the world that is. Cape Cod is an appendage of Massachusetts, which projects out into the Atlantic Ocean. It is densely wooded with clean white beaches, immaculately kept clapboard houses, villages and towns and the countryside is dotted with fresh water ponds and lakes. For Moreton there cannot be a greater contrast between his ancestral roots in Attleborough and where he lives now in the sea captain's town of Brewster, Cape Cod. Moreton is descended from the Ensors and Hacketts of Hall End, and the Moretons of Nuneaton. He also has the Williams who once owned Haunchwood Colliery in his family tree together with Pauls, Ormes, Hobleys, Kelseys etc.

Whilst I was there I also met Joyce Connelly and her brothers John and Jim Zoldy at their holiday home at Dennis, also on Cape Cod. They are descended from the Wheways, and have Nuneaton Dafferns and Taberners in their family. Of course, their male line Zoldy is Hungarian, and Joyce told me about the difficulty in researching there. I can well imagine. She has done a remarkable job and through the work she has done we have on file nearly every Wheway in America.

All the time I spent there I found the people so very friendly, courteous and considerate. New England is a beautiful part of what is to us, living on this small island, an unimaginably big country. No wonder George III went mad, the loss of this part of the British Empire must have been too much!

If you have relatives and correspondents in America make the trip. It is well worth it, and, of course, if your family get fed up with genealogy they can always go shopping!!!

On June 6th we were kindly asked to have a stand at what is now becoming an annual event. The festival of Coventry and Warwickshire History "Lives and Times" which was held in the War Memorial Park. This was a major event this year tied to the Godiva Weekend. All the major Family History Societies were there and it was good to network with them, particularly the Birmingham and Midlands, together with the Coventry with whom we have such good relations.

I felt, on balance, it was a better day at the Transport Museum last year because the grass was damp in the Memorial Park marquee, and after a good deal of foot traffic had circulated the ground got a bit churned up. Not only this when the sun came out in the afternoon the tent became very hot and with its damp atmosphere inside a bit like a sauna. Nevertheless we did some good business meeting old Nuneaton families gaining new members and networking generally.

We had a visit from Harlow and Sue Farmer, American members, whose family immigrated to Billerica, Massachusetts in 1671 from Ansley. The Farmers were a county family marrying into the Purefoys, Ludfords, Okeovers, Byrons etc. They seem to stem from Ratcliffe Culey in the 16th century and Harlow had a marvellous time, despite the almost continuous rain, seeking out old graveyards and churches and looking at the remnants of the places his family came from. One of his ancestors was Richard Farmer the Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Shakespeare scholar. Another was John Farmer who was a founder of the New England Genealogy Society.

The NNWFHS also had a stand at the exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hartshill Church
Early in June, Peter went out to Massachusetts to meet up with a member of NNWFHS, Moreton J. Ensor. The following report appeared in the Heartland Evening News on 29th June.

Moreton is very interested in the history of old Attleborough and Nuneaton and to celebrate his visit Peter took him a special polo shirt embroidered with the words “The Bull Inn, Attleborough” which he is wearing in this photograph. The shirt was donated by Julie Pugh, the landlady of The Bull Inn, Attleborough’s oldest and most historic pub.

Moreton’s name reflects the history of his family: Moreton from his grandmother’s maiden name, a well known Nuneaton family; John from his grandfather, Jack Hackett, a wood turner whose family had once kept an old beer house in Hall End called the Woodman; Ensor from a large family of Ensors in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire which originated from the Edensor and Hartington areas of Derbyshire in the 13th century.

Moreton is a retired lieutenant in the US Marines who was engaged in battles from island to island across the pacific during World War II.
Arbury Hall stands amidst vast impressive Parkland. This Elizabethan mansion house has been the home of the Newdigate family since the 16th century and was Gothicised by Sir Roger Newdigate during the second half of the 18th century.

It is locally known that George Eliot, the writer, was born at South Farm on the estate in 1819, where her father was the agent. She features Arbury in several of her novels, especially ‘Scenes of Clerical Life’.

It was one fine Thursday evening on the 14th May that 26 of us from the Society met up to have a guided tour of the Hall and it turned out to be a most pleasurable evening.

Colonel Hendy and our guide welcomed us for the evening and we were then led through to our first room on the tour, which was the Chapel. It had an elaborate plasterwork ceiling and separating its panelled walls were intricate carved swags of fruit and foliage.

Amazingly, there was an old organ that had only recently been restored. It had been found down in the cellars of the Hall during a cleaning out session. It had been left in a corner and appeared to be a group of musty old rotting boxes covered in mildew and dust. It was only upon closer inspection that it turned out to be the remains of an organ. After weeks of hard work and tender loving care, the organ was then returned to its former glory and returned to its former place in the Chapel and was used for the first time at the christening of one of the Daventry grandchildren.

We then entered the schoolroom, an intriguing little room with its high ceiling and interesting contents. I admired the stools that had been embroidered by Sir Roger Newdigate’s first wife – Sophia. Unable to think of a pattern to embroider, Sophia asked her husband for his thoughts. He jokingly suggested the items she continually left lying around! This she did and on the stools she embroidered pictures of hats, handkerchiefs, fans and playing cards; all essential items to the everyday life of a Lady.

What also caught my eye was a painting on the wall. It was a picturesque view of Warwickshire, with cattle grazing by a river in a lush green pasture and in the distance an impressive structure, that of Aston Hall in Birmingham. A few hundred years later this idyllic spot has disappeared and in the very same place stands Spaghetti Junction! How things change.

There is also a fine marble chimneypiece, with inlaid medallions picturing classical figures. These came from abroad and in transit many broke. It is said that at the time Josiah Wedgwood was called upon to repair the damage and being quite impressed by them it is thought he was later influenced by the designs in his decision to make Jasperware.

From here we entered the little sitting room with its wonderful Gothic ceiling and its fine collection of family portraits. There is also an interesting collection of Georgian and Jacobite drinking glasses.

The Stables, which now house the tearooms
The next room we entered was the most memorable for me, the Saloon. As soon as you walked in, it had a certain ambience about it, with its high vaulted ceiling inspired by Henry VII’s Chapel in Westminster Abbey. There is a most glorious Gothic bow window with a beautiful view of the parkland outside. This being enhanced by certain rose coloured panes of glass. English and French furniture adorned the room along with family portraits and photographs. All in all it was a most charming room and one I could certainly feel at home in!

From the saloon we entered the Drawing Room, again it had an elaborate barrel vaulted Gothic ceiling and Gothic chimney-piece, with full length portraits inset into the walled panelling.

We then crossed a narrow hall to reach the Dining Room, being quite a long large room with an impressively high ceiling, the highest in the house. Here we saw the Gothic ceiling to its greatest effect. The sweeping curves of the fan-vaulting seemed to explode across the ceiling in a serene magnificence. George Eliot gives a detailed description of it in ‘Mr Gilfils Love Story’, chapter 2. “It impressed one with its architectural beauty, like a Cathedral ... richly carved pendants, all of creamy white relieved here and there by touches of gold”. Near the Gothic chimney-piece, there is a painting of Mary Fitton, who was maid-of-honour to Queen Elizabeth I and sister-in-law of Sir John Newdigate.

It was from the Dining Room that we went to see the last room, going back through the house via the cloisters and up some stairs to the Long Gallery. This is the only part of the house that still retains its Elizabethan features, such as the chimney-piece. Two quite old and sinister pieces of furniture were that of a table and chair used by Henry Grey, the father of Lady Jane Grey, when he was hiding in a hollow oak tree at Astley before he was betrayed by the gamekeeper and then executed in 1554.

We then left the Long Gallery for the Tea Rooms, which are themselves quite impressive and for which Sir Christopher Wren provided drawings for the central doorway of these 17th century stables.

It was here that our tour had come to an end and we were to enjoy ourselves on the buffet supper and refreshments that awaited us. We all agreed that we had had a pleasant and enjoyable evening in the delightful surroundings of Arbury hall, our heritage on our doorstep!
Help Wanted

Michael Roberts, member No 105 is looking for his grandmother, Louisa Chinn. She was born in Nuneaton on 27.3.1873. On the 1881 census she is with her family at Park Farm, Arbury Hall. She married George Isaac Gascoyne on 7.8.1896 at St Paul’s, Stockingford. On the 1891 census her family are at Railway Farm, Stockingford but where is Louisa?

Did You Know...

The 1851 census for Warwicks Devon and Norfolk is available all on one computer CD. If you live in the UK it can be obtained from: The Church of LDS/ Distribution Centre/ 399 Garretts Green Lane/ Birmingham/ B33 OUH. Please enclose a cheque payable to The Church of Jesus Christ of LDS for £3.65 (yes that is correct and not a typing error!) including P&P. There is a bit of a wait as they cannot keep up with demand so patience is a must. I sent off for my copy and one for the Society in April and have not yet received it but I am assured it will be worth the wait. Does anyone know if the LDS have any plans to do the same with the 1881 census or the IGI?

Calling All Ex Pupils Of Galley Common First School

I have lived in the small village of Galley Common since September 1991 and my daughter has been at the first school since September 1995. The school had its Centenary celebrations in 1996 and each child was presented with a commemorative mug to mark the occasion. The school also put on view the old log books for the villagers. Of course some families had been in the village since before 1891 when the Haunchwood Colliery was opened by Sir Alfred Hickman MP and many other families came and settled because of the colliery. Many villagers found relatives in the books and I had the most wonderful time reading about the school and the local community. I enjoyed reading the books so much that I am now writing a book on the life and times of Galley Common School. Did you attend the school? Have you any memories of some of the teachers? There have only been 11 headmasters/mistresses in the 102 year history. Can you remember the air raid shelters always flooding? Have you got one of the commemorative mugs and new penguins given to the children for Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation? I would love to hear from anyone who has any information on the school or its teachers. I can be contacted on the following address or e-mail. Mrs Karen Naylor 16 Mayfair Drive Galley Common Nuneaton Warwickshire CV10 8RP. Karen@naylor.prestel.co.uk

Memories Wanted

If you attended one of the following village schools, pre 1950, and would like to contribute your memories to a book on old village schools then Susan Moore, the Chairman of the Fillongley & Corley Local History Group would like to hear from you. The Schools are: Arley, Astley, Corley, Corley Open Air, Fillongley, Little Packington, Meriden, Maxstoke, Shawbury Industrial School, Shustoke

Susan can be contacted at: Fillongley & Corley Local History Group/ The Old Granary/ Fillongley/ CV7 8PB Tel: 01676 541896

Battlefield Tours

One of our members recently went on a First World War Battlefield & Pilgrimage Tour organised by the Birmingham War Research Society and can thoroughly recommend them. Tours include coach travel, ferry crossings, hotel accommodation (en-suite BB&EM) & special cemetery visits by prior arrangement. The War Research Society do Second World War Tours also.

For further details please contact Linda Spiers, 105 Outlands Drive, Hinckley, Leics, LE10 0TN

Email

If you have an email address which you would like to be published in the next members list and members’ interests (out in October 98) please ensure it is included on your membership renewal form. Also we would like to hear about any interesting websites, tips, hints etc for our ‘Get Netted’ Page.

Meetings

Don’t forget, our meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Nuneaton Library (use side entrance) from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

If You have any thing to put on the notice board in the next newsletter please contact Pat Boucher

WANTED

DEAD (OR ALIVE) FOR THE NEXT NNWFHS NEWSLETTER

Articles about your ancestors, family photos, items for our notice board and help wanted/offered section etc.

Start writing NOW!!!