Newton Regis, the most northerly village in the county, with the spire of the parish church of St Mary looking over Leicestershire. Pen & ink drawing 1949 By William Green. Reproduced with the kind permission of Mr Edwin Green, the copyright holder.

New burial index 1813 - 1851 now available for:
Austrey, Newton Regis, Polesworth, Seckington & Shuttington

NUNEATON AND NORTH WARWICKSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
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JOURNAL JANUARY 2004

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I am writing to wish you all a Happy New Year for 2004 and plenty of amazing breakthroughs in your family researches over the next twelve months. I hope to be able to meet you if you come to Nuneaton and discuss your genealogical problems over a cup of tea or whatever your tipple is! A brief review of where we have reached so far shows a society in excellent health, stable membership, with a good management committee and sound finances. The range of services, for a society our size, is substantial, regular high quality newsletters, web site, monthly meetings in two venues, Nuneaton and Atherstone, lending library, a useful range of publications carefully produced and checked by a professional team of researchers, close co-operation with other Societies, regular speakers, showcase events such as the Heritage weekend in September, and other gatherings at various intervals – in 2003 even an open top bus tour and three ghost walks!

We have to be creative to expand, because if we stand still we will lose momentum and then we start to lose focus on our main business that is to provide a forum for genealogy in our area. A kind of perpetually fertilised patch of ground whereupon your interests in your ancestors will be carefully nurtured.

A key component in family history is local history so there are now two interesting web sites available in our area: The Nuneaton Society Web Site www.nuneaton-online.org.uk and the Atherstone Online web site web site: www.atherstone-online.org.uk

If you have any useful information to put onto the Nuneaton Society local history web site (which was created by our joint Web-Manager Bill Boswell) please e.mail it to Bill. (e.mail: bill.boswell@btinternet.com). We are particularly looking for articles about industrial or commercial, educational or institutional Nuneaton, personal reminiscences from your own family experiences, maybe even the story of your life as long as it is not too controversial! (no outrageous infidelities or anything that could be construed as libellous!). We are also looking for any photos you might have which could usefully illustrate the site.

Several of our members attended a very interesting meeting at Stoke Golding Club in November. There has been some controversy over the site of the Battle of Bosworth recently with the publication of a book by Michael Jones which locates the battle more towards Atherstone than Market Bosworth. A few years ago Dr. Peter Foss produced a very scholarly book on the battle giving what I considered, and everyone else who I have spoken to who has read it, to be the most convincing and definitive location of the battlefield site at Redmore close to Stoke Golding and Dadlington, so to find someone coming up with an alternative theory and trying to pass that onto the public deserved attention. I was shocked to see the turn-out. Stoke Golding club was packed! It is amazing to me that the Battle of Bosworth is raging in these parts (bloodlessly at present) some five hundred odd years later. There seems to be two camps – Peter Foss’s camp and Michael Jones camp!

This on top of the Richard III Society, a feisty bunch, who are prepared to champion the cause of their hero at every opportunity! It seems to me that despite the battle being over the verbal battle rages on albeit in a flurry of opinions, words (not arrows, swords, bill-hooks and spears) and documentation.

Anyone with an interesting tale to tell about their family is being encouraged to send them in and you could be on TV or have it published in a book. Log on to the web site for The History Channel via: www.thefamilyhistoryproject.co.uk or write: The History Channel, Grant Way, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5QD. For an application form which will tell you what to do.

Please note we shall be holding the 2nd “Attleborough Local and Family History Day” at Attleborough Parish Church Centre, Attleborough Road, Nuneaton on Saturday February 28th 10am-4pm. If someone would volunteer to mash the tea or serve the coffee please let me know as soon as possible. For a map and itinerary, with list of eateries please contact me before the event.

Finally in trying to think of ways we can re-capture those good old days. How our ancestors lived? What life was like for them? In aid of our researches, over the Christmas break, Alan Cook and myself visited Britain’s oldest pub “Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem” [dates from 1189ad] at Nottingham. (not needing much encouragement in this kind of research) and during our perambulations around the pub found a book in a shop next door: “Soyer’s Shilling Cookery For the People” published in 1860. I will pass on a few of these recipes to try at home. It will help you get the flavour of those imperfect “good old days”. So look out for “Herring in Whiskey”, “Mutton Pudding”, “Artisan’s Pie”, “Poor Man’s Potato Pie” etc. in future editions.
EDWARD KEM JARVIS
FATE OR A CHANCE BENEFICIARY? A NUNEATON - HINCKLEY MORGANATIC MARRIAGE!
By Alan F Cook

What do these two towns have in common – not a lot perhaps you might say? Nuneaton had a Priory, quarries, pottery clay, sand and coal – Hinckley had a Castle, sand, weaving, hosiery, and a holy well etc.

It is perhaps fortunate that prehistoric people were not governed by municipal boundaries like the A5 Watling Street. There are Stone, Iron and Bronze Age remains distributed all over the area. By the time the Romans came to Britain there were vestiges of a boundary between East and West Midlands. It was known as a pre-Roman Anglo-Welsh gold route (it passed through Ulllesthorpe, Sharnford, Elmesthorpe, Market Bosworth and Shackerstone).

The Romans built Watling Street and that became an enduring boundary (and replaced the older route). The invading Danes and native Saxons drew a territorial line along it. In all other respects it remained a veritable frontier.

However, some decades after the Norman Conquest, the powerful Abbey of Leicester was granted a triangular piece of Warwickshire (near Hydes Pastures). This piece of land was probably identified by tributary layouts (Sketchley and Harrow Brooks). Certain archival documents still show old administrative boundaries cutting into Warwickshire, almost down to the Eastboro Way.

This triangle has many interesting historical associations: The Jarvis families (a rare name; it was first recorded briefly in the late 18thC in Attleborough legal suit rolls). Although these two families often occur in the same documents I have never found a time or a place where these two families intermarried. (In over 500 years of records!!)

Kem’s were sometimes tenants on Jarvis land (occasionally vice versa). Purefoys (of Caldecote fame) were originally Jervis and Swynfen Jervis - the ancestors of the Earl of St. Vincent. In the Mediaeval period both families were powerful baronial lines – and it would seem probably competitive from time to time.

There must have been a healing of this long-standing impasse [or feud] at sometime in 1800. The notable Armitage / Nuneaton philanthropist, Edward Kem, appears to have left a small sum of money to help educate the first-born son of Atherstone’s postmaster, Joseph Jarvis (and his wife Mary, the daughter of John Sands, a publican at Congerstone, and his wife Melinda).

That sum of money was put to very good use and created a man worthy of further discussion: Edward Kem Jarvis, the judge and philanthropist, was baptised 15 March 1805 at Ratcliffe Culey (Leicestershire).

Jarvis’s early life is unknown; he may have been educated at the locally endowed Queen Elizabeth I Grammar School. He moved to Hinckley in 1819, and joined the legal practice of Charles Jarvis in 1826 (Charles was a distant relative whose business was established pre-1800 and he owned Hydes Pasture for a time). Edward married the blind widow Rebecca Brown, [nee Tomlinson] on 16 September 1828, where they were recorded in Hinckley.

From 1829 Jarvis’s name appeared annually in the Law List as a solicitor. By 1838 he was listed as clerk to the Hinckley Magistrates court and parish auditor; over the next six years his career dramatically evolved. He was acclaimed for his meticulous and thought-provoking evidence used in the Royal Commission into the conditions of the Frame-Work Knitters in 1844.

The reasons for setting up this Commission were as a result of several inter-related problems. In hosiery’s “golden age” (1781-1811) Hinckley contributed 2,400 pairs of stockings for British troops on the continent in 1793. The industry was domestic in origin, requiring neither coal nor water power, hence its suitability for lowland England. However, it was very vulnerable to market changes; in 1829, 66% of the town’s people were on poor relief; with so few ratepayers the Government set up the Framework Knitters’ Commission.

Hinckley in the hungry ‘40’s had hundreds of impoverished families where small children performed winding and seaming, at the age of 9 they would be working on the frame. By the time the report was published Leicestershire’s hosiery goods were uncompetitive in their traditional foreign markets because of the progressive American and German manufacturers.

Jarvis’s evidence stated that he knew of only two or three local manufacturers who did not practice the Truck System. Prior to his legal profession he fought it by private means, he set up his own knitting company where no frame rents or standing charges were levied. He even offered his workers stone breaking in the slack times, but their hands were too soft from the intricate loomwork.

The project failed because local framework knitters disliked the regular routine of his factory. He also called various meetings to set up local funds to help suppress the “Truck”. The evidence also cited a local manufacturer, who travelled to Leicester’s Saturday market to buy an Irish pig at 5d per pound (about 4.6p per kg). He took it back to Hinckley where he killed it and salted the pork. Three weeks later it was sold as bacon at 10p per pound (9.2p per kg).

In his legal profession Jarvis was litigious and resourceful; he disliked imprisoning first time offenders. His preferred to fine the Truck operator £5 for a first offence, £10 for the second and the third offence was imprisonment.

By 1846, his outstanding ability saw him promoted to Judge of Hinckley and Market Bosworth, and within five years he was appointed perpetual commissioner for the poor. On the 1st January 1853 Jarvis died of a heart attack and was buried in a vault beneath the floor of St Mary’s church, Hinckley.

The church was extensively restored in the late 19thC and later had the floor renewed in 1988; many headstones were found but none were recorded. A shield-shaped brass plaque with the initials EKJ is affixed to the wall near the bell tower entrance.

His Last Will and Testament records investments, cattle, real estate and property in Hinckley, Barwell and Burbage - the whole worth perhaps £5,000 at that time (perhaps equal to £5,000,000 today)
Prior to the foundation of Hospitals those in the population who could afford to pay chose to have a Doctor attend them in their own homes. Those who couldn’t afford assistance usually had to apply for charity. Much assistance was given by the Monks before the dissolution of the Monasteries. The Elizabethan poor laws introduced parochial relief for the sick and needy, being replaced by the Poor Law Unions of the 19th century.

Almshouses were provided through charitable bequests, such as Bedworth’s Nicholas Chamberlaine Almshouses, re erected in 1840, which in 1924 could accommodate 20 aged men and 20 aged women.

Subscription schemes for Workers commenced to assist Hospital finances, but as the cost of Medical care increased a number of charity events were held to help the struggling hospitals. Gala Days, Charity Balls and Concerts to raise money were held in addition to the Saturday and Sunday Hospital movements.

A large number of prospective patients, however, were excluded from treatment within the Voluntary hospitals, including Vagabonds, Tramps, Incurable patients, Pregnant Women, Mentally sick (classified as Insane), Patients with Infectious Diseases, and those with Chronic Conditions.

A number of small Cottage hospitals were founded in rural areas to prevent local people having to travel far. The first of which was at Cranleigh in Surrey founded in 1859. The Cottage Hospital in Nuneaton was erected on Manor Court Avenue in 1893 at a cost of £3,000 from plans designed by Mr. F.J. Yates, architect of Birmingham on a site given by R. Stanley and J. Tomkinson esqrs.

It was subsequently enlarged in 1899, 1920 and 1923 and by 1924 could accommodate 53 patients.

In the larger Towns and Cities, Specialist Hospitals were founded to fill the gap formed by the Voluntary Hospital omissions. Eye Hospitals, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, Cripples Hospitals, Hospitals for Women and Lying In (now called Maternity). An example of this type of Hospital is the Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital for Children. St Gerad’s located on the Coventry Road in Coleshill.

The Poor Law Infirmaries filled the greatest void for the poor, the destitute, the sick and the aged. The large Union Workhouses had originally been opened following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, to provide “relief” for those in poverty. It soon became clear that a large percentage of that poverty was caused by illness and disability.

All the Parishes considered within the boundary of North Warwickshire along with all the other Parishes within the Country, were divided into their respective Poor Law Unions.

The Parishes of Ansley, Atherstone, Baddesley Ensor, Baxterley, Bentley, Grendon, Mancetter, Merevale, Polesworth, Hartshill and Warton comprised part of the Atherstone Poor Law Union which was declared 16 March 1836. The stone built Workhouse was situated in Long Street, Atherstone and could accommodate 120 inmates.

Curdworth, Wishaw and Water Orton formed part of the Aston Poor Law Union which was declared 12 October 1836. The Aston Board of Guardians initially took over the Parish Workhouse located opposite The Green in Erdington, now the site of Erdington Library. A new large Union House was erected 1869 from designs by Ye-
Changes in social opinions and values led to the requirements of separate ac-
 commodation for those young, ill or disabled. The addition of an 80 bedded Infirmary at Nuneaton Workhouse was made in 1905 at a cost of £12,000.

A Children’s Home was built during 1912 to accommodate Children away from the Nuneaton Workhouse surroundings, located in Henry Street it could accommodate 248 inmates. Children’s Homes were also provided by the Meriden Guardians and Cottage Homes were provided by the Aston Poor Law Union for the Children in their care.

Infectious Disease cases were sometimes admitted to separate blocks within Workhouses or often separate hospitals were provided by the Local Authority under the control of the Medical Officer of Health. Sanatoriums were operated on the basis of separation. There were a number of such Hospitals within the boundaries of North Warwickshire, including Atherstone rural District Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases located in Grendon, and Nuneaton Isolation Hospital on Mancetter Road and at Bramcote, which later became Bramcote Hospital.

The Warwickshire and Coventry Joint Committee for Tuberculosis maintained a number of Dispensary’s including those at 35, Coton Road Nuneaton and 5 Market Street Atherstone. In addition to the Dispensary’s the Committee ran the King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium at Hertford Hill near Warwick, officially opened 1924 and able to accommodate 225 patients.

The mentally ill were treated as paupers, vagabonds or criminals (often being sentenced to Gaols or Reformatories) prior to any legislation, but the County Asylums Act 1808 allowed for the erection of County Asylums which became compulsory in 1845. Although there were a small number of privately maintained Asylums, there began a large increase in the number of County Asylums. The Warwickshire County Mental Hospital was opened 1852 at Hatton and consisted of 377 acres. The Hospital itself was able to accommodate 1,400 Patients.

The Midland Counties Institution, for the education and training of feeble minded patients was situated on Grove Road, about a mile to the south of the village of Knowle, and The Royal Midland Counties Home for incurables was established 1874 in Leamington Spa at the cost of £20,000.

A Medical Officer of Health for the County of Warwick was appointed in 1900 to supervise the County Council Health Services including Health Visitors, Orthopaedic Clinics, Maternity Homes, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Services.

From the Local Government Act 1930 many Poor Law Infirmarys became large Municipal Hospital’s providing healthcare for the general public. Aston Workhouse developed into Highcroft Hospital, George Eliot Hospital developed in this way from the Nuneaton Workhouse Infirmary and St Editha’s Hospital developed from the Tamworth Poor Law Infirmary.

The introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 brought free healthcare to the population. Specialist Hospitals were gradually integrated into the large general hospitals to provide specialist departments. Medical and surgical advances introduced treatments that saw the end of any need for Infectious Disease Hospitals, many of which were modernized to provide a different type of medicine and others demolished. Bramcote Hospital for instance is now maintained by North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.

Mental Health Care changed significantly with the introduction of “Care in the Community” and the large County Asylum buildings are rapidly being replaced by small short term units. Central Hospital at Hatton was closed during this rapid change in the 1990’s and the listed buildings converted to provide residential accommodation.

Hospitals are now redefining their provision and locating all resources onto one large site. Large new General Hospitals provide modern facilities and treatments, and the decaying architecture of the Poor Law, Voluntary and Subscription Hospital era is rapidly disappearing.
Old newspapers are a good source of information for both local and family historians. I have been lucky to find on several occasions items of interest when I was actually researching something else.

Some time ago I was in Nuneaton library looking at microfilm copies of the Nuneaton Chronicle for 1884. I was looking for information on the recovery of bodies from Baddesley Pit following the Baddesley Pit explosion of 1882. The bodies of the 9 nightshift workers were left in the mine when it was sealed off after the explosion took place on May 2nd 1882. Some of the bodies were not recovered until over 2 years later. I found a report of the recovery of bodies from Baddesley Pit following the Baddesley Pit explosion of 1882. Some of the bodies were not recovered until over 2 years later. I found a report of the recovery of 3 bodies in the edition dated August 24th. Also I found on the same page, the following news item that was of particular interest to me.

**SHOCKING DEATH OF A BOY**

On Tuesday, Dr Iliffe held an inquest at the Rose Inn, Baxterley on the body of Charles Day, 9 years of age, who met with a shocking death at Baddesley Ensor, on the previous Saturday. Mr John Jones was foreman of the jury.

Ambrosine Whitmore, a girl eight years of age, said; “On Saturday last I saw Charles Day riding on the box of a steam cultivating engine. He was standing on the box. I saw him reach over to gather a nut from the hedge as the engine passed by, and while so doing he fell under the wheel of the cultivator. The wheel passed over his head and leg. I did not see him move after that. I went to him and he was dead. Previous to the accident I asked him to come off the box. He refused and said he was going to have a ride. The driver was with the engine, and I heard the driver tell the boy to get off. I saw the deceased get upon the engine while it was going along. He got up in front.”

By the Foreman; “the engine was going along when the deceased got on.”

John Gibson, engine driver, in the employ of the Langley Farm and Dairy Company, Sutton Coldfield, said; “On Saturday afternoon last, I was driving the engine. We had been steam ploughing. About 5pm I was on the engine. No one else was upon it. I saw the deceased in the field. He got upon the engine once or twice, and I ordered him down, as did the foreman. The latter drove him away. I had no idea afterwards that the deceased had got on again, and was riding in front. I neither heard him fall or cry out. Subsequently, I saw the deceased lying dead under the wheel.”

In reply to questions, witness said it was impossible for him to see that the lad was on the box.

P C Winkle said the deceased was the son of Joseph Day, who was killed in the Baxterley Colliery disaster. The lad’s head was smashed, the brains being scattered about the ground.

The Coroner, in summing up said it was evident that the poor lad contributed to his own end.

The foreman said the jury was quite satisfied that the engine driver would be unable to see the lad sitting on the box in front of the engine.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was accidentally killed and that not the slightest blame was attachable to the engine driver.

The full name of the boy was Alfred Charles Day and he was the son of Joseph and Ann Day. Joseph was the eldest brother of my grandmother, Eliza Day. She was the youngest of 10 children and was 10 years old in 1884, only a year older than her nephew. I already knew from another source that Alfred Charles had been killed but I didn’t know the circumstances. I was going to obtain a copy of his death certificate in order to find out the cause of death but now I had found this report of the inquest into his death which gave me much more information than would have been on his death certificate.

When I first read it I was quite shaken. It was such a horrific accident, but at least he must have died instantly. This must have been another tragic blow to his Day family, especially to his mother, Ann. Her husband, Joseph had been killed in the Baddesley pit explosion, together with his 2 younger brothers, Thomas and William. Ann had been left a widow with 3 young sons and another on the way. Then only 2 years later her eldest son was also killed in a terrible accident. If only he had done as he was told and not climbed back onto the traction engine?

On another occasion I was in Atherstone library looking at microfilm copies of the Atherstone News for 1902. I was doing research into the murder of 3 members of the Chetwynd family from Baddesley Ensor, which took place in August of that year. In the edition dated September 15th the following item caught my attention.

**Baxterley Sad Mining Fatality**

On Tuesday afternoon last a shocking fatal accident occurred at Baddesley collieries to a boy named Frederick Smith, aged 14, living at Baxterley Hall Cottages. It appears that the deceased, who was employed as a “hicker-on” of trucks in the pit, got onto the wrong line by some means or other, and was knocked down by a tub. The result was that the boy was badly crushed, and a message was immediately dispatched to Dr Power. The poor boy was brought to the top of the shaft but succumbed to his injuries before medical aid could arrive. An inquest will be held today.

Frederick Smith was not related to me but I recognised the name. He was the son of Charles and Mary Smith. Mary was formerly Mary Evans the widow of Dick Evans, another of the rescuers killed in the Baddesley Pit Exploration. She was left a widow at the age of 25 and had 4 young children. In 1884 she married Charles Smith and had 7 more children, one of whom was of course Frederick. So here was another woman who was made a widow by the Baddesley Pit disaster and who also lost a son. In her case the son was from her second marriage and he was killed 20 years after her first husband in another accident at the same pit.
EXTRCTIONS FROM COVENTRY HERALD & OBSERVER 1857

Originally posted on the Warwickshire mailing list by Chris El-Amir.

Abbreviations:
21i = 21st of this month/21u = 21st of last month
db(hsdo) = dearly beloved wife(husband son dau) of
dft(dso) = eldest(youngest) dau(s)n of
dbt(t) = both of this city(town)/itc = in this city
ppa = passed peacefully away
marriages show bridegroom name first
30/1/1857

Death:

FOOT 28i age 55 after long painful illness Elizabeth wo James, Smithfield St & do late Alderman Tann itc
BALLS 23i age 44 Elizabeth wo R.H., grocer, Cross Cheaping itc
M’CALL 24i age 41 John, Grey Friars itc
PERKINS 23i age 38 John, Far Gosford St itc
KIMBERLEY 28i age 53 Ann wo Henry, Jordan Well itc
BAILEY 29i age 9 months William Henry only so Thomas, chemist/druggist, Burges itc
GARDNER 23i House of Industry age 49, Jane
SMITH 21i House of Industry age 30, Thomas
BANNARD 24i House of Industry age 83, James
Bennett 26i age 73 Rebecca widow of John, Radford nr this city
CRADDOCK Tue last Wedddington Terra, Nuneaton of consumption after long illness age 18, William eso George W., solicitor, he being on furlough from 6th Reg. of Foot
PEPPER Last week, Swan Lane, Stockingford age 65, Ann wo Thomas. Deceased had been in receipt of parochial relief for some time past & yet at time of her death it was found she had "scratched" together £200!

Editor’s note, see final entry
RUSSELL 18i, Edward, Eathorpe & Marston in this county
SMITH 8i age 66 Harriet, relict of G. wine merchant etc. of Leamington
SEERGATE 19i age 39 Mrs. Daniel Sergerate, Long Itch.
SIMMONS 20i age 46 Mr John, surgeon, Birmingham
MOLE 25i after short illness in 53rd yr Francis, solicitor, Birmingham
HALL 20i of rapid decline age 27, John 2nd so John, Esq. Tamworth
HARROLD 16i age 55 Mary widow of Thomas, builder, Castle St. Leics
THOMAS 16i wife of William, Esq., Mayor of Walsall
HUNT Mon last at Hammersmith in 69th yr Marianne wo Leigh Hunt 6/2/1857

Birth:

HOOD 1i Mrs Jane Hood, Abbey St Neuneaton, a son
BEAUMONT Fri last at Cole Orton Hall Leics, wo Sir George, Bart, a dau

Marriage:

ANNU-SLOW-BARFOOT 3i St Michael John, Wellington, Salop to Elizabeth only do Mr. E., Much Park St itc
HOLLAND-BOWELL 1i St Michael, Nuneaton to Ann bote
VERDEN-CHAPLIN 2i St Michael Joseph to Harriet bote
MILLNER-GOODMAN 3i Trinity Joseph age 62 to Susannah age 79 bote
GOODE-ROSS 2i St Peter Joseph to Caroline bote
THOMPSON-O’BRIEN 3i Reg.Office William to Jane bote
SIDWELL-LEE 27u St George Bham Thomas to Eliza edo William, bote

Death:

MVEIGH 4i age 68, Mary wo Simon Esq., Glasnevin, Dublin
EAVES 4i 62 Mrs Sarah, Talbot Inn itc
GOODRIDGE 30u age 54 Eliza wo Nathaniel, George St, Stony Stanton Rd itc
NELSON 11u age 6, Daniel so John, New St itc
CORBETT 1i age 15, Mary Ann do Joseph, Gosford Green itc
WELLS 11u age 7 Thomas Gilbert so Thomas, St Georges Terrace itc
GRAY 10u age 85 Elizabeth widow of Thomas, Chauntry Place itc
BAILEY 27u age 51, Frances widow of W.E.
GRIMSLY 2i age 72 Ann widow of William itc
JOHNSON 3i age 65, John, Waterloo St itc
HAYMES 4i age 4 months Isabella do George, Spon St itc
PLATT 2i 60 John, sen., stonemason, Swanswell St itc
MURCOTT 26u age 63, Sarah wo Thomas, Rounsil Lane nr Kenilworth
HOBILL 4i age 67 in Daventry, Prudence wo George, 2nd do late Thomas Webb, Brinklow in this county
WAKEFIELD 1i age 66 after long painful illness, Hanah wo Thomas, Ryton on Dunsmore
SMITH 28u at Sawbridge age 56, Richard late Bolton Fields SMITH 22u at Henley in Arden, age 83, Mrs Hannah, malter
HOYLE 24u at Grandborough in 83rd yr Ellen Hoyle ydo late James Esq of the Royd nr Halifax
TOYNE 19u Northampton age 52, Maria wo Rev Elias, Westminster of Hinckley
AMPHLETT 27u at his residence Heath Green, Bham age 44, Samuel Holmden Esq., surgeon to General Hospital in that town
CORBETT 29u Foxydiate House nr Bromsgrove age 65, Lucy Favorretta relict of Panton Corbett Esq of Longnor, Salop 13/2/1857

Marriage:

CROSS-WHITE 1i St Michael, John oto to Elizabeth Sarah, do late James, Earl Street itc
KING-WIFT 8i Birmingham, Frederick of Fleet St to Hannah, West Orchard itc
SIMS-BROMWICH 5i St Peter, Arthur to Elizabeth bote
BIRD-JOHNSON 29u John, farmer of Monks Kirby to Mary ydo late John, Shilton
EDWARD-OLDHAM 10i Paddington, John, butcher, Regent St, Leamington to Sarah edo Thomas, Packing

Death:

SETTE 11i of consumption, Emma 3rd do Mrs Hannah, Spon End, itc
BINLEY 6i age 7 yrs 8 months, Anne edo Mr. Z.A., chemist, Fleet St itc
SHAW 6i after few days illness age 22 Isaac Shaw, son in law of Mr J COOPER, Hill Cross itc
WARDEN 3i, Stoke age 18, Richard, active teacher of Trinity Sunday Schools and faithful apprentice to John ANSTEY, grocer, Bishop St itc
PAYNE 6i age 11 months, John so Frederick, Tower St itc
GARDENER 6i age 5 months, John so William, Well St itc
BRAY 6i age 2 yrs, John so John, Payne's Lane itc
CLARK 5i age 1 yr, Jane do William, Well St itc
BOWEN 8i age 60 Ann wo Thomas, Agnes Lane itc
AUDLEY 7i age 1 yr Edwin so Benjamin, Gilchrist itc
KING 7i age 6 months Frederick so Mark, Chauntry Place itc
JONES 7i age 26, Thomas, Mill Lane itc
ATKINS Friday last age 80, Sarah wo Thomas, St John's St. itc
LENTON Sunday last age 81, Thomas, Gosford St itc
WRIGHT 10i age 25, Maria wo Nathan, East St itc
CHINN 7i age 2 yrs Mary Louisa & on 5i age 5 yrs Alfred Edward s & d of Mr Ed ward J Chinn of Huddersfield, formerly otc
ALLITT 8i after long painful illness age 38, Maria wo Andrew, Foleshill
LAMPRAY 4u of apoplexy, George, Toronto Canada, 2nd so George of Kenilworth
POTTER 7i after short illness age 62, Ed- mund of Kenilworth
EDGE 9i Priory Hill, Wolston, age 78, John late Quorndon, Derbyshire
PETT 5i Chilvers Coton age 78, Sarah relict of John
RICHARDSON 6i Neuneaton Union, Chilvers Coton age 88, John, many yrs rib- bon manufacturer, Bulgington
SMITH 7i Neuneaton Union age 66, Tho- mas, formerly Abboy St Neuneaton
MONTGOMERY 7i Dieppe age 20, Archibald eso James, Esq., Lillington, Warks
CULLEY 4i at her residence in the Cathe- dral Close, Norwich age 65, Hannah widow of Richard Esq., merchant of that city
WILMOT Sunday night at Cork at house of Henry Hadley Esq., MD, Staff surgeon, Parry, eso Augustus Hillier Eardley Wilmot Esq age 10
WILMOT 5i Chadsedden, Derbyshire in 53rd yr Maria Anne 3rd do late Sir Robert Wilmot, Bart of Chadsedden
SARGEAUNT Sarah wo Rev. J., Rector of Stanwick Nth

Erratum: 30u we recorded death of Ann PEPPER age 62 wo Thomas Pepper of Stockingford. It was also added that she had scraped together £200 although revg parochial relief. Mr Pepper requests us to deny their rcvg parochial relief or of having any money at all, that his wife's name was Elizabeth not Ann and her age was 68. The party who forwarded the death for insertion should have been more careful

Nuneaton & North Warwickshire Family History Society - Journal  Page 7

 Originally posted on the Warwickshire mailing list by Chris El-Amir.
# Colliery Explosions

By Alan Croshaw

In a recent NNWFHS journal, Celia Parton wrote movingly about the Badstede Colliery disaster of 1882 but this was by no means an isolated occurrence. All over the country in the 19th century there were colliery disasters involving fatalities in the hundreds to which there was a public outcry such that the Government could not ignore and so responded in time honoured fashion by setting up a Select Committee. This was in 1885 with the country’s top coal scientists becoming involved and an experimental coal face being built at a Research Centre near Buxton where they eventually demonstrated that a suspension of coal dust in air was just as explosive as a mixture of methane and air, which explained a lot.

From painstaking examinations in the mines following each disaster a picture was built up of a small fire damp explosion which may have done little damage but then blew roadway dust into the air and since this dust was coal dust and a source of ignition was present, this too exploded, blowing yet more coal dust into the air which in turn exploded. These coal dust explosions then travelled, comparatively slowly but inexorably along miles of the colliery roads, each explosion creating the deadly gas carbon monoxide which was swept through the workings by the efficient ventilation system - often overtaking miners who were fleeing towards the safety of the shafts.

Once the problem had been identified a solution was soon found. By shovelling up most of the coal dust and then dusting the roadways with limestone or gypsum dust and sitting trays of this dust at the ends of each coal face it meant that in the event of an explosion a plug of inert dust would immediately snuff out the advancing flame front. Once the technology had been verified it was incorporated into the comprehensive Coal Mines Act of 1911 which gave the profit motivated coal owners no leeway. The Act was strongly enforced by Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Mines (created in 1843) who had carte blanche to go wherever and whenever they chose. The Act stipulated that each mine must have a plan of all their roadways, divided into zones which had to be regularly sampled and taken to the laboratory for analysis. This was a backbone chore of all colliery laboratories where the total percentage of incombustible matter was determined, which for Warwickshire coals had to be at least 65% and, if it was not, that zone had to cleaned up and redusted - not incidentally by anyone involved in taking the samples.

The initial clean up must have been a massive operation as demonstrated by what happened at Binley Colliery in my time. Because methane had never been detected there Binley had always been classed as a “naked light pit” and free from many of the strictures that went with it including the right of Colliery Officials to search miners for contraband (i.e. tobacco) because it appears that smoking underground was a deep seated problem there and in exasperation the NCB finally designated it as a “Safety Lamp” mine which meant that it was treated like all the other collieries in Warwickshire including compliance for road dust. Initially all the samples were pure coal dust and improvement proved to be very slow with the result that adverse safety statistics for Warwickshire became highlighted at National level which in turn generated pressure on to the Area General Manager, the Group Manager, the Colliery Manager and, at the sharp end, the Colliery Safety Officer who told me that it had been suggested to him that he adulterate his samples with fresh limestone dust! However, the Safety Officer was a deeply religious man who was quite unmoved by such pressure and steadfastly continued his task until in due time all the roadways were safe.

Ironically, miners that I have known were of the opinion that they were looked down on by the public because they did such a dirty physical job, although I felt that it was not true. However, whilst the mystery of the colliery disasters would have been solved eventually, it was because of the sheer weight of public pressure that the problem was resolved so quickly, demonstrating that, to the general public, the miner did matter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HELP WANTED &amp; OFFERED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheila Lines Member No 135</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I am trying to trace any descendents of <strong>Evelyn Chester Boncey</strong> who married <strong>Charles Stubbs</strong> on 17-2-1921 at St Paul’s Foleshill, Coventry. Following the death of my cousin, I have a number of photographs (mostly unnamed!), certificates, etc which I believe relate to the Chester family and I would be pleased to pass on as they do not relate directly to my family. William Chester married Emma Coombes in Surbiton 29-11-1863; and they lived in Southsea and Coventry. They had at least three daughters, Rose, Emma and Florence and I believe Evelyn was the daughter of Emma. Please phone 0118 943 1352 or email <a href="mailto:sheila-lines@btopenworld.com">sheila-lines@btopenworld.com</a> if this relates to your family.</td>
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| **Ray Hall** |
| I have an ancestor who was awarded the Military Medal in World War I. I have the full name of the relative, the regiment he served in and also service number. I have found reference to it in London Gazette which gives him a date to work to but no citation. Would there be a citation for such an award and if so how can I obtain a copy, please? Please reply by email to rayhall@ntlworld.com or by telephone: 024 76 744 647 |

| **Mr Paul Congrave** |
| has researched copies of the Atherstone Herald from 1875 to 1975 and has recorded all references to Atherstone families, with notes on stories behind them and photos where there was one. He now has a huge database with thousands of names and he is willing to share this with others who have Atherstone ancestors. He can be contacted on e-mail pcongrave@aol.com or phone 0778 893919. |

| **Mr Steven Nason** |
| has been trying to confirm the parentage of **Dr Edward Nason snr**, who died in the March 1/4 of 1868. He would like to trace any obituaries or histories that were written that might help. Unfortunately the local newspapers held on microfilm at Nuneaton library start at June 1868! A search of the Coventry Herald, The Standard and The Times newspapers held at the Coventry central library has revealed no entries relating to his death. Can anyone offer any other ideas? Please email: snason@bigpond.com |
I remember as a lad in the 50's the gas works which used to stand in Queens Road. Its pungent aroma mixed with the various other smells which permeated the town at that time was, according to old wise's tales, said to be, if taken in sufficient lung fulls, good for catarrh and other bronchial problems. All I know is how much sweeter our local atmosphere became after it was swept away. I also have vague recollections once of having gone there with a friend who pushed a rather derelict and filthy old pram in order to collect a load of coke for his man! I was reserve horse power to shove the creaking load up the street on the way home. What a pair of deprivates we must have looked.

You might wonder, why build a gas works in the middle of town, but the answer was simple, when the works was first built it was not in the centre of town at all. It was on the outskirts. In October 1835 it was first reported that a gas, light and coke company was projected simply for lighting a few gas lamps in Nuneaton town centre. It had a share capital of £2,500 in £10 shares which were quickly snapped up by the public. Its location in fields at the back of Nuneaton's main street, Abbey Street, was chosen carefully because pipelines had to be laid and it was strategically situated for these to reach where required in the town centre. Early in 1836 extensive works were carried out to alter some of the water courses in the town centre, part of this work was to make way for the new gas works. The Wash Brook ran by the site of the current Nags Head pub which was one hundred and sixty five years ago open fields. It flowed into a pool in what is now Queens Road but was then Wash Lane.

On 25th May 1836 the contract to build the new gas works was let to Mr. Charles Ball, one of Nuneaton's biggest building contractors at the time, for the princely sum of £556. A first brick laying ceremony took place on 9th June 1836 and by September that year the first gas pipes were laid with 80 street lamps planned throughout the town.

By December that year the original enthusiasm had waned a bit with shares changing hands at £1 less than their original value.

Not deterred gas was first piped into Nuneaton on 2nd January 1837 which speaks well of the speed of construction carried out by Mr. Ball all those years ago. There was a great deal of celebration as church bells were rung and musicians played through the streets to make this great step forward. Even a few meagre gas mantles were better than the complete lack of street lighting which had hitherto been the situation. When no decent citizen dared walk through the dark, dank and blackened streets at night.

By 1849 The inspector to the Board of Health reported that the management appears to be very inefficient, great disputes arose, and the affairs had become "unprosperous" leaving the town until "and not fit for a woman to walk around". He also reported that the price of gas was absurdly high at 10-12 shillings per 1000 (cu.ft.)

In 1850 the lessees of the works were: Clay, Green and Thorpe with William Golby as general manager. The Clay connection was Joseph Hood Clay who had an ironmongery business in Abbey Street so in order to complete his commercial involvement no doubt did a good trade in gas pipes, burners and mantles, as well as other sundry fittings required in piping gas to local inhabitants. By 1866 Henry Clews was manager. In 1874 the company was trading as the Nuneaton Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd. and was leased to Robinson Brothers of Coventry. The works consisted of three gas holders capable of containing 80,000 feet of gas, and there were 29 retorts. The whole town then had 100 public lamps. In 1880 the offices of the company had transferred to Bridge Street in the middle of town.

During this period the road we now know as Queens Road changed its name from Wash Lane, to Arbury Lane, to Gas Lane, then to Gas Street before part becoming Queen's Street and then finally Queen's Road. The gas works added to the property it owned by small acquisitions of adjacent land from 1883 onwards including a substantial addition made in 1899.

For forty eight years the gas works was associated with a prominent local dignitary Mr. George Helps (1864-1952). The Helps family had long been involved in the gas trade almost from the beginning of its origins in the early 1800's. George Helps father also George was born in 1826 and served the Bath Gas Company until the ripe old age of 76 where he had been company secretary for 46 years.

George Helps Jnr. ’s brother James was a gas engineer with the Croydon Gas Co. and another brother, Douglas was engineer and manager to the Redhill Gas Co.

George Helps was educated at Christ's Hospital and one of his first jobs was as a journalist for the Bath Herald newspaper. He then joined his father at the Bath Gas Co. Later he moved to become assistant engineer and accountant to the Bahia Gas Co. South America before becoming engineer and manager to the Hinkley Gas Works in 1894. In 1898 took over the Nuneaton enterprise.

During his time at Nuneaton he was the inventor of the Multiple Mantle Burner and in 1932 he pioneered the "all gas home" which dispensed with the traditional coal fire. In 1946 he retired to live in his beloved West Country, to Burnham on Sea. His son also named George took over the business, remaining as manager after the gas industry was nationalised in 1949.
The photo shows a group of young footballers with my father Richard Charles Legge with DAD written on his knees. I do not know who the other people are and presume it was a Stockingford school team. My father had been born in 1907 so he would have been about 13 years old at the time. He also had certificates for swimming from Stockingford Council School in the year 1918/19 and 1920 and I have a part photo of him playing rollerskate hockey in the 1920’s.

Richard started work in the pits and stayed there till he lost all the fingers of his right hand in an accident underground in about 1937. I believe he had worked at Clara and would like to find out more about his coal mining life but do not know where to start. During the war he was an Auxiliary Fireman and worked in London and Coventry. He owned a milk delivery business in the Earls Court Road area of Nuneaton till the family moved to Clacton on Sea in the early 1950’s.

Richard was the eldest son of Richard Legge who had been born in Hednesford in 1882. In later years he worked at Stanley’s Brickyard. He married Caroline Ellen Davies in 1906 at Stockingford St Pauls. Caroline herself had been born in Nottingham in 1887 and there ended my false premise that my paternal grandparents had been Nuneaton people through and through.

The children of the family were Richard Charles Legge 1907; William Edward 1908; Thomas Alfred who died aged 2 months in 1911; Sarah Ellen 1914; Alfred Charles 1916 and George 1920. All the family lived in and around Nuneaton after their marriages. The Legge family had lived in the Arbory Road, Croft Road area of Stockingford all their married lives till the death of Caroline in 1955.

Shustoke School for Girls 1909

The above photo of a group of school girls and their teachers includes my mother’s sister Alice MARTIN, she is the girl on the front row in the dark dress next to the one holding the board. I do not know any other names for the little girls or the teachers but perhaps someone knows who they are.

The Martin family were in Shustoke from about 1907 to 1912. Before that they had lived at Mount Cottages in Fillongley from 1895 to 1906 and that is where my mother Frances Isabel Martin was born. She was however baptised at St Cuthberts Shustoke in 1908.

There were 11 children in the family and in later years they lived at Bentley Hall Farm and the Chain at Ansley before moving in about 1926 to Whitehouse Crescent, Stockingford. They also lived at the Crowshaws was this Bentley Bar?

Arthur Richard Martin had been born in Farndon Notts in 1873 and was a coachman according to family history to Mr Blackham who was a ? MP. I wonder if there are any photos of him driving the coach etc. I have not as yet found anything to substantiate this claim. He also was a stud groom and later on was a gardener. He married Alice Wilson at Atherstone in 1893.

Alice had been born in Accrington in 1874 and was related to the Royles family who had moved from the Wirral to farm at Dordon Hall Farm in 1886 until the death of her uncle Thomas Royles in 1914.

The children in the family were: Florence born 1893; Elsie born 1895 who died aged 3; Edith born 1898; Alice born 1900; Frederick born 1903; Frances born 1906; Winifred and Grace twins born 1909; Norah born 1912; Frank born 1916; Edward born 1919. All the children married and lived most of their lives in and around Warwickshire.

Stockingford School Football Team 1919 - 20

My Family Album - By Dorothy Rolfe

If you have a photograph or an article which you would like to be published in the next journal please contact Pat Boucher either at the monthly meetings, telephone 024 7638 3488, email editor@nnwfhs.org.uk or by post at 33 Buttermere Ave, Nuneaton, Warwicks, CV11 6ET. I am happy to accept word processed articles or scanned photographs etc on computer disk. Also, don’t forget items for help wanted, new websites, software reviews etc

Thanks, Pat Boucher - Editor.

Deadline for all copy to be included in the April issue of the Journal is March 7th.
UNCLE BOB’S REQUEST
By Jacqui Simkins

Uncle Bob asked me to “do his tree” for him – he was accustomed to his wife drooling over her ancestry and maybe felt left out, though was far too gentlemanly to say so! Uncle’s maternal Scottish Russell family took me to Edinburgh’s New Register House with good results thanks to some less common given names (there are Russells in Angus by the ton). He was surprised at the extent of my findings. His father’s side, however, was a total brickwall.

William Smart had come back from WW1 in July 1918 alive but injured and minus his hand thus unable to return to his previous work – he had been a gardener at Styche in Shropshire and Hints Hall. The same year at Hill, Sutton Coldfield, he married widow Mary Allen, née Russell, and started work for “The Pru” as an insurance agent. Two children came along, and then tragically in 1924 William could face life no longer. All Uncle Bob knew about his father was what his mother chose to tell him: he knew more about her first husband Billy Allen than about his own father.

William’s army records, or at least what remained, were in the “burnt series” and from these enough was eventually gleaned to establish his date of birth and his remarkable war service. Uncle Bob was pleased to learn the details of the action his father had been involved in and the medals he had received. The Prudential advised that their early records for the Midlands had been lost in WW2.

On his marriage to Mary, William had named his father as James Smart, labourer. I was unable to identify a William with a father James – and having nothing other than “he might have come from up north somewhere” as place of birth was not a great deal of help for manually searching the 1891 census for a child a few months old! Styche and Hints he was not to be found – although there was a family of Smarts in North Warwickshire whose grandparents, James and Jane Smart at Hints where William is on the Roll of Honour at the church. In 1881, there are sufficient James Smarts to prove the existence of this William. His place of birth was given as Fazeley. My intuitive alarm bells began ringing: if this was the right William, he appeared to have been raised by his grandparents and it was coincidence or convenience that he gave James as his father’s name, the same as his grandfather? I considered the “father: James Smart” entry: in 1918 it would have carried considerable stigma to be illegitimate and William may have deliberately used his grandfather’s name – James was still alive and perhaps even went to his grandson’s wedding. Or did William believe James and Jane were his parents without thinking that a woman in her mid-50s might have had some difficulty conceiving!

So, back to the 1891 census for Fazeley – and a generous look-up on the subscription version by a kind lady on the Staffordshire List! There was a baby William with single mother Sarah Ann Smart at Brookend, Fazeley. She was living with her older, married sister, Betsy Hawkins, and family. Sarah Ann gave birth to William when she was 18 and, whilst she cared for him as a baby, by the age of 10 he was living with his grandparents. James & Jane Smart did have daughters Betsy and Sarah Ann – ages and places of birth matched from census to census! His birth certificate shows only his mother. Thus, William had no known father: I suspect his widow discovered her husband’s illegitimacy on his death and this “coloured” her subsequent portrayal of him to the children. What a pity Uncle Bob never knew his Smart family.

My next quest is in the Nuneaton area, because although Sarah Ann was born at Amington, her older siblings Betsy and William (and possibly others) were born at Apley, as was James Smart around 1838. If you have any Smart connections, do please contact me: although Uncle Bob had “joined his maker” before I unravelled his father’s origins, I would like to know a little more about his Smart forebears – perhaps he is now looking down on me knowing more than I do about his family!

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Serendipity
Where was great-great granddad on census night 1891? I had checked his brothers and sisters, but no sign of him. His wife and children were at Mill, Wishaw but of James Redfern Stevenson I could find no sign. He was to remarriy later in the decade following the demise of wife Mary Ann Lloyd Jefferies: I speculated that he was not declared on the census as he was “visiting” a lady friend!

At a research evening I was trawling the 1891 census return for Ansley trying to tie up some of the Bates clan. The surname Stevenson almost leapt through the screen – and it was a James R.; his age and birthplace of Apley (Leicestershire) fitted. Add to it a farm servant from Kingsbury, and housekeeper from Curdworth (either side of Wishaw) and the piece was almost in place in the jigsaw. The farm was between an entry for Hood Lane and one for Brook Farm. My father was born at Hood Lane Farm and remembered being told that his grandfather had been at Hood Lane Farm at some time prior to his parents taking the tenancy: dad had assumed it was his granddad Green who had come to Hood Lane from Cheshire – but I knew from other sources Granddad Green had gone directly to Devitts Green Farm where his wife’s brother had been farming after he moved from Cheshire. So dad’s token of oral history was the final piece in the puzzle. James Redfern Stevenson was farming Hood Lane Farm, Ansley and Cuttle Mill, Wishaw. This, of course, could explain how his son met up with Maggie Bates from Browns Farm, Ansley!

The moral of course is never pass over those mentions of a family name even when it appears in an area where you least expect it!

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Peter Lee
(024) 7638 1090
6.30 - 8.00pm
Mon to Sat
Or email:
Nuneatonian2000@aol.com
The following selection of deeds, Covenants, Releases, Bargains and Sales, Assignments and Agreements, from the Warwickshire Shire Hall and the Warwick Country Record Office refer to agreements and land transfers relating to Polesworth, providing information about the fields, enclosures and occupants from late Tudor times to the 1680s. The first set of deeds describe messuages and lands in Freasley from the late Tudor period, with a mention of lands in the common fields. The documents relating to Sir Francis Nethersole’s Charity trace the various leases, agreements and covenants relating to the manor of Polesworth, listing the names of some of the tenants occupying houses and yardlands in Warton. The deeds relating to the Manor of Polesworth, including Sir Francis Nethersole’s probate will and trust deed from 1656, are of particular interest, providing information relating to rent for the maintenance of the minister of Polesworth, and for the setting up of a school alongside the parsonage.

FREASLEY DEEDS

A Licence from 1566 given to Richard Becke to alienate a messuage (or house) and lands in Freasley to William Cooke and Richard Read, witnessed by H. Cotton and Richardus Becke. D19/445

A Release from 1610 Henry Reeve, a yeoman, for a Close called ‘Bucketts’, a Common Field hadland and baulke, Hall Bottoms Close and lands in Whately and Kingsbury to William Becke of Freasley, yeoman, for payment of £240. This deed witnessed by Francis Leveinge, William Becke, John Enlore and William Cornage. D19/446

A Covenant or signed agreement from 1626 for the release of a messuage in Freasley from Francis Bennett of Dosthill, gentleman, to William Becke of Freasley, his wife Susanne and son Edward, subject to a payment of £110 by 25th April (ie. within three weeks), witnessed by Thomas Leveinge and his son, and Thomas Norton. D19/447

A copy of a Release from 1658 from Edward Becke of Freasley, gentleman, to Gabriel Becke, his son, transferring three closes in the pasture part of the Common Fields (Streefe Field and Middle Field) together with a messuage, a water mill, a windmill and various crofts and leasons. The long list of witnesses include Edward Atkins, John Onebye, Ralph Farmer, William Gissoean, Thomas Kempe, Thomas Burdett, William Tovey, Samuel Leete and William Kite. D19/448

A Release from May 1641, by John Orme of Freasley, yeoman, to Nicholas Bromall of Kingsbury and his wife, Lucy of the annual rent of 40s which had been paid by Bromall under a 60 year lease dated 10th June 1626, for the Nether Barne, two little barn yards and an orchard next to the green in Freasley, a meadow called the Braseyard, closes called Malteyes, Hungerhills, the Long Flat...and as much land in each of the three open fields in Freasley as will support three strikes of rye. CR 9763

WARTON DEEDS RELATING TO SIR FRANCIS NETHERSOLE’S CHARITY

A Grant from May 1639 by William Revel to Michael Biddulph of Berriile Meadow in Warton and Polesworth. DRB 16/15

A Covenant to levy a fine on the above properties, 1618 by Sir Henry Goodere of Newgate Street (Herts) to William Barnes of Clifford Chambers and Henry Rainsford Esq, son a heir of Sir Thomas Rainsford of Clifford Chambers as security for the payment of £500 to Anne Goodere, youngest daughter of Sir Henry, as a marriage portion, and for an annuity of £10 meanwhile charged upon the premises. DRB 16/9.

Final Covenant dated 1618, between John Greene and Edmund Rawlins, plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Goodere, deforciant, of six houses, six gardens, six orchards, 100 acres of arable, twenty acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture, twenty acres of heath and fuzes and 8d annual rent in Warton. DRB 16/11.

A Bargain and Sale, 1618, by Sir Henry Rainsford of Clifford (Gloucs) to Sir William Crofte of Crofte (Herts), Sir Robert Honeywood the younger of Pet (Kent), Robert Cantey of Crantin (Sussex) and Arthur Turner of the Middle Temple, with the consent of Anne Goodere one of the coheirs of John Goodere dec. of a house and one and a half yardlands in the tenure of Robert Aldridge, houses and yardlands in the tenure of Robert Reignolds, Thomas Hull, a cottage and land in the tenure of Leech Simpkin, cottages in the tenure of Richard Whitley and John Smith, and a chief rent of 8d from houses occupied by John Lakin, shoemaker and John Orton, for consideration of £533.6.8 with proviso that if this sum is repaid at the end of seven years the rent charge shall cease, otherwise continue forever.

2 Terriers [in great detail] dated 14th October 1640 of all the lands and pieces of meadow belonging to houses in Warton occupied by Thomas Aldridge and Robert Hull respectively. Signatures and marks of Robert Hull and William Hill, writer of the terriers. DRB 16/18-19.

A Lease from March 1636, by Sir William Reeve of Holt Hall to Sir Francis Nethersole of Polesworth, of the tithes issuing from Reeve’s property in Holt Hall, Hall End, Doddenhall and Freasley, for eighty years as security for the payment of a weekly rent of £7.6.8 with schedule of William Reeve’s lands annexed. DRB 16/14.

Grant from May 1639 by William Reve of Holt Hall to Sir Francis Nethersole of Polesworth, of a rent charge of £263.13.4 issuing out of the manor of Freasley and the capital messuage called Holt Hall in consideration of £553.6.8 with proviso that if this sum is repaid at the end of seven years the rent charge shall cease, otherwise continue forever.

2 Terriers [in great detail] dated 14th October 1640 of all the lands and pieces of meadow belonging to houses in Warton occupied by Thomas Aldridge and Robert Hull respectively. Signatures and marks of Robert Hull and William Hill, writer of the terriers. DRB 16/18-19.

A Lease for one year, 1656 by Michael Biddulph of Polesworth, John Palmer of Temple Hall near Wellsborough, Thomas Fox of Tamworth, George Cross of Clifton Campville, clerk and Richard Bell of Polesworth, clerk, to Sir Francis Nethersole, of a long, narrow piece of ground adjoining the schoolhouse, several garden plots in the town of Polesworth, and Berriile Meadow. DRB 16/20. Release of the same ground [and counterpart] in consideration of £175. DRB 16/22.

Conveyance from 1656 by Sir Francis Nethersole to Michael Biddulph, of the appropriate tithes issuing from various small open fields and inclosed lands of Michael Biddulph in Warton and Polesworth. DRB 16/16.

A Lease dated 1st March 1656, by Sir Francis Nethersole to Michael Biddulph of Berriile Meadow in Polesworth, divided into three parts for 2,000 years at an annual rent of £10. DRB 16/23.

(Continued on page 13)
Bond dated 1st June, 1659 of Michael Bid-
dulph to Sir Francis Nethersole in £40, to per-
mit the schoolmaster and schoolmistress of Polesworth to use and occupy the seat in the church there, being one of the two seats本领 to the manor house of Polesworth, in consideration whereof Michael Bid dulph has received from Sir Fran-
cis Nethersole a tapestry hangings.

An Agreement dated 1663 between Thom-
As Baker, clerk and vicar of Polesworth, and Michael Biddulph, John Swinfen, Tho-
mas Fox, Samuel Hildersham, Anthony Burgesse and George Crosse, trustees ap-
pointed by Sir Thomas Nethersole, de-
ceased, referring to the fact that the vicarage had become void and that Thomas Baker has become vicar without the knowledge or approval of the trustees and is therefore incapable of benefitting under the terms of the trust. Thomas agrees to lease the vicar-
age and parsonage for eighty years (if he so long continues as vicar) to Henry Bateman and William Heathcott of Polesworth for an annual rent of £35, the trustees being at liberty to appoint a minis-
ter to serve the cure while he remains vicar, and also to hold any other benefits without resigning the vicarage of Polesworth. DRB 16/24A.


A Release (following lease for a year) dated March 1682 by Nathaniel Grimley of Stretton en le Field and his wife Mary to John avery of Polesworth, miller and his wife Elizabeth, of a cottage, Bradleys Croft and one acre of arable in the Common Birch Moors and other lands lately belonging to Alice Hall, widow, in consideration of a payment of £60. DRB 16/26.

DEEDS RELATING TO THE MANOR OF POLESWORTH

A Covenant dated 1618 between Sir Henry Goodere of Polesworth and John Goodere holding an estate in Michael Drayton of London and John Tallance of Clifford (Gloucestershire) and William Barnes and John Watkyns of Clifford that the Gooderes will levy a fine of the manor of Polesworth with the rectory and tithes and other prop-
erty in Warton, Pooley, Dordon, Freasley, Hall End and Wilncote, with the intention that Drayton and Palance shall suffer a re-
covey by Barnes and Watkyns who are to hold the manor to the use of Sir Henry, his sons John and his sons and daughters [see three generations] DRB 16/28.

A Declaration from 1629 by Phillip Tilles of Stratford on Avon, and the parsonage of Polesworth is in trust for Sir Francis Neth-
ersole. DRB 16/29.

An Assignment from 1634 relating to the manor and rectory of Polesworth. Sir Francis Wenman of Careswell, Oxfordshire, Sir John Clifford of Clifford [Chambers] and William Ripplinham of Lon-
don assign the manor and rectory to Sir Francis Nethersole of Nethersole, Kent for the residue of 100 years set up by Sir Henry Goodere and John Goodere as set up in a deed dated 1618 to lead the uses of a recovery. Attached schedule lists Sir Henry’s debts and 56 names…DRB 16/30.

An Assignment dated 20th January 1656 by Sir Francis Nethersole to Michael Bid-
dulph of the Manor Ter 1629 to hold the manor of Polesworth for the residue of the term of 100 years, excluding the parsonage and tithes, schoolhouse etc. in consideration of £4,350. DRB 16/31.

Revocation dated 21st January 1656 by Sir Francis Nethersole of Polesworth of a deed dated 24th September, 1655 vesting the manor and parsonage of Polesworth, houses and yardlands at Warton etc. in trustees and appointment that the same trustees shall hold houses and schoolhouse to his own use, and the manor of Polesworth and rest of the property to the use of John Palmer of Temple Hall, George Crosse, clerk, Richard Ball, clerk and Thomas Fox, for a consid-
eration of £20 paid by Michael Bid-
dulph. DRB 16/35.

Conveyance by Sir Francis Nethersole, 1656 to John Swinfen of Swinfen (Staffs), Michael Biddulph of Polesworth, Thomas Fox of Tamworth, Samuel Hildersham rector of West Felton (Salop), Anthony Burgess rector of Sutton Coldfield, William Bedford rector of Walton upon Trent (Derbys) and George Crosse minister of Clifton Camville (Staffs) of a house newly erected by Sir Francis Nethersole as a vicarage for the minister of Polesworth, a garden adjoining in the occupation of Thomas Mandy, col-
ier, a newly erected tithe barn adjoining the minister’s house, a garden at the end of the tithe barn and a strip alongside it, a house or cottage lately erected by Sir Francis for a schoolhouse, acroft adjoining lately be-
ongling to John Windridge, Berriile Meadow divided into three parts, a house and yardland in Warton in the occupation of John Hull, a cottage and half yardlands in Warton in the tenure of Richard Orton alias Sheldon, a house and yardland in Warton in the occupation of John Dexter, a cottage and land in the tenure of John Bull and cottages in the occupation of Robert Hull and others, a cottage and land in the tenure of War-
ton, Dordon and Pooley (excluding the lands of Michael Biddulph). And an annu-
ity or rent charge of £26,13.4 issuing out of the manor of Holt Hall and Freasley.

John Swinfen and others are to hold these lands in trust for Sir Francis Nethersole dur-
ing his life and after his death to provide a suffi-
cient schoolmaster and schoolmistress to teach school in the stone building erected for a schoolhouse, one in one part the other in the other part as now divided. The boys are to be taught to write and read English, the girls to read and work with the needle, and both to be instructed in the principles of the true Christian religion. Also in trust to use the rents of the properties for the in-
crease of the maintenance of the vicar of Polesworth, who shall be by Sir Francis, or trustees, the son or the school-
master and schoolmistress, for the repair of the schoolhouse, or to set up another school to teach the three learned languages, or for the relief of widows and orphans of de-
ceased ministers, or for the setting forth of apprentices…or for exhibitions to pupils of the school to send them to Cambridge Uni-
versity, or to other pious and charitable uses as most expedient. Sir Francis Nethersole covenants that he or his heirs shall erect a brick or stone house ad-
joining the schoolhouse for the habitation of the schoolmaster. DRB 16/52.

Probate of Francis Nethersole’s will dated 1st September 1656, proved 1662] and codicil made in 1658. The will contains many small legacies of goods and chattels to relations including ‘my greate silver ba-
son and ever which the Queen of Bohemia my most gracious mistress gave me my late de-
lated wife and me at the time of our mar-
riage, and those twelve silver dishes having the arms of the late King of Bohemia upon them which his majesty gave me some years after’. [This codicil not the same as the un-
dated codicil transcribed in the Trustees order book CR 369/63 and printed in the Charity Commission Reports, pg. 666].

Assignment of above dated 1657 by Phil-
lip Tilles, citizen and mercer of London, and Robert Osbaldston, citizen and mercer 
of London, with the execution of Thomas Beardsley of Amington and William Heath-
cott of Polesworth, of the manor of Polesworth with appurtenances as deter-
mined by an extent, to hold for the residue of years not specified. DRB 16/36.

Agreement relating to the manor of Polesworth, 1567, between Michael Bid-
dulph of Polesworth, Richard Beardsley of Amington and William Heathcott of Polesworth, and Sir Francis Nethersole, that inconsiderances in the form of leases, mort-
gages etc affecting the manor and an estate in Warton shall be to the use of Sir Francis Nethersole and Michael Biddulph and other assignees of Sir Francis or purchasers from him, and now to the prejudice of the jointure of Frances Biddulph, wife of Michael Bid-
dulph, DRB 16/37.

Assignment of the manor of Polesworth dated 1661. Michael Biddulph of Polesworth provides that Francis Allen of Polesworth and Thomas Burgesse, trustees ap-
pointed the manor and any other of his lease-
hold property in trust for him. DRB 16/38.

Settlement of the manor and rectory of Polesworth, dated 21st April 1661. Mi-
chael Biddulph of Polesworth, his wife and 
his wife covenant to levy a fine to John Palmer of Temple Hall (Leics) and Humphreys Holden of Erdington, to hold the manor for the use of Michael and Frances his wife for her life and their heirs. DRB 16/39.

Lease for a year of the manor and rec-
tory of Polesworth, 1683 by Michael Bid-
dulph, son and heir of Michael Biddulph deceased, John Palmer of Temple Hall and Humphrey Holden of Erdington, to Samuel Holden of the Middle Temple and Thomas Ferrand of Sturmer (Essex), excluding the tithes of Warton, Pooley, Hall End and Freasley and other property of which Mi-
chael Biddulph the elder was trustee. DRB 16/40.

Exemplification of a recovery of the manor and rectory, 1684 between George 
Wale, plaintiff, and Samuel Holden and Thomas Ferrand, deforciants, Michael Biddulph first vouchée. DRB 16/41.

[transcribed from indexes compiled by the Warwick County Record Office]
Searching the 1901 Census on-line
Don't Give Up, Think Beyond The Square

There are a great number of transcription errors on the 1901 census so if at first you don't succeed in finding your ancestor using his surname there are lots of other ways round the problem.

- You can substitute some letters in the name you are looking for with **** as wild cards when making an advanced person search.
- Try substituting a new initial letter for the surname eg Maine instead of Raine.
- You can search the index using known christian name, age and where born or where they were living at the time.

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www.institutions.org.uk
This is a super website. It has loads of general and specific information, including some photos, on asylums, workhouses, almshouses etc all over the UK.

www.ukvillages.co.uk
It is possible to enter the name of a village which will then give a brief history of the area together with very many links. It is also possible to post a query on the Message Board.

www.constabulary.com
This site gives history of the Police Forces and there are many useful links. Again there is a message board where you can post details. It makes very interesting reading.

www.suttonpublishing.co.uk
This site lists numerous books available to researchers in genealogy and many other interests. You can browse and search for a particular category. There is a very useful summary of the contents of a particular book.

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The following website reviews were printed in Genuki News and are included herein with the kind permission of Rob Thompson.

Gretna Green Marriage Index On-Line at http://www.achievements.co.uk
Family histories abound with stories of elopements. Often the destination of couples who wished to marry without parental consent was Gretna Green, just over the border with Scotland in "debatable land". After 1753, when English law forbade irregular marriages, a number of people who objected to marrying in a church wed in border centres where the couple's own consent to marriage before witnesses was legal under Scottish Law. Gretna is the most famous of these. Marriages were conducted by self appointed ministers at the border Toll booths along the few roads into Scotland. The "priests", as they called themselves, often had other jobs giving rise to the stories of being married over an anvil by the village Blacksmith. Held at The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (www.ihgs.ac.uk) the index covers entries between 1795 and 1895, with a few earlier references. In all over 4500 entries are recorded for those lost marriages Ask yourself: "Did my great-great-great grandmother elope to Gretna?" Searches to see if a match is present are FREE! This is the fifth UNIQUE database available and FREE to search on line at http://www.achievements.co.uk. 26,000 Armigerous Ancestors may help your seventeenth century and earlier ancestry; 500 UK Trade Directories; 6000 Archived cases provide Millions of ancestors! 10,000 entries for Crisp’s London Marriage Licences between the mid 1700s and the commencement of General Registration in 1837. - Also coming shortly: Catholic marriages, Irish families, the Phillimore genealogical archive, Culleton's collection, and marriage licence bonds

http://www.churchplansonline.org/
A really nice little site that will enable you to learn an awful lot about the churches that your ancestors worshipped in, were baptised, married and buried in. This site has an extensive collection of church plans and information about the architects. A really nice site with a great search mechanism, easy and quick to find what you want and then the fun begins! Well worth a browse through, although for full use of zoom on the plans you will need to be Java enabled

http://www.mysticseaport.org/library/initiative/CuCustoms.htm
This is the website of the Connecticut Ship Database. OK, does not sound very UK orientated does it? Well look and you will find! There is a vast amount of information on this website about ships and shipping in the US in the nineteenth century. There are men, ships and owners that come from the UK. If your ancestor went to sea, particularly as a merchant seaman this is a website to delight you. You have to be patient, it take a bit of time to load, but the records are worth it, and there is a lot on line. Registers of ships, yachts and men. A super site which will be well worth a visit, or at least remembering!

Carrying on this collection of more obscure websites is this one, a database of obituaries of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia in the US. It has though, a good number of entries of people who were born in the UK, or worked here for some time and is well worth noting for anyone with a medical ancestor and wanderlust! The database is easy to search on keywords and names, and the database covers years from 1850 onwards, so there is plenty of detail. There are 5700 names on the records, and realistically only a small percentage of these is UK related, but this small percentage is still significant.

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Don’t forget to send in details of any websites that you have found interesting or useful and also any tips on searching on-line data bases - Pat Boucher