



TUNBRIDGE WELLS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies
and the Kent Group of Family History Societies



Frank Gilbert's 90th birthday celebration in 1972. See pages 15 and 16

JOURNAL

Number 50 Summer 2011

ISSN 1472-1457

Tunbridge Wells Family History Society

Committee Members

Chairman:

Mr Roy THOMPSON

5 College Drive, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN2 3PN
(Phone: 01892 535954; email: roythompson@mailsnare.net)

Hon Secretary:

Mrs Veronica SIDDALL

Yew Tree Byre, Yew Tree Lane, ROTHERFIELD, East Sussex, TN6 3QP
(Phone: 01892 852334; email: veronicasiddall@hotmail.co.uk)

Hon Treasurer:

Mr Ian LUNT

18 Chestnut Lane, MATFIELD Kent, TN12 7JL
(Phone: 01892 723129; email: ianlunt40@hotmail.com)

Membership Secretary:

Mr Reg BUTLER

Glencairn, Whitehill Road, CROWBOROUGH, East Sussex, TN6 1JA
(Phone: 01892 665501; email: regbutler@talktalk.net)

Journal Editor:

Mr Colin HUGGETT

Littledene, Liptraps Lane, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN2 3AB
(Phone: 01892 532928; email: colinhuggett5@hotmail.com)

Projects Organiser:

Mrs Sue SMITH

41 Tutsham Way, PADDOCK WOOD, Kent, TN12 6UA
(Phone: 01892 835974; email: sue@suecluet.me.uk)

Co-Opted Members:

Mr John HARRIS

12 The Paddock, Pembury, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN2 4NR
(Phone: 01892 825062; email: jesharris9@btopenworld.com)

Mr Bryan COWLING

18 Hydehurst Close, CROWBOROUGH, East Sussex, TN6 1EN
(Phone: 01892 663038)

Mrs Jeanette BROOK

Broadhurst. Hilders Farm Close, CROWBOROUGH, East Sussex, TN6 2XJ

Society website

www.tunwells-fhs.co.uk

Important

Membership records are held on computer. If you do not wish your name and address to be kept in this way, please notify the membership secretary.

Other people you may wish to contact

Bookstall Organiser:

Mr Bryan COWLING, 18 Hydehurst Close, CROWBOROUGH, East Sussex, TN6 1EN (Phone: 01892 663038)

Researcher and Microfiche Organiser:

Mrs Shirley OXENBURY, The Old Cottage, Langton Road, Langton Green, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent, TN3 0BA (email: s.oxenbury@virgin.net)

Librarians: Jan and Bob HOLLY

Programme Organiser:

Veronica SIDDALL, Yew Tree Byre, Yew Tree Lane, ROTHERFIELD, East Sussex, TN6 3QP; (Phone: 01892 852334; email: veronicasiddall@hotmail.co.uk)

* * * *

Subscription rates

Individual £8.00; *Family* £10.00; *Overseas* £10.00

* * * *

Aims of the Society

To promote genealogical studies and family history research, particularly in the Tunbridge Wells area; to make available the results of any research; and to promote the preservation of records.

Parishes covered



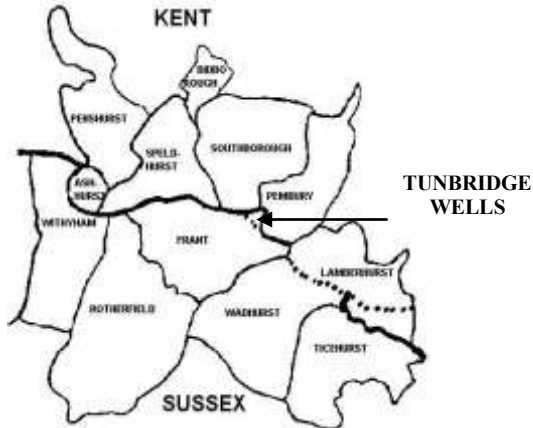
2011 Programme

- 26 July The GRO Index. Just how accurate is it?
Celia Heritage
- 23 August Human Cargo. The story of Convict Transportation
Judy Davies
- 27 September Flowers for Emma – *A WW1 factual love story*
John and Sue Pearce
- 25 October Kent in the 19th Century
Bob Ogley
- 22 November Annual General Meeting

The Society meets monthly on the **fourth Tuesday** (except December)
at **The Village Hall, Station Road, Groombridge.**

Meetings start at **8pm.**

Refreshments, bookstall and
help desk available from **7.30pm.**



**If this journal cannot be delivered, please return it to:
Reg Butler, Glencairn, Whitehill Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1JA**

Contents

Editorial	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bits and Pieces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
GRO FHS User Group; 1911 Census; Project to Digitise 5 Million Page of Records; Choosing between Ancestry and findmypast; New Website Blog; New Free Site Connects British Records; GRO Information Booklet; New President of FFHS; LincsToThePast Website; findmypast Upgrade; British Newspapers Archive									
Letters to the Editor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ordering Birth, Marriage and Death Records	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Early Schoolday Memories – Some Vague, Some Not...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Extracts From Our Website	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
A Fallen Son of Tunbridge Wells...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
<i>HMS Captain...</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Life in Hook Green and Bells Yew Green, 1904-1929...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
New Postal Rates and Conditions of Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
STOP PRESS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39

Copy deadline for Journal Number 51, Winter,
will be **1 October 2011**

Editorial

This is the 50th edition of our Journal and one with much more content than normal and which I hope you will find of interest. My request for ideas regarding this brought forth a suggestion which appealed to me and the committee. This was that members should write of their school day memories, be it just a paragraph or two or a more substantial contribution. The letter is published elsewhere in this issue. The committee decided that it would offer a £20 voucher as a prize for the best story and the closing date for contributions is November 1 with the winner being announced at the AGM later that month. Start digging into your memories! I've put together something quickly to suggest the type of article but most probably you may have your own thoughts on the presentation.

As you are no doubt aware, the Society will be celebrating its 20th birthday in September and to celebrate the event the committee has arranged a special

evening with a talk by Dr Nick Barratt, FFHS President, followed by a BBQ buffet at Salomons in Southborough. The cost of this will be £10 per head and entrance will be by ticket only. These will be obtainable from our secretary who will require payment with application, which in the first instance will be restricted to 65 members only and will be dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis. The request for payment in advance is because we have had to guarantee that number to secure the booking. See also displayed announcement on page 12.

Sunday 22 May saw the usual team in action at the Kent Fair in Maidstone which, although not so busy as in previous years, was a marked improvement on that which we attended at Crawley in February. Is it that these fairs are losing their appeal as the internet takes over more and more in the field of research? Over the past two years it has been noticeable that not only visitors but also exhibitors at fairs, or at least the ones we attend, are gradually diminishing.

Have an enjoyable summer, if it hasn't gone already.

Bits and Pieces

For the majority of the information contained in my "Bits and Pieces", I'm indebted to LostCousins' Newsletter and I'm only too pleased to acknowledge this source.

Information is also gleaned from that sent from the FFHS by a past chairman Roger Lewry, who is the Archives Liaison Officer at the FFHS.

GRO FHS User Group

The GRO's Digitisation and Indexing project is still on hold until the implications of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review are known. GRO is still very keen to progress this project but the current economic climate is casting a shadow over it.

We were again told that IPS is wanting to make changes to the legislation affecting registration but it is difficult to find time to amend primary legislation for things not considered top priority. The point was made that users would like to be consulted at an early stage of drafting *proposed* alterations, and not simply given advance notice of decisions already made.

Concern was again expressed over the exorbitant charges being made by third parties for BMD certificates. Sometimes they are charging as much as £30 for a certificate which GRO can supply for £9.25. GRO was encouraged to make use of the press to publicise this.

One FHS had asked me to raise the question of the location of the microfiche indexes to GRO registers – the north east of England being poorly served. While agreeing to consider this, the GRO representatives reminded us that there is a list of other locations where indexes (albeit incomplete) can be viewed. This list can be seen at

http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/@government/documents/digitalasset/dg_184626.pdf

In many instances it is only the very recent entries that are not covered by the indexes and so most will be suitable for family historians. It is also worth looking at FreeBMD which is now becoming more and more complete. Commercial sites also have indexes, but are best avoided when it comes to ordering certificates (see above).

GRO has produced a booklet “Discover Your Family History” which will be available at Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE, and pdf copies can be downloaded from

http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/documents/digitalasset/dg_186584.pdf

The point was made that a 9:30am start for a meeting in London was not convenient, and GRO said that in future they would consider starting at 11:00am. The meeting had been arranged to be just before WDYTIA?LIVE at the suggestion of some attending the previous meeting in Southport. I know that this was not convenient for some, and would be interested to learn if an 11:00am start would be more acceptable on the eve of a future WDYTIA?LIVE. Any other thoughts on times and places for future meetings would be welcome. It is likely that the next meeting will be in Southport but alternate meetings are likely to be away from Southport.

1911 Census

On Tuesday 5 April 2011 The Registrar General for Scotland announced that the 1911 census was released on www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk.

The images of the original summary books include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911

census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census images will be presented in full colour. See

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/Content/Help/index.aspx?r=546&2066.

Project to Digitise 5 Million Pages of Records

Findmypast.co.uk and the British Library are working together on an exciting project to digitise a treasure trove of family history resources that the library holds. When the collection is launched in 2012, the records will be available online and fully searchable for the first time.

The project will involve scanning the UK electoral registers that cover the century that followed the Reform Act of 1832, along with records of baptisms, marriages and burials drawn from the archives of the India Office.

This fantastic collection is another step that they're taking to make researching your past even quicker and simpler. Searching these records would previously only have been possible by carrying out hours of manual searching in the library's reading rooms.

Elaine Collins, the commercial director, said: "We're very excited to be involved with this fascinating project. The electoral rolls are the great missing link for family historians: after censuses and civil registration indexes, they provide the widest coverage of the whole population. To have Irish and Scottish records alongside England and Wales is also a huge advantage. These records will join the **1911 census**, **Chelsea Pensioner Service Records** and many more datasets available online at findmypast.co.uk, which enable people to make fantastic discoveries day after day."

Choosing between Ancestry and findmypast

A frequently asked question is "which of these sites is recommended?" There appears to be no simple answer, for although there are some overlaps in the information offered, the censuses and the GRO indexes, most of the other information only appears on one or the other.

Whilst Ancestry has incoming passenger lists, findmypast have outgoing passenger lists. Findmypast have the 1911 census, but not the GRO death indexes; Ancestry has the death indexes, but not yet the 1911 Census (other than limited information in the enumerator summary books). Ancestry has transcriptions of the Scottish censuses but not images of the handwritten schedules; findmypast won't have the transcriptions until later this year but

when they do they're likely to have the images. Ancestry have the London Metropolitan Archives collection of parish registers; but then findmypast have the National Burial Index and the SoG collections and will be adding parish registers for the whole of Wales.

If you can afford it, the best solution is to subscribe to both sites. If you can't, then check whether you can access Ancestry free at your local library, a service supplied by most but not all. If you *can* use Ancestry (or *vice versa*) at the library then it obviously makes sense to have findmypast at home, then you'll have access to *both* sets of data.

Have you nearly exhausted the records at the site you subscribe to? If so, sticking with the same site you'll have to depend on new data being added, whereas by switching to the other site you'll have new data available instantly.

Finally, findmypast and Ancestry treat their loyal subscribers quite differently. findmypast subscribers who chose to renew their subscription automatically get a 20% loyalty discount. By contrast, when Ancestry do offer discounts it's only to new or returning subscribers who have cancelled. Also, recently, Ancestry has become more difficult for even experienced researchers to use, whereas findmypast has improved by leaps and bounds.

By switching from one site to another you'll possibly have to alter your methods of research. You can search the censuses by address at findmypast, which you can't at Ancestry. If possible it's good to overlap the two subscriptions, for with all the new data suddenly available you may well discover leads that need following up at the original site.

New Free Site Connects British Records

Connected Histories, a new website created by researchers from the Universities of London, Hertfordshire, and Sheffield brings together a range of online resources including the 17th and 18th century Burney collection of newspapers, British History Online, the Charles Booth Archive, Old Bailey Online, and many more. Although it's free to search the site, some of the resources are only available by subscription, but often the short snippets displayed provide sufficient detail for you to determine whether the person referred to is likely to be a relative of yours.

The most interesting aspect of the site is the opportunity to save the connections you make between individual records – either privately for your own use, or publicly so that everyone can benefit – and it seems to be possible to add further entries to a public list. Currently there seems to be no way to

search the connections by subject but, as there were under 20 recently, that shouldn't be a problem for the foreseeable future for no doubt as the site develops new features will be added.

GRO Information Booklet

The GRO is publicising the fact that birth, marriage and death certificates need not cost more than £9.25. Where inexperienced people have access to the internet they may be enticed into ordering certificates from commercial organisations that charge up to £30 or more.

The GRO has also produced an information booklet on how to get the most from the General Register Office – there is a link to this on the Federation's website home page www.ffhs.org.uk;

See also article on page 10

New President of FFHS

The FFHS is delighted to announce that Dr Nick Barratt was elected as the new President of the FFHS at the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 26 March at Hayward's Heath.

Nick Barratt succeeds Lady Teviot who has served as President for ten years. David Holman, Chairman of the FFHS presented Lady Teviot with a bouquet and thanked her on behalf of the FFHS and its member societies for all that she had done for the Federation during her tenure as President.

At the General Meeting held on Saturday 26 March 2011 Lady Teviot was elected as a Vice President, a life time appointment. Lady Teviot joins Dr Colin Chapman, Derek Palgrave and Pauline Litton who are existing Vice Presidents.

New Website Blog

This may be of interest to those members who like trawling the web. There is a new website/blog called **British & Irish Genealogy** at

www.bi-gen.blogspot.com

At the time of writing it has only been running for a few weeks. All the relevant information about this can be found on the website under the 'About BI-Gen' link.

LincsToThePast website

Those with an interest in Lincolnshire may be interested to learn of this new site launched recently after two years of planning and preparation.

The site includes integrated catalogues from Lincolnshire Archives, Tennyson Research Centre, libraries, museums and the Historic Environment Record, together with online exhibitions highlighting their collections, learning resources, and more than 500,000 images, documenting thousands of years of county history. Digitised documents include parish registers, probate inventories and maps.

The site is aimed at both dedicated researchers and casual browsers, with records, photographs and objects being shown as high-quality images, which are also available to buy.

See www.lincstothepast.com

findmypast Upgrade

FindmyPast (www.findmypast.co.uk) has completed the upgrade of its English and Welsh BMD databases with a new fully searchable death index search facility.

The following can now be searched in one go:

- England & Wales deaths 1837-2006;
- British nationals died overseas 1818-2005;
- British nationals armed forces deaths 1796-2005;
- British nationals died at sea 1854-1890.

For more see

<http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2011/05/try-our-new-and-improved-death-records-search/>

British Newspapers Archive

Launching in Autumn 2011, the British Newspaper Archive will make millions of pages of historical newspapers available online for the first time – unlocking a treasure trove of material for historians, researchers, genealogists, students and anyone interested in when, where and how our ancestors lived and key periods of historical interest. You can read more about this at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. There is a link to some examples of the sort of information that will be available. You can also register to be kept informed of when the newspapers go online.

Letters To The Editor

The Knoll

I nearly didn't make it to the meeting in February. It was half-term and I was busy keeping an eye on a grandchild. I was therefore very glad I made the effort when I realized that the murder mystery revolved around a house I knew.

About 20 years ago I used to visit the family who lived in the Knoll. The drive led to a huge gravelled forecourt. The frontage was no longer covered in vines and creepers so the architecture could be properly appreciated. To the rear there was a large conservatory and on the left, an annex more like a granny house than a flat. Beautiful large rooms and staircase, but I remember most the thickness of the walls and the solid stone construction. I didn't measure them but my imagination puts them about a foot thick.

The grounds suffered badly in the storm of 1987. I don't think the house was visible from the road before then, but many of the old trees were felled. Gardens were extensive and the family employed a gardener who cared for it and the vegetable plots. Later I heard that an oriental garden was added. It would be interesting to learn more about the origins of the house and its occupants over the years. Maybe that's another avenue to explore one winter. I am only sorry I have no photos. If my friends knew about the murder it was never mentioned, so I only became aware of it in recent years. For anyone interested there are a number of sites on the Knoll and the murder on the internet.

Thank you, it was a very thought provoking talk.

Anne Godden

Member 220

Dear Colin,

I feel I must let you know how interesting I found the account of **Kathleen Mary Freeland's** account of her time at Brown's Hotel. She became a chambermaid at Brown's during and immediately after W.W.1, as did my mother, who at the time was Edith Louise Mellor. I believe she left in 1922 when she married my father, Percy Stapley. So many of the experiences which she related to me seem to tally with those of Kathleen!

One special occasion was when she was chosen to serve at the wedding of Evans of Scott's Antarctic Expedition. He requested that she should serve at the buffet, although she was a chambermaid, because he said she was "the good looking girl with the pretty teeth."

My dear mother was quite a looker!

Marjorie (Apps)

Member 638

An Extract from a letter to Reg Butler

Dear Reg

John Craig Wells, son of Oliver, grandson of Gip Wells the eldest son of HG Wells, visited England from Japan in December and found the gravestone of HG's parents at Liss in Hampshire – Joseph Wells (junior) and Sarah (*née* Neal).

Despite having burial records for Joseph Wells (senior) and his second wife Mary at Shorne in Kent, no stone has been found, whereas Joseph's first wife Elizabeth Broomfield and his parents Edward and Mary Wells have gravestones at Penshurst.

John is writing a note on his research for the Wellsian magazine and I wondered if you would like to see a copy, for your files, or with a view to publication when it becomes available. The article might well be a suitable follow-up to my contribution to the Wells Family in Journal 34, Spring 2006.

Myk Davis

Member 566

Dear Colin

Thanks for another delightful and interesting edition of the Journal. You manage to combine so many different topics, as well as the article on The Buffalos and Southborough orphanage I sent. It was much appreciated.

Your comments about articles for the 50th edition made me think about suggestions. Has it ever been proposed to pull together members' memories of their school days, preferably in Tunbridge Wells? These could either be short, ie their first day, if prompting is required, or long. And if a great

number respond, could this possibly form the basis for a small booklet on the schools of Tunbridge Wells, past and present?

This suggestion may have been rejected already, or such a book already produced, but schools close and their closure should be marked. Speaking personally, the first school I attended in Tunbridge Wells was the Catholic school in Pembury Roads, The Convent of the Sacred Heart. This is no longer a school but the building exists. I have photographs taken in the playground and chapel, including some of the nuns.

Catherine James

Member 655

Ordering Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

*Member 546, Mrs Veronica Siddall, Yew Tree Byre, Yew Tree Lane,
Rotherfield, East Sussex, TN6 3QP*

Roy Thompson and I recently attended a Family History Society User Group meeting which was hosted by the General Register Office in London.

Among the many items of interest to Family History Societies one in particular was causing concern for the GRO. As I am sure you will all be aware the GRO issue most of the BMD certificates that we as genealogists need for our research. It is possible to telephone or write to GRO to order a certificate. However, most certificates are ordered online via their extremely efficient website. The cost for this service is £9.25 and delivery of certificates usually takes about a week or a little less.

GRO is concerned that there are some companies, used by many people for their research, who offer a certificate service and make a huge charge of around £30 for each certificate, which will have been issued by the GRO anyway; the company is therefore making a profit of about £20 on each certificate. This means that some researchers are only ordering one certificate when perhaps they may have ordered two or even three if they were paying the GRO price of £9.25 per certificate.

As a large part of the income received by the GRO comes from issuing certificates, (well over a million are ordered every year) it is very important to them that this source of revenue does not decline, otherwise their excellent service may decline too. I am sure that some genealogists, especially those

who live abroad, are not aware that they may order directly from the GRO. I hope this article will bring the matter to their attention and make people aware of the admirable service provided by the GRO.

To contact them and order certificates via the internet go the address below and follow the link to Ordering Certificates Online.

www.direct.gov.uk/gro

Or write directly to

The General Register Office, Certificate Services Section, PO Box 2, Southport, PR8 2JD. Or telephone 0845 603 7788, they are open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am until 4pm.

Early Schoolday Memories – Some Vague, Some Not

*Member 459, Colin Huggett, Littledene, Liptraps Lane
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3AB*

MY FIRST SCHOOL was Silverdale Infants' School and on the first day, I climbed over the gate at mid-morning playtime and went home. I can't remember if Mum got me back before the end of the break but I expect my ears were ringing! This school sadly closed about 2008 despite a large housing complex being built within a quarter of a mile. I then progressed to High Brooms Boys' School, probably in 1942, and it wasn't unusual at the time to be going to school whilst empty cartridge cases were falling in the street as a result of the dog fights (air battles) going on in the skies. There are other memories of watching these dog fights from our back garden during the Battle of Britain. All you could really see were whirling dots in the sky and occasionally one twisting and spiralling earthwards – it was always one of "theirs". Once it wasn't one of theirs that crashed near Nell's Bridge but a Spitfire. On one occasion a doodle bug glided in over the roof tops landing gently in some allotments in Powder Mill Lane without exploding.

It was at High Brooms that my love of cricket was nurtured as in the summer all the playtime breaks were spent by most of the older boys playing the game against a wall on which was painted a set of stumps. Whoever bowled the batsman out, then batted; if the batsman was caught the catcher batted. We adapted old tennis and sorbo-rubber balls by wrapping them with electrical insulating tape until their weight and bounce resembled that of a cricket ball. We were encouraged in this activity by the Headmaster, Mr Bryson and his deputy, Mr Willson, who used to keep their eyes on us from the Staff room

window. The school also had an annual match against Rusthall School, probably because Rusthall and High Brooms were the termini for the 81 bus service.

I'm not sure of the year but possibly my second that at the end of the summer term we were told that the autumn term would see us all using pen and ink in our exercise books instead of pencil. I don't expect everyone else felt the same as I did but I couldn't wait for the holidays to finish so that I could make smudges and blots over everything. It was here also that I witnessed and experienced corporal punishment, which, of course, is now lacking in schools, an emotive subject no doubt. On one occasion a master, newly joined following his demob, received a lot of sauce and back chat from one of the boys and boxed his ears. That shut him up and that was the end of that, or so we thought. About 2 o'clock the classroom door burst open and a cloth cap-wearing chap came in, marched up to the teacher and demanded to know if he was the one who had boxed his son's ears. On being told "Yes" he raised his fist and was promptly placed on his back side, minus cap, by a smart right cross. The teacher was an ex-Commando who obviously believed in

TWFHS 20th Anniversary Celebrations

BBQ Buffet Meal and Talk

at Salomons, Southborough, 6.30pm for 7.30pm

Tuesday 13 September 2011

All inclusive **tickets £10**, limited to 65 members only

The guest speaker will be Dr Nick Barratt whose talk *'Family History and the Media: Behind the Scenes of Who Do You Think You Are?'* will be followed by a hot BBQ buffet.

Tickets will be issued on first come first served basis and payment will be required with order.

Tickets available from the Secretary, or at the monthly meetings, Veronica Siddall, Yew Tree Byre, Yew Tree Lane, Rotherfield, East Sussex, TN6 3QP.

attack as the best form of defence. No more was heard of the affair but the teacher eventually moved on to another school.

When the dreaded eleven plus exams came along I failed but eventually ended up at Skinners' School following the 12 plus when I passed the Technical School entrance exam and they deemed me to be better suited for a grammar school education.

So the autumn of 1947 saw me attempting to learn many new subjects and the only one I really came to terms with was Rugby! One physics lesson the whole form, and one boy in particular, learned an important point. Do not insert a pointed metallic instrument into the electricity point which was part of the bench. Generally, though, I preferred football to rugby but I tried hard enough and always played for one of the School XVs throughout my time there but never aspired to the 1st XV.

Once again cricket was my forté and I had a certain degree of success and gained my School Colours in the summer of 1950. Music also played a part of my early education as my parents had purchased an upright piano and were paying for me to have lessons. I performed once in the School concert, much to the pride of my mother in particular, but I didn't like being stuck in front of a crowd of people on my own – I much preferred being part of a team. So, obviously, I enjoyed singing in the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas that the School performed on alternate years.

Extracted From Our Website Guestbook

The following three 'conversations' carried on via the Guestbook page on our website and emails, show the interesting questions that get posted and the responses that occasionally grow into something more. This can be seen by the article which follows these postings due to Ed becoming a member of our Society.

Hello from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

I may be a long way from Tunbridge Wells but most of my ancestors were born, lived, worked and died there and the stories relayed to me by my father and grandfather who had first-hand knowledge were fascinating to me and still fresh in my mind.

I am an "Historian" by hobby and interested in many areas but genealogy, as it pertains to my Gilbert family, is of particular interest and thanks to a member of your society I hope to soon have some nice photos of my ancestors' grave markers from the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery.

While reading through the material on your website I was particularly interested in an article that appeared in your Journal 45 published for the autumn of 2009 entitled "Celebrating a Centenary: the elusive Mr Page". My grandfather, Francis Reginald Gilbert born Tunbridge Wells in 1882, was an avid sportsman and although I have no photos to prove it, family lore says he was a member of the lawn bowling club in Tunbridge Wells before he and his family emigrated to Canada May 1922. If there was a cricket club in Tunbridge Wells I would not be surprised to find he belonged to it also.

In Canada he continued his interest in lawn bowling and in fact had his 90th birthday celebration at the Richmond Hill, Ontario Lawn Bowling Club. Sadly he had to stop playing the game when he was 93 as he broke his hip in a fall and soon afterwards (1975) died in hospital and went on to that great lawn bowling green in the sky. A very interesting article and it brought back good memories of the times I used to watch my grandfather play the game.

Regards, Ed Gilbert"

Dear Ed

One of the members of the Tunbridge Wells Family History Society knew that I play bowls and brought your posting in our Guestbook to my attention.

I am the Secretary of the Grove Bowling Club – please see

<http://www.grovebowling.co.uk/index2.html>

which is located very near Grecian Road where your grandfather lived as a young man (please see attached file taken from the 1911 census). A map of the area showing both Grecian Road and the Club can be seen at:

[\[http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Grecian+Road,+Royal+Tunbridge+Wells&aq=3&sll=53.800651,\]\(http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Grecian+Road,+Royal+Tunbridge+Wells&aq=3&sll=53.800651\)](http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&source=embed&hl=en&geocode=&q=Grove+Bowls+Club,+Norfolk+Rd,+Royal+Tunbridge+Wells,+TN1+1TD,+United+Kingdom&aq=0&sll=53.800651,-4and 'A' marks the location of the Grove Bowling Club. Number 9 Grecian Road (one with blue front door) as it appears today can be seen at:</p></div><div data-bbox=)

One of our members is looking through the Club's archives to see whether he can find anything relating to your grandfather. I am not very hopeful that he will because many of our old records from this period have not survived.

I hope this information is helpful.

Regards, Roy Thompson

Hello Roy:

Thank you very much for contacting me and providing such good and interesting information. It is a very nice addition to my genealogy records of my grandfather. It's also good to hear that the bowling club is still going strong after all these years.



I have attached two photographs of my grandfather Francis Reginald Gilbert. Unfortunately I have only two photos of my grandfather while he was in Tunbridge Wells, the first is a wedding photo and the second one was taken sometime before WW1. This photo shows the Gilbert brothers together in 1910. On the left is Robert Harold Gilbert; centre is Francis Reginald Gilbert and on the right is Edgar Allan Gilbert (who was killed in France during WW1). Perhaps you or one of your friends in the Tunbridge Wells Family History group could look through your old bowling club photos and see if you can find a match

with my grandfather's face and if so I would very much like to receive a copy of the photo showing him in his lawn bowling outfit or with friends in the club. If you can't find a match, any photo of the club house or members of the club would be appreciated. Also of interest is any paper record of my grandfather being a member of the club.

The second photo I scanned was taken at my parents' house in 1958 at Oak Ridges, Ontario, Canada. On the left is my grandfather Francis, then my mother Ruth on the right and the little lad in the middle is me.



The photo taken at the Richmond Hill Lawn Bowling club (*see* Front Cover) was on the occasion of my grandfather's 90th birthday. The photo and an article about the occasion was published in the Richmond Hill Liberal newspaper 14 September, 1972. The article reads

“Frank Gilbert (right) who just celebrated his 90th birthday, was honored by his fellow members at Richmond Hill Lawn Bowling Club last week when they staged a party for him, complete with birthday cake and a new pipe. Mr. Gilbert, who is still an active bowler, started bowling in his native England 72 years ago. He has been a resident of Richmond Hill for more than 40 years. With Mr. Gilbert in the above picture is President Fred Thomas of the Richmond Hill Club. Early in the afternoon Mayor William Lazenby came to the bowling green to present the honored guest with a tie clip bearing the Richmond Hill Town Crest and a letter from the mayor and council. All of which goes to show you can start at age 18 and make this a lifetime sport.”

I hope you find this information of interest to you and I would welcome being contacted by you again or by anyone else who is interested. I am considering joining the family history group in Tunbridge Wells. I have some photos/post cards and other papers of Tunbridge Wells and some information about my ancestors in Tunbridge Wells and I am still very much interested in finding out more about Tunbridge Wells and my family.

Thanks again

Regards, Ed Gilbert

A Fallen Son of Tunbridge Wells

*Member 735, Ed Gilbert, 1044 Deepwood Drive, Thunder Bay,
Ontario, P7J 1H7, Canada*

MANY FAMILIES IN Tunbridge Wells lost sons in the Great War. Edgar Allan Gilbert was the youngest son of Robert and Elizabeth Gilbert and like many other young men he went to war, did his duty and never came home. Edgar was born 1888 in Tunbridge Wells into a family with parents, sons and daughters who lived most of their lives in Tunbridge Wells and as the last known member of the family line the responsibility has fallen upon my shoulders to chronicle their lives as best I can.

The family of Robert Charles Gilbert (1849–1942) and Elizabeth Gilbert/Blencowe/Mannell (1845–1926) consisted of Robert H Gilbert (1880–1967)

who was born in Hastings; Millicent (1881–1882); Frances Reginald Gilbert, my grandfather, (1882–1975); Florence Emma (1883–1959) Violet Margareta (1885–1967) and Edgar the last to be born. All of the children with the exception of Robert were born in Tunbridge Wells. Also in the family were two children from the first marriage of Elizabeth namely Charles and Alice Blencowe.

In the period 1888–1890 Edgar and his family resided at 1 Murray Road. By 1891 they were living at 5 Grove Hill Cottages and in 1901 they are recorded as living at 9 Little Mount Sion Road. Edgar and his brothers enjoyed sports of which lawn bowling, cricket and football were most often mentioned in stories relayed to me by my grandfather.

Skipping ahead in time Edgar's brief military career begins with him enlisting on September 7, 1914 in the 7th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment at Croydon, Surrey. From the recruitment register (QRWS/1/3/3) he is recorded as Edgar Gilbert; No. G/1442; age 25 with terms of enlistment given as "3 years (or until the war is over)". The 7th Battalion was formed at Guildford September 1914. The battalion's official music was the quick march Braganza and the slow march Scipio. One of the mementos I have is Edgar's Military Band badge from his membership in the 7th Battalion



*Band of the 7th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment
at West Lubworth, Kent, c1915*

Military Band. Edgar no doubt inherited his musical talents from his parents who, during their early lives in Tunbridge Wells, were musicians. Edgar like many other new recruits received his military training at various locations in the south of England, most notably at Aldershot, the same place my father received his training during WW II.

During the war the Queen's raised 31 battalions, each battalion consisting of 1000 men, and 29 Young Soldiers and Labour units and of these 23 battalions



Tunbridge Wells War Memorial and the plaque showing Edgar's name

saw active service. The casualties were horrendous with the Queen's losing 7399 officers, NCOs and men, most of whom lie in the fields of Flanders and at various times during the war were hastily buried throughout France but later collected and reburied into "proper" cemeteries. Their names are found on the War Memorials in the towns and villages of England and recorded in the Books of Remembrance.

Edgar was just a private, one of hundreds of thousands, but he was a son of Tunbridge Wells, a young man proud of where he was from and willing to do his bit for the war effort. On 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, his battalion at 7:30am assaulted the German trenches. Among those going over the wall was private Edgar Gilbert. The record of the battle that day reads "The battalion assaulted the German trenches to the front of left

half of A1 Sub Sector on a front of about 400 yards. After 12 hours fighting the final objective west of Montauban was reached and consolidated on a front of about 260 yards". During the assault 174 men were killed, 284 wounded and 56 missing. "The battalion held their objective gained during the night, establishing touch with the 8th East Surrey Regiment on the right and the 8th Norfolk Regiment on its left." It was during this engagement that the life of Edgar Allan Gilbert came to an end when he was caught in a hail of bullets from a machine gun. The news of his loss was relayed to his parents by way of a card which reads:

Edgar Allan Gilbert
B Company, 7th Queens (West Surrey Regiment)
In Expeditionary Force, France
youngest son of Robert Charles and Elizabeth Gilbert
Fell in Action, July 1st 1916
Age 28

"A glorious death is his who for his country falls"

When Edgar was killed he and his comrades in arms were attempting to push the Germans from a position they held in and around the village of Mametz in the Somme. Although they had succeeded in taking Mametz it was not without great loss of life. Mametz is located in the North of France 20 miles north east of Amiens not too far east of the town of Albert. To the east of Mametz Wood is Flatiron Copse, a name given by the army to a small plantation. The ground was taken by the 3rd and 7th divisions on July 14, 1916.

Edgar is buried in Danzig Alley British Cemetery at Mametz. Mametz is located in a valley originally known to the troops as Happy Valley and was used as a main supply route during the attempts to advance the line at High Wood. It was protected from direct observation from the German lines by the topography of the land and thousands of men and large numbers of supplies passed up this valley. In order to disrupt the supply lines the Germans heavily pounded it with artillery shells and after a while it became known as Death Valley.



The headstone at Danzig Alley



The Danzig Alley Cemetery was started in late July 1916 and it remained in use until April 1917. After the armistice more than 1100 graves were brought in from smaller cemeteries and from the neighbouring battlefields. Although there are several thousand unidentified graves in the cemetery the presence of Edgar in it is commemorated by a marble headstone bearing the regimental insignia at the top, his name, rank, number date of death; a large cross in the middle with the words “Till The Day Break” carved into the stone at the bottom. The cemetery now is very peaceful and well maintained and from time to time relatives of the fallen come to pay their respects. I hope one day that I will get to go to France and say goodbye to Edgar as I doubt that any of his relatives have ever been there. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and is named after a German trench. The cemetery covers an area of 5722 square meters and is enclosed by a red brick wall . . . a fitting place for my ancestor to rest for eternity.

On a bronze plaque, one of many that forms part of the Tunbridge Wells War Memorial, appears the name E. A. Gilbert. The memorial was unveiled on 11 February 1923 at a large ceremony arranged for the occasion. A newspaper article pertaining to the ceremony gives the following;

“The arrangements for the event entailed no little labour upon Mr. W.F. Bellamy, the Deputy Town Clerk, and his staff to whom great credit is due, whilst the police supervision was ably carried out by the Chief Constable (Capt. S.A. Hector), assisted by Inspector Guy Carlton. During the ceremony the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade had a busy time, quite a number in the crowd being overcome, and having to receive treatment.”

Accompanying this information was a list of the soldiers being remembered, among which Edgar is listed.

The Queen's Regimental War Memorial located in the north wall of Holy Trinity Church in Guildford was completed in 1921 and dedicated 4 June 1921 and within the memorial is a niche containing a bronze and glass casket in which is contained the Book of Remembrance. Edgar's name is given in this book.

A last tribute to Edgar Allan Gilbert hangs on a wall in my home. In 2009 I had professionally framed all of the medals, badges, photographs I had for him and it is now proudly displayed for all to see.

HMS Captain

Naval Disaster at Sea

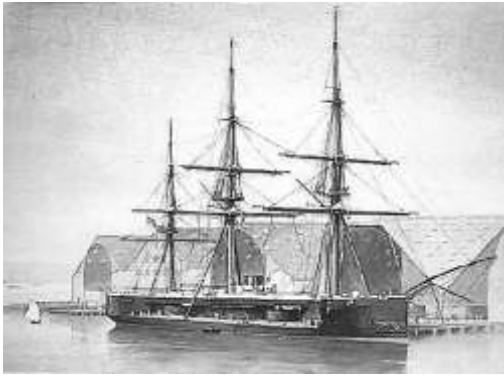
Member 697, Ruth Wiltshire, Paddock Wood, Kent

MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS' parents were married on 12 May 1872 at Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire, both were of full age, a widow and widower. There was nothing unusual about people remarrying after the death of a spouse, but after looking more closely at my great great grandparents' marriage I discovered that Eliza Dicks (*nee* Hamond) and George Thomas Bethell were 26 and 52 years of age respectively.

George's first wife Ellen had died at the age of 51 in 1871 and had given him six children. Eliza, his second wife, was born on 15 April 1847 and had married William Charles Dicks, a stoker in the Royal Navy, on 7 September 1868 at Elson, Gosport, Hampshire. This was a significant date as for two years later on the exact same date William Dicks died.

Eliza and William had two sons William Thomas Dicks (born 2 November 1869), and Charles William Dicks (born 3 November 1870). William Dicks was a stoker in the Royal Navy, and was serving on *HMS Captain* when he died in a storm at sea, along with 472 other men (there were only 18 survivors).

HMS Captain was a cross between a steam ship and a sailing ship. The ships of the time were too small to carry all the coal needed for an ocean cruise without sails. *HMS Captain* was 7770 tons and was built at Laird's of Birkenhead, near Liverpool. It was designed with a freeboard of 8ft, two 12in



HMS Captain (1869)

Image courtesy of <http://bigbadbattleships.com>

gun turrets on the main deck, only 8 feet above the waves, and a “hurricane deck” or flying bridge extending over the turrets’ tops, and a single funnel just before the mainmast. When finished she was 740 tons over her designed weight, and the actual freeboard was 6ft 2in, and not 8ft. The main deck was often awash even in light seas. *HMS Captain* had a high centre of gravity due to her towering rig (50,000 square foot

of sail) and there was concern about her stability when she was built. Still, at first, *HMS Captain* appeared to be a practicable ship. Under steam she could reach speeds of 14.2 knots on trials. She made a couple of short round trips to Vigo before joining the Channel fleet. During her shakedown cruise in the Bay of Biscay, the commanding admiral visited the new ship and noted with concern that she ran with her lee rail perpetually awash. On the night of 6/7 September 1870, while sailing off Cape Finisterre in a freshening gale, *HMS Captain* abruptly capsized and sank like a stone. She took with her 473 of her crew. There were only 18 survivors of the disaster, all of whom made it to a boat which wrenched free of the sinking ship. They were rescued late the following day.

After this disaster more sadness was to follow for my Great Great Grandmother. The Royal Patriotic Pension Fund was started to provide for the dependents of those who lost their lives in *HMS Captain*, and she was a beneficiary of this fund. Her second son was born just 10 weeks after her husband’s death. I am unsure how she coped on her own but in April of 1871 the census shows she was living with her widowed mother

THE LATE MRS. E. BETHELL.—A link with the disaster to H.M.S. Captain, which occurred in September, 1870, has been severed by the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Bethell, of 2, Dorrien Road, Gosport, who died on December 10, and was interred at Ann’s Hill Cemetery yesterday. Mrs. Bethell was born on April 15, 1847, and in 1868 married Mr. William C. Dicke, a stoker, who lost his life in the disaster to H.M.S. Captain. There were two sons of this marriage, but they both died in the same week in 1870. In 1872 she married Mr. G. T. Bethell, a shipwright in H.M. Dockyard, and he predeceased her. Four children of this marriage are still living. Mrs. Bethell was the last widow to receive benefit from the Royal Patriotic Pension Fund raised for the dependents of those who lost their lives in H.M.S. Captain. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. D. James, Vicar of St. Matthew’s, and the chief mourners were Mr. Bethell (son) and Mr. Shepherd (son-in-law). The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. H. D. Osborn, of North Cross Street, Gosport.

and sister and her two young sons, the youngest Charles being only 4 months old. A year later she married my Great Great Grandfather in May 1872, a man more than 25 years her senior who had been widowed himself. They went on to have four children, 3 daughters and a son, Horace Ernest George Bethell who was my Great Grandfather, was born in 1873, followed later by three sisters. Unfortunately, both her sons from her first husband young Charles and William Dicks died of scarlet fever within 2 days of each other in August 1876.

Her second husband died in 1910, having lived to 89 years of age. She ran a shop for many years, and also died at the age of 89. My great great Grandmother was the last widow still alive to receive this pension, when she died on 10 December 1936.

For more information please see: <http://www.hmscaptain.co.uk> which has been a great source of information about the disaster.

Life in Hook Green and Bells Yew Green, 1904–1929

The Recollections of Stanley Randall
*Member 692, Andrew Randall, 6 Wood Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent T13 2NL*

STANLEY RANDALL WAS born in 1917, the third child of George Lancaster Randall (1875-1945), who worked 1904-1929 as private secretary to Lord Camden (1872-1943, 4th Marquis, of Bayham Abbey), and Annie Harriet Randall *nee* Mott (1874-1958). Stanley had two older siblings, Lilian, born 1903 and Lewis, born 1907. George had worked as a solicitor's clerk for Farrers at Lincoln's Inn Fields before joining his father in a mineral water business. This venture being ultimately unsuccessful, he worked as a motorcar demonstrator at D Napier & Son and MMC before returning to Farrers, where he met Lord Camden, a client of the company, who was looking for a private secretary who could also drive. George was clearly seen as the man for the job and duly appointed. Park Cottage, Hook Green, a tied house, was built for George and his family in 1904 by George Sands the estate builder. When Lewis was badly affected by whooping cough as a small child, the family bought a property by the sea, in St Leonards, and it was there that

Stanley was born. The family then divided its time between St Leonard's and Hook Green. In 1925 they moved from Park Cottage to Lowfield, in Bells Yew Green.

Life at Park Cottage and in Hook Green, 1904 - 1925

Stanley tells how Park Cottage had no electricity but had a good well. There was a copper boiler in the washhouse. Water was hand-pumped up to a roof tank to feed the bathroom and toilet and a drain ran to a septic tank in the garden. The bathroom had not been in the original specification for the house but George insisted on its installation. All visitors were encouraged to give a few pulls on the pump, which was located in the kitchen! Washing up after the evening meal was done the following morning when you could see what you were doing. Not much personal washing was done during the week, but on Friday night the fire was stoked up and plenty of hot water was available for the whole family to have a decent bath, but all using the same 'core' water topped up with hot. By Stanley's turn, it was pretty soupy! Instead of draining the water away, he used to keep it in the bath for the rest of the week so he had somewhere inside to play with his model boats. Little was wasted in those days. The pig farmer would ask the women of village households not to use soap in the first washing-up and give them the dirty water, collected in buckets, which went into pigswill. Households would use the soot from chimney-sweeping to put round lettuces against slugs.

The house was lit by oil lamps which were carried from room to room and by candles. A fire burned all day and evening in the wood-fuelled kitchen range, though other cottages relied on a primus stove for cooking. Cooking at Park Cottage was all done on this range which had a small oven on the left, fire box in the middle and a 'lazy boiler' on the right. The top of the range was used as a hot-plate and hot water was obtained by pouring cold in at the top of the 'lazy boiler', which displaced hot water at the front. There was also a paraffin kettle boiler. Paraffin was stored in a 50-gallon metal drum with a pump in the shed. When the family moved to Lowfield in 1925, the range there was too big and too much trouble to light for periodic cooking, so a 3-burner 'Valor Perfection' cooker was used instead. Mr Bach had an even better Aladdin 2-burner cooker which gave a tall blue smokeless flame, very hot.

George Randall would get up about 7am, light a candle then go downstairs to light the fire in the range. The Randalls invariably burned wood, so the fire would always need re-lighting in the morning. Wood was plentiful, as heavy coppicing was carried out on the estate, much of the wood being used for fence making. The chestnut trees were coppiced when the shoots from the

boles were about 15 feet tall with the chestnut paling off-cuts a good source of fuel. Stanley and Lewis were sent out regularly to go “wooding” with other village lads, many of whom had carts. The Randalls, however, had none and were obliged to carry wood home.

As the family was not always in residence in Hook Green, no livestock was kept. Stanley remembers turkeys being farmed opposite the Elephant’s Head. Eggs were bought locally but protein generally could be hard to come by. However it was well known that the game-keeper had a fondness for the races and it was always possible, by tactful questioning, to discover when he would be away! Much illicit meat for the pot, rabbit and pigeon, was then obtained by locals using ferrets, airguns or catapults but the Randall’s could not join in with this, given George’s position. A meat joint once a week came from Frant butcher ‘Porky’ Morris. Fish could supplement the diet and George fished for trout in the local streams feeding the Teise and Win, and occasionally for eels in Bayham Lake with Lord Camden’s permission. Eels were not easy, however, as one had to compete with the pike, which ate eels ‘off the hook’ when caught on a night-line. In the garden there were fruit trees and gooseberries, which the dog also ate. Some vegetables, such as potatoes and brassica, were grown in the garden, whilst others could be bought from local people. Stanley recalls buying scarlet runner beans from their neighbour, Mr Bach, which were sold by the pint! Such vegetables were supplemented by foraging in the wild for such things as chestnuts, hazelnuts, beech mast, and sloes. Couch grass stems were also tasty and Stanley recalls enjoying dandelion and sorrel sandwiches. Pig nuts were also sought, an underground nut rather like a hazelnut, with a minty, spicy taste. These could be found if you went through the white gate to Bull Lane, 20 yards up the track on the left. Bread was delivered by van from the baker in Lamberhurst. As his mother was afraid of this going too quickly, it was never eaten when freshly delivered and Stanley has a lasting memory of bread always tasting stale. Breakfast was plain fare, bread or toast with butter, occasionally dripping from the weekend joint, tea. Stanley was rationed to half milk, half water. He cannot remember any fat villagers in the 1920s: people were invariably lean as a result of physical activity, scanty plain food and lack of heating leading to higher calorie burn. With no refrigerators, food was kept under a meat cage with a covering kept damp to create evaporation. The Misses Looker sold dry goods only, otherwise you had to go into Lamberhurst.

Bayham House had an extensive vegetable garden, including bushes of white currants. The farmers grew mangolds on the low-lying damp ground for winter cattle food.

Stanley remembers that his brother Lewis was interested at one time in the Hayes Diet which was gaining prominence at the time. This was nothing to do with weight loss, but about improving digestion by telling you what you could eat with what. One bad aspect of this was the advice that you should not drink after a meal because it diluted the digestive juices. The consequence for those who followed it was bad teeth because a hot drink would otherwise have helped to rinse away food debris.

Reading at night could be done by candlelight or an oil reading lamp. The only radio in Park Cottage was a cat's whisker built by Stanley that required Ericsson headphones, bought from Halfords in Tunbridge Wells. BBC radio programmes stopped before 10pm with the Epilogue. The Dutch station Hilversum played dance music till midnight. Radio was tuned to long wave (1500m). The BBC Daventry station gave a stronger signal in Hook Green than BBC London.

Post was delivered once a day by the Lookers who ran the post office, where you could also send a telegram. The Randalls did not have a daily paper; occasionally a Saturday paper would be bought in Tunbridge Wells on a shopping trip. Apart from the baker's van, there was also a laundry van which moved at a pace slower than walking. As a small boy, Stanley enjoyed lying flat in the gutter to look up at the underside of the vehicle with its gears and shafts, and remembers to this day the scowl with which the driver responded!

Periodically George would write to a petrol company (Shell, Pratt etc) asking for a delivery of 60 gallons to the house. This would come in 30×2 -gallon cans embossed with the price: 2/6. The cans were just chucked off the back of the lorry onto a soft dumping area and the deliverer would take away the empties from the previous delivery. An invoice would arrive with the petrol, paid by cheque. Motor oil was bought in 1 or 2 gallon cans from Tunbridge Wells. George ran a variety of cars: 1904 to 1911 an MMC, 1911-1920 a 15hp Darracq bought from Lord Camden and in the early 1920s a 1914 Humber. The macadam road surfaces meant that all vehicles trailed large clouds of dust in dry weather; George's huge dust cloud could be clearly seen at the top of Cemetery Hill from Lowfield, signalling his return from a trip to Tunbridge Wells with exciting shopping.

In 1924 the bus fare from Tunbridge Wells to Lamberhurst was 9d single and 10d return. This was a 23hp Ford vehicle with 2 trembler ignition coils on the dashboard for starting. The driver started the motor with a handle, then rushed to jump in the cab and slow the engine down, which was racing 'fit to bust'.

In the 1920s there were no petrol-engined lorries about; only steam lorries (Fowler, Sentinel and Foden) with solid tyres. None had windscreen wipers. An unusual event about 1927 was the arrival of a lawyer from London by train at Frant station who unfolded a very small motor-scooter and drove it up the hill to Highfield.

Stanley did not attend the Hook Green School but remembers going to a tiny school on Guest's Farm near the Brown Trout. He was walked there by the maid and was one of four pupils. Whilst Stanley was only six, the other three were all 14 years old. Lunch was often taken at the George and Dragon in Lamberhurst. Mr Guest was the farmer and Mr Johns the teacher. Stanley recalls the household attempting to make a crystal set type 'wireless' from an old copper kettle with wires soldered to it to make a proper 'earth', which was due to be buried near the front door of the farmhouse. Even at the age of 7 he was well aware that it was not the best arrangement! I wonder, could it still be there?

There was no noise or light pollution at that time and the sounds Stanley recalls are of birdsong: the cries of the rooks, the call of the pigeons, the crowing of the cock pheasant and the loud song of the thrush. Occasionally, as now, in the right conditions, one was aware of the railway. An evocative sound was the clapping noise of the 'horseman's gates' across the estate carriageways. The gates had a tall opening lever that a rider could reach from horseback. After the rider had gone through the gate, it swung decreasingly backwards and forwards until the closing latch fell into place. Other interesting wildlife that Stanley remembers was a colony of large, aggressive wood-ants in the woods just off Furnace Lane, opposite the Bartley Mill turning. About half an inch long, with a black head and red thorax, they lived in 3ft high mounds and gave off strong venom if trodden on. In the early 1920s, Stanley also recalls spotting a red squirrel running along a fence opposite Park Cottage.

George had an office attached to the domestic offices at the main Bayham Abbey house. He had odd working hours, as Lord Camden spent the mornings visiting his tenant farmers and liked to go through all his mail and other business with George after 3pm. This meant that GR often came home in the dark. The way home was via the bridge over the river near the old abbey ruins and up Bull Lane, which was pitch black at night time. The bridge was often submerged during wet weather (in spate only the top rail of the bridge was visible) and George would have to wade across, clad in breeches and brown leggings and carrying a large storm lantern in the winter. Stanley remembers that he would often arrive home very muddy. One

summer's evening he arrived home covered in the white mud of Bull Lane (a mixture of sand and clay), having fallen, in the dark, over a sleeping cow.

At George's request, the "Elephant's Head" Shield, depicting the Camden crest, was carved out of oak from the Bayham Estate in about 1907 by Stanley's maternal grandfather, Charles Mott, a professional London wood-carver. This substantial object was wrapped in paper and carried from Kentish Town, where Mott lived, via Charing Cross and train to Frant, then on foot for three miles to Park Cottage. The wood came from the open-ended store at the rear of the estate carpentry and cabinet-making shop where Stanley's elder brother Lewis was apprenticed for a time in the 1920s, under the supervision of George Barham the estate carpenter, who lived at Little Bayham.

Otherwise, George seems to have kept a low profile locally, avoiding the Elephant's Head, where he was fearful of being harangued by some estate tenant over problems in his tied cottage.

Lowfield had unusual fireplaces. There was no grate, and a solid base with a 'blower' like a super-powerful 'register' full width of the fire-pit. This operated violently and quickly made a white-hot fire, very good for boiling a cast-iron kettle. Far too hot for a copper one!

Stanley, aged about 7, riding his bike in a rain-squall full-tilt with his head down, ran straight into the back of a farm cart, which somewhat modified his face.

Lewis Randall and his pal David Wilson were lethal with catapults. They were very accurate and recovered nearly all their lead balls, which were cast in a bullet-mould, from the bodies of their prey. 'Kills' (mostly small birds) were boiled in a can suspended from a tripod until the skulls were clean and then impaled on a boundary fence. This was not a popular activity with the adults and was eventually stopped by George Randall. David Wilson, after farm management in Tangiers and Madeira, went on to become an adventurer and explorer, famous for leading an expedition to try to trace Colonel Fawcett who had disappeared in the Amazon jungle.

Life in Bells Yew Green, 1925–1929

The village children had a variety of activities centred on the Bells Yew Green village green, which was very active at the weekends. Cricket was played on a flat, rolled pitch and football was also popular. Children played with hoops controlled by a stick with a nail through it; they pulled each other about on home-made trolleys or sledges in winter, and flew model planes. Stanley had

a model electric boat and a steam-powered one, fired by burning twigs, made by his father. He tried them at various locations such as streams, the pond at Home Farm but it wasn't entirely satisfactory due to the weeds and the problem of getting near enough to the bank to control or recover the boat. The millpond at Bartley Mill was also a good place to sail model boats. It was fed from a very long dyke coming all the way from Higham Farm. On Sundays between 11–12am everyone was supposed to be at church. If not, you made sure you were not seen or heard doing any kind of work, including gardening or repair and maintenance activity.

The village dogs frequently fought on Bells Yew Green. Stanley had been taught by his elder brother Lewis how to stop a dog-fight. You should wait until a 'top dog' had emerged from the conflict and had the 'under dog' pinned down, then take off your right shoe and hold it by the toe. The trick then was to wade in and grasp the top dog very firmly by the scruff of the neck and use the shoe to tap it on the nose, harder and harder, for quite a long time. This would make the dog go 'wuzzy', until it let go. Then the dog should be flung away from the fight as hard as possible, and threatened with the shoe should it try to return. There was a vicious Airedale hound that attacked one of the Randalls' dogs, and Stanley used the above technique with perfect results. A feral cat lived in the woodland near Lowfield, that would challenge any dog or dogs that entered its territory. Stanley had to rescue it from attack by a pack of dogs on one occasion. The cat got its revenge on one of the Randalls' terriers by lying in ambush and dropping on it from an overhanging branch. The resultant screams from the dog brought the villagers out of their cottages.

Stanley also recalls walking his dog at Benhall Lake. This lake drained into a vertical brick 'chimney' with a drop of about 15 feet, and then the water was carried under the road in a conduit. The Randalls had a dog that was obsessed with water, and on one occasion Stanley, aged about 9, was looking at the drain when the dog climbed onto the top of the brick chimney, lost its footing and disappeared down the 15ft shaft. Stanley assumed the dog would be trapped and die a lingering death, but it was swept right through under the road and emerged none the worse on the other side. Stanley never took it back to that place!

The Fernden Fencing Company was located beyond the Brecknock Arms on the road towards Frant Station. It had its own timber yard with a steam engine to power the saws to cut wood for making fences. It also had an electric light in the office. Wood was also stacked along the side of the road leading to the station, where the firm had the use of a covered loading bay

rented from Lord Camden. Traction engines pulled whole tree trunks out of the woods into Turner's larger yard, moving at walking speed. The sawmill was powered by an ex-coalmine compound steam-engine, about 70hp, with a deep fire-box for burning offcuts and sawdust. The stack had a spark arrester and we (privy to engine lore) could tell at a glance the size of cut. At Frant Station, a lot of shunting activity took place in the early hours of the morning. The shunters carried Duckwick lamps which gave off a long smoky flame. The station had ground set aside for growing vegetables or flowers, as was generally the practice, giving the station staff something productive to do in between train activities.

Wood was delivered to 'estate staff' households by horse and cart. This wood was typically the remains of chestnut hop-poles that had become rotten or brittle, or offcuts from the timber yard. There were also occasional coal deliveries by Sentinel steam wagon. Traffic to the coast was noticeable only at weekends. The roads in the 1920s were macadamized but not tarred until about 1928, including the road from Winbridge, and Hawkenbury Road. Gravel would be periodically steam-rollered onto the surface. This would over time migrate to the edges of the road, and there would be a two foot wide gutter on each side full of soft, loose gravel and dust. As the roads dried out after winter, the wind and passing traffic would start to raise puffs of dust. The locals would comment on this as a sign of seasonal change, as in 'I saw the March Dust today; spring's on its way'. For a period, every Saturday morning the Turner's steam traction engine would move from the woods where timber was cut, along the road from Bayham to Bells Yew Green past the Randall's house, Lowfield and up a rise back to Turner's Sawmill. The engine had two gears, high and low. It would make the run along Furnace Lane in high gear, but when it came to the rise to Turner's Yard it always stalled with frantic blowing of the boiler safety valve and had to be re-started in low gear. This was a big job, involving pushing one gear wheel out of the way, pinning it and shoving the other gear in. Stanley could never understand why the driver didn't change into low gear before the rising turn to the Mill.

Another recollection of Stanley's is of a twin-engined biplane (probably a Vickers Vimy) force-landing in a field on the far side of the railway line from Lowfield, in the mid 1920s. The farmer complained bitterly about the damage done to his freshly-sown field by the landing and subsequent disturbance required to remove it. There were no phones in the village: if you had to make a call you cycled into Tunbridge Wells and used a public box.

Stanley recalls that there were notably ferocious thunderstorms in the summer when he lived in Bells Yew Green. His explanation for this phenomenon was

a geological belt that ran roughly in a line from Wickhurst Farm diagonally to Bells Yew Green and over Frant to Withyham/Hartfield.

Stanley has seen a photo in the Brecknock Arms that indicates at one time the pub was located in the semi-detached house occupied by Mr Adamson in the 1920s. Ditmar Bassett (known as Ditty), father of Otto, lived in the other semi and had a forge in a shed nearby. This was abandoned when he took over the tenancy of the Bayham Forge, partnering later with Charlie Boorman.

The Apsion family: Mr Apsion married Dorothy Peto of Peto & Radford, makers of lead acid accumulators. Mr Apsion was immersed in his richly-equipped big wireless set, with 3 tuning knobs to light upon a broadcasting station. There was a son, Robert Apsion, born 1920, who went to Rose Hill and Tonbridge School.

Life and Work on the Bayham Abbey Estate, 1904 – 1929

The Carpenters' Shop. This was located near the forge, on the opposite side of the road, in a complex of buildings which also included the seasoning store, the saw mill, the laundry and the generator plant. The carpenter's workshop was on two floors, delicate work being undertaken upstairs. It was a wood framed building, thatched and clad in pine off-cuts, the bark still on and heavily tarred. Several large, medium-paned windows, much of them glazed in bottle-glass made over the road at the Forge. The estate always seemed to be short of money and it was easier and cheaper to melt down a broken bottle (on a well-used flat steel plate) and trim it to size, than to walk into Tunbridge Wells and buy a glass pane. Lighting was by candles, work starting at 6am. In a quiet corner, where the temperature was steady, Stanley remembers a farmer's barometer. This was made from a thin-necked bottle pushed down into a fat-necked bottle, with the right amount of water. It worked and the Randall's made one at home.

The Seasoning Store. Beyond the workshop was the seasoning store, with a hand crane and hard standing. At the age of 8 (1925) Stanley enquired about a huge oak trunk, already cross-cut and re-stacked. (Thick planks were taken from the middle.) He was told it was seasoning, had been there for 25 years undisturbed, and after a further 75 years would be ready for use. 22 years later (1947) he called back at the store and the big tree, with all the other stacked oak, had been sold.

The Saw Mill and Generating Plant. Across the track from the timber-store was the saw mill with two big circular saws, a cross-cut saw, 2 rotary planers (these were dangerous) and saw maintenance machines. Adjoining

was the electricity generating plant, 80hp steam, 220 volt DC. This was always a warm and exciting place to visit! The electricity heated and lit both the Abbey and the church.

The Forge. Lewis Randall was apprenticed at the Bayham Forge from 1923. He generally left Park Cottage about 6.30–7am, 6am in summer. Most villagers were away to work by 7am; farm workers often much earlier. The forge was run by Otto Bassett in partnership with the younger Charlie Boorman, both of whom were very good at calming horses. Otto did the shoeing. Amongst other things they made brackets and did repairs on carts. One quiet day, Stanley heard them discussing a wheel on a customer's cart which they had noticed was looking worn and starting work on a replacement. They clearly had no doubts that the custom would come their way! They could always be relied on to help out and deal with all kinds of problem. They made iron tyres and also did woodwork. In the lower part of the forge they kept a supply of different woods, including oak and hornbeam. It appears that they rented the premises but Lord Camden had first call on their time and expertise. Stanley remembers that there were two anvils, a worn one and a new, a huge bench with an array of vices and a large hand-powered pillar drill.

Originally they also had a grindstone powered by a treadle which took a lot of time and effort to use. ('Grindstone' was always pronounced 'grinnst'n'). Charlie Boorman created a much more powerful one by mounting a big emery wheel to a disused motor cycle engine, thus putting treadling firmly in the past. Stanley recalls that Charlie Boorman was a fine mechanic. He owned a bike and sidecar in which he sometimes took his wife to Hastings for a "run out". He had been known to dismantle the engine, removing the cylinder heads, and then reassemble it on the day before the trip, just to make sure everything was working as it should!

For many years at the Forge there was a derelict Fowler traction engine whose chimney had rotted off. One day three recovery men came in a van and had it turning over. Stanley saw it heading off to the breaker's yard under its own steam, with the water tank leaking badly; a sad end.

Water Supplies. There was a water wheel on the outlet of the lake, driven by the head of water in the lake down to the tail race. The wheel drove a three cylinder Henry Berry force pump. In addition there was a double impulse pump. Water ran down a pipe, building up speed, and was then suddenly blocked off by a poppet valve, creating a powerful pulse in the liquid column. This pulse forced water up a side pipe. Such pumps used no power and were very low maintenance.

Elsewhere than the Abbey, there being no mains water, everyone was conscious of the need to carry water on them to slake their thirst. Whilst water for flushing came from one of the tributaries of the Teise, drinking water was taken from wells and springs. If a house had a well, it was acceptable to call in and ask for water. Mr Adamson, the wood reeve, who lived opposite Lowfield, had a good well with good quality water. When the Randalls lived at Lowfield, Stanley and the maid would go across with three jugs in the morning to fill them up. There was a chalybeate spring in the Bayham Abbey gardens but, Stanley recalls, the water did not taste good. He remembers still the advice he was given as a child about where it was safe to drink. If drinking from a spring it was advisable to check the weed first. If freshwater shrimps were clinging to it, it was not considered safe to drink, as shrimps thrive on household effluent. On the other hand, anything that a horse was seen to drink could be considered safe!

People

Francis Albury Wemys Bach, Estate Engineer. One of the most memorable Bayham Abbey workers was Francis Albury Wemys Bach, the estate engineer. A man of little formal education, he had first entered the army after leaving school. He lived with his wife Hilda in the right hand cottage of the pair opposite the forge where, in addition to a well, there was also a pump in the kitchen. There was an outside privy, the contents of which, in common with other villagers at that time, would have been dug into the garden as far as possible from the house. FAWB had a waxed military moustache and always referred to his nose as his 'conk'.

At work he was responsible throughout the estate for all electrical items and the maintenance of things mechanical. He would need to go into the laundry if any machinery needed repair, but it was a place he otherwise preferred to avoid, perhaps seeing it as where the woman was boss! He also maintained the gas cracker which had been installed when Lord Camden had acquired a new cook who had agreed to come to the Abbey only if she could cook on gas. In response he built a gas cracking plant which ran on tractor vaporising oil. This oil was heated until it gave off a vapour, the gas, which Stanley remembered was particularly foul smelling. Bach was a master electrician, dealing with dynamos, switchgear and batteries. He never laid cables as these involved digging and expense and money was always short, instead he used ordinary wires. He would also charge up batteries for the villagers. He was an expert mechanic and looked after the steam engines, which had to be examined every two years by the Board of Trade. Another task assigned to

Bach was the drilling of the lake when it iced over to check the safety for skating. Stanley remembers him saying that cracks in the ice were not necessarily unsafe but to keep off if the ice bent! Yet another of his duties was the maintenance of the paraffin engine used to pump water from the Win to Wickhurst Farm where the dairymaids cooled the milk from the cows by pouring it over horizontal water-filled pipes. The crown wheel of Bartley Mill had teeth made of elmwood (more rot-resistant than oak) and individually screwed in. When these wore out, Mr Bach would make and fit new ones, in the gloomy water-drenched wheel pit.

Rev Lydekker, Vicar of Bayham Church. The Rev Lydekker was a colourful character who Stanley remembers as very sporty, enjoying football and boxing.

Mr Tom Whiley, Landlord of the Brecknock Arms. Tom Whiley was a very large and strong man who had reputedly carried half a ton weight on his back for a few steps as a challenge. Whiley's son won a VC in the World War 2, and latterly ran a greengrocer's shop at the Carr's Corner end of Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Other Village Characters of the 1920s

Mr Curtis the foreman at the sawyard

Mr Holwell the policeman

Mr Shepherd the chauffeur

Messrs Wigley, Gifford, Pike and Underwood the gamekeepers

Mr 'Fishy' Eeles the land-agent (most senior member of Camden's staff; lived at Highfield. Decorated in World War 1 and Colonel in World War 2)

Mr Collins the drains supervisor

Mr Adamson the woodreeve

Mr 'Porky' Morris the butcher (Frant)

Mr Dudgeon, the vicar of Frant Church

Mr Ferguson the farmer at Buckland Hill

Mr Stripp the manager of Turner's Sawmills

Mr Crump the night-watchman

The Looker sisters, grocers and mail delivery (Hook Green)

Mr Dick Welfare the timber haulier

Miss Hudson, Miss Fripp and Miss Hile the teachers at Hook Green School

Mr Frank Pearce the landlord of the Elephant's Head

Mr Tollhurst the farmer at Home Farm

Mr Pomfret the farmer at Rushlye Farm

Mr Larkin of Winbridge Lodge. He had 2 sons; Tom the elder and Dennis the younger who had a gammy leg but was a feisty boy. Stanley remembers him aged about 7 beating up a wasp's nest with a big stick and then running off up the hill 'ollerin' as the nest mounted an attack

George & Reggie Ware the brewers

Mr Akehurst the stationmaster at Frant

Mr Doug Veitch the farmer at Wickhurst Farm

Mr Sands the bricklayer

Mr Spackman the farmer (also taught Stanley the violin and ran a dance band)

Mr Thirkell the vet

Mr William Pratt the farmer

Mr Crithel the thatcher

Mr Parks the signalman

Mr Stockley the coachman

Mr Mantle the butler

Mr FAW Bach the engineer. He had a gastric ulcer probably aggravated by worry about his work responsibilities.

Mr Haaken (pronounced locally "Aaykin"), the assistant engineman

Messrs Bassett the blacksmiths. Otto Bassett subsequently became senior partner of the forge with Charlie Boorman

Messrs Boorman the farmers, millers and blacksmith

Mr Octavius Pitson the woodcutter and fence-maker

Mr Tom Pitson, son of Octavius. A general workman skilled in several trades. Had an excellent war record and died in 2010 aged 94

Mrs Collins the housekeeper at Bayham House

Mr George Barham the carpenter and sometime miller (in 1936 he received an award from Camden for 58 years' service)

Mr WJ van Winsum the scoutmaster. He drove an open Buick, 3 seater plus dickey seat

Mr Austen of Whitegates

Mr Montague Longhurst the foreman of the Building Yard

Mr Botting the verger of Bayham Church

Mr Bob Wilson, amateur boxer at bantamweight, died aged 24

Mr Swaffer the carpenter

Messrs Watts and Jenner the bricklayers

Mr Hayler the painter

Jack Manktelow born about 1915. A bit of a tearaway. He was mate on a freighter carrying a load of wood that shifted in a storm and turned the ship on its side until the funnel was under water. Jack and the skipper refused to abandon ship and stayed on board until the ship was berthed at Falmouth

‘Old Brown’: ill with the shakes and lived in a sentry box at the entrance to Bartley Mill.

The Hop-pickers. The men dressed in serge suits. They built shelters with thin hazel branches bent into hoops and covered with bracken, which was also used as a floor covering, and lived in these throughout the season.

The Sheep-Drover. Flocks of sheep were driven along Furnace Lane towards Lamberhurst, where they were grazed near the abattoir. While Stanley was at Park Cottage one day, the drover spotted his little fire in the garden and stopped to fry sausage and eggs on it in an army mess-tin, carefully packing the meal away for later consumption. While this was going on, his dog held the flock in place on the road.

The Ashbys. Were comfortably-off farmers with a farm off Cemetery Hill, opposite the cemetery. They had horses that Lilian Randall used to exercise when she was home for the holidays 1925-29.

The Rifle Butts. The Camdens were strong supporters of the Government move in 1908 to form a Territorial Army. Lord Camden was a Major in the West Kent (Queen’s Own) Yeomanry, and appointed in September 1909 as Honorary Colonel of the 4th Home Counties (Howitzer) Brigade. In April–June 1909 Lady Camden published appeals to ‘The Ladies of Kent’ to raise funds to provide 4 county regiments with their colours. Around this time, and certainly by 1914, Camden organised the construction of Rifle Butts on land at Court Lodge Down, between Frant Station and Benhall Mill Farm. The firing line was across the Teise.

These covered an area about 50 yards wide by 300 yards long, with a bank dug out at the target end. By the 1920s they were unused, but had reverted to

being a wildlife haven with snakes, interesting insects and wild strawberry plants making use of the target area bank.

The Camdens. The Camdens were generally reckoned to be good employers, in an old-fashioned paternalistic way. Every July they organised a Sports Day for the village children, with quite generous prizes. At Christmas, there was the Village Children's Party at Bayham House, with spectacular decorations and where every child received a present. At Christmas also there was the Servants Ball, which Lillian Randall attended with her cousin Ted Liddiard. Lady Camden rode a magnificent chestnut mare, and Lillian was lifted onto the back of this once as a small child by a groom at the Stables. 'Milady' as she was known visited the homes of the estate staff at least once a year. Stanley remembers her coming to Lowfield for tea with Mrs Randall, and he would show off his latest model construction. He received a good Christmas present from the Camdens: an 'Erector' set, German-made cheaper version of Meccano. If one came across a member of the Family, curtsying, cap-lifting or forelock-tugging was obligatory. The Camden household was reputed to run nine cars, but the only one in evidence was a 9hp Fiat, dark blue open 4-seater used for runs to and from Frant station. The Camdens had 4 children:

Lord John 1899-1983, married 1920, divorced 1941, remarried 1942 and again in 1978, who became the 5th Marquis

Lady Irene 1906-1976, married 1926 into the Cubitt family of building fame, divorced 1933, married again 1933 to Clark, divorced 1937, married again 1937 to Crawford. She was known as a bit of a 'wild child', fond of a drink and short-fused but very kind to the village children. She reportedly slapped the face of a policeman who stopped her in London for driving under the influence.

Lady Fiona 1911-1985, married Fleetwood Fuller 1931, divorced 1944, married again 1944 to Welbore Ellis Agar. She was reckoned to be the nicest of the four children.

Lord Roderick, Earl Brecknock, 1915-1997, married 1945, known as 'Brecky', went to Eton, keen on motor sport and spent a lot of time at Brooklands with Earl Howe. Later became president of the Aston Martin Owners Club.



Publications Price List—Update of Postal Charges

Conditions of Sale

- ◆ Please send your order, using the form on page 11, with payment to TWFHS, c/o Bryan Cowling, 18 Hydehurst Close, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1EN, UK. The Society regrets that telephone and email orders cannot be accepted.
- ◆ Prices quoted are for one copy/item.
- ◆ Mail order weights are given for each item. Use the table shown below to calculate the appropriate postage.
- ◆ VAT at 15% is included where appropriate.
- ◆ Payment must be in Sterling, cheques made payable to Tunbridge Wells Family History Society, and drawn on a UK clearing bank.
- ◆ Please allow up to eight weeks for postal delivery.
- ◆ A customer has the right to cancel an order for goods within seven working days of receipt of the goods. Notification of intention to cancel is to be received by the Society in writing within this seven day-period.
- ◆ The purchaser must pay for the cost of returning goods to the Society. No refunds will be made in respect of CD-ROMs or fiches where the customer has broken the seal or wrapper.
- ◆ Refund of the retail sale price will be by cheque to the original purchaser within 30 working days of receipt of the goods in a re-saleable condition by the Society. Defective items will be replaced.
- ◆ Books marked 'quote' are not in stock: a quotation will be given if you write to TWFHS c/o Bryan Cowling, address above.

Postages Rates – Revised April 2011

For multiple orders, please calculate TOTAL WEIGHT OF ITEMS ORDERED

Wt NOT exceeding	UK P & P	Overseas P & P	Wt NOT exceeding	UK P & P	Overseas P & P
60g	£0-50	£1-65	250g	£2-10	£4-10
100g	£0-95	£2-40	500g	£2-75	£6-50
160g	£1-35	£3-00	750g	£3-75	£9-30
220g	£1-75	£3-90	1000g	£4-45	£12-05

STOP PRESS

The Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established, highly reputable research and publishing agency. It offers extensive knowledge on the sources available for tracing Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

We are an educational non-profit organisation. Our aim is to encourage an interest in the history of the province of Ulster; promote a positive image of Northern Ireland overseas; strengthen the links between Ireland and those of Ulster descent; broaden access to historical documents and records for Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy; and to inspire pride in Irish and Ulster heritage and culture.

We also organise several activity holidays throughout the year. Our genealogical summer school in June is already sold out but we are also running one in October which will focus on both family history and emigration.

This is a joint project between the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh. It will run from the 9th to the 15th October 2011 and will be based in Omagh, County Tyrone.

If you are interested in finding out more about your Ulster ancestors or wish to explore the history of Ireland's northern province this is the perfect opportunity in which to do so. Over six days you will be assisted to carry out research for yourself as well as discover the history of Ulster first hand through excursions to some of the province's most historic sites. In the evenings you can relax and enjoy some entertaining and enlightening talks and discussions.

This is a unique activity holiday which caters for all abilities and levels of interest. The autumn school itinerary can be viewed at:

www.ancestryireland.com/autumnschool

If the dates of this tour do not suit, we will be running a series of activity holidays throughout 2012 or we can also create an itinerary specifically for your group or clan reunion. In addition we offer bespoke family history packages for individuals as well as high-end luxury Ulster-Scots tours. Further information can be obtained through our website www.ancestryireland.com

The Foundation is also a leading publisher of Irish history books and genealogical guides with over 200 titles in our backlist. Details of our publications can be found at: www.booksireland.org.uk

We would appreciate it if you would circulate this information to your members via your website or email/ mailing list.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff directly please contact us on enquiry@uhf.org.uk

