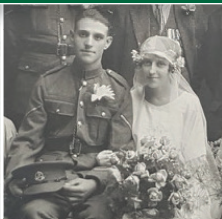
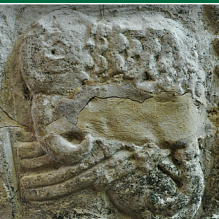


The Devon Family Historian

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“Devon Family History Society’s strength lies in its local and specialist knowledge”

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Devon Family History Society Committee 2021-2022

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All other contact details have been removed
from this sample issue.

Since this November 2021 edition of the Devon Family Historian
was published, we have updated and improved our website
<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk>
and launched a new Members' Area.
<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/dfhs-members-area/>

Front cover main photograph: Home at last: Jean, Margaret & Rosemary.
More photographs reunited with family. See page 15 for the story.



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/devonfhsforum>



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Editorial

Welcome to the November 2021 Devon Family Historian.

What a year we have all had, and I feel so very lucky that mine has included some very happy times. As those of you who joined the 10th September Zoom meeting when I presented “*How to date a photograph, part 2*” will have realised, my mind was full of wedding plans - the talk included a selection of wedding dress designs throughout the century, for dating purposes of course! The long promised list of resources to help you date those family photographs appears on page 40, and just to add a personal touch, I’ve included my wedding dress amongst them. My new husband,

John’s family come from Scotland, and the family tree has already been researched by his sister, so no distractions for me!

I’m encouraged to see many of you are still busy writing up family history stories and articles, taking advantage of free access to online sites (see Devon Library Services and TNA) while they last, and even though Tree House is now open to visitors in person, the experienced volunteers are continuing to offer their popular **Virtual Tree House** service and individual Zoom meetings. Contact them

by email: treehouse@devonfhs.org.uk, phone: 01392 433212 or by post: Tree House, Unit 1, 7-9 King Street, Exeter EX1 1BH

Sally Macdougall Editor (3569)

A reminder to our E-Members

Have you downloaded the four E-magazines from the Members’ Area?

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference 28th August 2021

The 9th October 2021 saw the official end of the Mayflower 400 commemorations. Covid 19 meant that an initial 12 months’ series of events was extended into 2021.

It was a four-nation commemoration between the Wampanoag Nation, the UK, the USA and the Netherlands, with a unique programme that allowed the exploration of many aspects of the Mayflower story, via a range of cultural events, exhibitions and projects. I want to thank all who supported the Society’s Mayflower International Genealogical Conference, the speakers, the delegates and sponsorship from Devon FHS, Plymouth Mayflower 400 Community Sparks, Plymouth POP and the Lady Neville Charity. The face to face arrangements made for the Plymouth Guildhall in August 2020 had to be cancelled, but thanks to our Chairman, the Conference was transferred to an online Zoom event with an entertaining introduction by the 19th Earl of Devon, Charlie Courtenay, followed by our talented and knowledgeable speakers.

I received 170 bookings with 139 from the British Isles, USA 24, Canada 3, France 2 and Australia 2, so the event became truly international. Thank you.

Maureen Selley (4019)



Chairman's Notes November 2021

Thank you so much to all those who supported us for our second online AGM and helped it to run smoothly. I am looking forward to being your chairman for another year. We have been made aware that a few of those who were sent the voting papers by post did not receive them in time for you to return them by the deadline. I can only apologise for this, which was caused by a combination of circumstances, not least, longer than normal delivery times on the part of the postal service. It is difficult for us to start the process any earlier as we have to wait until the deadlines for nominations and motions are passed but we will do our best to find a way around this next year.



Thank you too for all the responses to the questionnaire; these have been most helpful and interesting. We will report back fully after the survey closes on 31 December. It seems that what we are doing is meeting with the approval of most of you. We are not complacent and are always open to suggestions at any time. As I said in my AGM report, please remember that excellent suggestions usually require volunteers to implement them and without those volunteers, some will remain undone. If you haven't already responded to the questionnaire, there is still time for you to have your say and help to shape the future of our Society by filling in the form that you will have been sent if we do not have an email address for you.

We will be discussing all the comments raised in the questionnaire in detail. Sadly, a few of you are suggesting that we do things that we are already doing; we need to work on selling ourselves and making it clear what we have to offer. You do need to read the Historian, or look out for emails and social media or website announcements, to keep up to date. Everything of importance will be in the Historian or emailed directly to you (with paper copies for those not on email); you just might get to hear about it sooner via other means.

Please be assured that all the trustees and volunteers give their time and expertise freely to do the best that they can for our Society. We are human, we do make mistakes. Occasionally, you may feel dissatisfied about an aspect of what we do. We take all your concerns very seriously and would ask that, in the first place, you address these directly to us in writing, by emailing or writing to me using the contact details on the inside cover of the Historian. Obviously, if your dissatisfaction is with me, then you need to approach one of the other trustees. We are keen to resolve any problems swiftly and privately, whilst avoiding misinformation being spread, or put in a public forum. We can only deal with issues if you let us know about them. Please also see page 7 for an explanation of Devon FHS's presence on Facebook.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our editor Sally and her new husband, John, on their recent marriage. Despite wedding preparations, Sally has not only been able to give us a talk but has continued to produce this excellent journal, as well as working on the documentation that goes out in connection with the AGM and other publicity material for the Society. Thank you Sally and very best wishes to you and John.

Dr Janet Few, Chairman (7988)

A War Time Tragedy

In April 2021 it was 80 years since *Inverdene*, an air raid shelter situated in Central Park, Plymouth, was bombed with the loss of nine lives. One of the survivors, Brian Searle, who now lives in Weymouth, was 6 years old at the time and went in the shelter along with his mother and grandfather. Bombs could be heard dropping all over the city and there were tremendous bangs as anti-aircraft guns opened up. When they arrived a neighbour spoke to Mrs Searle and asked if she would change places with her as she would prefer to be nearer the entrance so that she could get some air. Brian and his mother then went further into the shelter leaving his granddad smoking a pipe at the door. About an hour later a bomb hit the entrance killing nine people including Brian's grandfather, the neighbour and her two children. Mrs Searle and Brian were amongst the last survivors to be pulled out of the shelter.

The husband of their neighbour, Mrs Hawking and their two children, had been on fire duty in another part of the city, only to come home and find that all his family had been killed.

In 2011 Brian returned to Plymouth to attend a service at the Chapel at Ford Park Cemetery, where a large plaque was unveiled giving the names of all the citizens who were killed in Plymouth during the blitz. Afterwards we returned to the site of the shelter and were surprised to find that there was a lot of work going on there. We were told that South West Water was laying down sewerage pipes and carrying out major drainage works. During the excavation they found the entrance to the air raid shelter. Prior to this they were not aware that there had been a shelter there.

When I passed by the site recently, I could not help reflecting that it was a shame that there was nothing to mark what had happened all those years ago. I was put in touch with Plymouth City Councillor Tony Carsons who forwarded my request for a plaque to be erected on the site. I was delighted when I heard from Louisa Blight, Collections Manager of The Box, that the Council will be going ahead with erecting a plaque.

The names of the people who lost their lives are:

Maurice Creber aged 15	Charles Collins aged 72	John Cuthbert aged 52
David Hawking aged 11	Patricia Hawking aged 15	Winifred Hawking aged 41
Percy Hobba aged 35	Dennis Martin aged 13	Olive Pue aged 49

Of course, there were many other air raid shelters that were bombed in the war including the one at Portland Square where over 70 people lost their lives. At Ford Park Cemetery, exhibitions are held at the Visitor Centre in normal times and we had one several years ago about the blitz.

I remember at the time being surprised at the large number of private houses that were destroyed and the occupants killed. I was able to list all the streets involved with the names of the deceased. Apart from private houses and air raid shelters there were a number of other places where there were casualties such as the Royal Cinema, Friary Railway Station, the Dockyard, and the City Hospital, where some nurses, new mothers and babies lost their lives.

The list is endless and very sad to read.



I think it is important that young people should learn of what happened during the war years and that is one of the reasons that I am so glad that a plaque will be put up on the site of the Inverdene air raid shelter.

Shirley Stapley (806)

Devon Family History Society on Facebook

Twelve years ago Mandy Blake and Jackie Bidgood-Owen kindly offered to host a Facebook Group under the name of Devon Family History Society. This group, which was set up with Society approval and support, has borne our name and logo and is perceived to be the Society's group. It has always been ably run by the admins without input from the DFHS trustees or members of a DFHS sub-committee. When the group was set up, this informal arrangement was sufficient; the then trustees could not have anticipated the role that Facebook would play and there seemed no need for an official link between the page and the Society trustees. Over the years, the group, under the guidance of the admins, has grown exponentially and done an exceptional job promoting family history in Devon and helping group members with research.

For reasons of good governance and as part of a review of all our activities, it was decided that either the ad hoc relationship between the Facebook Group and the Society should be formalised, or that the group should continue as a transparently independent group. After much discussion, the mutual decision was to take the latter option.

We wish to stress that this is in no way whatsoever a reflection on the admins or their running of the group. We are very grateful for the huge amount of work that Mandy and Jackie have put in. Our relationship with the group and its admins remains perfectly amicable. Several DFHS trustees are and will continue to be, members of the Facebook Group. We strongly encourage you to use the Facebook Group as you have always done. The future of a formal presence of Devon Family History Society on various social media platforms is under review.

Dr Janet Few, Chairman (7988)

Playing The Long Game

The very first bequest in the 1669 will of Christopher Lethbridge, a wealthy grocer and ex-mayor of Exeter, was for a charity for the poor. The many others set up for them were "for ever", but on this one he played the long game (and went into detail of how it was to be administered). It started thus:

"First unto the poore of the parish of St Mary Arches within the foresaid City of Exeter I give devise limitt and appoint one annuity or yearely rent of Three pounds and eight pence to be paid quarterly for and dureing the term of Three thousand yeares."

Readers of the *Historian* may find his optimism amusing, astonishing or both.

John Moore (8610)

First unto the poore of the parish of St Mary Arches within the foresaid City of Exeter I give devise limitt and appoint one annuity or yearely rent of Three pounds and eight pence to be paid quarterly for and dureing the term of Three thousand yeares.

Ancestors and ancestors

My great grandmother was an important matriarch in the family, it seems. She was Emma Maria Williams, nee Lee, born Pilton 13 June 1847 and died Plymouth 6 May 1936.

Two main family stories have come down to us:

1. We owned the (or a) pottery in Barnstaple, but we lost it due to drunkenness.
2. We are descended from Huguenots and they owned a bank in Barnstaple. There is a fortune there if only we could actually prove it was ours. Some family came from Canada in the 1920s to try and prove it, but failed.

Yes, Greatgrandma...but stories from ancestors usually prove to be wrong.

Her son, my paternal grandfather, had 7 children, although after the first two his wife died after childbirth and he married again. The children had fairly normal first names, Sherwood, Gerald, Alfred, Ruth, Edwin, Samuel John and Roche. They then had a variety of family names which may have been greatgrandma's idea.

There was Smith, Watkins and Bedford from Lincolnshire which have made interesting studies in villages there and even into Rutland. There was Lee from Coleridge, Devon, who moved to Pilton and owned the Braddiford Toy Factory. There was Caldwell, traced to London in the late 18th century with an uncle who was a ship's captain in India at the time of the Opium Wars - what did he do? Wikipedia says that the Caldwells were Huguenots who settled first in Ayrshire and then in Co. Fermanagh. There was the Castle Caldwell where the line died out with two unmarried sisters in the 1920s. Is that our Huguenots and maybe our fortune? The Metherell family were in Launceston and moved to East Stonehouse, where greatgrandma's family lived after leaving Barnstaple around 1890. Then, Rendell. Mary Rendell (born Barnstaple 1803) married James Williams (born Torrington 1801, died Barnstaple 1860) at Barnstaple in 1823. That leaves Gould, Kent, and de la Roche.

I have been transcribing some Devon parish registers into Excel and recently worked on baptisms at St Peter's Church, Barnstaple. I came across a baptism of Elizabeth Jane Reed Rendell, baptised 7 April 1846. Her mother was Mary and father Elias de la Roche Rendell. That links two of the ancestors' names and sounds very like a Huguenot connection. The baptism record shows he was a potter and lived at Litchdon (one to you greatgrandma) and in the 1851 census he was a Master Potter employing three men.

I found an Elias de la Roche born Barnstaple 1703 and died Barnstaple 25 June 1755. That date suggests that he might be the first of his family born in England and his parents may have been born in France. His grand-daughter was Mary de la Roche, who was born in Barnstaple 1757 and she married James Rendell on 1 January 1778 at Barnstaple. Henceforth there are a great many boys called Elias de la Roche Rendell and later many Rendells using de la Roche as part of the name up to the 1970s

The Elias de la Roche who was the potter is to be found in Lancashire in the 1861 census with a different wife and is minister at a Swedenborg church, dying 20 May 1876 at Accrington. He wrote numerous books on obscure Biblical subjects. At least one son also became a Swedenborg Minister at various locations in Yorkshire and Lancashire. The New Jerusalem Church is an alternative name for Swedenborg Church.

Back to the link between de la Roche and Williams. Barnstaple parish registers are not yet transcribed on the Devon FHS Members' Area, so I got in touch with the Society for a search. Sue Bond did a lot of work on this for which I am very grateful.

She found that James Rendell (b.1760 who married Mary de la Roche (b 1757) had a son called James who was also a potter and it was his daughter, Mary Rendell who married James Williams in 1823. This Mary was the great great granddaughter of Elias de la Roche (b.1703) and she is my great great grandmother. There are a lot of 'James' married to 'Mary'. The Huguenot link is found - *another one to you greatgrandma*.

Searching on Google I found a site called "*Three Decks Forum*" and it showed me a privateer called Elias de la Roche - of French nationality working "*in the service of Great Britain*". He was operating out of Guernsey from 1694 to 1697 and "*maybe French Protestant*". It looks as if he was captured by the French in 1697, ending that career. Did he settle in Barnstaple, and was he the father of Elias de la Roche, born 1703? Looks likely. A privateer: was he the source of the unfound fortune?

That would leave the names of Gould and Kent to locate - and the fortune.

Francis Williams (18797)

Thank You, Devon's Public Library

It's often said that in 1914 Army recruiters simply ignored the trade a man might have and thereby lost valuable skills into the trenches.

My great-uncle Henry Albert Adams (1888-1957) was a butcher. When the time came for Harry to go to war in December 1916, he left his wife and 6-month-old daughter, and he did carry on his trade, with the Army Service Corps. He worked in Field Butchery no 4, behind the lines in France, helping to keep the troops fed, and was demobbed in December 1918. I knew him, and his service record survives.

Meanwhile, his brother, great-uncle William George Adams (1871 - 1926), whom I didn't know, gave his trade as electrician in the 1911 census and joined the Supply Branch of the Army Service Corps in March 1915, until leaving through illness in June 1917. His service record does not survive, but his death certificate from the Queen's Hospital in Chislehurst, Kent, describes him as a pensioned soldier of the RASC, and gives his service number, allowing me to find his medal card and his Silver War Badge record.

So, I had family history reasons to be interested in the Army Service Corps ("*Royal*" was added in 1918). My first stop was the Long Long Trail, <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/> the go-to website for anyone seeking information on World War 1. The ASC was not seen as a glamorous service, but without them the troops would not have been fed, housed and transported. I learnt of one book which describes the ASC's World War 1 operations in detail.


Army Service Corps 1902-1918

was written by Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Young, former curator of the Regimental Museum, and includes dozens

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of previously unpublished photographs from his own and the museum's collection, showing the ASC at work. Published in 2000, it is now out of print, and consequently even used copies are at a premium. For two years in the life of two great-uncles? On my budget, it was not a justified expense.

With no great hopes, I searched the Devon Library on-line catalogue (<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/advanced-search>) - and was rewarded! So, at the time of writing, this marvellous tome sits on my desk. True, it concentrates mostly on the transport aspect of the ASC, as this was a time of great developments. They used horses, mules, oxen, camels, steam traction engines, motorbikes, motor cars, lorries, ambulances, tracked vehicles (including the newly-invented tanks) and even commandeered red London buses, complete with their drivers, to journey around France and Flanders. Most of their fittest men were released to other units, but the ASC had their share of gallantry medals, including two Victoria Crosses. There are quotations from the diaries of private soldiers, comic poems and postcards, and extracts from exasperated orders, e.g. forbidding the untrained to drive the expensive new vehicles, even if they are officers, and reminding officers that the motorcars they use belong to the ASC for ASC purposes only.

But there is also a photograph of a Field Butchery (with their van) and there are the figures. When war started, in 1914, just over 6,000 officers and men, at home and abroad, were responsible for feeding 164,000 troops and 27,500 animals. By the Armistice on 11 November 1918, this had increased to more than 325,000 officers and men, feeding over five million troops and nearly 900,000 animals (including sheep and goats provided for the meals of the Indian soldiers).

My great uncles were Londoners, but among the ASC's 325,000+, I'm sure there will have been Devonians. I'm glad Devon Libraries gave me the opportunity to read about the challenges of developing a service to meet the escalating demands of war, and reminded me that it is always worth looking to see what the local library has.

Dawn Adams (11926)

Devon Libraries

Your library is open again. Some services may differ per library. Throughout the pandemic our focus has been keeping customers, staff and volunteers safe and this will be our continued focus over the coming months.

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/home>

Open for browsing books - please check opening times. Open for Choose and Collect, for computer use and meeting rooms - please pre-arrange a time.

Access to **Ancestry Library Edition** has temporarily extended to Devon Library members at home, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. Home access will be available until the end of December 2021 and will be re-evaluated monthly as needed.

To access Ancestry, you need to be logged in to this website with your borrower card number and PIN, you will then be able to see the special 'Ancestry Library Edition' link below and start your family history research. <https://www.ancestrylibraryedition.co.uk>
 October 2021 · <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/coronavirus-updates>



A family photo at Bish Mill

It was a rainy summer's afternoon in Eastbourne. I was twelve years old, and my Gran was trying to think of an activity to occupy me. She brought out a box full of old family photos and consequently ignited a lifelong interest in family history.

The picture that fascinated me showed my grandfather Sydney Frank Cole as a little boy aged about five and standing on a box. I had only known my grandfather for a short while, as he died when I was four years old. My Gran was able to tell me that the man next to Sydney was her father-in-law, and consequently my great grandfather, Francis Cole.

The photo had been taken at Bish Mill, a hamlet east of South Molton, Devon, in about 1904. A copy of this photo is still in my living room today, and has also been shared with many other descendants of Richard Cole on Ancestry.

There were two other men in the photo, both seated. Gran was unable to tell me their names, but guessed that they must be Sydney's grandfather and great grandfather.

I immediately set to work drawing up a family tree starting with myself. Then with my Gran's help we made a list of relatives to write to, who might be able to provide me with more information. This letter writing activity kept me busy for the rest of the summer holiday!



Left to right: Richard Cole (1811-1905), Francis Cole (1870-1951), Sydney Frank Cole (1897-1956) and William Cole (1841-1905).

I was soon able to identify the seated figures as my 2x great grandfather William Cole seated in front of my grandfather Sydney Frank Cole, and my 3x great grandfather Richard Cole seated in front of my great grandfather Francis Cole.

By the age of sixteen I was making regular trips to Somerset House and The Public Record Office to search for family certificates and expand the family with census details.

My next major breakthrough came after I received a letter from a grandson of Richard Cole, Ernest William Cole, who astonished me with the information that Richard Cole had married twice. With his first wife Richard Cole had seven children and with his second wife he had seven more children! He was able to provide me with details of living descendants and more letter writing ensued with great results. This was in the 1970s and well before the advent of *Ancestry*.

Jenny Bell (22411)



A. Luppitt St. Mary.
North East corner of the Norman font.
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B. Exeter St. Pancras.
© Copyright [http://www.cornishchurches.com/Exeter St Pancras.](http://www.cornishchurches.com/Exeter%20St%20Pancras)



C. Dunkeswell St. Nicholas.
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D. Dolton St. Edmund.
© Copyright [http://www.cornishchurches.com/Dolton.](http://www.cornishchurches.com/Dolton)

Four Fascinating Devon Fonts

Text extracted from *Some Old Devon Churches* by John Stabb

Source: <https://www.wissensdrang.com/dstabb.htm>

A. Luppitt St. Mary. At the west end of the church there is a very interesting Norman font, one of the finest specimens in Devonshire; the square bowl and part of the shaft are old, the lower part of the shaft and the base are modern. The bowl is elaborately carved on each of the four sides. On the east side, is a human face with grotesque mask above, in the centre is carved a scene of which it is difficult to give a meaning, ... In the centre is a human head, on the left hand side of which is a male figure, holding apparently a large nail just over the head in the centre; on the right is another figure holding a nail or hammer in the right hand, and a mushroom-shaped object above its head in the left hand. The right hand corner of the east side bears the tail and hind quarters of a Centaur, which is continued round to the north side. At the top of the corner, just over the back of the Centaur, is carved a human face, but without the mask that is in the south-east corner. The Centaur holds in its hands a spear, and in front are two long-necked animals with their mouths open, and showing rows of long teeth. There is another face at the north-west corner, and the west face of the font is covered with a design representing the Tree of Life. There is another face at the south-west corner, and the south side of the bowl is carved with different animals; the largest is apparently a deer, and beneath is a dog hunting a hare; there seems to be two animals above the deer, but the remains are too worn to enable even a guess to be made as to what they are intended to represent.

<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/product/deanery-of-dunkeswell-baptisms-1813-1839-marriages-1754-1837-and-burials-1813-1837/>

Luppitt baptisms 1813-1839, marriages 1754-1838, burials 1813-1837

B. Exeter St. Pancras. The building bears evidence of greater antiquity than almost any other church in Exeter, and the font is probably the oldest in Exeter. It is massive and circular, with a decoration of pellet moulding round the top; it has been restored by scraping it as smooth as possible, so removing the appearance of the antiquity it undoubtedly has.

<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/product/deanery-of-christianity-exeter-baptisms-1813-1839-marriages-1754-1837-and-burials-1813-1837/>

St. Pancras baptisms 1813-1840, marriages 1754-1837, burials 1800-1837

C. Dunkeswell St. Nicholas. With the exception of the font, the church does not contain much of interest; the font is, however, worth seeing. It is circular in shape, decreasing slightly in size at the centre, which is surrounded by a twist pattern, not cable moulding; beneath the twist is a scallop pattern. The upper portion of the font is divided into eight panels; in one there is a figure of a bishop arrayed in chasuble and holding a staff (shown); next to this is another figure, apparently in chains; there are also represented a king, a lord and a lady, and an elephant. It is difficult to date the font, it might be Norman, but if the elephant was sculptured from life the font cannot be earlier than the 13th century as, according to Matthew Paris, the first elephant was seen in England in 1255, when King Henry III received one from Louis IX of France. It has been suggested that the lord and the lady may be intended for Lord William de Briwere and his wife; he was the founder of Dunkeswell Abbey. The presence of an elephant on a font is

appropriate, as there was an ancient belief that the elephant brought forth her young in the water, and the animal thus became a symbol of the new birth in the water of baptism. The carvings on the font are much worn and difficult to make out; the elephant will be found on the west side.

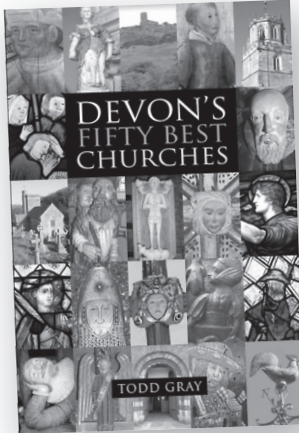
<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/product/deanery-of-dunkeswell-baptisms-1813-1839-marriages-1754-1837-and-burials-1813-1837/>

Dunkeswell baptisms 1813-1839, marriages 1754-1837, burials 1800-1837

D. Dolton St. Edmund. The old font is composed of two blocks of stone mounted one on top of the other, and carved with interlaced and serpentine patterns. The carved stone ... must be of great antiquity, and most probably formed part of one or possibly two ancient carved shafts, which, from the character of the carving, might date back for a 1000 years or more. When the shaft was converted into a font the upper portion was turned upside down, so to see the carving correctly the illustrations should be held in the same position. On the upper part of the south side is a human face, an animal, possibly intended for a dragon, issuing from each nostril. On the west side are two animals somewhat similar in character to those on the south, but they have wings and feet, and there is no human face in the centre of the panel. The eastern side has two animals, apparently intended for some kind of fish, with their tails crossed and their heads uniting at the top of the bowl. The north side (shown) is carved with the figure of eight pattern on the lower block, and the upper with an effective pattern which is constantly found on early sculptured stones in Great Britain.

<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/product/deanery-of-torrington-baptisms-1813-1839-marriages-1754-1837-and-burials-1813-1837/>

Dolton baptisms 1813-1840, marriages 1754-1838, burials 1813-1837



On the Bookshelf.....

Devon's Fifty Best Churches

Dr Todd Gray

208 pages and over 300 illustrations, mainly stunning colour photographs. The Mint Press. £15.00. Available direct through StevensBooks via sales@themintpress.co.uk, 01392 459760 or www.stevensbooks.co.uk

Devon's Anglican churches are our greatest storehouse of ancient treasures but the sheer number of them (there are more than 600) is so daunting that few people discover which ones are particularly worth visiting. This book reveals where they can be found and provides a historical framework to understand them.

Fifty buildings have been selected, a personal choice, which hold the most outstanding examples of stained glass, fonts, carved bench ends, screens, memorials and pulpits. These churches continue to fulfil their main purpose as centres of faith but they can also be visited by those who appreciate extraordinary items of beauty, and often local craftsmanship, which are made of wood, stone, glass and metal.

This book will be a great incentive for planning an interesting "day out".

Home at Last

For many of us, the last fifteen months or so have meant restrictions to our lives, but they also gave us the opportunity to do some of those jobs that we never get around to doing.

I felt it really was time to do something with the number of photographs that we have taken and also inherited. I have been very lucky to have many photos from my maternal side and quite a few on my dad's side, most of them with pencilled names on the back. However, on my husband's side, I have several hundred photos plus those which his cousin lent me from his mother's collection. I scanned over 700 photos.



Luckily, I had asked my mother-in-law who were the people in the photos and was able to add more names. That left me with quite a large box of photographs in mounts, plus several photos where the subjects were unknown, or possibly unrelated.

One photo was of twin girls with their older sister and I felt I needed to find their real home and get the photo back to a relative. I also had several more photos of the children in the scanned images from my husband's cousin Ron. There was no indication of when or where the photos were taken.

As my husband and Ron are the children of two brothers who married two sisters, I was convinced that they must belong to the family somewhere. After more in-depth research of the extended families, I could not find anything.

I asked one of the administrators of the Devon Family History Facebook page for permission to post the photo online, in the hope someone would recognise the girls. I had many lovely comments about the photo but no one claimed them. I added another later photo, but again no luck.

Next, I tried searching Free BMD for the Plymouth Registration District, by each quarter and year by year from 1935 to 1946, picking out the girl twins and keeping a look out for our family surnames. I couldn't believe how many sets of twins were born and the task became too tedious. I left it all for a few weeks.



Later, whilst searching through some boxes, I came across two pieces of A4 paper with photos printed on them. I had asked Ron if he knew the people in the various photos, one of which was that of the girls. I had written beside it, Mrs James's granddaughters, with the first names of two of the girls (Jean and Rosemary) and that Mrs James was the landlady of the house where another of my husband's aunt and uncle lived. My next task was to search the 1939 register for the aunt and uncle and lo and behold, Mrs James and her husband were in the same house in Devonport.

Now I had something to work on. I found the marriage of Mr and Mrs James and then traced the James children and found the marriages for the daughters. The next task was to look for the children of the marriages and find who had twin girls. I eventually found marriages for the twins, one of whom had married a man called Ken.

Ken had a more unusual surname, so I searched Facebook in the hope I would find him. I did! I looked to see what 'Friends' he had, but from my research I was reluctant to contact any of them as I was unsure of their relationship to Ken. I eventually sent Ken a private message and eagerly awaited a reply. After a couple of days, I had heard nothing.



A scroll through his Facebook posts showed that he was not an active user, but he had mentioned that his son had visited for the day, although no name was mentioned. Scrolling further through his posts, I saw his announcement that his wife had passed away, so I searched the local newspaper online and found the death announcement. This gave me the names of their four sons, two of them deceased. Another search on

Facebook and I found the eldest son, Richard. I sent him a private message explaining my message to his father and that I had several photographs of members of his family.

I had a quick response saying yes, one of the twins was his mother. I sent a copy of one of the photos. He was thrilled and did say he had seen the photo before. He told me that the twins had both died in the last few years, but their elder sister Jean was still alive and living in Yorkshire and he was going to visit her in a few weeks. I sent him electronic copies of the photos I had.



I then contacted cousin Ron to ask if he would be willing to part with the original photographs he had, so I could send them to Richard. A visit to Ron ended with finding more photos of Mr and Mrs James and it appears that Mrs James attended Ron's wedding. Being a few years older than them, Ron remembered the girls well. I sent a scanned photo of a teenage Ron to Richard, so he could show his aunt Jean when he visited her. She recognised him immediately.

I offered to do a bit of family history research for Richard and sent that with the photos. There were eleven photos, two of which were duplicates, which are now rehomed with their rightful family. Mission accomplished.

The day after I posted the packet to Richard, I received a private message from Ken. He lives just around the corner from where my husband lived and he told me that he knew Ron before he met the twins.

What a small world. Richard wants to meet me and my husband when he next comes to visit his father and I have no doubt Ron will be joining us. Two lads who knew each other before the war will have plenty to talk about.

So, please don't throw out those unknown photographs, take on the challenge and see if you can find out who they are.

Sources:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/devonfhs>

<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/1939-register>

Janet Henwood (4846)

A Buckland Brewer Benevolence

I have gleaned much information as a result of joining DFHS in January 2019 and am very grateful for the additions I've made to my family history research. So, I thought it's time to make a contribution!

My main line of research is into the Hamlyn family originating in Woolsery (not the Hamlyns of Clovelly, although they did own property at Marshall and Kennerland close to Woolsery). My Dad used to joke about sending me to Clovelly Court to claim kin, but I have grown to know and like my ancestors who, I believe, worked hard and loved their children.

Thus far, I have identified 17 Thomas Hamlyns and 21 William Hamlyns. With the usual aids of archives, Ancestry, FindMyPast plus spreadsheets I am rising to the challenge of understanding them and unravelling their lives. In 1824 two cousins were baptised in Woolsery, each with the name William - son of Thomas on 29th February and son of Susanna on 28th November. Of Thomas's seven children, six have been attributed their histories. William (son of Thomas) spent his life in Woolsery and is buried at St Anne's churchyard Bucks Mills. Susanna was the youngest of 8 children whose mother died a few weeks after her birth.

William son of Susanna was hidden deeper in the records. There are two census returns for 1841 each recording a William Hamlyn born about 1824 and the same is true for 1851. They were farm labourers at Bucks Mills and Herswell in 1841, then Woolsery and Abbotsham 10 years later. By 1861 William son of Susanna was long gone. It transpires that he married Martha Moase (mis-transcribed variously as Mosse, Morse, Mouse, Moose, Moses, Moare, Moate....) of Buckland Brewer in the 4th quarter of 1854 and the following year the pair sailed to Tasmania where they resided for at least 7 years before leaving for New Zealand. William was resident in NZ until he died in 1910, Martha having passed away in 1894, leaving 6 grown up children.

Martha was the eighth child of nine born to Thomas Moase and Sarah (Sally) Chapple. She was baptised in Buckland Brewer on 16th September 1832. By the time Martha was 7 years old, her parents had separated and Sally was caring for her three youngest children plus her 6-month-old daughter. In 1851 Martha worked as a domestic servant in Torrington. On 31st May 1853 Martha gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Jane. The birth was registered by Jane Tucker of Oras, Buckland Brewer on July 11th. Jane had been present at the birth.

Of course, I was then curious to know what happened to Sarah Jane who did not go to Tasmania with her mother. This meant delving into the history of Buckland Brewer resident Jane Tucker. As Jane Lang, she was born in Sutcombe about 1793. From the Devon FHS records, I found the entry of her marriage to James Tucker on 1st April 1830 in Buckland Brewer. In a transcription of the 1851 census Jane was described as

married, aged 47 and living at Hores (Oras), Buckland Brewer with her husband James Tucker, who was a boot and shoe builder. The census record for Jane and James for 1861 shows them still at Oras. He is described as a cordwainer and Sarah Jane Moses aged 7 is registered as a boarder with Jane and James. James was born in Milton Damerel, was marked as a sojourner on his marriage certificate and died in 1868 aged 69.

By 1871 Jane was widowed and she and Sarah Jane were sharing Wrangworthy Cottage at Buckland Brewer. Jane was then aged 76, *formerly cordwainer's wife; while Sarah was 17, lodger, unmarried, and a servant without employment.* Sarah Jane Moase married Thomas Harding in the 2nd quarter of 1873. In 1881 Sarah and Thomas were living at West Wrangworthy, Buckland Brewer, with their four young children. Jane Tucker was with them as a boarder, aged 88 and assigned the title of formerly shoemaker's wife.

In 1891 the Harding family worked and lived at Lower Silford Farm, Northam. Sarah and Thomas had seven children at home that year. In 1901 and 1911 the family still occupied Lower Silford Farm House. There were consistently a large group of children, grandchildren and visitors present. The total number of children borne by Sarah was at least nine. Perhaps Jane took pleasure in the first four of them as a surrogate grandma in their early years? Sarah Jane Harding died in 1929, outliving her husband by 17 years. Towards the end of 1881 Jane passed away. Although probably lonely with no children of her own and left widowed in her early 60s, Jane was no doubt glad to have the company of Sarah Jane. Was Martha saved from the Workhouse and allowed to enjoy her married life abroad? Were the two households saved from applying to the parish for financial assistance for the child? Who knows, maybe Jane played matchmaker to Martha and William? I wonder too, if Martha and Jane kept in touch with each other? Had Jane and James really performed an act of kindness? I like to think that the arrangement suited all parties.

Maggie Hitchens (23647)

'Foreigners' in Devon

I am heading a new project, with the Devon & Cornwall Record Society, to list all foreigners noted in the county's parish registers. More than twenty years ago I pulled together a similar project for the Friends of Devon's Archives which was limited to African and/or black men and women. This new endeavour will also include the Irish, Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese and any other people from places outside Great Britain.



The report will be placed on the Society's website and updated on a regular basis. If you have noted any such entries related to baptisms/births, marriages and burials/deaths, and are interested in helping, please email me and I can send the guidelines.

Todd Gray

Image courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art.

Not always plain sailing: Finding a grave

As family historians, we are all likely to be aware that revealing the nuggets of information about an ancestor in our research can be very uplifting but that equally when you think that everything is plain sailing, to use mixed nautical metaphors, when the wind changes you can feel left up a virtual creek without a paddle.

This is a brief outline of the issues I confronted and the sources I pursued in an effort to locate the final resting place of my paternal great great grandfather from Starcross - to no avail.

James and Susanna Barratt were married in Starcross in 1837 and had a typically large family. They lived for a half century in various cottages in Church Street and New Road. James identified himself as a waterman or boatman in various census returns across the years. When his wife died in tragic circumstances in 1895, he was described in the newspapers as *'an aged mariner, who of late years has been widely known and respected as one of the Starcross boatmen'*. In fact, James bequeathed both his names to three successive generations of my family, to a grandson, a great grandson and my brother, a great great grandson. So he has a special interest for me. He was also the subject of family folklore, in which it was claimed that as a boatman he sailed the boat that was in the form of a cygnet that was connected to the well-known Swan Boat on the River Exe. The Cygnet is now on display in the Topsham Museum. A wholly as yet, unsubstantiated detail, but one that has all the romance that many like me hope to discover in their family history research, I am sure.

However, as a consequence of my researches at the Devon Heritage Centre in Sowton, Exeter, I discovered that both James and Susanna had sad and tragic ends to their lives. Susanna's death is covered in a separate article, so the focus herein concerns what happened to her husband James, and my efforts to find his final resting place after the few tempestuous final days of his life in March 1904.

In view of his residence and work in the village for so many years, I believe he must have been well known while alive. This was borne out to some extent by the newspaper referenced above. As my family had no surviving photographic image of my great great grandfather, when the Atmospheric Railway museum in Starcross closed down many years ago, I made a belated effort to try and trace where the photographs were subsequently re-located. I recalled when visiting the Museum, it had an extensive collection of photographs of local people which had not been displayed. Despite pursuing several lines of enquiry, I didn't make the progress I had hoped and when the trail went cold, I abandoned that for the time being.

Living on his own after the death of his wife, James was admitted to the Exminster Asylum as a *'pauper lunatic'*. Devon FHS has a transcription of the register and documents relating to his admission on 25th March 1904. It was said that he had been a heavy drinker some twenty years before. He had had a magnificent physique and been a good boxer, but was now found to be emaciated. He had started showing signs of unusual behaviour a fortnight before his admission. He was described as being confused and distressed and unable to answer a single question. He resisted all attempts to help him and refused to take food offered to him. It was pretty clear he was suffering from some form of dementia. James Barratt died on 27th March 1904 aged 89 years at the Exminster Asylum.

His death certificate describes the cause of death as '*senile decay & bronchitis*'.

I very much wanted to find where he was buried which is where the fun started. I had presumed that the burial would have been in Starcross parish where he had lived for most of his life. But no such luck, even though his wife was buried in an unmarked grave at St. Paul's Church a decade earlier. It is perhaps worth mentioning that according to the churchwarden there were problems with how some records, such as a map of the graveyard and burial locations, had been kept by a previous incumbent. This had regrettably resulted in their current whereabouts being unknown.

Acting on a suggestion from the churchwarden I subsequently contacted the Starcross History Society and they published an article about my search for the grave of James Barratt on their website. I also took the opportunity to ask if any of the members and readers had or could locate any photographs of '*Old Starcross*' in a continuing effort to try and identify James or his family when they were living in the village. Grateful for the opportunity to widen the search, it was disappointing that I had no responses.

I therefore assumed that my great great grandfather had been buried on the site of the Exminster Asylum where he had actually died. A search of the records at the Heritage Centre with the help of the Archivist revealed nothing.

Acting on the advice of the Archives staff at Sowton, I followed up my research by looking in the burial registers of parishes adjacent to and in the vicinity of Starcross including Kenton, Powderham and Exminster but all with no success. The Cemeteries Officer for Teignbridge District Council checked the registers for both Dawlish and Teignmouth Cemeteries, but also to no avail. Similarly, Exeter City's Bereavement Services confirmed that there was no burial record in their three cemeteries: Higher, Exwick and Topsham. As there seems to have been some issues about the correct spelling of the name - it is 'Barratt', but it was entered at the Asylum as Barrett and on other occasions as Barnet[t] I had wondered if those looking in registers would pick up on any misspellings.

I lived with my frustrations until in March 2020 I was signposted to staff at the Devon FHS's Tree House Research Centre in Exeter. In particular, DFHS Research Coordinator Sue Bond agreed to help me and apply her knowledge and skills to my problem. Despite re-checking all the parishes mentioned above by looking at the original records for the first half of 1904 in order to throw up any issues I had about any variations on the name spelling, she was also unable to locate his grave. The search was extended to the burial registers of James's birth parish, Mary Tavy, just in case he had been returned there. These burial register images are on the Devon FHS's Members' Area. Also checked were the Exeter Bereavement Cards. It was the view of Tree House volunteers that the range of experts and others including them and me, had all looked at various sources to no avail.

So, the search continues for the grave of James Barratt, my great great grandfather. What I hoped would be plain sailing in calm waters for my quest to find it, has proven elusive so far. But if any reader can help or comes across it in their own researches, I would be very glad to hear from you. Sue Bond gave me the most optimistic response when she advised me to keep looking from time to time, as all of a sudden '*it might just pop up*'. I sincerely hope it does.

Les Gibbings (2571)



The Swan & The Cygnet - well known craft on the River Exe from the 1860s. The restored Cygnet is the prize exhibit in the Topsham Museum.

Introductory note made on James's admission to the Asylum, March 1904.

13

DATE OF ADMISSION 25: March 1904

No.	Name.	Station or Occupation.	Age.	Married or Single.	Religion.	Attack.	Epileptic.	Subacute.
	James. Barrett:	Fisherman.	89.	widow	Ch ^r	1 st	No	No

HISTORY OF THE CASE.

No. instance of Paralysis nor Insanity
 Patient a heavy drinker 20 years ago.
 Has had a magnificent phlegm and
 been a great boxer
 Patient was quite well until a fortnight
 ago when he left home at night in a
 nude condition

A Troublesome Wench

Members may be amused (as the writer was not) in an extract from the 1591 will of Nicholas Atwill of Crediton:

If John Stronge will take away his daughter Petronell from my wife & son in law Giles King will that they be no more troubled nor charged with her, she shall be paid 20s.

Petronell would have been just coming up or just over eighteen at the time.

John Moore (8610)

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1724	John Amyatt	1787
1725	John Clarke	1788
1726	John Gylberte	1789
1727	John Amyatt	1791
1728	William Payne	1792
1729	Christopher Pridham	1793
1730	John Clarke	1794
1731	James Teape	1795
1732	Richard Vavasor	1796
1733	John Fox	1797
1734	James Buckley	1798
1735	John Amyatt	1799
1736	William Cumming	1800
1737	Nicholas Trist	1801
1738	Christopher Pridham	1802
1739	Benjamin Amyatt	1803
1740	John Clarke	1804
1741	James Teape	1805
1742	Richard Legassick	1806
1743	John Phillips	1807
1744	Peter Gay	1808
1745	Richard Vavasor	1809
1746	James Teape (DEED)	



1. Advertisement in Barry Dock News, 1901
2. Bible (publ. 1743), now in Totnes Museum
3. From the Mayors' Board, Guildhall, Totnes
4. Fruit shop, Bedminster, early 1900s
5. Bell, 1700, Little Hempston Church

Legassick - Filling the Gaps, Third Edition, 2021

Since I am fortunate enough to have several Devon ancestors with relatively unusual surnames, researching them and then writing about them has kept me delightfully busy for a good many years. But one thing leads to another, and for one family, what started out about 14 years ago as a fairly narrowly focussed ancestral project, has gradually grown into a wide-ranging 'One-Name Study'. The compilation of the latest edition of the Legassick book was actually a joint effort. My co-author Susan Simpson née Legassick and I have had a long and happy collaboration, bouncing ideas off one another, aiding and abetting each other's sleuthings. In the vague hope that an occasional family history enthusiast may find that they have a Legassick(e) ancestor or two, and may be interested in reading about them, we have compiled a book (actually in two volumes) and had it printed. There is now a copy of this at the Tree House, also in various other libraries in Devon and elsewhere.

Despite having a French sounding surname, the family probably originated in Cornwall. However, during the 1500s almost all Legassicks seem to have been firmly settled in Ermington, near Modbury. From there they gradually spread all over South Devon, and then towards large towns in England and Wales. Nowadays they are spread worldwide, though a handful still live and work in Devon.

The fact that one enthusiastic member of the clan started a website several years ago was very useful: www.legassick.net The site attracted information from and about clansfolk all over the world, and helped to establish relationships between branches. [The website at present also includes the second edition of the Legassick book, now definitely superceded.] Sue Simpson made contact with many Legassicks, and with the help of the internet, we scoured records far and wide to find interesting details about clan members.

The records of court cases held at the National Archives proved a very rich resource. An article about one early Legassicke appeared in *The Devon Family Historian* in 2008 (No. 128). It told the extraordinary story of an illegal arranged marriage which led to a court case heard at the Court of the Star Chamber in 1611. The relatively recently available online indexes to newspapers provided plenty of rich pickings. In 1885 a direct ancestor of Sue, William John Alfred Legassick (1860 - 1941), at the time working as an agricultural labourer in Loddiswell, took his employer to court over the non-payment of a harvest bonus which had been promised. William won. He had risked being black-listed, but, since the case was reported in newspapers, he seems to have done his fellow labourers a great favour. It seems the action did not harm his career either.

We found out about Legassicks in all walks of life, from about 1520 to the present day. There were clergymen (one with his name inscribed on a bell in Little Hempston Church), a missionary in China, a solicitor who impounded some cattle to recover a debt and then lost a court case about it, an innkeeper in Tavistock and then Barnstaple who became the butler of the Dean of Canterbury, a successful carrier from Plymouth and later of Cardiff who had railway trucks emblazoned with the name Legassick, a harbourmaster who finally retired at the age of 95, a handkerchief maker in New Jersey whose grandfather, after a long and successful career in the Royal Navy, was suddenly discharged with dishonour and labelled 'bad', a family of fancy box and cabinet makers in London, potters, fruiterers, wholesale drapers, jewellers, petty

criminals, woolcombers, yeomen, labourers, mayors, shoemakers, schoolmasters, soldiers, doctors/surgeons (one who died of malaria in Sumatra), booksellers, etc. etc. For quite a number of these people, sufficient documentary evidence was found to help put flesh on the bones.

Sadly, finding images of Legassick people was not so easy. Certainly no portraits were found, but a few fairly old photographs had survived in family collections. Several houses where Legassicks had lived in the distant past were located and photographed, and a few delightful old paintings of villages where families lived have been included as illustrations. Some 35 family trees of different Legassick branches were included (in Volume 2), dividing the clan into distinct branches. Also there are indexes of marriages and wills, which are designed to help readers locate their Legassick ancestors in the books, both on a tree and in the text.

Because it is so difficult finding out about the characters of long-dead people, it seemed that the only way to make the book even moderately readable or digestible was to try to describe the background to their lives and the possible reasons for the situations they found themselves in. If you happen across a copy of *Legassick - Filling the Gaps* in a library, we hope you will enjoy browsing in it. Copies are available from the authors.

Richard G. Grylls (6284)

Sue M. Simpson (658)

Dear Editor: Can anyone help?

My search for John Melton, my 3x great grandfather, born c1775.

During a short window of relaxed Covid regulations in September 2020, I travelled over 250 miles with Marie my specialist family tree researcher, to visit the North Devon Record Office in Barnstaple. She had set up my Melton Family Tree on www.ancestry.co.uk and we were looking for some confirmed details about my 3rd great-grandfather, John Melton, his wife and other ancestors. Although our appointment had been made some weeks prior to our visit, our arranged contact was isolating and therefore unavailable. The remaining staff were as helpful as they could be but we were unable to access the records we had previously requested.

It was during the lockdown that I contacted Tree House, the Society's research centre in Exeter, as we have traced that Devon is where John Melton and maybe others of my predecessors lived. Although the Centre was closed, some of the lead volunteers were busy answering calls from home. I have to thank Sue Bond for the incredible amount of help and guidance she kindly gave me, but eventually the brick wall was also with Sue Bond, as with everybody who kindly offered to help.

Another reason for visiting Barnstaple was to visit Pilton Church. Information from my own Melton family records/research, show my 2x great grandfather Charles Pike Melton (son of John and Ann Melton) was baptised in Pilton Church in 1805; also his two brothers, John Pike Melton (bap.1800), William Melton (bap.1802) and sister Sarah Melton (bap.1801).

We met the Pilton churchwarden Bill Sanders who gave us a tour of this wonderful church and he kindly researched the church burial/grave records but found nothing

on record. He advised that further records were possibly in the North Devon Record Office or Barnstaple Church. Although being there two hours earlier, unfortunately we were not allowed back into the North Devon Record Office as the waiting list was many weeks ahead so we now had to go to the back of the queue. Barnstaple Church was closed.

The 1851 census shows that Charles Pike Melton was born in Barnstaple and christened in Pilton, Devon in 1805. His middle name, Pike, hinted at the maiden name of Charles's mother. Unfortunately, no-one was coordinating the Melton name on the Guild of One Name Studies website but they indicated that *"the Pike surname has its deepest roots in the West Country and...DNA results from 250 Pike men revealed over 20 distinct family clusters with that name"*.

There are a few Pikes/Pykes on the 1803 Barnstaple census but no Meltons.
<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Barnstaple/Barnstaple1803>

On *FindMyPast*, Charles Pike Melton's siblings, John Pike Melton, William Melton and Sarah Melton are noted, showing their parents were John and Ann Melton.

Going back through history the amateur genealogist will have many brick-walls. Here was our next one, Ann who? Perhaps Ann Pike? - but there were several of that name in Devon around 1800 and none had married a John Melton. There were very few leads when searching for the siblings of Charles Pike Melton - John, William and Sarah, all would all be around 40 years of age by the time of the 1841 census and there was nothing to connect them with their parents. Also, like their brother Charles, they may have moved to London.

Back home and continuing with our research we found a John Milton (maybe imperfectly scribed on his marriage record) who had married Ann (nee Pike) Burgess a widow in 1799 in Wiveliscombe Devon. Their witnesses were Jane Pike and William Melton...eureka!... surely, they are my 3x great grandparents, therefore on the female side, possibly, John Pike (1737) and Joan Rendle (1732) are my 4x great grandparents? Luckily several people have a Joan Rendle in their family tree but, for us the search goes on for John Melton's ascendants. Who was John Melton?

Research has verified the name Pike entering the Melton line but another brick wall mystery for us is my great grandfather's middle name - Arthur Mackenzie Melton (son of Charles Pike Melton). We cannot find how the name Mackenzie has arrived. We are hoping the lineage of that name could help with our Tacking research.

We found a Mary Anne Mackenzie (bap. 31 Jan 1858) at Georgeham Devon, her mother listed only as Caroline but no mother's surname registered on Mary Anne's document. Arthur Mackenzie's wife is a Caroline (nee Carter) Melton. Surely none too many Mackenzies are in that area of Devon during that era ? however, a shot in the dark.

Our research has found another John Melton who was baptised in Barnstaple on 27 Jan 1705 to Thomas and Hannah Melton, but no record of his descendants can be found..... however, another shot in the dark.

So, all you Meltons, Miltons, Pikes/Pykes, Mackenzies and any other names out there, I ask if you could kindly make contact and help us on our journey.

Brian Leslie Melton (24027)

Dinah Simmons - A revealing certificate

I was interested to read Les Gibbings article, *A Civil Registration Certificate can have unknown family gold!* in the August 2021 Historian.

My great grandmother, Dinah Reed, was born on the 4th December 1838 in Milton Abbott to Robert Reed and Hannah Reed, formerly Adams. She married Samuel Willcocks Simmons in Plymouth on 6th September 1858. They had three children:

Robert Henry Simmons born 8th April 1859 but died from measles 24th June 1869, my maternal grandmother, Edith Minnie Simmons 15th June 1864 - 10th October 1954 and Samuel Ernest Simmons 1st March 1870 - 17th June 1924.

The family were on the 1871 census living in Clarence Street, Plymouth but by the 1881 census Dinah and her two surviving children were living at 44 Harwell Street, Plymouth with Jonathan Simmons, who was not related to Samuel. Dinah is shown as his wife. The family story was that Samuel Willcocks Simmons went to Canada but was never heard from again.

On 15th April 1876 Jonathan married Dinah Simmons by banns, in St Edward's Parish Church, Exeter. Both stated they were widowed. In June 1876 Dinah became pregnant with Blanche Maud Simmons who was born on 14th March 1877. Her father was recorded as Jonathan Simmons, iron moulder, her mother recorded as Minnie Simmons. Jonathan and Dinah were married again at Stonehouse Register Office 12th December 1891 where both were again recorded as widowed. Witnesses were George Henry Weymouth and Edith Minnie Weymouth (Dinah's daughter). Jonathan died in Plymouth 17th December 1896.

By 1911 Dinah was living at 163 Judge Street, Watford, Herts with her daughter, Blanche Maud and an adopted daughter, Nora Parr Hodges. Dinah died on the 2nd September 1917 at her daughter Edith's home, but the information on the death certificate revealed something no one seemed to know about. Her death was registered during the 1st World War when men were away. It was registered by a female deputy registrar who entered the information that Dinah had had her right breast removed for cancer three years ago in 1914. I found that rather surprising. I have checked the internet for the history of breast cancer surgery which says that the turn of the 20th century marked the beginning of the development of cancer surgery. I also think that a male registrar might not have added that information and just recorded her cause of death as heart failure.

Linda Bryan (2229)

When and	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death
Second September 1917 18 St Marys Mansions St Marys Road 4-5	Dinah Simmons	Female	76 years	Widow of Jonathan Simmons an Iron Moulder	Had right breast removed for cancer three years ago. Heart Failure.

Findmypast adds Diocese of Plymouth to their Catholic Heritage Archive



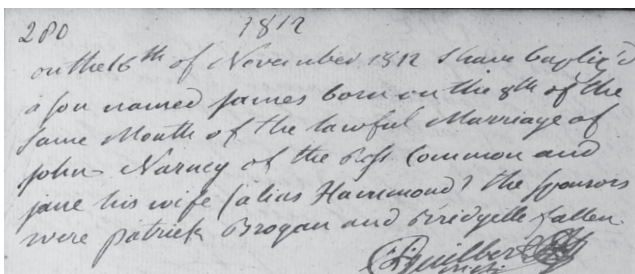
The leading family history website has expanded its exclusive collection of Catholic parish registers with over 100,000 records covering 59 parishes across Cornwall, Devon & Dorset.

Published online for the first time in association with the Diocese of Plymouth, this valuable new resource includes baptisms, marriages, burials and congregational records spanning the years 1709 to 1921.

Each record includes both a transcript and scanned colour image of the original document. The amount of information listed in these rich, detailed records may vary, although most results will reveal key biographical details as well as the date, parish, and location of the event that was being recorded.

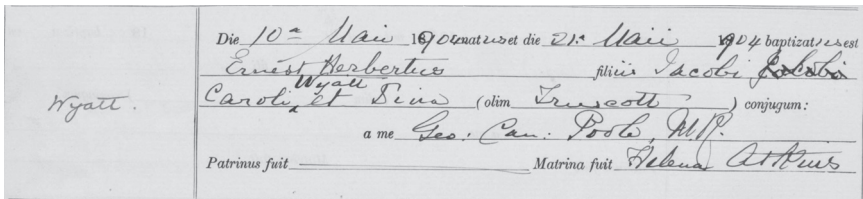
Baptisms will reveal the names of godparents and parents, enabling you to uncover details of previous generations as well as the identities of family friends or relatives. Marriages will provide the name of your ancestor's spouse, father and witnesses while burials allow you to discover the final resting place of your ancestors, their age at death, marital status and in some cases even cause of death.

Congregational records are packed with other fascinating facts surrounding your ancestor's relationship with the church such as details of their confirmation, first confession or even the location of their seat rental.



As many of the original registers were written in Latin, Findmypast has applied a Latin dictionary to the name search field. This gives its search the capability to search for the English and Latin versions of a name when the name variants option is selected.

This release marks just the latest update to the Catholic Heritage Archive,



Findmypast's ground-breaking digitisation project to bring millions of records from across Scotland, England, Ireland and American online for the very first time.

The Roman Catholic Church holds some of the oldest and best-preserved family records which, until now, have remained locked away for centuries. By working with partners at various Archdiocese, Findmypast has enabled millions of users across the world to explore their Catholic roots online.

Kate - An indomitable spirit

“Hello, Kitty! I’ve come to see the children.”

Granny Hayes stood on the doorstep, a diminutive figure with a rexine shopping bag in her hand, and looked hopefully up at her daughter-in-law. Kitty would never refuse this request, despite her dislike of her mother-in-law, and would hide at the back of the house if she saw Granny Hayes approaching, feigning ignorance of the knock at the door. But undeterred, Granny Hayes would call loudly through the letter box and Kitty could not ignore the magic words. Before visiting the family, Granny Hayes had been shopping, but her bag held only her reading spectacles and a box of matches. The bag always contained more items by the time she departed, as Kitty would never refuse to help her, despite her own level of poverty.

This glimpse back in time is one of my mother’s childhood memories, and listening to her stories has nurtured my love of history. However, it is only in recent years that I have actively researched our family history and it is the story of my great-grandmother, Granny Hayes that I wish to share with you.

Kate was born in Devonport in 1878 to the large family of a sailor and a seamstress. Her mother probably taught her to sew and later she would make uniforms for sailors. The thick, coarse material must have been difficult to sew, but the work could be done at home and provided much-needed additional income. Her father, Jeffery James Bouch (1838-1919) was from Lincolnshire and joined the Royal Navy in 1859 as a stoker. Her mother, Mary (née Harris, 1842-1896), was born in Devonport so she must have met Jeffery when his ship called into the dockyard. They were married in the parish church of Stoke Damerel in January 1862; Mary was a minor and unable to write.

Jeffery and Mary had 13 children but only 8 survived infancy. Devonport grew rapidly in the 19th century and there was a high density of housing with insanitary conditions. In 1891 the Bouch family shared a house in James Street with three other families, a total of 23 persons! Jeffery left the Navy in 1879 and later census records describe him as a naval pensioner and skilled labourer. Mary died in 1896 and the following year Jeffery married a widow, Leah Thomas, who had a family of her own. In 1901, Jeffery was residing in Johnstone Terrace with Leah, her offspring, and his youngest child from his first marriage.

Kate was 18 when her mother died, and when her father remarried, she also got married. It is possible her step-mother was not keen to take on the responsibility of the children of her husband’s first marriage and they were encouraged to be independent. Kate married a sailor, Samuel Williams, and he was stationed on *HMS Cambridge*. This was the floating base in the Hamoaze alongside a shore base near Torpoint forming the gunnery school for the Royal Navy. Samuel was an orphan; his mother died of phthisis (tuberculosis), aged 28, when he was three years of age. His father, a stone mason, died four years later in 1883, aged 32, with a diseased bladder. Samuel’s career in the Navy started in 1893 but was to end in 1897 shortly after his marriage to Kate. His service record appears to indicate that he was discharged as an invalid but it is not recorded if this followed an accident or an illness. Samuel and Kate did not have any children, and in 1899, aged 23, Samuel died. The disease that had killed his mother had, tragically, passed to him. His wife was by his side when he died. Kate was 21, and had lost her mother and then her husband within three years.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Devonport</i>									
Registrar's Sub-District <i>St Aubyn</i>									
1899. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>St Aubyn</i> in the County of <i>Devonport</i>									
Columns: —									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>4122</i>	<i>Twenty fifth March 1899 5 Cross Street 40</i>	<i>Samuel Williams</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>24 Years</i>	<i>Late Seaman R.N.</i>	<i>Pneumia Certified by J. Wilson S.R. C.P.</i>	<i>Kate Williams Widow of deceased Present at the death 5 Cross Street Devonport</i>	<i>Twenty seventh March 1899</i>	<i>J. Shillibeer Registrar</i>

In January 1900, Kate married John Thomas Philpott, my great-grandfather. John Thomas was one of six sons born to William Philpott (1846-1912) and Mary Ann, née Luca (1848-1923). William, according to a family anecdote, did not like his employment on a farm and ran away to sea. My mother always believed her family was of Devon, "born and bred", but I traced William to a farm in Kent in 1861 and to his ancestors there back to 1765! William became a merchant seaman and must have met Mary Ann when his boat called in to Devonport; they married in 1868. John Thomas was born in 1874, so he was four years older than Kate and he was a bachelor when they married. In 1890 he had lied about his age in order to join the Royal Navy without his parents' consent. He was deployed as boatman to the coastguard station at Pitts Deep, east of Lymington, just before the marriage.

Kate and John Thomas moved to the Woodside station in Lymington in 1901. Their first child, William Geoffrey James, had been born late in 1900. Two more sons followed in 1902 and 1903 but both died when a few months old. Samuel, my grandfather, was born in 1904, and two years later disaster struck the family with the death of John Thomas. His service record contains the simple statement that he died of pleuro-pneumonia on 3rd February 1906 but there is no indication that he was involved in any precarious activity prior to his death. Although still a young man, and presumably fit, such unexpected illness can happen to anyone, at any time. The death was registered by a fellow coastguardsman, James Irish, who was present at the death. The funeral was reported in the *Western Gazette*, which I found quite moving. It was conducted with full naval honours; the coffin was draped with the Union Jack and carried aloft by six coastguardsmen, one of whom was James Irish. There was a firing party which fired three volleys over the grave. His body was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in Lymington Highfield Cemetery.

Kate was only 28 years old and a widow again. Not only did she have two small boys to support but she was also pregnant. Kate made her way back to Devonport and, it is hoped, that she received help from her father and the Philpott family. A boy was born later that year and named after his father, but sadly did not survive. So, what next for Kate?

In 1907, Kate married - yes, you've guessed - a sailor, Cornelius Patrick Hayes, who was nine years her senior. He was a stoker in the Royal Navy and a bachelor. Their only child was a daughter, Kathleen Mary, born in 1908. My grandfather, Samuel, claimed he and his brother were put into an orphanage run by Catholic nuns. However, the 1911 census shows that both boys were residing with their mother and step-father

in Renown Street, so I am not sure when the boys lived at the orphanage. The 1911 census also records that Kate had given birth to nine children, and that six had died. I have only found birth registrations for six children, and deaths for three of them. It is possible that Kate had three miscarriages and had included these on the census form. Kate's only daughter had some sort of medical problem, perhaps what we would today term a learning disability, and had to be looked after all her life.

Cornelius died in 1933, aged 63, so this third marriage had lasted for 26 years. Kate remained a widow thereafter, but her daughter, Kathleen, married James Summers in 1937 at the age of 29; he was around 20 years her senior. James was an Army pensioner and in 1939 he was working as a hotel chef. The 1939 register has an incorrect date of birth for Kathleen making her 20 years older!

The family were all together on the night of 21st April 1941 at 19 Tamar Terrace. The house was hit during an intensive German bombing raid and all three were killed. Their bodies were found over a three-week period and laid to rest in the communal grave at Efford Cemetery. The grave holds the remains of 397 people killed during that gruelling period of bombing in March and April 1941. Kate, Kathleen and James are commemorated on the memorial at Efford and in the chapel at Ford Park Cemetery. They are amongst the 1,250 civilians of Plymouth and Devonport who died during the Blitz.

Kate had struggled through a life of poverty, she had buried three husbands and three children but she never gave in. It took a weapon of devastation during World War II to wipe out her indomitable spirit. On the 80th anniversary of her death I honour her memory and admire her determination, perseverance and resilience.

Susan Batten (18098)

Sources:

GRO indices and copies of marriage and death certificates	British Newspaper Archive
The National Archives (Royal Navy service records)	DFHS online records - Members Area
Census records available via Ancestry web site	FreeBMD
Memorials at Efford and Ford Park Cemeteries. (Name discrepancy Sommers/Summers).	
Thanks to Ford Park Cemetery Trust for access to the memorial this year (2021).	
Thanks also to the staff and volunteers at St Barbe Museum in Lymington and the Cemetery Officer at Highfield Cemetery for help in locating the grave of John Thomas Philpott.	

Dear Editor: Looking for John Bennett

For many years we have been looking for John Bennett. We know he married Mary Pedler in 1773 at Crediton church and that Mary was born in Crediton in 1746. John died in 1831 in Cullompton. John and Mary had several children: John, Pedler, William, Mary, Sarah, Thomas and Embling. John, Mary, Thomas and Embling were family names, but we couldn't see William and Sarah anywhere in the family. My son started looking for them and found a William, and Sarah (who had a son called John) in Taunton. John went to work in Cullompton as a tallow chandler, but we can't be sure he is the one. Can anyone help please!

Mrs Doreen Bennett (2874)

ED: The Devon Archive Catalogue has several items for a John Bennett of Cullompton, including an 1831 will.



Above the Efford Cemetery Memorial.

Right the Ford Park Cemetery Chapel Memorial.

“an unprofitable servant...”

Roger Mallock was an Exeter merchant whose 1651 will described him as “an unprofitable servant of God”. This from a man who bequeathed as well as the residue of property unspecified and unvalued, £3,700 in cash, three manors, two houses, licences to sell wine and leases.

Perhaps all he needs is a memorial in the Historian?

John Moore (8610)

*of Roger Mallock of the
 Exeter and County of Exeter Esquire an unprofitable servant of God*

Research Corner:

A November Miscellany

I have recently done some research for a Torr family, based firmly in the South Hams. It is, of course, a name open to several variant spellings, Tor, Torre and even Tarr. We were looking for a marriage around 1800 and this was the print out from our own marriage index. This is complete for Devon from 1754 to 1837 so often picks up marriages you may not find elsewhere. The 'N' indicates that there is some extra information in the original record.



Total Pages 1 [7 entries] Devon Family History Society - Marriages - 1754 to 1837

GroomSurname	GroomForename	BrideSurname	BrideForename	Date	Parish	N = notes
TORR	EDWARD	WILCOCKS	GRACE	1798 11 06	HOLCOMBE ROGUS	N
TORR	HENRY	HELLYER	RACHAEL	1801 09 15	CHARLETON	N
TORR	JOHN	BAKER	ELIZABETH	1802 06 03	DAR TMOU TH STS AVIOUR	N
TORR	JOHN	PARKHOUSE	SUSANNA	1803 04 12	STOKENHAM	N
TORR	JOHN	TUHLN	JANE	1803 06 27	UFFCULME	N
TORR	PETER	NOSWORTHY	SUSANNAH	1806 02 06	MANATON	N
TORR	RICHARD KEZIA	CLARK	SARAH	1806 11 02	BUCKFASTLEIGH	N

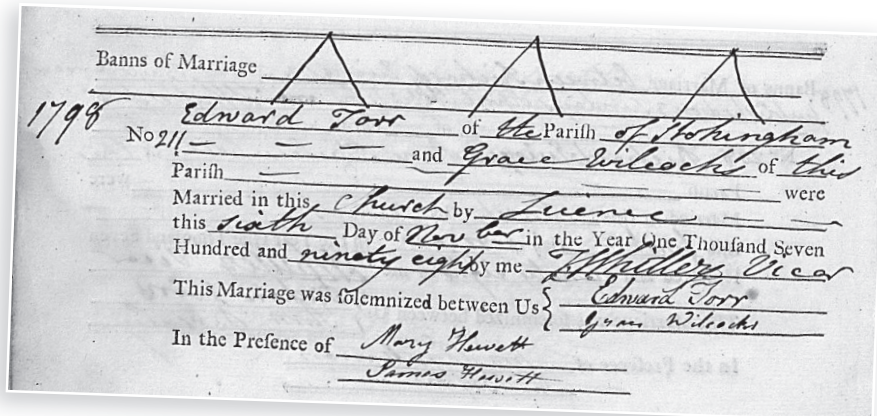
'N' indicates extra notes in the Original Parish Register entry which may be consulted at the Devon Record Office or City of Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. Example of notes - occupations, widow, widower, one party from another parish, etc. It is possible a very small number of entries in this index may refer to Banns rather than a marriage. It is always advisable to check any entry with the original register.

7
Marriages Printed

The least likely, by quite a long way, was the one in Holcombe Rogus, about as far as you can get from the South Hams coast where the family were based. This just shows how important it is to look at the original record, if you can. Edward from Stokenham was marrying Grace from Holcombe Rogus. Their home parishes are 60 miles apart.



The Creative Craft Show September 2021. Westpoint, Exeter. Left to right: Terry Leaman and Roger Keys on the Family History Federation stand with FHF Chairman, Steve Manning.



Holcombe Rogus - Banns.

The Family History Federation had a stand at the recent Craft Show in Exeter and we went along to help on three of the four days. We could have done with more visitors but we had some interesting conversations with people whose families included Swedish Counts, Prussian ancestors, at least one half sister adopted in the USA and the usual mix of Scots and Irish!

On a recent circular walk from Otterton, we came across some unusual War Memorials in the form of waymarkers. This one commemorates the life of Percy H Please who died in 1917. The Otterton baptism record of Percy Harold Please shows, not only both birth and baptism dates but the names of two 'sponsors'. He was born on Christmas Day 1894 to Percy Hooper and Adah Please.

The story of the waymarkers can be found here Memorial waymarkers honour Devon village's First World War heroes | Clinton Devon Estates <https://clintondevon.com/waymarkers-honour-devon-war-heroes/>

Sue Bond Research Coordinator (7960)
 Devon FHS, PO Box 9, Exeter EX2 6YP

Tree House News

Now that Treehouse is open regularly each week again, I thought I would let you know about Volunteer changes and say a big thank you to Joyce and Vivian who decided during the lockdown to retire after many years of helping on Mondays.

Currently, Joan Smith is lead volunteer all day, Monday. Sue all day Tuesday and myself, Sally Heggie all day Thursday. We are not at full strength again yet and this might lead to staffing problems, so please bear with us if we are not open when you want to pop in. I suggest, if you are coming a long distance, ring for an appointment. We have been enjoying meeting new researchers and welcoming back some of our local regular visitors, it is so nice to catch up with you.

VIRTUAL TREE HOUSE is continuing even though we are now welcoming visitors in person! Don't forget you can contact us, not only by email but by phone or by post. Virtual Tree House is open to all.

Email: treehouse@devonfhs.org.uk Tel: 01392 433212

Sally Heggie Tree House Librarian (8122)

From the Devon County House of Correction to Australia A Helmore family saga

When my 4 times great grandfather Mark Helmore (b.1763) died in 1825 he was a wealthy man. He had bought Castlands (AKA Casslands) which in 1793 the Exeter Flying Post had advertised for sale by auction: *'adjoining the Turnpike road leading from Exeter to Crediton, and about four Miles from Exeter, in the Parish of Newton St Cyres, and then in the several Possessions of Mr Wm. Couch, the proprietor, and of Samuel Adams, his Tenant'*. It consisted of *'two dwellings, Garden in Front, one Orchard containing about two Acres, and two fields adjoining, containing about four Acres and Three-quarters'*. Amongst other property he owned a moiety (half share) in the Crown & Sceptre in Newton St Cyres, (sadly burned down in 1962 and replaced by a nondescript modern building) and another in Marsh Tenements, as well as *'leasehold Cottages Lands and Hereditaments situate in Newton Saint Cyres aforesaid or elsewhere'*. His grave, along with those of several relatives, still exists in Newton Church graveyard.

His will was long and convoluted, reflecting the style of the time. He left a lifetime interest in his property and money to his wife Penelope (nee Ellis 1763 - 1835) and substantial legacies of several hundred pounds each (a great deal of money then) to his two eldest children, married daughters Mary Carter (1788 - 1853) and Abigail Gould (1789 - 1847). The main thrust of his will though, was to ensure that his wealth stayed with the eldest son of the eldest son in perpetuity and should that line die out, then the estate should go to the next eldest son and his eldest son and so on. In fact, there were 5 sons in all: my ancestor John Helmore (1791 - 1838) maltster, William Helmore (1794 - 1883) auctioneer, Mark Helmore (1796 - 1863) ironmonger, Thomas Helmore (1799 - 1833) yeoman farmer and James Helmore (1800 - 1825) vet.

It came as quite a shock to find John's eldest son, John Helmore jnr. (1817 - 1877), incarcerated in the Devon County House of Correction in the 1841 census, just 16 years after his grandfather's death and only 3 years after the death of his own father. Whilst I am descended from John jnr.'s younger brother Mark Helmore (1821 - 1899), this discovery fascinated me and I decided that it was time to brush up my knowledge of the Poor Laws and try to find out what had happened. How could it all go so wrong in such a short length of time?

After Mark Helmore died in 1825 John snr. continued to trade as a maltster in Newton St Cyres. In 1826, his wife Grace Helmore (nee Reed 1789 - 1826) having died earlier that year, probably during or after the birth of their fifth child Ann Maria, John, with a large family of whom John jnr. was the eldest but still only 9, married Sarah Read (nee Beedell). They in turn had a further six children.

In 1828 the Exeter Flying Post reported an accident *'descending the hill near Mr Helmore's Maltster, Newton St Cyres'*. Worse was to come. Tragically in 1834 *'a fire broke out on the premises of Mr Helmore, maltster, in the parish of Newton St Cyres'*. The report goes on to describe how the fire engines of the various insurance companies were called out from Exeter, but that whilst the malthouse was saved, the dwelling house was destroyed. It is not clear if this was at the maltings at Castlands or another property. On a visit to Newton I could find neither any trace nor awareness of a maltings and what seemed like a hill in 1828, we probably wouldn't notice in our modern cars. John snr. died of consumption at Castle Street in the St. Sidwell district of Exeter on the 20th August 1838, so it might be reasonable to assume that he was receiving medical care or

nursing and that he had the wherewithal to pay for it.

So, Mark Helmore's grandson John jnr. should have been a wealthy young man and quite a catch for Harriett Skinner (1816 - 1886) the daughter of William Skinner, a mason, when they married at St. George's Church Exeter on the 29th of October just two months after his father's death. Both John and Harriett were educated, signing their own names in the register. On the marriage certificate John was also described as a maltster, although both his and his new wife's address was given as Butcher's Row, not the Newton St Cyres maltings address that might have been expected.

Now the mystery really begins! John and Harriett's first child Abigail (sic) Mary Jane Helmore was born in Smithfield, London in early 1840 but baptised in Thorverton on the 9th February when John Helmore was described as Atty Clerk, presumably meaning an attorney's clerk. Quite a change from a maltster and why had they been in London? You would have expected Harriet to want to be close to her own parents for the birth of her first child.

The Newton St Cyres Overseers of the Poor record for 1841 (preserved in the Devon Heritage Centre archives) revealed that John had been living in Thorverton parish and had applied there for relief, but the examination showed that his parish of settlement was Newton St Cyres and he and his family were to be removed there so that the Newton Overseers could look after them. Apparently, John had lived with his own family until the age of 11, then with another relative in the same parish for eight years. Five years previously he had gone to Thorverton at the age of about 18, living with a Mr Gervis for about 18 months. Searching the censuses revealed several Gervis families, all professional people suggesting that this is why he stated that he was an attorney's clerk. Then for the balance of the last five years he had lived at different places during which time he had of course married and now had two children. A second daughter, Harriett Helmore, was baptised on 16th May 1841 again in Thorverton parish, where John was described as a servant.

Clearly something had gone seriously wrong. Six days after the baptism on 22nd May John was committed to the Devon House of Correction for three months, where he appeared in the 1841 census. His offence was recorded as '*leaving his family*'. The same 1841 census revealed, sadly, that John's wife Harriet was living in Three Horseshoes Village, Upton Pyne reduced to the status of a *laundriss* (sic). Even worse, she had been separated from their children. Abigail Mary Jane, recorded simply as Jane Helmore, was living with an elderly woman called Sarah Parker in Thorverton and the 5-week old baby Harriett Helmore was recorded in Silver Street Thorverton as Harriett Helmer, in the home of a John & Eliza Mortimore. Next door were 80-year-old William and Ann Skinner, strong candidates to be Harriett senior's grandparents. So, it looks as if the family had had to call on the goodwill of friends and relatives. We forget that these were small and close-knit communities where everyone knew everyone else and where neighbours would help each other out. No social services in those days! Nevertheless, it must have all been quite an ordeal and not the life for which his grandfather Mark had left such comprehensive instructions.

Nevertheless, things did eventually look up for the family. In 1843 a third child was born, John Helmore, baptised on 19th September, again in Thorverton, when his father was described as a shopman. The 1851 census shows the family with three more children: Lydia Ann Helmore (b. Exeter 1845), Mark Helmore (b. Exeter 1848) and Alfred Helmore

(b. Exeter 1850), living at 1 Dukes Place, Fore Hill Street, Exeter. John was described as an itinerant bookseller. The eldest child Abigail was living with her mother's brother William Skinner, a mason, and his wife Mary at Jericho Street, Thorverton.

The family has grown again by the time of the 1861 census when they were living at Friernhay Street, Exeter with another two children, William Skinner Helmore (b. 1852 Exeter) and Francis Helmore (b. 1855 Newton St Cyres), John still being described as a bookseller.

I could find no trace of the family in the 1871 census and it transpired that they had emigrated to Australia where John and Harriett headed up a large family of descendants down to modern times. Abigail however appeared to have initially stayed in England as she married Henry Alfred Smith in Kensington on Christmas Day 1865. This couple also emigrated but sadly she must be the Abigail Smith who was involved in a street accident involving a tram in Sydney on 4th May 1896 and died as a result.

Making contact with one of the family in Australia I was able to establish what had happened and why John jnr. had not inherited his family's wealth. It transpired that when John snr. (the maltster) remarried after Grace's death in 1826 and had another family, his second wife Sarah Read (nee Beadell) wanted the family wealth to go to her children and for the next couple of years made life for John Helmore jnr. very unpleasant, so he left to live with another relative when he was eleven, as recorded in the Poor Record. So, Sarah was the wicked stepmother of fictional fame! However, retribution was swift and severe, as she herself died, before her husband, on 14th November 1837, probably as a result of childbirth problems when their youngest child William Helmore was born. John snr. must have held Sarah in high esteem as her obituary in Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette on 18th November waxed lyrical about her (*Nov 14 after a long illness borne with patience and Christian fortitude and much regretted aged 36 Sarah wife of Mr John Helmore of Newton St Cyres maltster*).

What is not known is John snr.'s view of the treatment of his eldest son and whether or not he went along with it. Maybe father and son had also fallen out. John jnr. may have been at just the wrong age to survive losing his mother and finding her replaced in his father's affections without having a serious impact on him. Presumably after ten years of being made unwelcome, the damage had been done and there was no way John jnr. would or could rejoin his father in the last year of his life. After two hundred years I don't think it is right to judge or criticise what took place so long ago, it was a different world then with different attitudes and standards of behaviour. Just imagine what they might think of the way we lead our lives today! However, whilst we can't possibly know all the circumstances, these events don't appear to put Sarah in a good light.

Disappointingly, there is no trace of a will or death duty record for John snr. Castlands itself had been let to a William Fisher in 1833 and by the time of the 1842 Tithe Apportionment, it was owned by Mark Helmore, probably John's uncle the ironmonger, also a wealthy man who lived at The Sanctuary Shobrooke. As the years went by, some members of the family led normal ordinary lives, some became wealthy and some have been famous, one married a pop star, one was a member of parliament. The Helmore family has always proved one full of interest.

Peter F. Cope (12432)

© Updated from an earlier version published in the Devon FHS Historian and rewritten for the Newton St Cyres History Group.

Revell - New Zealand Emigrants

In these days of pandemics and lockdowns, like many other DFHS members, I have spent some time researching my ancestors. They lived in Revelstoke in the 1830s but decided to emigrate to New Zealand on the first emigrant ship in 1840. Samuel Revell was born in June 1789 in Revelstoke to Stephen Revel and Joan Rogers. Samuel had seven siblings, they were Mary, William, Anna, John (my direct ancestor) plus Stephen, John and Elizabeth. These last three all died in 1791 and were buried in a pauper's grave in St. Peter's the Fisherman in Revelstoke. This church is well worth a visit if only because of its location.

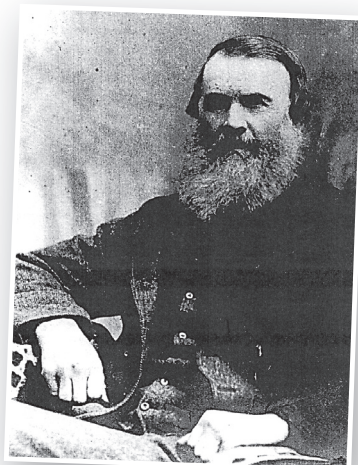
In June 1825 Samuel married Elizabeth Crocker at Stoke Damerel and they had five children. Samuel also had a daughter Mary Ann who was the product of a previous marriage to Sarah Drake. Unfortunately, Sarah died in September 1823. Mary Ann, born in 1820, was 21 at the time of the voyage but joined them rather than stay in South Devon. The other children were Charles, William, Thomasine, Henry and James. Samuel was an agricultural labourer and fisherman.

1832 saw cholera arrive in Devon causing great devastation with many deaths in Plymouth, the South Hams and Exeter, also, the mechanical revolution was at its height in agriculture, reducing the number of jobs drastically while the industrial revolution was gathering pace and drawing people into the cities. At this time emigration to New Zealand was being promoted by, among others, the Plymouth Company of New Zealand. This company bought 50,000 acres of land from the New Zealand Company who had purchased it from the Maoris. This would lead to disputes between the settlers and the Maoris which turned into mini wars at times. These lasted for many years.

Samuel and Elizabeth were joined by her brother John Crocker, a shipwright, his wife Jane and children Jane, Mary and Emily. They decided to take advantage of the wonderful offer and signed up to travel in the ship "*William Bryan*" with 144 passengers including a 25-year-old surgeon Henry Weekes. He went on behalf of the company. On 19 November 1840, the "*William Bryan*" left Plymouth for New Plymouth where Nirvana awaited them with land allocated and all would be well. Most would never see their families or South Devon again.

This voyage took nearly five months without setting foot on land until the west coast of North Island New Zealand was reached on 30 March 1841, most of the emigrants were in steerage class, which was very basic with just a curtain separating families. There were 144 men, women and children on board with 137 in steerage of whom 67 were under 15 years old, 12 of the children were less than 12 months old. The conditions must have been horrendous on a ship only 130 feet in length with the emigrants confined to the lower deck unless the seas were calm enough for a walk on the upper deck and in strictly controlled numbers. The ship was built in 1816 at Bucklers Hard near Southampton.

William Crocker Revell



It was a three-mast square rigged barque weighing 312 tons. There is a particularly good description of the voyage in the Surgeon's journal which was written by Henry Weekes when he was not busy dealing with the passengers. In it he describes his relationship with Mary Ann.

When they finally set foot in New Zealand, they were greeted by suspicious natives who did not want to give up their land. Conditions were harsh but not that different to the South Hams except for the lack of any facilities, which all had to be built from scratch. New Plymouth was not a natural harbour with a wide shallow river Waiwhakaiho, entering the sea in a rock-strewn area. As most of the bigger settlements in New Zealand such as Auckland were on the east coast, supplies of goods were difficult to obtain. The Revells settled down and set to work as they had little choice, the company had completely let them down and left them on their own.

When I was lucky enough to holiday in wonderful New Zealand in 2017, part of the trip included a trip to New Plymouth and Taranaki where I visited the local museum who were extremely helpful, they unearthed some photographs of my ancestors and a few newspaper cuttings which were particularly useful. Poor old Samuel died in 1843 after only two years, but the children seem to have made their way in the world with one of them entering New Zealand politics. A cutting from the *Taranaki Herald* of 1909 records William, then aged 82, at a function in commemoration of the first settlers. Also mentioned as still being alive are Charles, James, William jr and Mary Ann. Obviously, her relationship with the ship's surgeon did not last.

As with all family history, there are other branches which can confuse but also add to the story. When we were touring South Island, we went to Hokitika on the west coast as we had heard of a Revell who had become a surveyor and warden in the gold rush. Having found a Revell Street we went to the local museum who again were immensely helpful. William Horton Revell had arrived in Hokitika in 1859/60 aged about 30. William was born in Wicklow about 25 miles south of Dublin. Apparently, this branch in Ireland was founded when three Revell brothers joined William of Orange in his expeditions to Ireland in the mid-1600s. Most survivors of the forays were granted land by the king and settled instead of returning to England. Now there are Revells all over New Zealand.

Family stories have the Revells coming from France to England with William the Conqueror. As trusted administrators they were appointed to posts in the East Midlands/ Yorkshire, the Warwickshire and the South West. Richard Revell became sheriff of Devon and Cornwall in the 13th century and had interests in the tin and lead mines. Unfortunately, the Revells generally stayed as Royalists which did not serve them well

WILLIAM BRYAN PASSENGERS.

Amongst the old identities present at the function were the following ladies and gentlemen who arrived by the first ship, the "William Bryan":— Mrs John Smith, Inglewood; Messrs Henry Putt (aged 84), William Revell (aged 82), Edward Lye (aged 81), H. Revell, T. Inch, W. Pearn, Mrs Henry Putt arrived in the colony before the "William Bryan" made Taranaki's shores. Mr Putt is the oldest of the pioneers, arriving by the William Bryan and was then classed an adult being sixteen years of age.

Others present who were in the district, either as immigrants or native-born, before 1845, were as follow:— Mesdames Davidson and R. Langman, Messrs W. D. Webster, H. Hooker, W. Eva, T. Langman, Richard Langman, John Andrews, William Giddy, A. J. Hoskin, O. Kneucey, James Harvey, John Black, W. Newland, H. Newland, and H. H. Ford.

From inquiries made we learn that of the pioneers who landed at New Plymouth by the barque William Bryan in 1845 the following are still survivors in addition to those published above:— H. Paull, Tikorangi; T. Jury, Waitara East; P. Inch (Mrs H. H. Wood) Waitara East; T. Marshall, Opunake; Mary Ann French (Mrs Jas. Batten) Mangorei; Kate Harris (Mrs Moore) Henui; Emily Harris, Nelson; Chas. Revell, Rahotu; Jas. Revell, Wanganui; Wm. Revell, Nelson; Bray, Manukau; Harper, Auckland; Jane Tucker, (Mrs McLeod) Auckland; Levina Pearn (Mrs Rigby).

Mr W. A. Collis secured a number of photographs of the old settlers as a group, and also those present who arrived in the first ship.

A cutting from the *Taranaki Herald* Volume LV, Issue 13924, 1 April 1909.

Respected Revell played big role in Hokitika's early days

[By Peter Ewen]

Hokitika's Revell Street is named after the Canterbury Provincial Government agent of the mid-1860s and if anyone could be described as the local sheriff it certainly could apply to William Horton Revell.

Born at Wicklow on the east coast of Ireland, about 40 kilometres south of Dublin, in 1829, Revell found himself on the other side of the world when he was about 30.

Arriving in Christchurch, Revell soon enlisted in the Canterbury provincial police force, and by 1863 had moved up the ranks becoming inspector of Timaru. Revell's time in the seaside town was brief, though as he was soon given a tougher job to the west by the Canterbury Provincial Government when they appointed him its agent.

The appointment came on January 1, 1864, and Revell arrived, with his brother, in Greytown by sea on January 24, 1864.

The conditions on the Coast were pretty discouraging for any newcomers, with the weather and general lack of

roads and services, but Revell took to his new job with enthusiasm. He was a strongly built man who could handle himself in a spot of bother and nothing seemed to be a problem to him.

The stampede of the gold rush hadn't really started at this stage, though small discoveries gave a hint at what was to come. It was only three days after his arrival that Revell actually bought his first gold in exchange for merchandise, and on February 8 he headed off on foot, eventually Christchurch-bound to report on progress.

Returning at the end of March, agent Revell received word that miners had discovered gold at the confluence of the Taramakau River and Greenstone Creek. Talk was also about at the time that a chap called Albert Hunt was gaining good colours in the area.

However, all this good news was soon forgotten when the provincial council decided to inform Revell to pack it in — they could see no future in the Coast. After selling off the supplies Revell was told to return to Canterbury.

Revell though had other ideas and he wouldn't have a bar of the new orders. Determined to sort the matter out he made for the Greenstone area to see Albert Hunt.

Once there, Revell saw that a number of parties were getting good returns for their efforts and Revell bought 16 ounces to show his doubling masters in Christchurch.

Once there though his superiors were still far from impressed. They still contended that the West Coast was a "worthless" piece of ground and they were not about to have a change of heart, despite being shown the sparkling yellow stuff.

Revell, once again, was not one to give up and he confidently went about Christchurch door knocking and quickly gained the support of a number of businessmen who sponsored a public meeting in the Square.

Revell's persuasive gift of the gab did the rest and with strong pressure from those at the meeting, the Provincial Council soon had a re-think and changed its mind. Revell

packed up his swag and headed west.

It's important to remember that the Canterbury, side of the West Coast, was the south bank of the Grey River, with the Nelson district being on the north bank.

Thomas Kynnersley was the Nelson goldfields commissioner over the Grey and he and Revell didn't quite see eye to eye — they always wanted to

know how the opposition was doing, especially in the gold stakes. Fights and heavy drinking among the hopeful arrivals caused enough problems for both, even without their own rivalry.

It wasn't quite the lawlessness of the OK Corral in the early days, but it was a period when one had to be careful with the likes of the cut-throat bush rangers such as the Sullivan/Levy gang. They were active and travelled in an area that extended from Hokitika to Nelson. Several miners and gold buyers mysteriously "went missing" during this time. Their disappearances were put down to the Sullivan/Levy crew.

Kynnersley's and Revell's suspicions of the other's activities though may well have been the seeds of the Coast's strong parochialism and the lively agitation that was to follow between the main centres.

Revell was appointed Resident Magistrate and Warden on March 3, 1865, but shortly after, there came an administrative shake-up directive from Christchurch as a new commissioner — Sale — was appointed to represent the Canterbury Provincial Government and Revell became the Resident Magistrate and Warden for



William Horton Revell

Win A Dinner For Two

All purchases over \$100 enters you into the monthly draw to win a dinner for two at either Quality Kings Hotel or

when Cromwell came to power and their lands were confiscated.

There is a plaque in the Barbican dedicated to the people who sailed in the "William Bryan" on that first voyage to New Zealand.

Alan Revell (21491)

Bibliography:

About William Horton Revell - *The Coaster* (NZ) Wednesday 8 September 1999. (Above)

New Zealand Settler Ships - William Bryan 1841 - Geni.com

The Journal of Henry Weeks is held by New Zealand museums, see www.nz museums.co.nz/account

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew

Our building is open, including our reading rooms and exhibition spaces. Find out more about how to book and what to expect <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/about-the-book-a-reading-room-visit-service/>

What is Discovery? Discovery holds more than 32 million descriptions of records held by The National Archives and more than 2,500 archives across the country. Over 9 million records are available for download. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Free Digital downloads We are making digital records available on our website free of charge for the time being, while our reading room services at Kew are limited. Registered users will be able to order and download up to ten items at a time, to a maximum of 100 items over 30 days.

October 2021 · <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>



Dating Family Photographs - Resources

As promised, suggested reference books and links to current useful websites. Some of the books are now out of print but may be found in second hand/online booksellers at very reasonable prices.

Websites for dating photographs by photographer or costume

Researching Historical Photographers <http://www.rps.org/blogs/2013/september/researching-historical-photographers#sthash.N13LeTKv.dpuf>

<http://www.cartedeviseite.co.uk/photographers-category/photographers/>
Photographers of Great Britain & Ireland 1840-1940, plus *Dating Wizard* (£)

<http://www.earlyphotographers.org.uk>

Portrait & studio photographers in the UK: 19th & early 20th Century

<http://www.photohistory-sussex.co.uk/Linkphotosites.htm>

Links to other photo-history websites devoted to particular towns, counties or regions.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~victorianphotographs/history/time/date.htm>

Date an Old Photograph - Roger Vaughan Picture Library

<https://fashion-era.com> Fashion History, resources and the Costume Detective.

Books for dating photographs by costume:

Occupational Costume and Working Clothes 1776-1976 by Avril Lansdell 1984

Fashion à la Carte 1860-1900 by Avril Lansdell, 1985

Wedding Fashions 1860-1980 by Avril Lansdell, 1986

Fashion à la Carte 1860-1900 by Avril Lansdell, 1986

Seaside Fashions 1860-1939 by Avril Lansdell, 1990

Everyday Fashions of the 20th Century by Avril Lansdell, 1999

Family Photographs 1860-1945 by Robert Pols, 2002

Dating Nineteenth Century Photographs by Robert Pols, 2005

Dating Twentieth Century Photographs by Robert Pols, 2005

Dating Old Army Photographs by Robert Pols, 2011

Military Photographs & How to Date Them by Neil Storey, 2009

Identifying your WWI Soldier from Badges & Photographs by Iain Swinnerton, 2001

Family Photographs and How To Date Them by Jayne Shrimpton, 2008

How to Get the Most from Family Pictures by Jayne Shrimpton, 2011

Tracing Your Ancestors Through Family Photographs by Jayne Shrimpton, 2014

Fashion and Family History: Interpreting How Your Ancestors Dressed
by Jayne Shrimpton, 2020

The Expert Guide to Dating Victorian Family Photographs by Audrey Linkman, 2000

The Victorians: A Photographic Portrait by Audrey Linkman, 2000

Dating Photographs by Craig A. Tuttle 2021 (Kindle)

Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929 by Halvor Moorshead and Jeff Chapman, 2000

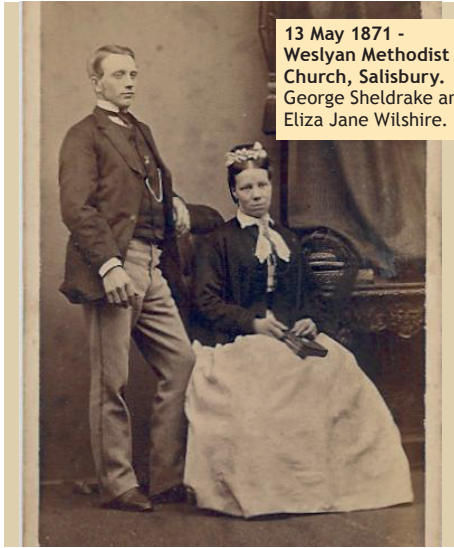
Costume for Births, Marriages and Deaths Phillis Cunnington, 1972

Sally Macdougall Editor (3569)

Wedding & Engagement Photographs

Engagement portraits can be difficult to distinguish from wedding photographs. Examine the hands in search of rings. The conventional Victorian wedding portrait features one partner sitting, the other standing to one side with one hand resting lightly on the shoulder of the seated spouse. Only rich brides wore white so most women wore the best day dress they could afford.

Fresh flowers and button holes become more prevalent from the 1880s, and wedding groups were increasingly taken out of doors. By the 1900s couples were beginning to commission additional portraits featuring bridesmaids and relatives.



13 May 1871 -
Weslyan Methodist
Church, Salisbury.
George Sheldrake and
Eliza Jane Wilshire.



27th July 1925 -
Bemerton St. John.
Albert Moorcroft
and Ellen Jane
Sheldrake.



Family wedding
group 1945 - North
of England. Wartime
civilian utility dress
in every outfit.



25th September
2021 - Larkbeare
House, Exeter.
John Macdougall
and Sally Skilton.



Ernest's medals included the South African Campaign medals, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

TEST FOR MOTORS.

West of England Club Event.

The West of England Motor Club held a hill climb last evening in a field at Warm-hill, Trusham, lent by Mr. W. Tuckett. There was an exceptionally large attendance. The hill presented little difficulty to the more powerful machines, although the heavy rain had rendered the grass very slippery and the soil heavy and loose. F. Vigers (350 Calthorpe), Crediton, won every class and the cup for the fastest time (13.35sec.).

Those who helped in organising the event were Mr. H. L. Salter (starter), Mr. W. Capel (timekeeper), Messrs. Nicholls and Anning (marshalls), and the Misses O. Vigers and Cannon. Details:—

250 c.c. Class.—1, F. Vigers (249 B.S.A.); 2, E. Vigers (249 B.S.A.); 3, R. D. Verner-Jeffreys (250 Rudge).

350 c.c. Class.—1, F. Vigers (350 Calthorpe); 2, T. C. Whitton (350 Ariel); 3, S. A. Wills (346 Royal Enfield).

500 c.c. Class.—1, F. Vigers (350 Calthorpe); 2, T. C. Whitton (350 Ariel); 3, S. A. Wills (346 Royal Enfield).

Unlimited Capacity Class.—1, F. Vigers (350 Calthorpe); 2, T. C. Whitton (350 Ariel); 3, R. S. Hawkins (500 P. and M. Panther).

11 June 1931 - Exeter and Plymouth Gazette - Exeter, Devon, England.



Above: Corner of Mill Street and Charlotte Street and still a motorcycle outlet.

Right: Alongside Ernest's enthusiasm with motorbikes, was a motor-engineering career. In the *Western Times* on 7th December 1928.

F. VIGERS,
 MOTOR ENGINEER,
 Charlotte Street,
 'Phone 51.
PETROL FILLING STATION.
 AGENT FOR
 Calthorpe & Coventry Eagle
 Motor Cycles.
 ANY MAKE SUPPLIED.
 Expert Repairs.

Ernest Samuel Vigers 1876-1957 Hussar of the Line - part three

Continuing the story of Ernest Vigers and his career in the 18th Hussars.

After nearly 25 years in the army, Ernest was discharged on 26th November 1919. Later that year, the North Devon Journal²⁴ reported the home coming of the 1/6th and 2/6th Devons, including CQMS E Vigers, to a civic reception in Barnstaple. They arrived on the 3:20 pm train from Exeter to Barnstaple Junction and were met by the mayor. They were wearing English serge and tropical helmets and marched over the Long Bridge, up the High Street to Cross Street where there were speeches of welcome outside the old Town Hall. The Devons had served in Mesopotamia and India throughout the war. There was a dinner at the Waverley Hotel, Joy Street. Why was Ernest involved in a Devon Regiment's homecoming? Of course, his first military experience had been with the Devonshire militia in 1894. An additional explanation is that brother John Newcombe Vigers (Jack) was in the 6th Devons and had served in Mesopotamia but he does not appear in the newspaper lists of those attending. Perhaps Ernest was standing in for his brother.

After Ernest left the army, the family continued to live in Alfred Road, Farnham. Ada and Ernest are registered there on the 1923 Electoral Register. Ernest was a self-employed tailor. Although there was a job offer from the Aldershot tailors, Thomas White & Co, in February 1923, Ada and Ernest were going home and they moved back to Crediton in Devon, travelling by the London and South West Railway to Crediton Station where they took a four horse cab to 1 Mill Street where it joined Charlotte Street.

The premises...were on the corner of Charlotte Street and Mill Street and consisted of two attached houses, one on each street²⁵ ...Previously the place had been used as a steam bakery and a shop fronted on Charlotte Street. The baking ovens were still in situ and there was a cobbled yard and stabling for our horses²⁶.

Ernest still sewed for a living. There was a young family to support as Olive²⁷ was just eight years old and Ernie and Stan were still at school.

My father settled in the shop, utilising the counter for cutting cloth and sitting on, crosslegged, for sewing in the traditional way.

The younger children enrolled in Hayward's elementary school, struggling to cope with the Devon dialect. After Hayward's, the children all went on to the local grammar schools, gaining scholarships to study there.

Fred, Ernest's oldest son, was just 19. He threw himself into the social and sporting life of the town. By May 1923, he was playing cricket for Crediton²⁸. He later captained the club as well as running a Colts team and got his father to turn out on at least one occasion. Fred also played football for Jackson's United, which changed its name to Crediton Town in 1930, at which point Fred was the team secretary and manager. Ernest Samuel became the treasurer of the supporters' club²⁹.

24. 21st August 1919.

25. The address is also given as 16 Charlotte Street.

26. From Ernie's memories of Crediton at <http://www.devonheritage.org/Places/Crediton/VigersRecollectionsPart1Page1.htm>

27. Although registered at birth as Olivia Vigers, she was normally called Olive.

28. Brother Stanley was also an accomplished sportsman, playing cricket and rugby for Crediton Grammar School. Brother played against brother in school v town games.

29. Western Times 5th July 1929.

Fred also played the piano in a band and organised dances and whist drives, sometimes with Kathleen Labbett whom he married in 1931³⁰.

Ernest had a BSA belt-driven 500cc motorbike that his son, Fred, had ridden from Farnham to Crediton when the family moved. The family were mad about motorbikes and Ernest acted as marshal or starter for various events. Even daughter Olive rode, at one point coming off the motorbike and breaking her collarbone. In December 1929, Fred took part in the Motor Cycling Club's London-Exeter and in 1930 London to Land's End trials³¹. He was very successful³².

He became internationally known, winning a gold medal at a six day reliability trial in Germany in 1934³³. Alongside the reliability trials were hill-climbing events. These were, of course, dangerous with several crashes and head injuries³⁴.

Mill Street became a motorcycle shop run by Fred and Ernie (who emigrated to Canada after the war). Soon they were selling cars as well as motorcycles.

By 1931, brother Ernie was joining Fred on the hill climbs³⁵. There were also speedway races, at which Ernie excelled³⁶. The brothers also were the moving spirits behind the Crediton Motor Club³⁷.

After the grammar school. Stanley went on to St Luke's, Exeter studying for an external London degree in Arts³⁸ and he became a schoolteacher, first in Plymstock and then in Dawlish. He played cricket for Plymstock in 1938 where he met fellow cricketer and schoolmaster Phil Uglov³⁹. Phil had been educated at Bideford Grammar School and then went to the University College of the South West where he was the recipient of the Louisa Tatem Scholarship, worth £80 p.a.⁴⁰ Through Stan, Phil met Olive Vigers. Olive had passed her Cambridge Local Exams when she was 16⁴¹.

The Exeter Motor Club's

SPEEDWAY

COUNTY GROUND,
St. Thomas, EXETER,
3rd MEETING
FRIDAY, May 4,
at 7.45,
AND EVERY ALTERNATE FRIDAY.
Special Visit of
**Bill Clibbett, Ted
Bravery, Bert
Spencer, etc.**

Also REG. BEER, FRED HAWKEN,
TOM WHITTON, BRONCHO SLADE,
BILL MARTIN, GORDON TAYLOR,
ERN VIGERS, STAN SHEPHERD,
Etc. Etc.

**Match Races, Lap
Record Attempts,
Handicap & Open
Races, etc.**

PRICES OF ADMISSION:
GROUND 1/-, ENCLOSURE 1/6,
STAND 2/6, CHILDREN cd,
Including Tax.

30. Western Times 25th February 1927; Exeter Gazette 15th September 1931 for the marriage.

31. Exeter Gazette 28th December 1929; Western Morning News 17th April 1930.

32. Exeter Gazette 11th June 1931.

33. Western Morning News 4th September 1934.

34. Exeter Gazette 24th June and 16th September 1932.

35. Exeter Gazette 28th August 1931.

36. Exeter Gazette 27th April 1934 - speedway's first meetings in England were in 1927.

37. Exeter Gazette 10th February 1939.

38. Western Morning News 14th August 1931.

39. Western Morning News 12th June 1939 - versus Buckland, Phil got 8 for 35.

40. Exeter Gazette 25th August 1933 - worth £5700 in 2020.

41. Western Morning News 26th August 1931.

She joined the Crediton post office, working there for five years until she left for Plymouth PO in October 1936⁴². She was sporting, like her brothers, playing tennis competitively and, by 1933, also racing on her 250 cc Ariel motorcycle⁴³. Fred organised motor-rodeos including motorcycle musical chairs (Olive rode pillion) and races with prams towed by the bikes (Olive was in the pram)⁴⁴. She was often involved in helping with dances and whist drives. She took some interest in politics, as a committee member of the Junior Imperial League, a forerunner of the Young Conservatives⁴⁵.

In 1931, Ernest's oldest son married Kathleen Labbett at the Church of the Holy Cross in Crediton⁴⁶. Brother Ernie was best man while sister Olive was one of the bridesmaids with Kathleen's sisters. She wore an apricot floral crepe-de-chine frock and carried pink carnations. While the Exeter Motor Club gave Fred a silver cigarette case, Kathleen gave him a "wireless set". She received a gold wristlet watch in return.

In early August 1939, with Plymstock CC, brother Stan and Phil Uglow went on a cricket tour in North Devon and two weeks later, Phil and Olive married on 19th August 1939 at the Church of the Holy Cross in Crediton⁴⁷.

Two months later, on November 18th 1939, Ernie married Elfreda Palmer.

In the 1930s, Ernest had been involved with his children's sporting lives but also worked with the British Legion⁴⁸. In the war, Fred was too old for the military and carried on with the garage, notably branching out into tractors. Stan was with the Devon Cadet force in Dawlish. Olive's husband was a radio technician in the RAF. Ernest himself was a special constable through World War II, on his retirement receiving a letter from the Chief Constable - well-deserved as by then he was 73 years old!

Ada died on 28th December 1942 at Exeter hospital and was buried on New Year's Day 1943⁴⁹. All the Vigers family were there, the children with their spouses, Stan's fiancée, Joyce Criddeford, Ernest's brothers and sisters (although Laura didn't travel from London and would die in October).

Lewin Uglow, Phil's father, travelled from Northam to be there and his sister, Gertie Elston, sent flowers. There was no sign of the Matthews family. Possibilities were niece Beatrice Jerrett (who lived at Buttisfar Farm in Colebrooke) or her mother Bessie Ponsford (who was the postmistress in Crockernwell).

After the war, Ernest helped his daughter Olive and his son in law, Philip Uglow, to buy a house in Barnstaple - Tremont in Newport Road. Ernest moved there in 1950 and lived with them until his death on 25th May 1957. He was buried in Crediton. Again, the family were there in force, including sister, Nellie Keen, the only surviving sibling. Son Ernie and Freda were in Canada. Probate was awarded to Olive and Philip in June 1957 - effects amounted to £1,757.

42. Exeter Gazette 2nd October 1936.

43. Exeter Gazette 6th October 1933 and 26th March 1934

44. Western Times 24th July 1936.

45. Western Times 4th March 1932.

46. Western Times 18th September 1931.

47. Express and Echo 21st August 1939.

48. Western Times 25th October 1935 - on the committee.

49. Western Times 8th January 1943.



South West Heritage Trust

Welcome to the Archives and Local Studies services.

We are maintaining our current booking systems and opening hours for the time being.

An appointment should be made before visiting and *are released a fortnight in advance*. Up to 4 documents per session should be pre-ordered. You can then order further documents during your session. *Book a document/deskpace if you wish to order documents at any point before or during your visit.*

Somerset Heritage Centre and Devon Heritage Centre are open for research visits.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Two bookable sessions each day from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

North Devon Record Office is open for research visits.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Two bookable sessions each day from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

October 2021 · <https://swheritage.org.uk/heritage-online/>

On the Bookshelf.....

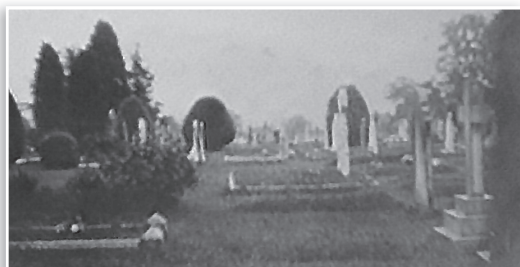
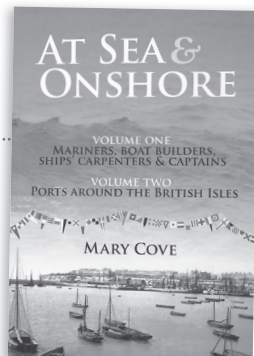
At Sea and Onshore by Mary Cove

Ballinger Press. ISBN 978-1-5272-9099-0

After a phone call to Tree House, we gratefully accepted a copy of this book from the author, Mary Jack (née Cove) for the Tree House library. It comes with a twist, as you will see later.

The book is divided in to two volumes and has developed from the author's own family history research. The first part of the book includes 'a brief history of ships and boats around the world' but also includes chapters on timber and the construction of ships. The second part takes a look at ports around the British Isles. The ports of South Devon, especially Salcombe, are the principal focus. Throughout the book there are references back to the earliest history of all things maritime. An extensive glossary and bibliography complete the book. There is something for everyone with maritime, boat building or dockyard ancestors

Now for the 'twist', the author, Mary, writes: *'There were two Cove distant relatives in the Society, one in New Zealand and one in Canada but I do not know if they are still with us. I still have a copy for each of them if they are.'*



Dear Editor:

Cemetery Location

Can anyone identify or confirm the location of this photograph. I think it may be in the Bovey Tracey area taken about 1933.

Carleton Tarr (18857)

Shebbear History Project

I am aiming to gather as much information as I can about the history of Shebbear and its people, for example, using old maps and census returns to identify who lived in which buildings.

This is proving very difficult as most are listed with 'village' as their dwelling.

I have set up a Facebook page dedicated to the project to try and encourage contributions and help people. I encourage people to sort, reference and share their old photos and documents of past buildings etc. with new owners before the historic information is lost.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/230012835568360>

Paul Watts

The Last Word: Proud to be a member

A quote taken from the Chat notes at the Zoom AGM, Saturday 2nd October 2021.

...I have to depart in search of fuel for my car.

A very enjoyable AGM and I am proud to be a member of such a well run Society. DFHS stands head and shoulders above other FH societies, innovative, forward thinking, superbly organised, hugely informative and brilliant communications.

Carry on the excellent work...

Angela, Hampshire.

Family History Events

For events happening between magazines, check out the diary and Facebook pages at www.devonfhs.org.uk/calendar/ www.facebook.com/groups/devonfhs

Family History Federation

Really Useful Family History Show

2-day Virtual Event - Online. www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

Friday 12 November 6.00pm - 10.00pm GMT and

Saturday 13 November 10.00am - 6.00pm GMT. Special price of £8.50 for Devon FHS members using Checkout Code CLYST21.



THE Genealogy Show: Winter Event!

Following the overwhelming success of the first virtual event, we are once again returning to our bespoke and incredibly immersive event website.

Tune in from 12.00pm Friday 3 December 3rd - 12.00pm Sunday 5 December 2021, with an additional 30-days of free access to all talks and content. Tickets be on sale very soon, only £20 per person - or if you're a student just £10

<https://thegenealogyshow.uk>



Many events will now take place as Online Meetings, Webinars and Virtual Conferences. Perhaps this is an opportunity to take part in events that you have previously considered too far away?

Information on events are correct at time of going to print (Oct 2021).

General Information about the Society

Devon Family History Society is a Registered Charity, number 282490.

The Society is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) and of the South West Area Group of Family History Societies (SWAG).

President The Society's President is Mr Christopher Braund.

Objects The Society's objects are to promote the study of genealogy and history, especially of Devon families and places, to educate the public therein through advice and instruction, and, for the public benefit, to encourage the preservation and transcription of relevant documents and records, especially for the county of Devon.

Constitution and Privacy Notices Copies of these are available on www.devonfhs.org.uk or may be obtained by post from The Secretary.

Membership subscriptions These fall due on 1st January each year and may be paid by sterling cheque, credit/debit card or by direct debit. A renewal form is included in the November Devon Family Historian for postal use. See our shop on www.devonfhs.org.uk for on-line renewal, including for Direct Debit, which is our preferred payment method. Unfortunately we are unable to accept paper direct debit instructions.

UK Membership - £18.00 (Four Devon Family Historians sent by post)

Overseas Membership - £25.00 (Four Devon Family Historians sent by Airmail)

E-Membership - £14.00 Anywhere, Worldwide (Four Devon Family Historians downloaded from the Society's Members' Area)

Life Membership - Apply to the Membership Secretary for details.

Associate Membership for Libraries, Societies and Groups - UK £18, Overseas £25.

Magazine - The Devon Family Historian The magazine is published quarterly in February, May, August and November and is issued free to members. Articles, notes and comments are welcomed by the Editor, particularly from new members. They should have an element of help and interest to all our members, and ideally be about Devon people or places. If appropriate, please quote your sources, so that others may benefit from your research. Good quality images, photos or documents are especially welcome, providing that you have obtained the permission of the copyright holder(s). Please supply text and images as separate files.

Members' Queries are requests for advice or pieces of information that you have looked for thoroughly and have been unable to find.

The above items can be submitted by email to: editor@devonfhs.org.uk - (preferred method) **please put the word HISTORIAN in the subject line.** Or submit by post to: Mrs Sally Macdougall, PO Box 9, Exeter, Devon EX2 6YP.

No manuscript or photograph will be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. The Devon FHS Committee and Editor do not necessarily agree with the statements or opinions appearing in this magazine.

Please ensure that your name, postal and email addresses and membership number appear at the end of your contribution(s).

Members' Area <http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/members-area.htm>

AGM minutes, reports and many benefits may be found on the website.

Your Members' Interests may be submitted online via the Society's Members' Area at www.devonfhs.org.uk Members can add and edit up to 50 interests in this part of the website and search those posted by other members. Members without internet access can submit their interests by post and request searches.

Write to PO Box 9, Exeter, Devon EX2 6YP.

Have you registered and used the Members' Area?

<https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/dfhs-members-area/>

Registration on DFHS Members' Area - When you request registration please ensure that the required details entered are correct before pressing the submit button as requests with typing errors or incorrect details will be deleted and not actioned. If you have previously registered on the Members' Area but forgotten your password use the "forgotten password" link on the Members' Area, do not request registration using a fictitious membership number. (details as at 2021)

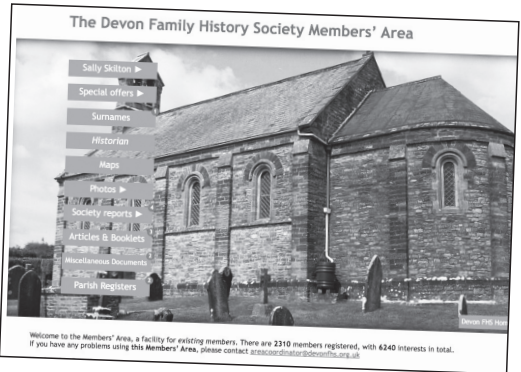
Free to Devon FHS members on the Members' Area of our website:

M Surname searchable indexes: 1754-1837 Marriage Index, Cemetery Register Indexes, Strays, Methodist Obituaries, Monumental Inscriptions and photos, Devon Coastguards and more.

M Check out our Speakers' Notes and Presentations, Articles from Historians 1-178, Devon Parish Maps and church photos.

M Discount codes for Family History Magazines, FindMyPast, The Genealogist, Forces War Records, Society of Genealogists and Pharos Tutors.

M Volunteers have photographed a variety of documents provided by individuals, societies, museums, libraries and record offices. These have not been indexed, but are here for you to browse and include School Admission Registers and the Brixham Western Guardian Newspaper.



M Parishes that have scanned registers available are: Abbotskerswell, Arlington, Aveton Gifford, Axminster, Bigbury, Bow, Bratton Fleming, Challacombe, Chardstock, Clannaborough, Clayhidon, Coffinwell, Coleridge, Combpynne, Cullompton, Culmstock, East Woolfardisworthy, Exeter St. Matthew, Exeter St. Sidwell, Hawkchurch, Hemyock, Holsworthy, Ilsington, Kennerleigh, Kentisbury, Kingskerswell, Kingston, Lapford, Loddiswell, Loxhore, Malborough, Mary Tavy, Milton Damarel, Modbury, Morchard Bishop, Nymet Rowland, Peter Tavy, Plymtree, Ringmore, Salcombe, Shirwell, South Huish, Stockleigh English, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Stoke Rivers, Torwood Holy Trinity, Torquay St. Mark, Torquay St. Matthias, Washford Pyne, Withycombe Raleigh, Woodleigh and Zeal Monachorum.

Projects News Update

The success of Devon FHS's project work is due entirely to the efforts of our volunteers, in Devon, the UK and worldwide.

Work is done at home, at Tree House and at the three Devon Record Offices.

If you would like to help, email: volunteers@devonfhs.org.uk or write to Volunteers, Devon FHS, PO Box 9, Exeter, Devon EX2 6YP.

M Free on Members' Area

F FindMyPast

G Free on Genuki & FMP

S Available in our Shop

Click the Findmypast logo on the home page of the Devon FHS website

- each click generates an income for the society!

Projects in progress

Social & Institutional Records in the Devon Record Offices **F S**

Monumental Inscriptions and photos **M**

Devon Methodist Baptism and Marriage Registers **F**

Registers in the Members' Area **M**

South West Police Heritage Trust

North Devon Infirmary

Devon and Exeter Hospital Records

The Plymouth Theatres Project

This project could do with more transcribing volunteers.

Read the article in The Historian No.176 Nov 2020.



Projects completed

Devon Marriages 1754-1837 **M F**

Devon Baptisms 1813-1839 **F**

Devon Burials 1813-1837 **F**

Plymouth Marriages from 1837 **F**

Plymouth Baptisms post-1837 **S**

Plymouth Ford Park Cemetery 1848-1924 **F**

Cullompton Cemetery Burials 1856-2013 **M**

Torquay Cemetery Burials 1852-1974 **F S**

Devon Census 1861 **M S**

Devon Coastguards **M**

Devon Strays **M**

Devon Wills Project **G**

Lamerton Cemetery Burials 1881-2011 **M**

Methodist Obituaries **M**

Tavistock Dolvin Road Cemetery 1834-1886 **F**

Tavistock Plymouth Road Cemetery 1882-1995 **F**

Booklets for all parishes in Devon **S**

Facsimile Book CDs **S**

Torquay Burial Index **F S**

Plymouth Prison Index **S**

Plymouth Weston Mill Cemetery **M**

Plymouth Efford Cemetery **M**

US Military Personnel in North Devon 1943-1945 **F**

Teignmouth Cemetery Burials **S**

Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll **S**

Devon Masters and Mates **S**

Greycoat School (Plymouth) Admissions **S**

Absent Voters in Devon 1919 **S**

Devon County Lunatic Asylum Admissions Index 1845-1916 **M**

VAD Hospital, Newton Abbot **S**

25 Deanery CDs covering the whole of Devon **S**

Plymouth Drake Memorial Park (1943-1966) **F**

TREE HOUSE RESEARCH CENTRE



Tree House - Research Centre

We are now open as usual but with a few restrictions in place. Our experienced volunteers are still offering a “virtual” Tree House available by email, phone or letter. You can also book an individual ZOOM session.

Please phone or email us at treehouse@devonfhs.org.uk for all enquiries Tree House, Unit 1, 7-9 King Street, Exeter EX1 1BH. Telephone 01392 433212. Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10.30am to 4.00pm

Guidance notes for those visiting Tree House who are less able

Tree House Research Centre is located on the ground floor on King Street in Exeter. There are two small steps and a grab rail providing access to the premises and we have a portable ramp for wheelchair access. Visitors have use of the two WCs which are up steps adjacent to the search rooms. These are outside our lease and are not adapted for the disabled. The nearest car park is Smythen Street Pay & Display which is 100 metres away; disabled drivers displaying a valid badge may park free in any space. Parking in the road outside the Centre is restricted but it is understood that the display of a valid blue badge allows parking for up to three hours. As some of our material is on computer or microfiche, magnifying glasses and a large print keyboard are available. A 13 amp power socket is available for your laptop. A helper accompanying a less able member, solely for the purpose of giving him or her assistance, will be welcomed without payment. In general, if you need some assistance, please let the Lead Volunteer know in advance and we will do all we reasonably can to help. Email us at treehouse@devonfhs.org.uk

Tree House - Research Service

Tree House contains many indexes, documents, books and finding aids, mostly related to Devon. The cost is £12 for 60 minutes research and up to 10 pages of material, subject to copyright restrictions. Although mainly a service for Devon research, we may also be able to help with research in other parts of England and Wales.

The fee is payable in advance and is non-refundable. Requests must be made on a Research Form available from Tree House or on the Tree House webpage. It can also be completed via the Society's Online Shop.

Postal enquiries to: Devon Family History Society, PO Box 9, Exeter, Devon EX2 6YP
We cannot guarantee a result, but will do our best to answer your enquiry, using the resources available to us at Tree House. Further research may be advised and can be arranged. We will consult online resources and local information, as appropriate, to help in answering your research enquiry

- Our complete range of indexes, censuses and online resources
- Devon Parish Registers & Inland Revenue Wills
- Methodist Records
- GRO indexes, Consular returns, Marine births & deaths, Regimental returns
- Our 6,000 volume library of Devon people, places & family histories
- Parish files, Family Trees, Certificates, Wills, Maps, deposited family history research
- Our collection of microfiche and CDs

Devon Family History Society

Online Meetings November 2021 - April 2022

Contact virtualtalks@devonfhs.org.uk

GMT - Greenwich Mean Time, BST - British Summer Time

November 2021

- Wednesday 10 7.30pm GMT Georgian Devon Cloth Industry and Exeter - Todd Gray
Saturday 20 2.30pm GMT And They Sailed Away - Stuart Windsor
Friday 26 7.30pm GMT Irish Records - Chris Paton

December

- Friday 3 7.30pm GMT Maximising Messages - Michelle Patient
Friday 10 7.30pm GMT Devon Christmas Quiz
Saturday 18 2.30pm GMT Family History and History Christmas Quiz

January 2022

- Friday 7 7.30pm GMT Dunkeswell Airfield and its Role in World War II
- Brian Lane-Smith
Saturday 15 2.30pm GMT The Victorian Merchant Navy - Dr Simon Wills
Tuesday 25 7.30pm GMT Family History and the concept of identity - Emma Jolly

February

- Friday 4 7.30pm GMT The Boatmen of Babbacombe Bay, Torquay: 1850s to 1950s
- Phil Badcott
Thursday 17 7.30pm GMT The Diamonds of Devon - Ann Ballard
Saturday 26 2.30pm GMT Brick Walls

March

- Saturday 5 2.30 pm GMT Ordinary People Extraordinary Events - Karen Evans
Saturday 12 2.30pm GMT The Last Hundred Days: How some Devon newspapers
reported the last phase of WW1 - Robert Hesketh
19-28 TBC 7.30pm GMT Using parish and other records to determine how natural
phenomena affected people and communities
- Wayne Shepheard

April

- Saturday 2 2.30pm BST Scary and Startling: what I discovered about China when
exploring accounts from my family - Elizabeth Tebby Germaine
Friday 8 7.30 pm BST The story of Dartmoor Prison - Simon Dell

All the meetings are open to members of the Society and to the public.

Visit our website at <https://www.devonfhs.org.uk/meetings/>



Put these dates in your diary, so you never miss a Zoom meeting!
join the mailing list at <https://eepurl.com/cF1G8n> and follow the instructions.