

No:78



# Newsletter

# Sherington Historical Society

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**December 2012**

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[www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)

## **Special dates for your diary**

### **Tuesday 8th January 2013**

Members Meeting. Please come for a low key evening archiving and chat.

### **Tuesday 22nd January 2013**

January Jolly at The Chester Arms, Chichley - 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. £27.50 for members, £32.50 for non-members (includes first drink).

### **Tuesday 12th February 2013**

'Lacemaking'. A talk by Julian Hunt about the history of making lace.

### **Tuesday 12th March 2013**

Annual General Meeting.

Our Tuesday monthly meetings start at 8.00 pm unless otherwise stated.

## **News Snippets**

The January meeting will be a Members Meeting, so come along and help with the archiving. We may have a couple of short videos to show you. Our January Jolly this year will be held again at The Chester Arms - we had such a good meal from them last year.

Caroline has written reports of our very successful Open Day in October and our October and November monthly meetings (see page 3).

Our next meeting where we have a guest will be in February when Julian Hunt will be coming to talk to us about the history of making lace (for more information see the poster on the back page of this newsletter). The photo on the poster was taken from the Hanslope and District Historical Society's website - the two lacemakers are relatives of a Hanslope person.

# **SHS events - October and November 2012**

## **SHS Open Day - 6th October**

The Sherington Historical Society Open Day proved to be a great success, with over 90 people visiting throughout the warm sunny afternoon. Some of the rich heritage of the village at work was shown. Amongst the many exhibits was a rush matting demonstration and display and many examples of lace, showing the skill and patience involved in creating these delicate items.

A few brave visitors allowed themselves to be interviewed and filmed by our local media professionals. The society's Webmaster had been very busy researching and compiling new information from the records office at Aylesbury, this was all on display and was a popular draw. We had some wonderful raffle prizes, including dinner for two at the Chester Arms and beautiful plants from our 2 local garden centres. Tea and cake was consumed in large quantities and everyone went home happy in the knowledge that they had learned a little more about the past life of our village.

## **A Talk on the Hanslope Murder by Roger Drage - 9th October**

Roger Drage had obviously researched his subject very thoroughly, since every aspect of the murder at Hanslope in 1912 was described to his audience with great enthusiasm and expert knowledge.

The crime had never been a "Whodunnit" but a "Whydunnit", with no motive having ever been established. While I suspect that the mystery will never be completely solved Roger put forward some intriguing and thought-provoking new theories.

## **Members can talk - 13th November**

Three members of the Sherington Historical Society chose to give a short talk on a variety of subjects.

Our first speaker used a PowerPoint display to illustrate the fascinating connection between her own family and Renny Lodge, which was initially used as a workhouse and later as a hospital. The speaker presented a wealth of wonderful photographs of people and places, with amusing and intriguing links to Renny Lodge. We all reflected on just how much has changed in the area over the last decades.

Next we were taken back to World War Two, and a young pilot, John Gillespie Magee, who had written the renowned poem, 'High Flight' in 1941. Something of the poet's background was explained, and how the popularity of the poem had spread even to the extent of President Reagan using it as a tribute to the astronauts in the Challenger space shuttle tragedy.

Our last talk was prompted by a painting, which was recently donated to our Historical Society. The artist was Arthur Crump, a rather eccentric man who had lived in Sherington for many years producing exceptional works of art depicting local scenes. Tragically, Arthur Crump spent his last days in an asylum, but he has left an impressive legacy of artwork.

*Caroline Leslie*

## **SHS Christmas Party - 11th December**

We had a great Christmas Party this year with a good spread of food. Thanks to Pat who kept replenishing our glasses through the evening. Enid's quiz was as enjoyable and challenging as ever - we all learned a great deal about Sherington and the surrounding area. Thanks to Enid for all her hard work in putting this together. Also, thanks to Jill who brought along her handbells, and to Betty for her superb musical quiz. All in all, a very enjoyable evening. (Ed.)

## **Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies**

A lot of the new information added to the Society's website over the past year or so has been taken from material in the Archives at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, in Aylesbury, where many of the official documents relating to the County have been deposited for safe keeping. They hold 11 of the Parish Registers from St Laud's (from 1698 onwards) and the related Bishop's Transcripts (from 1576). In addition, they have records from Local Government and the Courts (Quarter Sessions and Petty Sessions). For example, the latter kept records of the licensed public houses. They also have old maps, including those from the 1910 Land Survey.

The Centre is located on the ground floor of County Hall about 200 yards from the Market Square. It is open to the public from Tuesday to Friday, plus the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in each month. The main reading room is similar to the Local Studies Library at Milton Keynes Central Library. Although its selection of books about the

Milton Keynes area is not as extensive (but includes the inevitable Chibnall books!), it has better coverage of the rest of the County. It also has local newspapers, plus PCs and microfilm readers.

The smaller Archives reading room, with about 12 seats, is behind a security door. It is necessary to register with the staff and provide ID with evidence of your address. The Public cannot access the Archives directly – you browse the index, fill in a form with the details of what you wish to see and the staff fetch it within 5 or 10 minutes. Old documents are not suitable for photocopying, but you are allowed to use your own digital camera (without flash) as much as you wish for a fee of £5 per day. There are a couple of librarians on duty, who are knowledgeable and helpful, to answer queries. The Centre also publishes several useful leaflets with research guides on different topics, e.g. public houses, maps, prisons, family history. Although not essential, it is advisable to contact them in advance to reserve a seat, given that it is a 25-mile journey from Sherington. If staying more than a couple of hours, it is cheaper to use a long stay car park, e.g. the one in Walton Street is nearby.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies at Aylesbury has a feature on its website giving details of prisoners at Aylesbury Gaol. It includes some who were either born or lived in Sherington in the period 1859 to 1878. (See the photos below and the article on next page, which shows some of the detailed work Ian has done. Ed.)

*Ian Collinge*



**Edwin Smith, aged 19, a matmaker, convicted of stealing bread and given a 21-day sentence in Aylesbury Gaol, starting on 12 Feb 1873**



**John Thomas Course, aged 17, a sawyer's labourer, given a 42-day sentence in Aylesbury Gaol, starting on 17 Oct 1871 for stealing beer**

# The Life Story of a Matmaker - Edwin Smith

Edwin was part of a Sherington family with a long rush matmaking tradition. Also matmakers: 2 brothers (John and Thomas), his father (James), grandfather (William), great-grandfather (James), great-great-grandfather (Samuel).

1854 Baptism – Son of James and Ann

1861 Census – Scholar age 7

1873 Prisoner at Aylesbury Gaol for stealing bread, age 19

1876 Marriage and Banns – Harriet Boston Clark, both age 22

1877 Baptism – Daughter – Annie Elizabeth

1878 Burial – Wife – Harriett aged 24

1879 (approx) Marries Emma from Olney

1881 Census – age 26, living with wife Emma, 23, and daughter Annie, 3

1891 Census – not recorded, but daughter Annie, 13, is living with grandparents James and Ann

1901 Census – age 46, living with wife Emma, 43, daughter Elsie, 12, and grandson Bertie Cook, 3

1910 Land Survey – Field Books and Map – Living in Park Road (Plot 146)

1911 Census – age 57, with wife Emma, 53, mother Deborah Boswell, 77, grandson Hubert Cook, 13



Edwin's home in 1911 – Park Road (Land Survey plot 146)

# The Jefferson family in Sherington and further afield

## Part 2

### Edward Jefferson 1798-1854 (Part 2)

In the 1831 and 1832 land tax records Edward is the tenant/occupier of land belonging to William Ivison on a tithed property paying £10 12s land tax, for the same years, to Mercers' Company - £13 12s 6d sum where tax was redeemed or exonerated by the owner, again in 1831/2 to owner Thomas Hale whose land was freehold with the land tax of £9 6s 3d redeemed, (all in Sherington) and a small piece of land at Lathbury with a Mrs Thrope as the owner with 8s tax redeemed. In 1832 Edward was also the tenant at Sherington of owner John Clayton of freehold land paying £7 9s as land tax and also a tithed property paying £3 19s 6d which was not redeemed. But it's not clear whether it was the tenant or owner who actually paid the land tax.

On 24th May 1839 Edward was under notice to quit his farm at Sherington (unfortunately the farm isn't named - he did rent various fields as shown above,) as there was an auction which included 20 Herefords, 150 sheep, 63 acres of grass and the list goes down to 2 broad wheel dung carts and 10 loads of beans and peas.

But on the 3rd October 1839 he signed a lease of a farm of 121 acres at Little Crawley. The owner was a William Hughes Bowman and his wife Emma, of Brunswick Coffee House, Picket Place, Strand, in the City of Westminster, Middlesex. Edward paid a yearly rent of £120.

In Pigott's Directory of 1844 Edward is listed as a corn dealer and in the 1851 census as a farmer of 240 acres. In 1797 Mercers' Farm had consisted of a total of nearly 129 acres. Part of the difference of 111 acres would have been made up of renting Manor farm.

In Mussons & Cravens Commercial Directory of 1853 he is described as a farmer and a fellmonger.

By the mid 1850s cotton was taking over in importance from wool, but the change must have been gradual as Edward still had plenty of sheep. Farm equipment was being improved all the while and nitrogen fertiliser (guano) was being imported from Chile.

After Sarah's death on the 9th January 1849, Edward married the widow Sarah Swannell née Osborn on December 13th 1850 in the parish church at Newport Pagnell. The witnesses were Sarah's father Thomas Osborn, farmer and Mary Osborn, William Pike, Elizabeth Pike, Elizabeth Price and Annabella Price. Edward had 11 children by his first wife and a Fanny Osborne Jefferson (1851-1885), by his second wife, who married a John Jones Ponting of Ponting Brothers Ltd – a large department store in Kensington High Street, London and was then divorced by him, for adultery, in 1880.

The following are the children of Edward by his first wife:

The first five are found in the non-conformist records and were baptised at 'The Great Meeting Independent, Newport Pagnell' now the United Reform Church, built in 1880 which replaced the Independent Meeting House of 1702. The Rev. William Bull (1738-1814) and then his son the Rev. Thomas Palmer Bull (1773-1859) were pastors there. Another branch of the Bull family – William Bateman Bull and then his successors were the Jefferson family solicitors.

1) George 1822-1865. Born 2nd March 1822, baptised 5th March 1823. Farmer at Marston Moretaine in Bedfordshire with brother Benjamin, then at Mercers' Farm, Sherington.

2) Edward 1823-1871. Born 15th May 1823, baptised 18th June 1823. Married Mary Anne Franklin on November 27th 1850 at the parish church of Marston Moretaine. Witnesses were William, Jane and George Franklin and Mary Jefferson. They farmed at Wood End Farm, Westoning, Bedfordshire.

3) Martha 1824-1902. Baptised 21st March 1828. Married Thomas Borton 4th June 1844 at Sherington. Farmer at Church End, Sherington of 92 acres employing 3 labourers in 1851, which increased to 135 acres in 1871, employing 6 men and 2 boys, but in 1881 the number of labourers had been reduced to 4 men and 2 boys. Martha went to live with her sister, Elizabeth, after her husband died as in 1891 she was a widow living at Springfield Cottage, New Southgate, Edmonton, Middlesex.

4) William 1826-1863. Baptised 21 March 1828. Married Elizabeth Cooper 2nd December 1851 at Newport Pagnell. Farmed at East End Farm, North Crawley. 160 acres in 1861, employing 8 men and 6 boys. William died at the early age of 37 of a punctured wound to his hand.

5) Benjamin 1827-1899. Baptised 21st March 1828. Farmed at Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire with brother George before going gold prospecting in Australia and New Zealand with Joseph.



As Sherington Independent Chapel was built in 1828 Edward probably started to attend here instead of Newport Pagnell. The baptisms for the family members below have not been found – yet.

6) Mary 1829-1888, married Benjamin Brooks on the 2nd June 1852 at the parish church in Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire. Witnesses were Edward and Sarah Jefferson. He was a baker and innkeeper at the George Inn, Lavendon.

7) Joseph 1830-1887, married Mary Eliza Gregory, farmer at Mercers' Farm, Sherington.

8) Elizabeth 1831- married 1) Henry Franklin on 3rd December 1850 at Sherington. He owned property in Stepney, where they lived with a nurse for their son Henry in 1851. In 1861 he was a coalmerchant living at Bridge Street, Welwyn. Henry died on the 26th October 1866 at Stevenage, Hertfordshire. He left effects under £3000 to be administered by Elizabeth. She went on to marry 2) Blackall Joseph Yarrow on 6th May 1856 at Marston Mortaine, Bedfordshire. He was a Bank of England clerk. They lived at Springfield Cottage, Edmonton, London in 1881.

9) Sarah 1834-

10) Ann 1837-1896, married William Sharman, on the 29th October 1862 at Sherington. Farmer at Great Woolstone – of 180 acres with 5 men and 3 boys in 1871 to 505 acres in 1881.

11) Alfred 1839-1840. As a result of Edward's death of pleurisy on the 8th April 1854 several auctions were held. Some he would have inherited on the death of his father William in 1844. The following are just some of the items listed:

*17th May 1854 at Sherington*

472 sheep, 38 fat and store oxen, 30 acres of grass keeping which consisted of 15 acres of Griggs Meadow and 15 acres of Cow Pasture.

*19th May 1854 at Roxhill Farm, Marston, near Ampthill*

350 sheep and lambs, 57 store hogs, 28 acres of grass keeping which included Richardson's Field of 15 acres.

*7th June 1854 at Newport Pagnell*

Dwelling house that included a butcher's shop at Tickford End, tenant John Bull,

Fellmongers Yard near Tickford Bridge

Private house at Tickford End, tenant Joseph Webb

Grocers shop at Tickford End, George Moore, yearly rent of £15

Pasture land at Tickford End, George Bull, yearly rent of £15,

Stable building at Tickford End, Mrs Ayers, yearly rent of £5

School House at Tickford End, Mrs Van Hagen, yearly rent of £5 10s

Messuage at the High Street, Olney which was located by the Swan Inn. Tenant John Hutchings, taylor.

Pastureland of 6 acres at North Crawley.

*12 October 1854 at Sherington*

10 draught horses, 4 Herefords, 47 sheep, 7 broad-wheeled dung carts, 3 turnip machines, oil cake breakers and other implements.

After Edward's death, his widow, Sarah, along with her daughter, Fanny, domestic Catherine Byway and a boarder, George H Hitchin – a banker's clerk – are living at a property on the High Street in Newport Pagnell. Sarah died on the 15th February 1870 and is buried at Sherington.

*Lynda Jefferson*

This completes the section about Edward Jefferson from Lynda Jefferson's interesting article. More about the Jeffersons in future editions of this newsletter. (Ed.)

## **Aerial photos of Sherington**

The aerial photo on the front cover was taken on 22nd September 2012. On the next page are two more aerial photos of Sherington from circa 1962 and 1996.

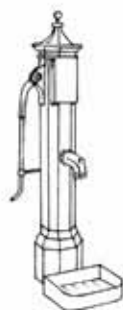


Circa 1962

SHERINGTON CHURCH

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# Sherington Historical Society

presents

A talk by Julian Hunt

## The History of Lacemaking

Sherington Village Hall

Tuesday 12th February 2013

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm



Refreshments available  
Raffle

Entry: £1.00/£2.50 for members/non-members

Web: [www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)

Email: [SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk)