

Number
92



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



September 2016

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 11th October 2016

Northamptonshire Witches - a talk by Kevin Varty.

Tuesday 8th November 2016

Members Can Talk: A chance where we can talk about something we care about. Please contact Caroline to let her know what you want to talk about.

Tuesday 13th December 2016

Christmas Party: Games, wine and nibbles. Bring a nibble to share and need there be any more said.

Tuesday 10th January 2017

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

Tuesday 14th February 2017

We'll be showing the MK Heritage DVD 'MK Through The Lens'.

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

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)

Gosh, seems that so much has happened since our last newsletter. We are now into autumn proper with the cooler, shorter days, but the warm weather having been with us for much longer than normal makes such a nice change, rather than bemoaning the poor weather we have. Today, as I write, we are having a lovely and sunny but cool morning, as we all like to think of what autumn is.

Looking at my last musings, I was talking about the Black Propaganda talk by Michael Kushner which was about to happen. I am glad to report that it lived up to



expectation. As ever with these things, they are never as you are expecting, but are informative and enjoyable. We learned about some of the local and not so local locations that were being used in the propaganda battle against our foes during the World Wars. Makes you wonder what goes on today!

Since then, the Society has had a number of events, the biggest being the Heritage Open Days (HODs) weekend, for which Liz, Caroline and Kay created a pamphlet of a circular walk around the top part of the village. This was made possible with a grant provided by Milton Keynes Heritage Association. The walk detailed local points of interest in the village. The grant meant we could get it professionally designed and printed, but the content all came from Caroline, Kay and Liz. The Saturday was a bit of a washout unfortunately, but the Sunday, where we did refreshments in St Laud's, was a great success and we raised just under £150 that we were able to donate to the Church. So thanks has to go the people that helped on the Sunday, for setting up, baking cakes/scones, serving and putting the church back to the way it was found.

Looking forward to the next few events in the calendar, October's meeting is one I am specially looking forward to with Kevin Varty coming to talk about Northamptonshire Witches. Some might remember the Magic Lantern Show Kevin gave us a couple of seasons ago, and how much fun that was, so there are quite high expectations for this talk.

Following on from the October meeting, we then have Members Can Talk and the Christmas Party to see us out to the end of the year.

We now have a new member of the Committee. Jackie Inskipp has offered her services to be our Minute Secretary. We had our first meeting with her in role last night. So let's hope she will be there for the next one! Seriously though, the Committee are all very grateful for her for taking up this role. Thank you Jackie.

Mark Vale

News snippets

The photographic competitions continue to get more entries. So far we have 64 entries for the Sights and Seasons competition and 81 entries for Wild Sherington. We could do with some more entries in the Under 18 section, so if you know

anyone who is under 18 (they do not have to live in the village but the photo must be taken in the village), then please encourage them to take part. We have some great photos. Take a look at the website. Links to both pages of submitted entries are on this page <http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington/>. The competitions run until 31st December. The judging is happening in January and we hope to have an exhibition of the best photos and the winning entries in February 2017. David McKay has kindly agreed again to be our judge. So please support the competitions.

You may remember that we printed an article back in 2012 by Lynda Jefferson called *The Jefferson family in Sherington and further afield*. Lynda has sent us another article on the research she has done on the Jefferson family in Sherington. It's very interesting reading, and the first part of the article is printed below. Parts two and three of this article will be reproduced in future newsletters.

Mark has mentioned the events we have had recently and those still to come. The HODs event was a great success, also very enjoyable to meet people while we served teas in the church. Some of Kay's photos of the Sunday afternoon are reproduced on the front cover and at the end of this newsletter.

Liz Revell

From George to Frederick Jefferson

This is the first part of another article by Lynda Jefferson about the Jefferson Family. The first article appeared in the 2012 SHS newsletters and told of the first Jeffersons to live in Sherington - Edward (1798-1854) and his first wife, Sarah Checkley (1799-1849). After living at Newport Pagnell, where Edward had been born on the 16th March 1798 and baptised on the 21st, they took over the tenancy of Mercers Farm at Calves End, from Benjamin Griggs in 1822. This article gives information about Edward and Sarah's two sons, George and Joseph, and the first five of Joseph's ten children.

George Jefferson 1822-1865

Edward's eldest son, George, took over the tenancy of Mercers Farm on his father's death with his sister Ann looking after him. He never married, which was rather unusual for those times. He, unfortunately, was killed at the relatively young age of 43 on 30th October 1865, when after returning from an evening out to Lavendon with his brother-in-law Thomas Borton (husband of Martha) his horse was startled

and the pony-trap flipped over throwing George out onto Thomas's yard, fracturing his skull, after dropping Thomas off.

On Thursday 2nd August 1866 an auction was held by auctioneer George Green of Ampthill, Bedfordshire for 97 acres of standing corn and clover on the farms at Sherington and at Great Linford.

Field name	Crop	Amount	Total made
At Sherington:			
Town's End Close	wheat	approx 6 acres @ £11 10s per acre	£79 2s 8d
Town's End Close	wheat	approx 6 acres @ £12 per acre	£72 19s 6d
Parson's Hill	beans	approx 13 acres @ £6 17s 6d per acre	£90 7s 2d
Ray Furlong	clover	approx 11 acres @ £6 per acre	£70 6s 3d
Hunger Hill	early Duns peas	approx 6 acres @ £6 12s 6d per acre	£42 12s 0d
Parson's Pond	barley	approx 9 acres @ £5 17s per acre	£56 8s 0d
Bakeman's Piece	oats	approx 14 acres @ £8 5s per acre	£120 7s 11d
At Great Linford:			
Ash Leys	wheat	approx 6 acres @ £9 10s	£57 13s 0d
Ash Leys	wheat	approx 4 acres @ £9 per acre	£41 13s 7d
Bottom Field	beans	approx 6 acres @ £6 5s per acre	£38 1s 6d
Long Slade	barley	approx 7 acres @ £6 5s per acre	£48 10s 3d
Which made a total of £718 1s 10d			

Some of the buyers of the various crops were a Mr Labrey, Mr Eve, Mr Goff, Mr Neal, Mr Barrot and a Mr Warren.

Joseph Jefferson 1830-1887

Although Joseph was the youngest brother in the family, he took over the farm at Calves End (in all the censuses available there is no mention of Mercers Farm), his other living brothers either being settled as tenants on other farms or living abroad.



Joseph Jefferson

Joseph must have inherited the entrepreneurial spirit from his great-grandfather Edward (1739-1814). Although born in Southwark, London, and living there for several years, Edward was part of a carrier company based in Newport Pagnell with George Osborn, Jonathan Abbott, Henry Atterbury, Richard Higgins, John Williams, Joseph Cripps, William Watson and Thomas Handson – the partnership was dissolved on the 1st November 1790. He left £4,050 consolidated stock of annuities in his will as well as various bequests, including £20 to Thomas and Joseph Cripps. Edward had married Mary Yates, née Cripps, on 27th November 1774 at Newport Pagnell. Joseph went one step further than his great-grandfather in that he travelled to Australia to try his luck, with his brother Benjamin, landing at

Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, in May 1853 on the ship named *Anne Cropper*. After a while, they realised that unless you were very lucky, you were more likely to make a better living setting up your own livery stable to move people and goods to and from the gold fields.

On hearing of George's death, Joseph travelled back to England leaving Benjamin behind, who apparently didn't last long in the livery business and ended his days prospecting in New Zealand.

He took over the tenancy on the 29th October 1866. It was reported in the *Buckingham Herald* on the 10th November 1866 that his friends and neighbours came to his aid – as was customary – with 33 teams who ploughed two fields for him. An appreciative Joseph rewarded them generously.

On April 25th 1867 Joseph married Mary Eliza Gregory in the parish church of Sherington, witnessed by his brother Edward and Mary Eliza's sister Miriam. Mary Eliza had been born on 27th March 1842 at Sherington. Her parents were John Gregory, baker and farmer, and her mother was Mary Moden. They were to have 10

children. They had to contend with a serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease which was announced in the Bucks Herald on the 27th October 1883.

1. Gertrude Sarah Jefferson 1868-1952

Gertrude was educated by Agnes Slade (lady principal of a boarding school at Great Linford according to the 1881 census – a small school of 12 pupils aged between 11 and 14 where German, French and drawing were amongst the subjects taught).

In her notebook dated 1888/9 she records various facts about Haddon Hall where she was a guide, living at Nether Haddon with Emma Swaine, the custodian of the Hall, which was empty at the time, as the Manners family chose to live at their other residence, Belvoir Castle. Her crowning glory was the opportunity to show the Prince of Wales around and various dignitaries on 17th November 1895, Emma being unwell at the time. The Prince gave her a sovereign and the Duchess of Devonshire half a sovereign.

She went on to marry Albert Edward Skevington in 1900. They farmed at Grange Farm, Cople, Bedfordshire to begin with, then moved to Speedwell Farm, Woburn, and then to Home Farm at Milton Bryan which was part of the Duke of Bedford's estate.

Due to ill health Albert had to retire and they moved to a smallholding at Wilstead, near Bedford. Albert died in 1934 and Gertrude moved to a small thatched cottage opposite Cople church. After suffering a severe stroke, she convalesced at her son Stuart's home in Newport Pagnell before returning to her cottage where she was looked after by her companion Mrs Blake. She ended her days at The Limes at Biggleswade on 20th August 1952.

They had 2 sons, Albert Edward and Charles Stuart. The latter worked for Francis Coales and Son selling animal feeds etc. During WW2, as he was a keen pigeon fancier, he trained pigeons which were dropped in France and returned to Bletchley Park from the French Resistance. There is more information at Bletchley Park in Hut 8.



Albert Skevington (1867-1934), sons: Charles Stuart and Albert Edward, and Gertrude Skevington née Jefferson

2. Edward John Jefferson 1869-1928

Edward married Alice Maud Hickson in 1907. He was a tenant at Home Farm, Chicheley and also farmed 80 acres at Far Side Farm. He was later to help his mother manage Mercers Farm and Manor Farm after his father's death. He had also taken on the role of Overseer with F J Field to oversee the collection of the rates for the poor relief between 17th April 1903 and 15th April 1904, a role his great-grandfather had had in 1777 at St Thomas's Workhouse in Southwark. He was vice-chairman of Sherington Parish Council from 15th April 1904 to 29th March 1910 and from 1915 to 1920.

They had 4 children: Helen Mary 1908-1909, Phyllis 1910-1998, Joseph Gregory 1912-1986 (who was to immigrate to Australia in 1954 on the Strathmore, following their son) and Elizabeth Joan 1914-1985.

Tragedy struck the family in 1928 when Edward committed suicide at Bedlam Spinney on his way back from Mercers Farm. Philip Smith's father, having one of the few pickup wagons (being a fencer by trade), went to Newport Pagnell police station where the lead coffin was kept for such occasions. Edward had been a much liked, respected and conscientious man who had been worrying about his finances unnecessarily as it turned out. His wife was to die just 4 months later, relapsing whilst having a cup of tea when the ambulance arrived.



Edward John Jefferson



*Alice Maud Hickson
1880-1928*



Rabbit shoot at Sherington

3. George Ernest Jefferson 1872-1938

In the 1891 census George is a visitor living with Frederick and Hannah Wingrave at Wavendon as a grocer's assistant.

George married Alice Maud Thurley (1875-1932) in 1899 at Sandy,

Bedfordshire. They farmed at The Lodge, Elstow, Bedfordshire which had 16 rooms. In 1911, Alice's mother, Emma, is living with them and also two boarders, one of whom had a young daughter as well. No doubt, their rent money would have come in very handy.

Unfortunately, he was declared bankrupt in 1921. He died at the age of 66. On 22nd July 1938 he was living at 64 Clapham Road, Bedford.

Their 5 children were: Winifred May, Peter Gregory, Charles Alfred, Vita and John. The latter, known as Jack, immigrated to New Zealand in 1926 aboard the SS Tamaroa. He was a herd tester in 1929 for the Thames Valley Dairy Company, travelling around on his motor-cycle and side-car and later a Baby Austin.

4. Francis William (Frank) Jefferson 1874-1951

In the 1891 census Frank is a butcher's apprentice living at Simpson, Fenny Stratford with Alfred Benford, butcher, and his family.

Frank remained single and was to help his mother on Mercers Farm. He went to live with his sister Winifred at Water Lane, Sherington after Mary Eliza's death.

5. Frederick Joseph Jefferson 1876-1950

In 1901 Frederick is boarding in Sandy, Bedfordshire, working in the vegetable trade. There he met his future wife Ada Mary Crawley whom he marries in 1902, with his brother Edward John as a witness. They had one daughter, Gladys Mary, in 1903, who was born at Sandy. Both Frederick and his father-in-law are market gardeners.



Marriage of Frederick Joseph Jefferson and Ada Mary Crawley on 23rd July 1902 at Sandy, Bedfordshire. With Ada's parents Charles and Jane Crawley and Edward John Jefferson as best man

Frederick is a farm bailiff in the 1911 census, living at Whitley Hall Farm, Whitley, North Sheffield with Ada helping as a dairy maid. During WW1 Frederick was in the Army Service Corps as a driver delivering army supplies. Eventually, they settled down at Newbold on Avon in Warwickshire, first at Baytree Cottage and then next

door at Manor Farm. Frederick's main occupation was selling animal feed etc. and in later years he had a manager to run the farm.

Lynda Jefferson

Heritage Open Days - Sunday in Sherington

Here are some photos of the HODs event in St Laud's on Sunday 11th September when members of the Historical Society served tea, coffee and home-made cakes to visitors who came to do the circular walk.





If you haven't got a copy of the leaflet, you can pick up a copy from St Laud's. It's a self-guided walk around the top part of Sherington, so you can take the walk and learn about the historic buildings at your leisure.





presents

A talk by Kevin Varty

Northamptonshire Witches



Refreshments available
Raffle

Entry: £2.00/£3.00 for members/non-members

Web: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk