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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year to everyone, may your research over the coming year prove fruitful!

I personally had a very interesting end to 1998. First of all a chance contact over the internet from a man in New Zealand helped me to trace lots of my ‘missing’ ancestors and, hopefully, I am just about to prove that my 3 x great grandfather left his wife and child in Birmingham and went to the USA where he fought in the Civil War and then bigamously remarried. All very exciting in a family that I thought had only moved from Hartshill to Nuneaton in 400 years!

Then, as a Christmas present for an old friend (with his permission), I put together as much of his family history that I could manage in four weeks. He knew very little about his family, being the youngest son of a youngest son. He thought that the family came from Derbyshire originally and knew that there were two men named on the WW1 memorial in Nuneaton park who were probably related. I managed to trace all of the history of these two young men complete with newspaper cuttings, and details of when and where they were killed etc from the War Graves Commission. It turned out that they were his father’s older brothers.

I also managed to trace one side of his family back to Derbyshire and another side back further to Nuneaton again to find that his ancestors included old Nuneaton names like Clay and Green. My friend was thrilled with his present and I really enjoyed doing it. We are now planning a trip to France to visit the Thiepval memorial and some of the cemeteries.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition but in particular to two special people. Firstly to Dr Jennifer Burton for allowing me to use text and pictures from her books about Nuneaton Hospitals in this edition’s feature article, and for giving up her time to show me around the Hospital Museum and talk about the records that they have and the work that they are doing. Secondly I would like to thank Alan Cooper who has kindly put together this years edition of Members’ Interests.

The cover photograph this time is of The Nuneaton Cottage (Manor) Hospital.

PAT BOUCHER
The Beginnings Of Health Care In Nuneaton And
The Establishment Of The Cottage Hospital

Extracted from “Nuneaton Hospitals, the First Hundred Years”
By Jennifer Burton & John Bland ©

There is very little evidence of “Hospital” as opposed to “Community” care of the sick and dying in Nuneaton until the nineteenth century. Mancetter Roman Fort may have had facilities for dealing with the sick legionaries. Most monastic institutions gave money and food to the poor and many had infirmaries for their own sick and aged members. There is some evidence that the Nunnery made provision to cover the small neighbouring town of Eaton (Nuneaton) which in 1332 had a population of 900. Any service that did exist disappeared at the dissolution of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII.

Institutions to provide for those with no one to care for them - orphans, the sick, the poor and the old - had been established in the larger centres. St. Thomas’s Hospital, London was founded about the time of the Norman Conquest. Leicester and Coventry had facilities in the Middle Ages, with nursing, limited medical treatment and basic surgery but there is no suggestion that the inhabitants of Nuneaton had access to such care. There were leper hospitals providing the strict isolation which contributed to the decline of the disease. One of these, with it's chapel, still exists in the Saltisford, Warwick and is currently being restored.

Some of the welfare problems created by the loss of the monasteries were mitigated by the late Tudor Monarchs. Nuneaton received back its school under Edward VI. 1601 saw the first of the many Poor Laws. A tax administered by each parish was levied on householders but was presumably not greeted with a lot of enthusiasm. Overseers of the Poor were appointed to carry out day to day organisation. Special vestry meetings would decide who should have relief. A distinction was made between those who were fit and could work on such things as repairing roads, and the sick who needed help. At first, relief was given to people in their own homes. Chilvers Coton has a good set of records from the late 17th century. These indicate that poor relief consisted of material things in addition to money. The sick were treated in their homes and received similar treatment to their fellow towns people.

At this time there was no registration of doctors and medical advice was obtained from many different sources. The most expensive were the University trained Physicians. Their fees were usually in guineas and they were mostly found in London and large Towns. The nearest Physician to Nuneaton was in Coventry and his services would be limited to the very rich and those with particularly interesting conditions. In Nuneaton there would have been Surgeons and Apothecaries who learned by the Apprenticeship system. A whole set of untrained people also practised - Midwives (who also laid out the dead), bonesetters and toothpullers.

The 18th Century was a particular time of learning. Dissection gave the Surgeons a better knowledge of what they were seeing when operating. Medicine and hospitals were changing. More rational treatments were now tried by the Physicians. The Industrial Revolution was leading to increased prosperity with the well to do wanting to be seen to help the less well off. A group of people willing to subscribe a regular yearly amount of money would establish a hospital. Physicians and Surgeons gave their services to the hospital free. Subscribers were given tickets which they could give to their own employees and the deserving sick and poor to obtain treatment. Initially the hospitals were in London, but soon there were foundations in the provinces - Leicester Royal Infirmary (1771) Birmingham (1799) and in 1838 the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital was founded. The Physicians and Surgeons soon realised that they had created ideal places to train Doctors. These hospitals were grim places with a high mortality. Nursing was done by untrained women. There were no anaesthetics and surgery was rare - usually amputations done quickly to minimise pain. Those who survived the operation often died from infection or tetanus. It is not surprising that the wealthy were treated in their own homes.

At the beginning of the 19th Century Nuneaton was also changing. Increased industrialisation meant a growth in population with the major industry being ribbon weaving. In places such as Abbey Street extra houses were built in previous gardens. Disease was the inevitable result of the close proximity of wells to privies. Typhoid was always present, and in the 1830’s there were cholera epidemics. The 1848 Public Health Act allowed Health Boards to be established if the death rate was above 23 per thousand - in Nuneaton the rate was 31. The Inspectors Report spoke of appalling living conditions. The Health Board appointed a Medical Officer of Health and improved sanitation.

During the 19th Century there were great advances in medical treatment. The discovery of anaesthesia in 1846 allowed surgery without pain. Later Lord Lister showed the importance of antiseptics in preventing wound infection after surgery. It just needed the nursing reforms instituted by Florence Nightingale to revolutionise the hospitals and increase what they could achieve. Medical training in these hospitals showed the future Doctors that previously fatal conditions could now be treated. It is not surprising that young Doctors returning to Nuneaton to practice felt the need for such an institution in their own rapidly growing Town.

(Continued on page 4)
Hospitals developed by several routes. Money could be raised from voluntary contributions to support the building and its running costs. In Nuneaton the Cottage Hospital (later to be called the General and then the Manor) was built in this way. As a result of various Acts, responsibilities were laid on Town Councils and County Councils to fulfil public health functions particularly in the isolation of infectious disease and the mentally ill. A hospital was built at the top of Tuttle Hill and this was eventually replaced by Bramcote, the only survivor of several of these infectious diseases hospitals. The third route was the development of hospitals for sick paupers as part of the Poor Law. Facilities were provided for sick paupers - these were usually but not always part of the workhouse. The George Eliot Hospital started in this way. During the Second World War this was extended as an Emergency Medical Services hospital to provide beds for casualties and service personnel. All these various types of institution were taken over to become part of the NHS in 1948.

During the 19th Century the Nason family was particularly involved in the foundation of the future Manor Hospital. Edward Nason 1800-1868 had been the Town Surgeon. His responsibilities included the medical cover of the workhouse. His son Richard is credited with suggesting the need for a hospital, but it was to take him 30 years to achieve his aim. The need was very obvious - there were many severe injuries from the collieries and quarries. In one incident a man needing bi-lateral amputation of legs following an accident had been returned to his cottage home to be nursed by his wife. Mr. Ramsden of Camp Hill gave a house in Abbey Street to be used as a hospital which proved to be unsuitable and was sold for £170 to start a fund for a future institution. This progressed no further until 1880 when the then Vicar, Canon Bellairs, endeavoured to establish a dispensary but a rival collection for another institution, running on somewhat antagonistic lines, limited success. In 1888 Miss Bellairs, the sister of the former Vicar, gave £100 for the erection of a Cottage Hospital to increase the fund to £270. At about this time Richard's son Dr. Edward Nason MD 1860-1944 had returned to the family practice. He had been trained as a Surgeon with Sir Frederick Treves at the London Hospital and had been Resident Surgical Officer at the hospital in Birmingham. He had seen the benefits of trained nurses assisting at operations and nursing the patients afterwards. He had seen the success of professional nursing in coping with typhoid fever which was common in Nuneaton at the time. On March 26th 1890, Dr. Richard Nason called a meeting at his son's house 80 Abbey Street. Five Doctors were present, Richard and his two sons Edward and William, Dr. Cookson and Dr. Peacock. The funds available were obviously inadequate to provide a purpose-built hospital so they proposed that a more limited development be established while further money was collected. This development was called the Nuneaton Institution for Trained Nurses. Its objects were to provide skilled nursing for the sick and poor of the Town and immediate neighbourhood; to instruct the friends of the sick in proper management of the sick room and in simple sanitary rules; to provide as soon as funds admit of it a Cottage Hospital for the rapidly increasing District; and, if possible, a staff of trained nurses who may be engaged at certain fixed charges.

The organisation was left to Dr. Richard Nason, who rented number 2 Stanton Villas, Princes Street, to provide accommodation for two trained nurses and a housekeeper. In addition there was room for nursing a patient. This was to be used only in exceptional circumstances, usually for surgery when home circumstances made it otherwise impossible. Two trained nurses, Miss W. Shaw and Miss Wheeler, personal friends of Dr. Edward Nason, were employed. The home was opened by Mr. Reginald Stanley on the 4th November 1890. Strict rules were laid down, all cases were to be referred by a qualified medical man and were to be under his superintendence. Scarlet Fever, Measles, Smallpox and midwifery were excluded and there was a limit on distance. Usually cases were not allowed after 8pm or on Sunday unless they were urgent. All nursing aid was to be withdrawn at once from any case in which there was wilful disobedience of the orders of the Medical Attendants as to diet, etc. The second year's report of 1892 gives us some indication of the activity. 131 patients had been nursed, 4,581 home visits. Twenty three were cases of acute pneumonia or bronchitis, thirty two of typhoid fever (including one in which two serious relapses occurred due to wilful disobedience of medical orders -- the nurses services were withdrawn). There were eleven cases of severe accidents with two fractured spines, and in five demanding cases a

![No 2 Stanton villas, Princes Street (the middle gable with the girl standing by the gate) from a postcard circa 1900. Nuneaton's first voluntary nursing institution and hospital.](image-url)
(Continued from page 4)
nurse remained with the patient all night. All this was done in the poorer part of the Town and in the patients own overcrowded and cramped home. One patient was admitted to the home to undergo a surgical operation and was nursed there until fit to return home. The institution in the first eighteen months of its inception was a considerable success despite the limited scope.

This demonstrated the need and by now over £3,000 had been raised by subscription and collection so that plans for the new hospital could go ahead. Mr. Tomkinson and Mr. Stanley gave some land in Manor Court Road, a pleasant, newly expanding area of the Town. The land had probably been part of the original Abbey Home Farm. Mr. Stanley also agreed to construct a tree lined approach road at no cost, this is now the hospital drive. A purpose built hospital was designed by Mr. Yates of Birmingham - Mr. Stanley’s Architect. Out of thirteen estimates Mr. Smith, a builder from Coton, was successful at a price of £2,794. The Free Masons were approached to lay a foundation stone similar to that at the Abbey Church but they declined saying that the project was not large enough so the building went ahead without a foundation stone. It consisted of a central administrative block which on the ground floor included kitchens and operating theatre, upstairs were the bedrooms for the nurses. Corridors with verandahs connected the buildings to each of two, eight bedded wards.

There was a great deal of discussion about the opening ceremony and the rules for admitting patients. The house in Princes Street was to close and the District Nursing Services transferred to the new hospital. The wives of Dr. Richard and Dr. Edward Nason were given the task of purchasing all the linen and household articles. Mrs. Edward Nason was a qualified nurse who had previously worked in Birmingham.

Despite all the planning, the silver key had not arrived by the opening ceremony on the 20th September 1893 and Mr. James Tomkinson had to open the front door without it. After several long speeches those present were invited to have tea and look around the building. To do so they had to pass two nurses in uniform, one with a tray for donations and the other with a book in which to enter annual subscribers. When the hospital opened there was still a shortage of funds and consequently only four of the eight beds on each ward could be used. The minute book of the Management Committee details the costs of the opening ceremony, including £4 12 shillings for the Excelsior Band - a high cost when one considers that a trained nurses annual salary was £25.

A Matron, two trained nurses and two servants staffed both the hospital and the District Nursing service. The medical cover was from a list of local Doctors who gave their services free. Two Doctors were appointed each month to attend accidents and emergencies where no other Doctor had been chosen. Private patients could be admitted at a cost of two guineas provided that there was ample space and no poor patients suffered in consequence. On 9th October 1893, the first patient was admitted under the care of Dr. Edward Nason, he was a boy of fourteen, William Taylor, with a fractured tibia. He only stayed for three days. His second patient was a fifty-one year old man with a strangulated hernia which was treated surgically the next day and cured. The third admission was a private patient who had surgery for breast cancer.

In-patient care was determined by the medical staff. Arrangements were made to see outpatients once a week. In theory the patient had to obtain a ticket from a regular subscriber who had donated £1. Most London hospitals operated in this way, but the system never seems to have been much used in Nuneaton. Most of the hospital Doctors were also General Practitioners who had their own consulting rooms in the Town.

During the first year seventy-one patients were admitted and thirty-one operations performed - the average length of hospital stay was twenty-one days. Fund raising continued £265, from donations and subscribers, £219 from workmen's collections, £81 from churches, and £69 from various entertainments such as football matches. The total collected for 1894 was £923, enabling more beds to be opened.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1900, plans were made for a new wing of two wards with five beds each plus more bedrooms for nurses on the first floor. One of these wards was to be a children's ward. Again there were opening problems in that it was discovered at the last moment that the Queen's permission was needed for a ward to be named after her. A telegram resolved the matter and the new block was opened by Lady Newdegate and the public were shown around the premises.
When I suggested that I would like to give this edition of the newsletter a ‘medical’ flavour I was very pleased to hear from one of our members, Dr Jennifer Burton. She very kindly invited me to come and see the George Eliot Hospital Museum (based on the fourth floor of the maternity wing), which she was instrumental in setting up, originally as a teaching collection for anaesthetists.

The collection gradually expanded to include other branches of medicine and then, four years ago, it was allowed more space and the ‘museum’ came about. Since then the number of exhibits has grown rapidly, with new items arriving almost daily. Dr Burton is retired and works with a team of five other volunteers in running the museum and cataloguing the records.

The corridors contain fascinating wall displays tracing the history of healthcare in Nuneaton. They start with the establishment of the workhouse or ‘college for the poor’ as it was known, and continue through the development of the Manor (Cottage) Hospital from its opening in 1893, expansion in the early 1900’s, and its closure; The George Eliot Hospital; The isolation hospitals; and the maternity hospital.

The museum room houses equipment and instruments, large and small, from many branches of medicine. There is an iron lung from the 1950’s, two x-ray machines from 1914-1918 and 1920’s, wheelchairs, syringes, bedpans, and lots lots more. Amongst the very recent additions is a uniform which belonged to nurse Emma Kate Lockwood complete with her certificate from the Blackpool Infectious Diseases Hospital in 1917.

On the first floor of the maternity wing there is a display called “Does grandmother know best?” which shows the history of infant feeding. This can be seen during normal outpatient visiting times.

On the third floor there is another display tracing the history and treatment of diabetes. This can be seen only as an accompanied visit by appointment with Dr Burton.

During my visit Dr Burton showed me some of the records (many of them safeguarded by the museum after the closure of the Manor Hospital), which she and her colleagues have been cataloguing. These records are not on display but many can be viewed by appointment, and many have been used by students and other researchers. Records held include the admissions lists from 1893 – 1948; and annual reports from 1909 which give details of subscribers, administrative officers, doctors and matron, people who donated gifts, statistics such as numbers of patients in and out. There is a collection of photographs of doctors, nurses, patients and buildings. There are also a few taped conversations including some with Sister Miller who was the sister of Nason Ward during the war.

Some records contain information relating specifically to patients and personnel and these are subject to the ‘100 year rule’, i.e. they may not be made available to the public until 100 years has elapsed – and then only at the discretion of the authority. Dr Burton would like to obtain permission to make available the first few years of the admissions list, 1893 – 1898, so that it can be put onto a computer database. This would certainly be of use to family historians, giving that extra dimension to the lives and deaths of our ancestors.

Many other records are held at Warwick records office, such as the plans for the building of the workhouse, lists of patients from WW1 hospitals at Arbury Hall and Weddington Hall, and records from Hatton (Central) Hospital.

As the museum expands there is, obviously, more work to be done. Dr Burton and her team would welcome anyone who could volunteer to help even for a few hours. No qualifications or expertise is needed, just enthusiasm and interest in helping to preserve our local history. Dr Burton is especially keen to set up a new ‘oral history project’. This would entail talking to elderly people about their experiences in hospital, their memories of diseases such as smallpox and scarlet fever, and their reminiscences of medical matters in general. These are all valuable histories that will be lost unless a team of volunteers can help to save them forever on audiotape, on videotape or in writing. If you can help, or if you have anything which may be of interest please contact Dr Burton at the number below.

The museum is open to visitors on the first Saturday of every month 2pm to 4.30pm or by appointment with Dr Burton on 01203 351351 extension 3271.

The society has arranged a special visit to the museum including a tour of all the displays and a viewing of some of the records on Tuesday 27th April. For more details please contact Pat Boucher.

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**THE GEORGE ELIOT HOSPITAL MUSEUM**

By Pat Boucher

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**NUNEATON HOSPITALS,**

The First Hundred Years

By Jennifer Burton and John Bland.

ISBN 1 873405 02 2 £5.95 (plus P&P)

This excellent book with photographs, maps and pictures was written to mark the centenary of the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital (Manor Hospital) and is available from Springhill Publications Arley, or through Jill Dixon, our publications manager.

**CENTRAL HOSPITAL REMEMBERED,**

30th June 1852 – 31st July 1995

By Margaret Hunt, Jennifer Burton and John Bland

ISBN 1 873405 02 3 £5.00 (plus P&P)

A history of the hospital and its new methods for the care of the mentally ill. Includes a large collection of photographs, pictures and maps. Please contact Jill Dixon if you would like to obtain a copy.
I am descended from Rev. Stephen Nason M.A. (in fact named after him) whose descendants were residents of Nuneaton during the 1800s. Below is the lineage as I know it.

(Note: SoA = Stratford-upon-Avon)

Rev Stephen NASON born 1718; married Alice Lucy nee WISE (she died 15 Feb 1799) at Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, England on 7 Nov 1763; he died 31 May 1787. (Source: IGI and information on family memorial plaque on an outer wall of Holy Trinity Church, SoA) (Note: Joseph Foster's 'Alumni Oxoniensis' for the 1715-1866 period, has an entry for a Stephen Nason who attended Oxford University: NASON, Stephen son of Thomas of Warwick [town, I guess, not county], Pleb. St Mary Hall [his Oxford college], matriculated 13 April 1739 aged 20, B.A. 1742; M. A. from Trinity College, Cambridge, 1749. Vicar of Anstey county Warwick 1750, vicar of Stratford-on-Avon with Bishopstone Castle, and rector of Clifford Chambers, county Gloucester, 1776, his widow died early in 1799. [I assume 'pleb.' stands for plebeian and roughly means not titled.]

Children of the above-mentioned John Robert and Mary NASON (all issue born at Alveston, Warwickshire) were:
1 John Robert, born circa 31 Jan 1766; married Mary née TOWNSEND at SoA on 8 Mar 1790.
2 Henry Francis, born 20 Sept 1764 (I believe he died as a child).

Children of the above-mentioned John Robert and Mary NASON (all issue born at Alveston, Warwickshire) were:
1 Frances Lucy, born circa 19 Dec 1790
2 Stephen Thomas, born circa 21 May 1792
3 John Robert, born circa 22 Oct 1793
4 Francis
5 Henry (triplets), all born circa 8 Feb 1795
6 Lister
7 Richard, born circa 11 Mar 1796
8 George, born circa 16 June 1797
9 Mary, born circa 18 Jun 1798
10 Abigail, born circa 1 Dec 1799

Children of the above-mentioned Edward and Mary NASON (all issue born at Nuneaton, Warwickshire) were:
1 Edward, born circa 5 Nov 1823
2 William, born circa 17 April 1825
3 William Samuel, born circa 1 Aug 1826
4 Mary Jane, born circa 3 March 1828
5 John James, born circa 5 July 1832
6 Frederick Henry, born circa 9 July 1834; married Charlotte Jane nee ROBINSON at Adelaide, Australia on 8 Dec 1856
7 George Stephen, born circa 7 Aug 1836
8 Frances Elizabeth, born circa 2 Sept 1838
9 Thomas Robert, born circa 13 Sept 1840
10 Charles Arthur, born circa 12 Aug 1843

Children of the above-mentioned Frederick Henry and Charlotte Jane NASON (all issue born at Adelaide, South Australia) were:
1 Frances Elizabeth, born 1859
2 Charlotte
3 Edward Frederick, born 1861
4 Matilda Iliffe, born 1862
5 Flora Fanny, born 1865
6 Constance Emily, born 1866
7 Henriette Madeline, born 1868
8 Robinson Charles Henry, born 3 Oct 1870; married Louisa nee EVANS at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide on 3 Oct 1898 (she was born 14 Jan 1874 at Allahabad, India; and died in 1951 in Adelaide).

Robinson Charles Henry (or 'Chas' as he was known) and Louisa had
children Edward (b.1899), Charlotte (b.1900), John James (b.1903), Richard Charles - my grandfather (b.1905), and Iliffe (b.1912) All issue were born in Adelaide.

Children of the above-mentioned Edward and Mary NASON (all issue born at Nuneaton, Warwickshire) were:
1 Edward, born circa 2 Aug 1801; married Mary née ILIFFE at Nuneaton, Warwickshire on 31 Dec 1822.
2 Jane, born circa 24 July 1803
3 Charles Wickam, born circa 29 Dec 1805

Children of the above-mentioned Edward and Mary NASON (all issue born at Nuneaton, Warwickshire) were:
1 Edward, born circa 2 Aug 1801; married Mary née ILIFFE at Nuneaton, Warwickshire on 31 Dec 1822.
2 Jane, born circa 24 July 1803
3 Charles Wickam, born circa 29 Dec 1805

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2 William, born circa 17 April 1825
3 William Samuel, born circa 1 Aug 1826
4 Mary Jane, born circa 3 March 1828
5 John James, born circa 5 July 1832

Frederick Henry NASON
The 'Adelaide Observer' newspaper (in South Australia) of 5 June 1909 carried the following obituary:
"Mr Frederick H. Nason, who died recently, was a son of the late Dr. Edward Nason of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. He arrived in South Australia as a surgeon in the ship Charlotte Jane in May 1854. Abandoning the medical profession he visited the Victorian goldfields, but eventually returned to South Australia, and settled in Adelaide as an accountant, which profession he pursued until his death. He married in 1855 Miss Charlotte Jane Robinson of Liscrevan, who predeceased him 18 years ago. There are two brothers of the late Mr. F.H. Nason living - Dr. J. J. Nason of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, and Mr G.S. Nason of Geelong. The deceased has left one son - Mr. C. Nason of the Lands Titles Office, Adelaide - five daughters and seven grandchildren."

George Stephen NASON
The 'Horsham Times' newspaper (in Wimmera region of western Victoria) of 27 May 1910 carried the following obituary on page 4:
"Mr. G.S. Nason, aged 80, who for many years was head master of Armstrongs State School, but who for some years has lived a retired life at Geelong, died at his residence in the latter place on Monday last. Deceased, who was of a fine, genial and kindly disposition, made for himself a host of friends who will deeply regret his demise. His remains were interred in the Great Western cemetery on Wednesday. For a short time deceased was in charge of the school at Pimpino some years ago."

Additionally, the 'Adelaide Observer' newspaper of 11 June 1910 carried the following obituary (copied verbatim; note typographical errors in name):
"Mr S. George Nason
The death of Mr S. George S. Nason

(Continued on page 8)
has removed a well-known and esteemed resident of the Horsham district (writes our local correspondent). The deceased gentleman was a teacher in the Education Department until he reached the retiring age. Mr. Nason came to Australia in the ship Charlotte Jane, and arrived in South Australia on May 23, 1854. He was the brother of Dr. F.H. Nason who came out in the same vessel as ship's surgeon, and a son of the late Dr. Edward Nason of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England. He was a chemist by profession, but on reaching South Australia became a member of the South Australian Government exploration expedition, under the leadership of Mr. B Herchell Babbage*, and with him penetrated the interior beyond Lake Eyre, which then contained a large amount of water. He was married in South Australia in 1861, and proceeding to Victoria, followed mining pursuits for a time, until 1864 when he joined the education department. He has left a widow, five daughters and two sons."

*Benjamin Herchell Babbage was the son of Charles Babbage, known as the 'Father of the Modern Computer'.

Although I have some information about my ancestors, there are many questions I still have to answer:

Why did the two brothers F.H. and G.S. Nason go to Sth. Australia, and why did one "abandon the medical profession"? Was it the lure of adventure in the colonies? I know they both visited the Victorian goldfields, but apparently without success, and there were more attractive colonies than South Australia at that time. Perhaps things were pretty tough in England at that time with limited prospect for advancement and so anything else looked better?

What do we know of the Nasons who stayed at Nuneaton? Is there surviving correspondence between them and F.H. and G.S. Nason. I know of none here in Australia (though I haven't looked in all possible places yet).

Why did brother Edward visit Adelaide as ships surgeon on the maiden voyage of the 'City Of Adelaide' which arrived in Adelaide in Nov 1864. A diary of a young girl who was on that voyage (Sarah Anne Bray) survives. The last entry, on Boxing Day 1864, says she saw "Dr Nason and his brother". So we know that Edward made contact with one of his brothers. Did Edward return to England? Today this ship is the world's oldest surviving clipper (it was later renamed Carrick) and is currently being restored by the Scottish Maritime Museum in Glasgow. A history of the ship and its first voyage is also being prepared by the museum.

And what of the original Rev. Stephen Nason M.A. His father was apparently Thomas of Warwick. Of his forebears I know nought. I recently obtained a 20+ page family history of the Nasons of Murano (an island adjacent to Venice, Italy). There are Nasons in church archives going back to 1325. They were 'depentors' or painters. Wonder if the English Nasons were originally painters also.

I am hoping that my membership of NNWFHS will help to illuminate some of these questions and I would love to hear from anyone who has any answers or any related Nasons in their family tree - Steve Nason

REPLY FROM PETER LEE

When Steve contacted me I was very excited because although I knew of the Australian Nason connection these areas were a blank to me. I have a copy of Steve's Nason family tree given to me by a distant cousin of his, Ian Hickman - now unfortunately deceased. Ian's mother was a Nason. However, he obtained the tree from another Nason cousin, Mrs. Gade, who lives in California. This tree takes the line back to the 1500's. I also have another Nason researcher on the net, Descended from Caroline Nason.

The Nasons are a very venerable and important line with various vicars and doctors in the Warwickshire area. They were particularly important to Nuneaton where their work was so outstanding over one hundred years. At our local "George Eliot Hospital"

I have pictures of the local Nasons going back to Edward (1800-1868), the first Nuneaton doctor, through several generations. Their local work is well documented. Edward Noel Nason wrote a history of Nuneaton. All in all the Nasons are one of Nuneaton's first families, almost royalty in local terms. There is even a book to be written about them in their own right.

It is good to find an actual NASON, my other contacts being, I believe, descendents through the female line.

Edward Nason, 1800-1868. The first Nuneaton Doctor.

Rev Stephen Nason (17.3.1718-31.5.1787) was the son of Rev Thomas Nason (28.6.1692 - ?) who married Eliza Merritt 15.10.1715. Rev Thomas was the son of Rev William Nason (c.1660 - ? ) who was in turn the son of Richard Nason who was married three times: 1 Elizabeth Parker m.3.1636 d. 12.1654; 2 Anne - d.1656; 3 Katen Hamerton (b.1637 - d.?). The second wife Anne may have died in childbirth because there is recorded a baby born 17.4.1656 - Mary). Richard is the son of Robert (1600-1660) who m. Joane - (d.1667) and Robert's father was also called Robert (b.1570? d.?). Where Mrs. Gade got this information from I do not know but I must try and trace her.

(Continued on page 9)
(Continued from page 8)

Ian Hickman's mother was Kathleen Stewart Nason (29.5.1895 - ?) the dau. of Edward Noel Nason, (25.12.1860-1940) the son of Richard Bird Nason (1829 - 10.1896). Richard Bird was the brother of Frederick Henry.

Richard Bird Nason, brother of Steve’s ancestor, was born in Nuneaton in 1829 and died in October 1896. He was educated at the Nuneaton Grammar School and had his professional training at Guy's hospital. He practised in partnership first with his father and then with Richard Avery Rix, followed by William Hammond. He was an active sportsman and one of the best partridge shots of his day. He was instrumental in promoting and initiating the first hospital in Nuneaton, The Cottage Hospital - later the Manor Hospital, (which has recently been saved from demolition by the Nuneaton Society and turned into a very smart area medical centre). A ward called "Nason Ward" was named after him, but unfortunately for some reason this ward was dispensed with. When Manor Hospital was closed due to a very large extension on Nuneaton's other Hospital, and because of my friendship with Ian Hickman, Richard Bird Nason's great grandson, I wrote to the new hospital manager and asked him to re-instate the name Nason ward which he happily agreed to. Also Ian Hickman was invited to a party at the Hospital and was delighted with that too. Unfortunately Ian has now died and his wonderful mansion Clifton Manor near Rugby sold. I remember he showed me marvellous tinted glass family photos but I regrettably have no information of how they were disposed of. Another one of my regrets.

Richard Bird Nason lived and had his surgery in Old Bridge Street and then 41 Abbey Street (until his father died) when he moved to a house called the Close in Church Street (bombed by the Luftwaffe on the night of May 16/17 1941).

There is a large family of Nasons spread around: A military family of Maj. John Robert Nason (1766-1851) one of whose descendants Lt. Harry Alexander Breedon died in the Crimea in 1860, another Maurice Nason was in MI5, British Intelligence in WWII (worked with Odette). There are many others I have clues to but little other information.

The Barber-Surgeon
By Wendy Cooper

When walking past a barber’s shop, we have all at some time seen the old fashioned sign advertising their trade; the red and white candy striped pole, which would seem to look more at home hanging outside a sweet shop. This is not where its origins lie, the pole originated from the trade of the barber dating back centuries. In the fifteenth century barbers also acted as surgeons, they would have sharp razors to carry out crude incisions on patients, mainly for the service of blood-letting (phlebotomy). A wooden bowl called a bleeding bowl would be used to collect the blood.

Barbers continued to practice as Barber Surgeons, until a separate Company of Surgeons was formed in 1745. The pole originates from this time, when patients were given the pole to grip during phlebotomization, and due to it becoming blood stained it was painted red. When it was not in use a bandage was wound round the pole and used outside the shop to show the barber carried out the practice of phlebotomy.

Dr Richard Bird Nason, father of Edward Noel Nason, and brother of Steve’s direct ancestor. He was credited with originally stressing the need for a hospital. His aim was to take him 30 years to accomplish.

NNWFHS HELPLINE
01203 381090
6.30 - 8.00pm
Mon to Sat

TOP 10 INDICATORS THAT YOU’VE BECOME A GENE-AHOLIC
1. You introduce your daughter as your descendant.
2. You’ve never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you are related.
3. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but cannot remember your nephew’s name.
4. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
5. You have taken a tape recorder and/ or notebook to a family reunion.
6. You’ve not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understand it.
7. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
8. The only film you’ve seen in the last year was the 1881 census index.
9. More than half your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
10. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!
Received via the net and sent in by Alan Croshaw.
This photograph was taken around 1903-4 in Hartshill Hayes, somewhere behind Abbey Villa, Hartshill, which was then occupied by my grandparents, Thomas and Mary Wright. The occasion was a visit from Mary’s youngest sister, Harriet, and her husband Wiseham, with their two children. It is not of very good quality, but there is a story attached to that.

On the photograph in front, are left to right, Harriet Harrison, née Wootton (1876-1956); Dorothy Wright, later Harrison (1898-1984); Wischam Harrison (1865-1937) who is holding Ellen Harrison, later Williams (1902-1991); Thomas Henry Wright (1892-1965); Mary Wright, née Wootton (1857-1935); and Thomas Wright (1858-1939). Standing at the rear are, left to right, Sarah Anne Wright, later Butler (1889-1969); and John (Jack) Wright (1886-1920) with the bicycle and holding Henry Harrison (1901-1973).

It is a wonder that the photograph survived. Sarah, then a teenager, did not like the large hat she was wearing at the time, and tore the hat off the original photograph. The photograph then remained, badly damaged, in the albums of Dorothy, my mother, until I decided that some restoration was in order. It was then copied onto computer and the hat restored, together with a few other repairs. Of course, there is now no way of knowing whether the hat is a reasonable likeness or not, but the important thing is that the family likenesses have survived.

Thomas and Mary had come from Burslem, Stoke on Trent, some few years earlier, for Thomas to take a post as blacksmith at Ansley Hall Colliery. They had first lived at Ansley Buildings before moving to Hartshill. Wiseham had moved from Bradford with his first wife, Alice, also a few years earlier, to take the post of foreman of the Brickyard at Ansley Colliery. After Alice (Continued on page 11)
(Continued from page 10)

died, Harriet, then staying with her sister, helped with Wiseham’s young family, William (1887-1972), and Walter (1894-1969), who are not on the photograph, and they later married. Of the youngsters on the photograph, Dorothy, my mother, later became a schoolteacher and was for several years Captain of Girl Guides in Nuneaton, later marrying Walter Harrison. Ellen married Jeremiah Williams and moved away from Nuneaton. Sarah later married Samuel Butler, one time centre half for Nuneaton Football Club, and well-known in Heath End. Thomas Henry was a blacksmith like his father, and worked for many years at Charity Colliery. Jack was later a manager of Atherstone Co-op, moving to Birmingham, where he tragically died prematurely. Henry emigrated to Australia, where he took up farming.

There were also two other children of Thomas and Mary alive at the time of the photograph, who are not on it, Heber (1880-1947), and Susannah (1888-1971). There are still quite a few descendants of the Wright family in the Nuneaton and Atherstone areas, though the Harrisons now all live elsewhere.

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**SPRINGFIELD DAIRY FARM, HINCKLEY ROAD NUNEATON**

By Barbara Webber (Nee Ensor)

Springfield was the home of the Ensor family for seventy seven years, and was the house that I was born in. It was purchased in 1916 by Aaron Ensor (1870-1940) who was a butcher with a business in Chapel End. His wife was not in the best of health and he bought Springfield to get her out into the peace and quiet of the countryside. A picture at the bottom of page 45 in "Nuneaton in Old Photographs", which was taken at the turn of the century, shows just how secluded the house was. With the house was about twenty eight acres of land and a small dairy herd and milk round was established.

There were four children in the family. Doris (1896-1986), Wilfred (1899-1967), Reginald (1903-1975) and Trevor (1908-1983). Wilfred had a butchers business in Haunchwood road, Stockingford. In 1928 Reg and Trevor took over the farm land and dairy. Gradually the size of the farm was increased and a notable herd of Friesian cows established. The milk was sold through a retail milk round in Nuneaton and this continued until 1949 when the farming policy was changed to arable farming and the dairy herd was sold. After the death of Aaron in 1940 Springfield was occupied by Trevor and eventually Reg moved to Lindley Grange Farm Higham as part of the expansion of the business and the change to arable farming. Springfield continued as a farm house and farm office until the death of Trevor in 1983 when the office was transferred to one of the other farms. The farming tradition is still carried on by Reg's two sons John and David.

Sadly, the house was demolished and there is now a new housing development of around twenty houses on the site.

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**If you have a photograph or an article which you would like to be published in the next newsletter please contact Pat Boucher either at the monthly meetings or telephone (01203) 383488**

**Deadline for all copy to be included in April issue is March 9th**

**CIVIL REGISTRATION - DID YOU KNOW**

1 July 1837 - Civil Registration began.
1852 - Regional areas were altered and the number increased to 34
1866 - The index of deaths began to show the age of the deceased. All indexes from this date are typed or printed.
1874 - Penalties came into force for failure to register births.
In our relentless search for dates, names, marriages, children, and occupations, we finally come to death. This, of course, would be the end of the story of our ancestors, but then with some further sleuthing, and luck, we may also find the last resting place of some of them.

To find the grave of an ancestor can be very satisfying. We can take a photograph and add it to our family tree records, and feel pleased with a job well done.

In a previous article I mentioned searching at London Road cemetery, Coventry, in pouring rain. I have always found cemeteries and graveyards most interesting places, not just for looking for members of my own family, but perhaps for looking for the grave of a well known person, or just browsing. May I relate some of my deathly pursuits?

I have always found the story of Queen Victoria and her gillie John Brown most interesting, and like everyone else wondered what really did take place. The film ‘Mrs.Brown’ may have told some of the story, (you will also gather that I am a keen film buff), although an earlier film ‘The Mudlark’, told a similar story. Well, two years ago I was at one of my favourite parts of Scotland, Balmoral, and on this occasion I decided to search for the grave of John Brown.

Through research I knew that John Brown was buried in the churchyard of Crathie Church. The church is where the Queen worships when she is at Balmoral. I soon found out that the churchyard was more recent. In fact the “new” Crathie Church had not been built until 1895, and John Brown had died in 1883. I now realised that there was a much older graveyard about half a mile away from the “new” church. What a marvellous place this older graveyard was. It was full of tombstones with interesting inscriptions. My wife and I split up, each searching different parts. I had not realised that Brown was a Scottish name, because I now found many tombstones with this name. It took nearly two hours to find John Brown’s grave, although if I had not read all the other inscriptions, it may have took a little less time. I guess I was expecting something very ornate, but this was not the case. Although Queen Victoria paid for the tombstone it was not as elaborate as you would expect, and the inscription is now fading. I feel that renovation is now necessary, especially as he is a most interesting figure.

One of my film star heroes is Errol Flynn, in fact ever since I saw him in ‘The Adventure of Robin Hood’ in 1939. I was fortunate a few years ago to be in Los Angeles, and on my agenda was a visit to Forest Lawn Cemetery at Glendale, where Errol Flynn is buried, reputedly with six bottles of vodka !.

If only our cemeteries were kept like Forest Lawn. It was beautiful. I know that may be a strange way to describe a cemetery, but it is true. Every grave is immaculately kept. The grass is of a uniform height throughout, i.e. very low. Scattered around are amazing little chapels and exquisite statues.

I had purchased a book in England that told me what famous people were buried at Forest Lawn, and it informed me that Errol Flynn was interred outside of the Freedom Hall Mausoleum. On arriving at Forest Lawn one enters through some superb gates adjoining an Information Office. Inside this office was a lady dressed in a smart uniform. I asked if she would direct me to the grave of Errol Flynn. This she would not do. It was a rule to respect the wishes of the descendants of the deceased. I informed her that I knew where it was roughly situated, but did not know how to get to the Freedom Hall Mausoleum, and showed her my book. She was amazed at who was buried in her cemetery, and she kept saying ‘I didn’t know he/she was here’. This broke the ice. She now gave me directions to the Mausoleum.

My wife and I now walked about a mile up a hill, graves all around, and below in the distance L.A. and its suburbs. Eventually we arrived outside of the Mausoleum. Again we split up for the search. First all I found the tomb of Walt Disney. Very elaborate, although it is said he is not inside. He is frozen awaiting scientific advances that may bring him back to life !. Next it was Spencer Tracy. He had a nice simple tomb with a concrete seat along side. I could well imagine Katharine Hepburn sitting here and talking to ‘Spence’. After about half an hour searching my wife shouted me. She had found Errol’s grave. There was no tomb or gravestone, just a small plate flat on the ground. It read ‘ERROL FLYNN JUNE 20 1909 OCTOBER 14 1959. IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER FROM HIS LOVING CHILDREN. This is not what one would have expected to commemorate a film star who is still popular today, but then it was not to remember a star known to millions, but a father to his children.

Now back to our part of the world - Nuneaton !. I have found the staff at Nuneaton Council House most helpful, and no more so than the department that deals with cemeteries. When searching for the resting place of some of my ancestors I was given every help possible, including a plan of the cemetery. At Stockingford cemetery I was quickly able to identify the graves concerned, and photographs were taken. Incidentally, at the time I visited, I thought this cemetery was well kept. On one of my ancestor’s graves, at Stockingford, I found someone had placed last year a Christmas wreath, and yet I know of

(Continued on page 13)
(Continued from page 12)

no other descendants. I have even advertised for descendants in the ‘Heartland News’. Perhaps prior to this Christmas I should spend a vigil at the graveside!

Finally may I take you back to Scotland. Many of the tombstones there almost have a family tree inscribed on them, (See photograph). This tombstone was in the churchyard of St. Machar’s Cathedral, Aberdeen, and many of the other tombstones were inscribed in a similar manner. If only English ones carried a similar story, what a great help to family history research it would be, and it is said Scots are mean with their money, not where graves are concerned.

If we had followed the Scottish example I would be spending even more time in graveyards than I do now, but we should always remember what Mary Wilson Little said, ‘The tombstone is about the only thing that can stand upright and lie on its face at the same time’. She also said ‘Many a tombstone inscription is a grave error’. May I wish you every success in your genealogical research and that it remains free of errors.

Warning! The 1901 Census Could Damage Your Wealth!

By Vivienne Hayward

About three years ago, when the fee for a 1901 search was just under £20, I sent off a cheque, and full details of my paternal grandparents’ household. My great problem is that my grandfather, William Henry Horne, was illegitimate, and I had been unable to find him in any Census 1861 - 1891, in any Midlands county, so I still don’t know his birthplace which is essential for further research. I know he married my widowed grandmother on June 23rd 1895 at Trinity Church, Wilnecote, and I know what he looked like (though he died before I was born) because I have a photograph of him standing proudly beside my grandmother Annie (nee Lloyd, widow of Henry Illsley) who is holding my father (Albert Arthur Horne, aged about 6 months, born at Stockingford), and with them are her son Henry Illsley aged 8 (born at Polesworth), and the other Horne children Aubrey William aged 4 (also born at Polesworth), and Elsie aged 2 (born at Stockingford). They are outside the back door of a terraced house on Church Hill (now Church Rd) Stockingford.

All this information I included in my request for William Henry Horne’s birthplace. From my childhood in the early 1930s, to 1964 when my grandmother died, I knew the Church Road house so well, number 197, and as all the terraced houses were alike (other relatives lived lower down the hill and just above 197) I assumed that the photo was taken at 197 in 1900, not long after my father’s birth. Unfortunately I had not yet sent for my father’s birth certificate because I already had every detail, I thought.

The GRO people were very slow replying. After a month, I phoned them and was told that even though the full details I had given made the household unique, so there was no chance of giving me someone else’s secrets, they would look only in the address given, and they never refund the fee - you pay again if you suggest another house number in the same street.

Do any of you know where William Henry Horne was born?

Also, I have the Army Certificate of Character parchment 1890, and the Certificate of Discharge parchment 1898 for William Fletcher, born circa 1867 at Burton Green, Warks, enlisted Coventry 1886, King’s Royal Rifles. As these were with my family papers, I assume he is the William Fletcher who married my grandmother’s sister Emily; they too lived in Church Road. Anybody interested?

Note Re 1901 Census

The census office for research of the 1901 census has moved. Their new office is: 
Office of National Statistics, 
Census, Population & Health Div. 
Room 4300E, Segensworth Rd, 
Titchfield, Fareham 
Hampshire, PO15 5RR

They will look up ONLY: Date of birth and place of birth of the subject. You must be exact on place of residence of subject on 31 March 1901.

The current fee is 34.05 pounds, and UK citizens must add 5.95 VAT. Do not send money with the initial request because they will send you a next of kin form to sign before they will start the search, and the money is submitted with the form.

WANTED

DEAD (OR ALIVE) FOR THE NEXT NNWFHS NEWSLETTER

Articles about your ancestors, family photos, items for our notice board and help wanted/offered section etc.

Start writing NOW!!!
COLLINS, Audrey. Basic facts about using wills after 1858 and First Avenue House. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 090 0. (Reference Box No. 9)
We now have another new genealogical location to visit. Somerset House has closed and the Principle Registry of the Family Division (Probate Department) has moved to First Avenue House in High Holborn. So if you want to look at a copy of a will proved after 1858, First Avenue House is the place to go. Contents include the facilities available, the procedure for searching in the indexes and the charges for reading or copying a will. A very clear, handy guide.

FISHER, Pam. Finding East Midlands ancestors: a handbook for family historians. Pam Fisher, 1998, 0 9533407 0 8. (Reference 929.1) (Lending 929.1)
An invaluable book covering the 6 East Midlands counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. It summarizes all the main genealogical resources and tells you where you can consult them within these 6 counties. It is full of relevant contacts and addresses e.g. Registrars for each district (and how to pay when ordering certificates); LDS Family History Centres and their opening times; Family History Societies covering the East Midlands area (and their subscription rates) and, last but not least, local libraries and their opening times. Internet web sites and email addresses are also included. The book costs £7.00, not including p & p, should you be tempted into buying a copy yourselves.

GANDY, Michael. Basic facts about tracing your Catholic ancestry in England. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 084 6. (Lending Box No. 8)
This gives a brief history of Catholicism in England, followed by a description of the various records available, some useful addresses and a list of books/articles relating to Catholic family history research.

GANDY, Michael. Basic facts about English nonconformity for family historians. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 072 2. (Lending Box No. 8)
A sixteen page booklet providing a very brief but clear guide to nonconformity.

GIBSON, Jeremy. Land and window tax assessments. 2nd edition. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 054 4. (Reference Box No. 15)
A listing, county by county, of the availability and location of these 2 types of record. The first edition will now be available for loan.

GIBSON, Jeremy and HAMPSON, Elizabeth. Marriage and census indexes for family historians. 7th edition. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 067 6. (Reference Box No. 2)
Previously published in 1996 under the title “Marriage, Census and other indexes”, this revised edition reflects the growing number of indexes compiled by family history societies and individuals. As usual it is arranged alphabetically by county and includes a contact name and address for each index. In some cases search fees are also recorded. See also next entry.

GIBSON, Jeremy and HAMPSON, Elizabeth. Specialist indexes for family historians. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 078 1. (Reference Box No. 2)
Specialist indexes used to form part of Jeremy Gibson’s “Marriage, Census and other indexes” but there are now so many of them that a separate guide has had to be published. This new booklet also incorporates another guide previously called “Unpublished personal name indexes in record offices and libraries”. The indexes cover quite a range of subjects. Dipping in I came across references to strays, travellers, criminals, and even perukemakers. As well as the county by county listing there is a short section at the back on the armed services and occupations in general.

HAWGOOD, David. An introduction to using computers for genealogy. 2nd edition. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 081 1. (Lending Box No. 1)
A very clear simple guide for anyone with little experience of using computers. It explains some of the computer terminology and guides you into choosing and actually using a computer, even down to describing the keyboard layout. There are examples of some of the different genealogy packages available although he does not actually make any recommendations. If you are thinking about transferring all your family history research onto a computer but are not sure how to go about it then read this book first.

HOLDING, Norman. More sources of World War I Army ancestry. 3rd edition. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 083 8. (Reference Box No. 7)
(Continued on page 15)
This is a companion volume to the author’s “World War I Army ancestry” and is not intended for family historians who are just beginning to research their army ancestors. Topics covered include Regimental numbers, Army discharge papers, medical records, photographs, badges and insignia. The previous edition of this will now be available for loan.

PELLING, George. Beginning your family history. 7th edition. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 063 3. (Lending Box No. 1) This edition has been revised and updated by Pauline Litton. I shall continue to recommend it to beginners.

POLS, Robert. Looking at old photographs. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 088 9. (Lending Box No. 11) This perhaps should be read as a companion volume to the author’s “Dating old photographs” and “Understanding old photographs”. This volume is in casebook format and discusses a series of old photographs in detail, pointing out how many facts you can glean about the subject by looking at the photographic mount, the clothes worn, the props included, even the stance of the person.

POLS, Robert. Photography for family historians. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 089 7. (Lending Box No. 11) This is a guide to building up a photographic archive to accompany your family history data. It is aimed at the family historian who is not an experienced photographer. It covers the selection criteria for inclusion in the archive, the different types of camera available and then gives advice on how to take the photographs and get them processed.


RAYMOND, Stuart A. London and Middlesex: a genealogical bibliography. 2nd edition. Vol. 1 Genealogical sources. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 058 7. (Reference Box No. 14) More additions to this extremely useful series. Please note the new subtitle on the Essex volumes which are the latest in this series to be published.

RAYMOND, Stuart A. South West family histories: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire. FFHS, 1998, 1 86006 073 0. (Reference Box No. 5) This booklet lists all published histories and pedigrees relating to families who were resident in the relevant counties. This information was previously included in the “Family Histories” sections in Stuart Raymond’s series of county genealogical bibliographies (see above). This booklet supersedes those sections.

Nuneaton Library opening times are changing from the beginning of January 1999. The new times are:-

Monday 9.00 - 7.00
Tuesday 9.00 - 6.00
Wednesday 9.00 - 7.00
Thursday 9.00 - 5.00
Friday 9.00 - 6.00
Saturday 9.00 - 4.00
Sunday 10.00 - 2.00

If you are coming to use our Reader/Printer machine it is advisable to book in advance, especially on a Sunday. Please telephone 01203 384027 or 01203 347006.

The library now has Soldiers who died in the Great War on CD ROM. Use is free of charge but copies are 30p per sheet

Carolyn Boss, Lending Librarian, Nuneaton Library, Warwickshire County Library
CHRISTMAS FAST TO CHRISTMAS PRESENT

By Wendy Cooper

Christmas has been a time of celebration for hundreds of years, and even well before Christian times there had been mid-winter festivals. These seasonal celebrations helped to brighten up the bleak winter months that lay ahead. Although Christmas went through a decline and the puritans banned festivities during a 12-year period in the 1640’s celebrating Christmas soon picked up again after the restoration in the 1660’s. Many customs that went on before never regained their place in society, and for most people December 25th was a normal working day. No doubt after work people made time to celebrate and have a good time with what little they had, sharing the Christmas spirit amongst friends and family. It was only when Queen Victoria came to the throne that the traditions we know of today were introduced.

Below are extracts from diaries of Nuneaton people:

December 17, 1821. A finer show (and at such low prices) of Butchers Meat had not been seen in this market (for Christmas) for many years. There were about 20 cows killed in this Town ab’t 8 in Coton. Beef & Mutton sold at 4d, pork 5d. The Trade during the month was but middling.

John Astley, Nuneaton

December 26, 1830. Frost on the night of the 23rd, it froze 1¼” thick on water, on 24th 1½” and on 25th 1½”. It is very sharp frosty morning but the wind is calm – or it would be exceeding cold, the wind continues North.

Went to Coton Church in the forenoon.

Robert Evans, Arbury Estate

1912 – Drawn from memory

On Christmas day we would have a pile of presents each, but then it would have been something edible or clothing. We used to have oranges and bananas which were a real novelty as we didn’t get them regularly.

Thomas Frisby, Shuttington
NUNEATON & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Nuneaton Library, 13th October 1998, 7.00.p.m

1. Apologies.
   ∗ None.

2. Adoption of Constitution.
   ∗ The Chairman read out the proposed constitution and invited comments at a number of intervals.
   ∗ There were no amendments made to the constitution put forward by the Committee.
   ∗ The Constitution was formally adopted.

   ∗ The Chairman reflected on the origins of the Society in 1992 and how it had grown from a side shoot of The Nuneaton Civic Society into a Society in its own right which reached a membership of 137 in 1998. He looked to the future and commented on the need to cater for new members and those just starting their genealogical research. He felt links with local churches should be consolidated and thanked the members of the Committee for all of their hard work.

   ∗ The Treasurer stated that the Society has had a very successful year. Accounts up to 31st August 1998 were provided at the meeting and will also be sent out to all members with the next newsletter. The Treasurer thanked Pat Boucher's husband for auditing and Pat Godfrey for help in compiling the accounts. The main income has been subscriptions and the main outgoings have been the newsletter and hire of the Library. The society has purchased a variety of records and a microfiche reader, the Committee welcome suggestions for future purchases.
   ∗ The accounts were formally accepted.

5. Membership Secretary's Report.
   ∗ Membership has grown rapidly from 85 in 1997 to 137 in 1998. The Membership Secretary said that the Society looks like attaining a membership of 150 by next year. It is hoped, she said, that we can still cater for, and help, all members. The Membership Secretary appealed for members to make their voices heard if there was ever a problem.

   ∗ The retiring Committee was re-elected to serve for 1998-1999.

7. A.O.B.
   ∗ Michael Roberts outlined a proposed trip to the Family Records Centre in London. A leaflet was to be distributed to measure the level of interest.
   ∗ The Newsletter for October was available at the meeting.
   ∗ The Christmas Buffet will take place at the Library.
   ∗ Suggestions were invited for guest speakers or trips.
   ∗ It was pointed out that Joyce Bell would be appearing at the Library at 7.30.pm on Thursday 15th October. She bases her books on Nuneaton (Chilverton).
   ∗ The Newsletter for January is to have a hospital theme and any related articles would be gratefully received.

The meeting closed at 7.40.p.m. There were 28 members in attendance.

Birmingham, The Sinister Side By Steve Jones
Wicked Publications, £7.99

I first heard about this book on the Warwickshire mailing list on the internet. I dropped lots and lots of very obvious hints just before Christmas and my husband eventually managed to obtain a copy for me. He’s beginning to wish he hadn’t, as I have had my head stuck in it every spare moment since. It is fascinating, a real eye opener. It traces the social history of Birmingham during Victorian and Edwardian times mainly through the criminal records of assorted miscreants, and the newspaper reports of their various wrong-doings. The book is sad, funny, shocking and an absolutely riveting read. I didn’t find any of my ancestors mentioned, but I certainly have a better idea of how many of them would have lived - if you can call it living.

The book is available from most larger bookshops although you may have to order it. Pat Boucher.
Help Wanted

Ray Hall, member No 107 is looking for information on Isaac Faulkener born circa 1833 at Whately, North Warwicks or possibly Sheepy Magna, Leics. Also, any information please on the ancestors of Robert Joseph Dix born circa 1878 who married Annie Marie Greenwood born 19/3/1871. Both are believed to have originated from North Warwicks.

Dr Jennifer Burton member no 11 is trying to find out any information about Tuttle Hill Isolation Hospital. She would be particularly interested in obtaining any photographs. Please contact her direct.

John Austin, Who came to give the society a talk on Merevale last year, is researching the origins of Atherstone Street names. He would be very grateful for any help and information. Please contact him on 01827 712202.

Catherine House Index - GRO

The Central Library in Birmingham now has the GRO index from 1837 up to 1996. They also have overseas indexes. Coventry Library only has the GRO up to 1899.

Forthcoming Events

Trip To Family Records Centre, London On Saturday 23rd January 1999. There are still some places left on the bus for the trip being arranged by Michael Roberts to the Family Records Centre, Myddleton Place, London, on January 23rd. The cost is £7.50 per person. Coach to leave Nuneaton Bus Station at 7.00 am to arrive for opening time at 9.30 am, leaving London at 5.00pm. The Family Records Centre holds indexes of Births, Marriages & Deaths 1837 onwards (St. Catherine's indexes), microfilmed Census Returns, Wills etc. For more information please contact Michael Roberts.

History Of The Warwickshire Constabulary.

Graham Sutherland is to give a talk at the March meeting (Tuesday 9th March)

Visit To The George Eliot Hospital Museum.

Tuesday 27th April 1999. Dr Burton has invited us to visit the museum. We will also be allowed to see some of the records and other displays which are not open to the general public. Please see Pat Boucher for more details.

Nuneaton Local Heritage Open Day.

This is being held on May 8th 1999 at the Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre. We have been approached to put on an exhibition. Any material for display or help on the day will be gratefully received. Please contact Norman Raisen.

From Evacuee To Villager.

Michael Roberts will give a talk at our May 1999 meeting.

Atherstone Yards.

Joyce Jackson will be giving a talk about the Atherstone Yards at the August meeting.


We may be exhibiting at this fair, more news later in the year.

Microfiche Lending Library

We are going to purchase the IGI for Worcestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Rutland and Derbyshire, and the 1881 census for Westmorland. If anyone has any requests for future purchases please contact Pat Boucher.

Website / E-Mag

Our NNWFHS Website at: http://members.aol.com/NNWFHS/ is updated every month, including the photo gallery pages. Rosemary also sends out a monthly ‘e-mag’ to all members on the net. If you have an email address please pass it on to Rosemary and she will put you on the mailing list. If you have any contributions, comments or suggestions for either the website or the e-mag please contact Rosemary Tyler at Posittyler@aol.com

Soldiers Who Died In WW1 On The Internet

The War Graves Commission debt of honour register - www.cwgc.org/cwgc/main.htm - is now working after a very bad start, but only from 9 - 5 Monday to Friday. I have only managed to get on to it once and did not do very well as there were loads of E Carters and no facility to input the full first name which meant I had to open every file trying to find Edgar. I think it is probably very good if you already have some information, preferably regiment and if possible army number. I actually got more information and quicker by telephoning the War Graves Commission and speaking to a very nice and helpful young man. He was able to use the index to look up first names and then tell me where the soldier enlisted and where he was born, information not available on the net. Pat Boucher.

If you have anything to put on the notice board in the next newsletter please contact Pat Boucher
Scale of Charges

GRO Certificates (price includes cost of certificate £6) with 10% discount

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At least twice weekly service to Myddleton Place, London EC1 to order certificates. N.B. £6.50 refund on unsuccessful searches.

Census Returns

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Wills & Admons: 1858 to date

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Price includes photocopy of Will/Admon

P.C.C. Wills: Pre-1858

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<td>5 year search</td>
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Copy of will supplied at cost

Parish Register Searches (Baptism, Marriage and Burial Entries)

All London, Middlesex and most of Surrey registers searched. For others please advise us of the parish and we will advise you if we are able to undertake a search.

Phone, write or e-mail details for a quote

Copy of entry supplied at cost

Known event ie date/parish/church - phone for price

Records held at Kew (PRO)

Searches undertaken - please write with details of search for a quotation.

I.G.I Checks

Searches undertaken - please write with details of search for a quotation.

Free Help & Advice

Where we are able we offer a free help and advice service - if you use this service please ensure you enclose a stamped addressed envelope for our reply.

Prepayment and s.a.e. with all orders please - cheques or postal orders made payable to S & D Services. S.A.E. with all orders and enquiries please.

Please quote your NFHG membership number in order to qualify for the 10% discounted rate.