



Spring

Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter 2025

I hope all our 2000 members had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are raring to go, climb their brick walls and find their missing ancestor.

My connection to Wiltshire is through my father's family of Gange, Musselwhite, Compton and many others who straddle the environs of the New Forrest, where parish boundaries and County borders weave in and out. I hope those of you who managed to watch Countryfile broadcast on 26 January enjoyed what that beautiful part of the country had to offer.

Contents

(is it me or does anyone else say Cows ought not to eat nasty turnip skins – if you know you know, also sadly shows my age.

The contents for this issue are as wide ranging as ever and I hope there is something of interest for everyone

Events – below you will find a link to pages showing what events and talks are planned for this year
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre <https://wshc.org.uk/events/>

As well as talks the centre also holds Local History workshops on alternate Mondays
Broadchalke History Festival 23-29 June 2025 <https://www.chalkefestival.com>

The Wiltshire Museum <https://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/talks/>

Salisbury Civic Society <http://www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk/events/>

West Wilts University of third Age (U3A) <https://www.westwiltsu3a.org.uk/events/>

These are just a few of the many events in the Wiltshire area.

Tony Frost Submission 2025

I have found much tragedy, sadness and loss on this branch of my Family Tree.

My first Family history story starts with my Great Grandmother, Caroline Barnes, she was born on the 1st of July 1857 Amesbury Wiltshire, the youngest daughter of Robert Barnes and Elizabeth Gibbs.

Caroline had four older siblings, Charles James, Mary Jane, Emma and Eliza. Their mother died in 1860 aged 37 years. In 1863 she was followed by her eldest daughter Mary Jane, aged 11 years, and died in Amesbury Union Workhouse. I found on the 1871 Census that both Caroline and her father, Robert, were Pauper Inmates at the Amesbury Union Workhouse, Caroline was 13 years old, after that I can find no trace of Caroline, until she marries my Great Grandfather, John Lockyer, on July 2nd at Tuckton, Christchurch, Hampshire. Robert Barnes, I did find on the 1881 Census, a lodger with the Thornton Family in Amesbury. Caroline and John had 8 children, 6 daughters (one of which was my grandma, Sophia) and 2 sons. Sadly, Caroline died on the 23rd of March 1908, she was only 50 years of age.

The Barnes/Adlam/Gibbs/Kellow Families.

I read a newspaper report from the Salisbury and Winchester Journal, about a housefire where 7 members of the family who lodged together in one half of a property, had all died, only 2 escaped but were quite badly burnt. The eldest member to die was my 4th Great Grandmother Christian Adlam, nee Kellow. Also, later the same year, George Adlam a son of Christian and Robert Adlam, died tragically when he slipped and was propelled underneath his moving cart some distance, he left a Widow, Catherine who was pregnant and five children, I have not found anything more about what became of them, but it possibly wasn't good!

Robert and Mary (nee Moody) Gibbs and their infant daughter Elizabeth emigrated to Australia, unfortunately, Elizabeth died onboard the ship, and John and Lucy (nee Smeeth) Gibbs. Robert and John were two of Elizabeth (nee Gibbs) Barnes, siblings.

Mike Hadrill Submission 2025

The Haddrells, Basket makers and Nonconformists of Spirhill

There are, to my knowledge, Haddrells in Australia and in Canada. Historically, by far the highest concentration of Haddrell births is in the area around Calne. Years ago, when I set out on the genealogy journey it was suggested to me that all the Haddrells in the world have their origins in or near to Calne! My own immediate ancestors came from Bremhill, and some lived in the small hamlet of Spirhill.

In the 1851 census George Haddrell, basket maker, and his wife Mary are recorded as resident in Spirhill. The Post Office Directory for 1855 has the following entry for Bremhill: Hatherall George, basket maker, Spirhill. These records both refer to my Great Great Great Grandfather George, born in Bremhill in 1787.

George's father, William was buried at Bremhill in 1826. William's father Joseph was born there in 1721, as was Joseph's probable father William, in 1700. Three more Williams and two Roberts, all born in Calne take the family line back to 1505 – but with a bucket of caveats!

George Haddrell was born on 9 September 1787 in Bremhill and was resident in Spirhill in 1841. His name and that of some of his children, all of whom were baptised at Bremhill, is variously recorded as Hatherall or Hadrill. At least three of his sons Stephen, Charles and my Great Great Grandfather William were basket makers, like their father. Charles' son, John Alworth Haddrell was, according to legend, able to weave watertight baskets! He had a son of the same name, John Alworth Haddrell who emigrated to Canada.

John Alworth was not the only one of my Haddrell forebears to emigrate to Canada, and I must stray from Wiltshire to tell the story! The eldest child of William Haddrell (1827-1899) was Eliza Jane Temple Haddrell, baptised at Speen in 1853, a couple of months after William and Eliza married.

By 1881 Eliza Jane was a cook for Joseph Liddell, a Sugar, Fruit and Rice Merchant at Cornmongers Lane, Nutfield, Reigate. On 7 March 1883, Charles Acock Haddrell was born in Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Row, London, the son of Eliza Jane, with no father named. In due course Charles Acock Haddrell emigrated to Canada where he married Anna Rossnagle and settled. In the 1980s I made contact with him and received a long, rambling, occasionally legible letter about his emigration, a photograph of two men, probably him and his unmarried son William, and headed envelopes for the Berkshire Hotel, Abbotsford. I still wonder whether he kept in touch with any of the

staff at Nutfield, Reigate – either his mother Eliza Jane, or one Charles Acock, servant, born in Cheltenham in 1854. His sons were Christened Charles Temple Haddrell and William Temple Haddrell. There are more intriguing chapters in the life of Eliza Jane Temple Haddrell.

My Great Great Grandfather, William, was born in Spirthill in 1827. He moved to Berkshire, marrying Eliza Jessett in Stockcross near Newbury in 1853. William's brothers, Charles and Stephen had moved with him to Berkshire. All three were resident at the Jolly Sailor in Welford for the 1851 Census, Stephen, a basket maker and victualler, with his wife Alice (née Denton) and three children under the age of four. Alice hailed from Overton in Wiltshire where there was also a pub called The Jolly Sailor. Did Stephen rename their new residence to remind Alice of home? Also present in the Jolly Sailor in 1851 are William Pound a visitor/dealer, and William Collard, an apprentice basket maker. The family business was clearly doing well.

The 1871 Census shows Stephen Haddrell living at Halfway, Hoe Benham, near Newbury with four of his ten children: Eliza, William, Henry and Emily. His wife, Alice had died the previous year. Listed next in the Census, at Turnpike Gate, is another son, Tom Haddrell aged 18 a Toll Collector and basket maker. In 1881 Stephen, now 65, has been joined at Halfway by George Hitchem aged 20, a journeyman basket maker, born in Calne. In the 1891 Census Stephen is living with Tom in George Street, Staines. Stephen was buried at Speen on his birthday, July 11 in 1900. William and Eliza are buried in Stockcross Churchyard. They had eleven, possibly twelve, children including Herbert my Great Grandfather.

Herbert and Alice Mary (née Hughes) had seven children, all born in Berkshire. He played violin and cornet in a band with his siblings, was for a time a gamekeeper at Chequers and also at Benham Park, worked at Segsbury Farm on the Ridgeway above Letcombe Bassett and briefly kept the pub The Jolly Waterman at the bottom of Mill Street, Wantage (1911). The notification of his son Edward's death, at war on New Year's Day 1918, was addressed to Herbert at 8 Park Street Cirencester, where in, all likelihood, they had both been based in service. Herbert and Alice both died in 1956, the year of my parents' marriage in October, Herbert on 25 January and Alice on 7 July. They had been living at 73, Charlton Road, Wantage, at least since 29 September 1939, just a few hundred yards from the house in Lark Hill where my father grew up, son of Albert and Kate. Herbert and Alice are buried in Wantage Cemetery, as are my parents. But I stray from Wiltshire and must return to Spirthill!

A couple of years ago I drove to Bremhill in search of the ancestors and, north of Bremhill, on a broadly West-East minor road between East Tytherton and Spirthill, I was delighted to discover Haddrell's Cottage. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey map. I have so far been unable to connect it with any of my immediate ancestors, nor even to discover how it came by the name.

Haddrell's Cottage does not look like a building of any great age. The obvious reason for the name is that at some time persons called Haddrell lived here. It may be objected that the house as it stands is far too large and imposing to have been occupied by basket weavers and agricultural labourers - who were likely to have rented rather than owned their residence. Old OS maps show two small buildings on the site with no significant land attached. Maps and aerial photographs make it clear that the house has been extended, perhaps on several occasions. In a 1989 planning application for an extension the PC asked that an existing date stone be retained. It would be interesting to know what date was on the stone, as the evidence suggests that the bulk of the current house dates from no earlier than 1920.

East Tytherton is of interest because of the Moravian Community founded there in 1745 by preacher John Cennick. Pevsner describes "the School House, dated 1785," built behind the existing chapel buildings, as The Single Sisters' Choir House. Five liberated slaves from Antigua lived there in the early 19th century. One of them, Leonora Carr is buried in the graveyard behind the house. The Sisters' Choir House became a boarding school, primarily for the children of Moravian missionaries. One pupil was Thermutis Coleman whose son, Robert Francis, wrote Kilvert's Diaries.

Also in the burial ground of the Moravian church is one Harriet Haddrell of West Tytherton, who died on 3 November 1913. I have not, as yet, been able to link her to my own family tree, nor have I been able to make a connection with two other nonconformist Haddrells, who emerged from my researches in the Bremhill area.

In Bremhill Landscape, Settlement and Buildings Draft text April 2021 Dr Louise Ryland-Epton notes that “a red-brick Wesleyan chapel was constructed at Spirthill in 1828. In 1844, it provided a meeting place for labourers and farmers to discuss agrarian distress. By 1851, the minister was Philip Hadrill, an agricultural worker, and likely to have been related to members of the Hadrill family associated with an earlier meeting house in the settlement. On census Sunday 1851 the attendance was 40 for the morning service and 60 during the evening. From 1912 the chapel solemnized marriages.” The possibility occurs to me that “an earlier meeting house in the settlement” might have been Haddrell’s Cottage.

Philip Hadrill was baptized 29 June 1800 at Bremhill, son of Peter and Mary. He married Anne Pegler at Bremhill on 13 February 1830. In the 1871 census he is shown as Philip Haddrell 70 Local Methodist Preacher.

Charles Haddrell was born on 18 November 1796 and baptised at Tytherton. His parents were both born in Bremhil, Joseph in 1766 and Mary in 1762. In 1851 his occupation was shown as a Scripture Reader. He died on 10 June 1869 and has a gravestone in Bremhill Churchyard. His siblings were all baptised in Bremhill: Betty in 1785, Sarah Ann in 1788, Benjamin 1791, Joseph 1794, Mary 1800, Rebecca 1805.

My paternal ancestors, like many worldwide, have their origins in Wiltshire, specifically Bremhill. We have not strayed as far as Canada, nor even matched Tom, the Basketmaker who got as far as Staines. On the contrary via Stockcross near Newbury (with burials at Speen, famed for the 19th Century Speenhamland System) some of us have got no further than Wantage – for many years an easy journey to the County Ground and, at the start of my career, a commute to the first two schools I worked in, before I moved to Cirencester, not knowing then that Great Grandfather Herbert and Great Uncle Edward had been based there during the First World War.

The Benefits of Microfilming Records

There are many resources available to view on the internet today, when I first started in 1969, it was the original item, or a printed bound transcript usually produced by some Victorian society. As the years passed, and the internet became a thing, slowly, very slowly access to records began to grow, The Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS), undertook a big campaign to film as many church records as they could, it was slow progress as resistance was met by many individual Bishops and their incumbents, and the Roman Catholic church was very reluctant, to allow filming of there records due in most part to the personal comments made by priests in the registers.

The filming of the registers began in the late 1930s with the prospect of war looming, the first registers to be filmed were in Europe, and Holland in particular, it was also around this time that the 43 Diocesan Bishops in the UK were approached, some refused on religious grounds but many refused because of the financial implications it would have on church income, and the potential loss of fees from providing copies of entries in the registers. It wasn’t until 1959 that The Bishops advised their clergy to deposit their records in a Public Record Office, and to allow filming of the registers to facilitate their preservation. There was still much resistance The Bishop of Bath & Wells banned all his vicars from allowing the LDS access to the registers

“on the grounds that anyone ‘who has a complete microfilm of all the church registers in this country could presumably start up in business and make very big profits indeed’

And also

because microfilms would be used ‘in the revival of a rather primitive and not very desirable practice — the baptism of the dead’

For Archivists the offer of obtaining a free microfilmed copy of the registers in their protection was a very tempting offer, as was the prospect of a master copy held in the vaults of the LDS church in Utah.

I well remember working in the Archives when we were visited by a member of the LDS who had come to film newly deposited registers from Church of England parishes, and with a slow growth of permissions received from Roman Catholic and other non-conformists the microfilming progressed at a steady rate so much so that many more cabinets were brought into the search room to hold the films, and the re-organisation of the room to accommodate the ever increasing number of machines required to allow persons to view the films. It is also amusing to note the development of the machine over the years from one the size of (for comparison) a washing machine, to the smaller compact versions used today.

Another side product of the LDS church, who initially held over six million names on card indexes, was the formation of the IGI, or International Genealogical Index, produced on microfilm, and available in Record Offices throughout the UK, this was in fact the starting point for many researchers in the 1980s.

*Recommended reading should you wish to pursue this further: -
Microfilm, Mormons and the Technology of Archive by H Little,
University of Glasgow*

Or for a general history of parish registers <https://www.sog.org.uk/research-hub/our-collections/parish-registers/>

by Val Everson 2025

Finding Leslie Gordon Dymott: 21.04.1915 – 10.07.1944, who served with the 4th Dorsetshire Regiment: 5735041 in Normandy

I have been researching both my parents' family for over 30 years including those lost in the Great War. My father, **Roderick Dymott** (who was brought up in Hyde, Fordingbridge) served in the Hampshire Regiment - 5509649, enlisted in Salisbury on 13th September 1940, was captured at Tubrok, Tunisia in December 1941, initially taken to Sicily, then mainland Italy and when the Italians surrendered, he was taken to Germany. Dad was still a prisoner of war in Germany (working in the coal mines) when D-Day was happening in June 1944, released on his 25th birthday in April 1945.

My father lost five uncles in the Great War, four being his mother's **Witt** brothers.

We were watching a National Archives webinar last year regarding British Prisoners of War – When, at the end of the programme we were given further references and I saw a Dymott in Salisbury whom I have since found out that he was dad's third cousin **Leslie Gordon Dymott** who whilst serving with the 4th Dorsetshire Regiment in Normandy was lost in a post D-Day battles **Operation Epsom** designed to capture Caen and move east. This was news to the family as my father had never mentioned losing a cousin in WWII.

Leslie Gordon Dymott was the youngest child born to **George Harry Dymott** and **Edith Emma nee Ings** (indexed as Inge) in Ringwood in 1915 and baptised at Ringwood Parish Church on 15th May 1915. By 1921 the family were living in West Harnham, Salisbury, parents and two siblings **Albert Frederick George Dymott**, born in Bicton, Fordingbridge in 1903 and baptised at Holy Ascension, Hyde. **Doris May Dymott**, born in West Orchard, Shaftesbury, Dorset in 1913. In 1921 father and eldest son were both working for **M J Waters**, farmer at West Harnham, Salisbury as head cowman and farm labourer respectively.

Leslie Gordon's father, **George Harry Dymott** was born in Gorley:

The eldest child of **Ambrose Dymott and Fanny (Annie) nee Sevier**

Ambrose Dymott was the third son of **John Dymott and Mary nee Kenchington**.

John and Mary Dymott are my great, great grandparents. My fathers' grand father was **George Dymott, Ambrose's** elder brother.

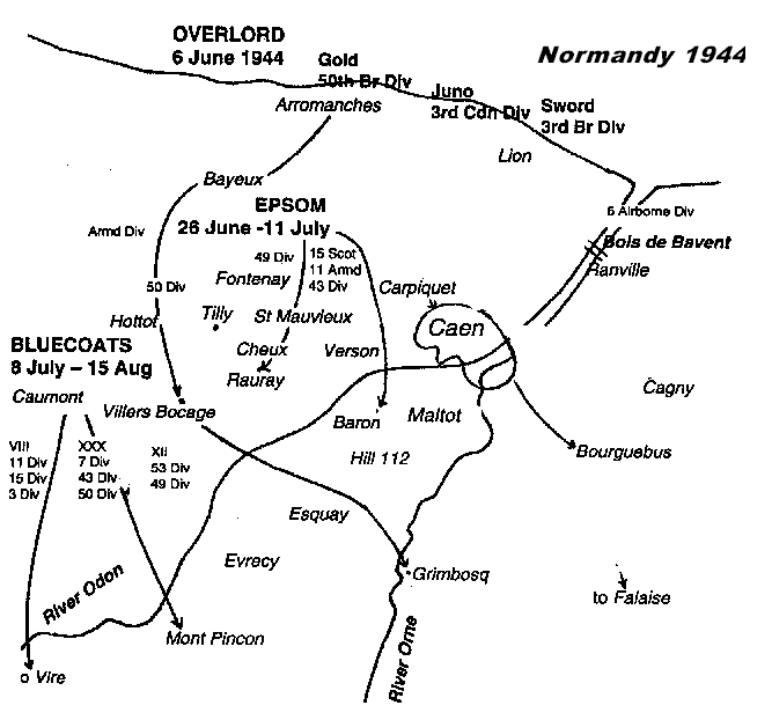
Lesley Gordon Dymott married **Elsie Dredge** in 1936, and they had one daughter who married living in Salisbury with their daughter.

Leslie Gordon Dymott was recorded in the 1939 register as a carpenter. He joined the 4th Dorsetshire Regiment – 5735041 in 1941.

The 4th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment in 1939 was a Territorial Army unit and with their sister Battalion, the 5th Battalion Brigaded together in the 43rd Wessex Division. Up to D-Day they had spent their time guarding the south coast of England against invasion and training for the invasion of France. The 43rd Wessex Division landed in Normandy seventeen days after D-Day – 23rd June 1944 joining **Operation Epsom** three days later.

Their first major battle was near Maltot on 10th July 1944, as part of the 43rd Wessex Division (the attached map shows the 43rd coming down the middle past **Verson to Baron**) when the Division attacked the German positions on and around Hill 112, a feature that dominated the area and with its elevated position was seen as the key to holding Normandy. In a fierce and costly battle, the Germans defended their positions resolutely, suffering severe losses. Also, at some cost the 4th Dorset's captured Eterville. As they closed on the village of Maltot they came under a hurricane of machine gun and anti-tank gun fire. The 4th Dorset's suffered 348 casualties.

Leslie Gordon Dymott and two of his fellow soldiers who were lost on the 10th July are commemorated at Bayeux War Cemetery with another fifteen who died that day being commemorated at the larger Bayeux Memorial Cemetery.



By John Dymot 2025

Military Matters – My Own! Martin Barrett

You may remember from the previous Newsletter, that I mentioned I would let you know how I became involved in Wiltshire Military history. Some of you may remember this story from a posting I

made in Facebook a couple of years ago but there are many people new to the WOPC who might find it interesting.

William Charles Barrett was one of 7 brothers (another story one day!) from the Hindon/Chilmark area who all served in the Great War. William was my great-uncle and gave his life in the Battle of The Somme on 20 October 1916. Below is a picture of William's Memorial Plaque which was issued to the next-of-kin of servicemen killed in the First World War.

He is obviously of great interest to me, but I did not know he even existed until I started my research a few years ago. I found out - from the WOPC web-site - that he is buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, France and I now have a lot more information about his life and service – all adding to his memory and to the respect I hold for him.

Early in 2019, I alerted my brother to the location of his burial and he and his family, on a holiday in Northern France that same year, visited the CWGC site at Heilly. My brother posted a picture on Twitter of one of his sons standing beside the grave of Private William Charles Barrett.

A couple of months later my brother was contacted by someone on Twitter claiming to be a descendant of our fallen great-uncle. Now, I had not found a marriage record for William so initially thought this was very strange. I contacted the person and discovered that William had a girlfriend, Ethel, before he enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment in August 1914 and his subsequent shipment to the Western Front in October 1914.

Ethel gave birth to a boy in December 1914 and, being unmarried and with no father's name on the birth certificate, had given the baby the two *middle* names of Charles and Barrett. It seems, from memories within the family, that William never saw his child and perhaps never knew of his son. The baby grew into a man and had a family of his own.

In 2020, I established contact with one of his children who is my second cousin and visited her in Kent. My second cousin herself is now a great-grandmother, and we regularly correspond, finding out more about each other's families that neither of us knew existed. I have never had a cousin of any sort before, so I am extremely happy and lucky! Although William did not survive the war, he is very much remembered by his descendants, all of whom he never knew, especially at this time of year around the anniversary of his death.

His memory lives on in different ways. My grandfather – one of William's younger brothers - gave his son (*my father*) *precisely* the same name as his fallen brother, William Charles Barrett. Our Dad in turn gave myself and my brother the middle names of Charles and William respectively. We never knew any of this until a few years ago, of course.

To complete the circle back to the first part of this story. You may recall that my brother took a photograph of his son standing next to the grave in Heilly and posted it on Twitter – his son is, of course named...William.

Our WOPC We Will Remember Them information serves as an important reminder to us all of the ultimate sacrifices made by our ancestors, but it can also provide a starting point to discover (by chance or not) more information - and in my case relatives - than we already knew. Good luck with your research!

I hope you've enjoyed this story concerning serendipity which was really the starting point for my association with the WOPC.

Back to WOPC military matters in the next Newsletter.



Martin Barrett 2025.

And That's all folks

These are the types of articles needed for the Newsletter

If you think you have something you would like to share in the next edition

Which will be making its appearance June 2025 then please make yourself known