

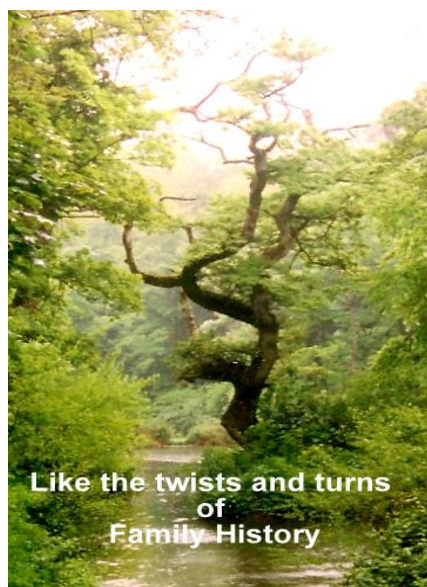
Wiltshire Family History Society, Swindon Branch, May 2023

GOD SAVE THE KING CORONATION DAY Saturday 6 May 2023

MEETINGS REMINDER – see below for further details

Thursday 11 May 2023 via Zoom – ‘My Average Ancestor’

Thursday 25 May 2023 at The Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square –
‘All Because of a Bit of Bull’



**“I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.”**

These are the opening lines of a poem by Joyce Kilmer (1886 – 1918).

His full name was Alfred Joyce Kilmer, an American writer and poet who was killed at the 2nd battle of Marne in July 1918.

He was 31.

FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN

Do I have memories of the coronation of Elizabeth II? Not sure. I have a vague memory of my dad getting a television, inviting some relatives around but the television not working. Black, white and grey zigzags everywhere. Then playing in the street before being ushered into a neighbour’s house, probably, the Naylor’s as Mr Naylor worked for Radio Rentals. Then sitting at a long table in the street wearing a paper crown. As I said, vague memory, but was it the coronation, don’t know I would have been three at the time.

I know Jenny wants to stand down as coach trip organiser for WFHS, but she does organise good trips. The latest one to St Fagans was no exception. She even arranged excellent weather on this occasion. As mentioned in previous newsletters my claim to being Welsh, despite only having 1% Welsh DNA (recently increased to 2%, so getting there). But it did get me thinking about where my mother was brought up on the outskirts of Bettws (Bridgend).

My grandfather’s house was literally a “cottage in the woods.” I only visited it once, no twice, the first time was when I was approaching my first birthday and mum was attending his funeral. The second time was in the mid-1990s with Lis, my mother and her Mormon cousin. It was derelict but my mother described the two up, two down cottage. The coffin road than ran through the

woods passing the cottage connecting the coal pits with the village. The kennels at the bottom of the garden.

My mother related a story about when her dad had a stroke he lost his speech and was partially paralysed, but he kept pointing towards the kennels. So, was he indicating that something important or valuable was hidden there? When it was demolished did anyone find some treasure?

I told this story to my late brother who had visited granddad a few times but all he could remember was the outdoor privy which was built over a stream. So, looking at the outdoor privies at St Fagans, all I could think of was at least the Brown family in Bettws didn't have to pay water companies a small fortune to pollute our rivers they could do it themselves for nothing.

JOHN MILLS

WHAT'S COMING UP – MARGARET NEAVES

11 May 2023 – Zoom Meeting - My Average Ancestor – Ian Weller

Ian is a retired genealogist with many years' experience in teaching all aspects of family history. During a lifetime most people leave a large number of records (we all generate about 100 records). This talk takes a chronological tour of those records and explains how they can help put the flesh on the bones of our research, where they can be found and what we can find.

25th May 2023 at the Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square - 'All Because of a Bit of Bull' – Ray Nethercott

Ray is a retired Environmental Health Officer from Devizes. He will be telling us about his wife's extraordinary family history which spans around 2000 years from Ireland to the Middle East, the 3rd Crusade, a Dean of York, a Bishop of Salisbury, an Archbishop of Canterbury, the Battle of Hastings, Magna Carta, the administration of Ireland for the British Crown for over 600 years, 3 dukes, the English Civil War and more. His wife and close family knew nothing of this until Ray started to uncover some details, rapidly expanded by unknown relatives of hers in Kent, who started their research about 30 years ago.

REPORTS

Zoom Meeting on Thursday 13th April Historic Wiltshire and Wiltshire Memories by James Archard

We enjoyed a very interesting talk this evening from James about a Facebook site which was created in 2018 called Historic Wiltshire and Wiltshire Memories. The site currently has 14500 members and is growing quickly with 2000 new members having joined over the past year. The site has been set up for those who have an interest in the historic county of Wiltshire. Members are encouraged to add photos, information and any interesting topics relating to the county especially those interesting pieces of history which have been passed down through the generations but would never make the history books. It is a public site so anyone can see what has been posted but there are a group of mediators who monitor the posts to make sure that they are all suitable and appropriate.

The media tab on the site is the area which contains all photographs and videos which have previously been added and there are currently several hundred of these. Some are of views of the area, there are many old buildings and churches and many old photographs depicting life in times gone by. There may be a photograph of one of your ancestors or pictures of the village where they lived. There are photos of factories, schools, railways, churches, pubs and shops.

By leaving comments against these a conversation can be sparked which could even be with a distant relative. This can all put added information into your family tree.

It really is worthwhile taking a look at the site to see what connections can be made to your Wiltshire relatives. Why not add some of your own photos to see if anyone can add some information for your own research.

Unfortunately, some people had problems accessing the meeting this evening and so the talk has been recorded. If anyone would like to have a recording of the talk then please do contact Glenys Bettley who will be happy to pass this on to you. **MARGARET NEAVES**

FROM LAST TIME

Harvey Groves' article in our last newsletter was referred to by John Mills in his Chairman's notes. It also brought back memories for Mervyn Hewlett who says:

"What memories these articles bring back. My mother sowed and produced about 2000 summer bedding plants each year to make some pocket money for our summer holiday. We lived in Moredon, towards the Red Lion Pub. Mum was not in competition with Mr Groves and, when she ran out of plants, always recommended customers to go to him. Mum sold her plants at a fixed price of 1s-6d a dozen, not by the box, whatever variety.

I remember a conversation Dad had with Mr Groves sometime after Mum gave up her little business. In common with other canny growers Mr Groves produced one crop early and gardeners were eager to purchase and, despite him telling customers that the frost might kill them, they still purchased. When an early frost killed them off, they came back and, of course, he was ready with the next crop. The same strategy still happens today at Garden Centres!

After Mr Groves retired, the land was purchased by (possibly) the Swindon Housing Association, who built a group of retirement flats called the Groves and my Dad moved into one of them."
MERVYN HEWLETT

JOHNNIE STILES AND HIS BAND

Last time we asked if anyone could identify those on this photo.

John Bendle has written in to say that the trombonist on the end of the row is Colin Greenaway, and the young lady (bottom right hand corner of photo) could be "Jackie' Fry. Can anyone verify that?

Can anyone else add a name?



WILLIAM SAUNDERS - FISHMONGER

In our last newsletter we reported on the talk given by Mike and Pam Stubbs on where occupants of the GWR village would have shopped during the 19th century. Here's a little snippet about a Fishmonger. They seem now to have disappeared from our high streets* except in supermarkets:

**WILLIAM SAUNDERS,
FISHMONGER,**

9, READING STREET, NEW SWINDON.

BEGS to inform the gentry, clergy, and inhabitants of Old and New Swindon and surrounding country that, in consequence of a long illness, he has not been able to carry on the business for some time past, but begs to inform the public that his son-in-law, THOMAS JONES, of the above address, will carry on the same from this date, and will attend at the Market, New Swindon, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and at old Swindon, on Mondays and Thursdays, when he trusts, by fresh Fish and good quality, with strict attention to business and moderate charges, to receive a share of that patronage and support which his father-in-law has received for the past 15 years.

N. B. — All orders received at No. 9, Reading Street, New Swindon, shall receive prompt attention.

William Saunders must have died very shortly after placing this ad. Son-in-Law Thomas Jones died just 5 years later. Surname shown in the ad was Saunders, but censuses shown Sanders.

At the time of the 1871 census **William Sanders** and his family were living at **9 Reading Street**. William 65 born Appledore, Fishmonger (shop in market). Wife Jane also born Appledore. Son-in-law Thomas Jones, 42 born Caerleon. His wife Mary R, born Appledore, and daughter Sarah J Jones 3 who was born in Swindon.

The 1861 census at **9 Reading Street** lists William as a 56 year old Fish Monger. Living with him were wife Jane and daughter Mary R, a 25 year old Dress Maker. All listed as born in Northam. From the 1871 census we see that daughter Mary married Thomas Jones.

From Wikipedia: Northam is a market town, civil parish and electoral ward in Devon, England, lying north of Bideford. The civil parish also includes the villages of Westward Ho!, Appledore, West Appledore, Diddywell, Buckleigh and Silford, and the residential areas of Orchard Hill and Raleigh Estate.

Marriage of William's daughter Mary Record Sanders to Thomas Jones, baller, in May 1866 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel near the Market Place, Swindon.

In the 1851 census **William**, Jane, 3 children and 2 lodgers were at **9 Reading Street**. William (surname Sanders) was a Railway Policeman born Northam, Devon.

There was a **Wm Saunders** aged 21 born Northam Down, admitted on 12 December 1827 to the 3rd Foot Guards Rank The Duke of Gloucester – taken from Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Admissions and Discharges 1715 – 1925.

William Saunders died aged 66 during the June quarter 1872 in the Highworth district. He was buried 18 May at St Mark's Church – shown as being of **Reading Street**.

William's son-in-law Thomas Jones of Weymouth Street was buried aged 48 on 11 April 1877. His wife Mary Record Jones was buried aged 42 just three days later on 14 April 1877. Wonder what happened? Their daughter Sarah Jane, having lost her parents and grandfather, was living in Bristol at the time of the 1881 census.

*Having said above that fishmongers have disappeared from our High Streets, I've since seen two fresh fish mobile shops at Bury St Edmunds on market day, and similarly one at Newmarket!

DO YOU HAVE A MEMORY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S CORONATION?

With TV in its infancy, many gathered together where there was a television set to share that special day. I remember being with Mum's family at my Aunty's house because that was the only television set in the family at the time. Unfortunately that memory is quite vague, but I remember where the television set was in the room. Strange that, many years later, we were to buy and live in that very same house – and I am still here.

Perhaps you to have a story or memory to share? Please email me on nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

What started off as rather an 'after-thought' about the forthcoming coronation, seems to have developed into a rather long article. I blame Andy Binks of the Swindon Society of course! Following a chance remark with him at the last Swindon Society meeting, Andy (supportive and helpful as always) has sent me photos of past coronations and I thought I'd like to share them with you. Yvonne

Charles Philip Arthur George was born 14 November 1948 at Buckingham Palace and becomes King of the UK and the 14 other Commonwealth realms when he is crowned on 6 May 2023. He is the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and was the Prince of Wales until his mother died on 8 September 2022.

Queen Elizabeth II

For those who may have experienced and remembered that day on **2 June 1953**, it's one of those days that they will never forget. These charming photos were taken at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation celebrations.

Do you recognise anyone or where they were taken?

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born 21 April in London and began undertaking public duties during WW2 when serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She married Philip Mountbatten, a former Prince of Greece and Denmark, in November 1947 and they had four children.

On the death of her father in February 1952 she became Queen Elizabeth II of seven independent Commonwealth countries. She died 8 September 2022 at Balmoral, aged 96.





King George VI



Reeves shop in Market Street

Albert Frederick Arthur George was born 14 December 1895 at Sandringham. He served in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force during WW1 and became Duke of York in 1920. He married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in 1923 and they had two daughters.

Following the death of his father and the abdication of his older brother (the heir presumptive Edward VIII) Albert, known to his family as Bertie, became King George VI of the UK and the Dominions of the British Commonwealth. His coronation date was 12 May 1937. He died 6 February 1952 at Sandringham, aged 56.



Fleet Street



The Stratton X Roads bus in Evelyn Street



King George V and Queen Mary's Coronation Day 22 June 1911

George Frederick Ernest Albert was born 3 June 1865 in London and became King of the UK and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India, from 6 May 1910 until he died on 20 January 1936.

George was the second son of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and third in line of succession to the throne. He served in the Royal Navy until the unexpected death of his elder brother, Prince Albert Victor, in 1892 when he then became directly in line for the throne.



Regent Street - wonder what the people front left are looking at

George married his brother's fiancée, Princess Victoria Mary of Tuck, the following year and they had six children. His father became King Edward VII when Queen Victoria died in 1901 and George became Prince of Wales. He became King George V on his father's death in 1910 and his coronation was held on **22 June 1911**.





King Edward VII reigned from 1901 until 1910.

He was born 9 November 1842 in London, the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. He attended both Oxford and Cambridge, and briefly joined the army. His father had visited his son to reprimand him regarding a scandalous liaison with an actress, and then died two weeks later. Queen Victoria held her son partly responsible for his father's death.

He married Princess Alexandra of Denmark and they had six children, five surviving into adulthood.

On the death of his mother, he was crowned King in **August 1902**. He died 6 May 1910 and was succeeded by his son George V.

Photo: Astill's printing works at 3 Victoria Road

If you want any photo re-sent to you, please email nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

As for this next photo any ideas anyone?

Possibly a Queen Victoria Jubilee?



A LITTLE SLICE OF SWINDON'S HISTORY

Many of you may remember the Charles Goodenough & Sons Removals firms and their large distinctive grey vans around the Swindon area.

Janet Flanagan recently brought me an old newspaper article about my great uncle Charles Goodenough which contains some wonderful old Swindon memories including

- 4 horse pantehnicon vans and getting stuck under Whitehouse Bridge
- The Mail Coach
- Cricklade Street – horses

And many more – **PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED.** Yvonne

THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN MORE SWINDON HISTORY

10 May 1913 at 7 am

A monoplane flying from Netheravon flying school landed safely in a field at Lydiard Tregoze, seemingly because the pilot had lost his way and stopped to talk to locals. It had been spotted flying low by people on the ground.



Photos courtesy of Local Studies (Swindon Libraries)

Having taken off again to resume its flight, it collided with some trees and hedges and 'turned turtle' wrecking the machine. The pilot and his learner passenger were thrown out but escaped with just bruising and shaking.

A similar memory of Joyce Murgatroyd (nee Bezer) – taken from 'memories of Joyce' by Andy Binks

Joyce Bezer was born October 1916 at 3 Church Walk South, Rodbourne Cheney

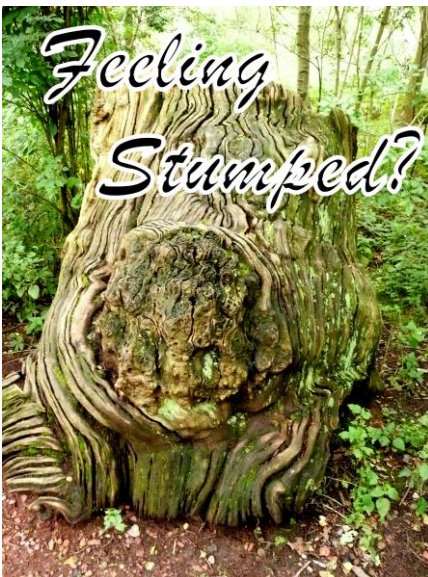
Coming out of school one day they heard that a plane had landed in Maundrells corn field, so they ran along Moredon Road to see it. It was the first aeroplane they had seen, the pilot had run out of fuel and the children told the pilot that the local shop sold paraffin. A Mr Jones, who lived locally and had a motor bike and sidecar was fetched and he took the pilot to get some more appropriate fuel. Having refuelled the plane the pilot took off again and was waved off by the kiddies. Farmer Maundrell was not well pleased as it had spoiled much of his crop of wheat, but the children thought it a wonderful adventure.

TREES

I wonder who first thought up the term 'family tree'? It fits the description perfectly and we family historians probably have trees far too large to be depicted as one document depending on the number of branches included.

In our last newsletter, were some more 'unusual' photos with a railway connection. Trees feature in photos, paintings and stories etc and it can be surprising sometimes what, with a bit of imagination, they can reveal. For example try googling The Thinking Tree – over 3,000 years old – in Puglia, Italy. Fascinating!

I remembered a few of my own and wonder if others have some surprising pictures they'd like to share – doesn't have to be trees!



Please send your pictures to swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk or nealy1@virginmedia.com
Thanks ... Yvonne

MODS & ROCKERS

Remember them – the fashion-conscious, scooter-riding mods and their leather-clad arch rivals, the rockers?

Saturday 23 May 1964 the day they invaded Regent Street, resulting in two youths and a girl being arrested following scuffles.

It was reported: *Shortly before midnight a man running down Bridge Street cannoned into a policeman and crashed into the window of Timothy Whites store, shattering it. Two other men, said to be bystanders, complained of having been bitten by police dogs.*

The fracas started in the early evening when more than 300 teenagers gathered in Regent Circus, blocking footpaths, lounging on seats and hindering the free movement of traffic.

The scene then moved at about 11 pm to the lower part of Regent Street and a gang of youths was dispersed when half a dozen policemen charged through them.

Does this era bring back memories for anyone? Please share your stories with us – nealy1@virginmedia.com or swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk

SOME MORE MAY DATES – I'll leave it you to decide whether true or false and which would be your favourite!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 National Chocolate Parfait Day | 18 National Cheese soufflé day |
| 2 National Truffles Day | 19 National Devil's food cake day |
| 3 National Hot Custard Day | 21 National strawberries and cream day |
| 4 National Homebrew Day | 22 National Vanilla pudding day |
| 7 National Roast leg of lamb day | 24 National Escargot day (ugh!) |
| 8 National Have a Coke Day | 25 National Wine day |
| 9 National Butterscotch Brownie Day | 26 National Blueberry cheesecake day |
| 12 National Nutty Fudge Day | 27 National Grape popsicle day |
| 13 National Apple Pie Day | 28 National Hamburger day |
| 17 National Cherry cobbler day | |

JUST BY-THE-BY ... THE STORY OF KRAKATOA - 140 years ago

Sorry – not family history related, but interesting all the same.

Krakatoa is in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, now known as Indonesia. The island was actually an active volcano and, when it did erupt from **20 May 1883**, peaking on 27 August, it was one of the deadliest and most destructive volcanic events in recorded history. Most of the island was blown completely away, and the noise was heard over 5000 kilometres away. The once 1½ mile high volcano was reduced to a 300 kilometre hole in the ocean floor.

The resulting massive tidal wave was about 30 metres high which rolled like a mountain crashing into nearby islands, and about 36,000 people lost their lives. So forceful was it, that a steamship was picked up and was found two miles deep into the jungle.

Slowly the wave lost its power and height and, by the time it reached Europe some 12,000 kilometres away, it was just a small wave.

CASHING IN ON A PREVIOUS CORONATION

With a picture of Christ Church, was a message from the Borough of Swindon Electricity Department: **FLOODLIT FOR THE CORONATION.**

Thousands of people have been to see the ELECTRIC FLOOD-LIGHTING of the SWINDON PARISH CHURCH – which was carried out by THE SWINDON CORPORATION ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT.

Have you realised what a tremendous draw ELECTRIC FLOOD-LIGHTING NEON SIGNS and AFTER HOUR SHOP WINDOW LIGHTING can be to your business?

The Electricity Department offer special terms for the above lighting, and as an advertising medium this form of illumination will greatly increase your sales.

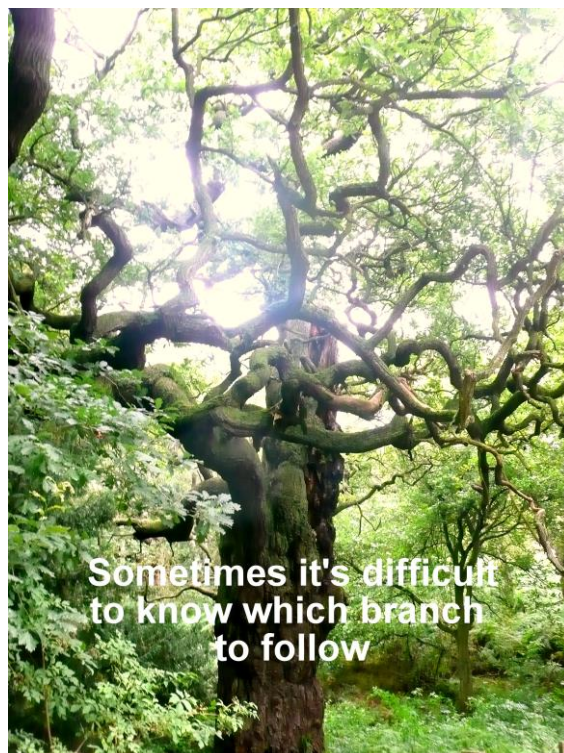
The Family Tree – William G Corbitt

The finish of a family tree as it forever seems to grow
from roots that started long ago
way back in ancient history times
in foreign lands and distant climes.

From them grew trunk and branching limbs
that dated back to times so dim.
One seldom knows exactly when
the parents met and married then.
Nor when the twigs began to grow
with odd-named children, row on row.

Though verse like this is made by me, the end's in
sight as you can see.

**It's not the same with family trees
that grow and grow through centuries.**



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