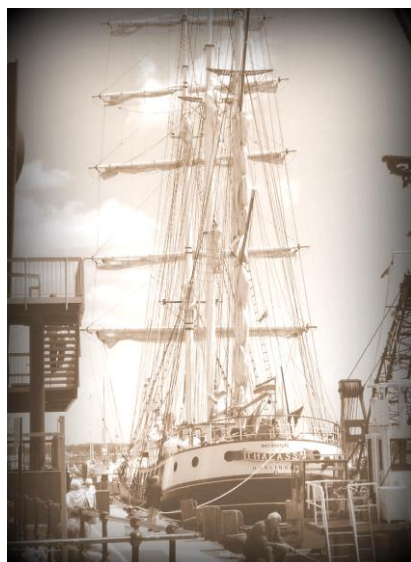


# Wiltshire Family History Society, Swindon Branch, October 2022

## Reminder of what's coming up ...

Unfortunately we've had to cancel our Zoom meeting for 13 October – see below.  
27 October face-to-face meeting at the Central Community Centre, Swindon - details below.



**In fourteen hundred and ninety-two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue**

**He had three ships and left from Spain.  
He sailed through sunshine, wind and rain.**

**He sailed by night, he sailed by day.  
He used the stars to find his way.**

**Day after day they looked for land.  
They dreamed of trees and rocks and sand.**

**October 12 their dream came true.  
You never saw a happier crew!**

## FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN

I can usually find a connection with one or more stories that Yvonne publishes in this newsletter. I don't think I have any sea-goers in my tree let alone Pirates, but you never know.

I had a flick through my files with little luck, until I pulled out the "Pickens's file." This was given to me by a distant cousin, Derek. The story of the descendants of a "Shropshire lad," Thomas Picken 1726-possibly 1763, which includes my grandmother Sarah Jane Picken 1886-1920.

The Pickens file is one I rarely look at. Another distant cousin wrote it, (don't know who) she was quite disparaging of my grandfather John Brown, 1885-1951. My grandmother Sarah, died shortly after giving birth to my mum's sister Amy. Sarah's sister, Martha, went to the funeral and found the children living "in squalor" so she took Amy and the eldest daughter, Constance, to live with her, my mother refused to go.

My mother and her half sister always told different stories about their "loving father," but always added "he hated Christmas." Amy was born Boxing Day and Sarah died a day or two later, which to me suggests he was traumatised by his wife's death and couldn't cope.

Having flicked through this file I have found references to sea goers, mainly war related. Having overcome my upset about the reference to my grandfather, I will give this document a more serious read. There are some interesting stories and maybe I will relay some of these stories to you sometime.

I knew sister Amy Brown, my aunt, died when her hospital ship was torpedoed by a Japanese U-boat in World War II. A definite, if sad, connection with the sea.

As for Pirates, the nearest I have come is singing the “Song of the Jolly Roger” (by Chudleigh Candish, what a great name to research) usually being whacked over the head by a fellow chorister swinging a flag of the Jolly Roger.

A tentative connection with the stories that follow. I have, however, found another. Under Census v Certificate you will find the surname Wheeler a bit further down a mention of the Mary Rose. Mary Rose Wheeler was my great aunt, who I wrote about in a previous newsletter. So, there we are, a connection made. **JOHN MILLS**

## **END OF AN ERA – But the beginning of another**



As we are reeling from the sad news of our Queen, so much said and so many fond memories .... we will each have our own thoughts.

So as Alexander Graham Bell said ‘When one door closes another door opens, but we do often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us.’

And so a new era under King Charles III begins – LONG LIVE THE KING.

## **WHAT’S COMING UP**

**A HOUSE THROUGH TIME – This will be a ‘first’ for us and your support would be appreciated**

**Saturday 8 October at The Baker’s Café. 11.00 – 2.00** – in the heart of Swindon’s historic Railway Village.

We’d like to welcome everyone to come along to see some of the stories and memories of the Railway Village cottages. We already have a nice little collection on our notice board and separately and are hoping to encourage more such stories and memories of these wonderful old cottages and streets which go back as far the 1840s.

There must be hundreds, if not thousands, of stories to tell – and we’d like to share them. This is an on-going project so please pass the word around.

We’ll also be available to help with anyone’s individual family history – how to start up, brick walls and even research online on the day. [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Our October Zoom meeting - cancellation:** despite every effort by our Programme Secretary, Margaret Neaves, she has been unable to obtain a speaker for our planned Zoom meeting on 13 October, although she does have a speaker for the November Zoom Meeting. If anyone has suggestions for Zoom meetings, Margaret would be pleased to hear from you.

**27 October:** we will have a look at the broad topic of census records and the amount of information which can be gained from them. For experienced researchers, please bring along any documents which include interesting or unusual information.

We would particularly like to welcome anyone who is new to family history research as we will be able to guide you through the various sources of information in an informal way. For the more experienced, however, there is always more to be learned and tips we can pass on to each other. For further information: [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

### **Wiltshire Family History Society: the Virtual Branch**

The next Virtual Branch “zoom” meeting – open to all members wherever they are - will take place on Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This meeting will be exploring brick walls, yours and other people’s. So if you have brick walls on any topic – or you have had an interesting or innovative way of overcoming that barrier, you are encouraged to raise them!

Ideally, can you let Graham Warmington know in advance what it is, so he can put groups together with an interest in the same topic(s)? Or if you would like to have them raised, but don’t feel able to do it yourself, Graham will get someone else to talk on your behalf.

Or maybe, you have found a useful source of information, and you can let others know about it/them?

If you would like to take part in or listen to the discussion, or suggest topics for the session please email Graham at [warmingtongraham@gmail.com](mailto:warmingtongraham@gmail.com). Look forward to seeing and hearing you there.

### **Coach trip to National Archives 15 October**

Still some places available on our coach to Kew if you would like to go. The coach goes direct to the National Archives, although I know some people will be visiting Kew Gardens, which is a 10-15 minutes walk away.

At the National Archives, you can view the 1921 census for free (PCs available, but you can also bring your own laptop and access the census). If you want to go and read original documents you will need a reader’s ticket. I recommend you start application or renewal online. This saves you time and enables you to order documents in advance. For details, see <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/researching-here/do-i-need-a-readers-ticket/>

The coach leaves from close by the Link Centre at 8am, and the cost is £31, including a driver’s tip. If you have any questions or want to book, email me on [coaches@wiltshire.co.uk](mailto:coaches@wiltshire.co.uk) or leave a message on 01793 852662 **JENNY POPE**

## **REPORTS**

### **TRACING A HOUSE THROUGH HISTORY – Gill Blanchard. Thursday 8 September 2022.**

Gill brought our attention, not only to the normal channels for research, but other areas, for example: land records and deeds, listed buildings/local surveys, tithe records, Manorial records, chancery records, enclosure records, newspapers (auction details etc) and trade directories. electoral records and poll books. Also architectural history – timber, bricks, tiles etc.

Local and County Records Offices have many original documents, catalogues and databases about historic buildings. But not everything is online. Maps can prove to be very useful, for example enclosure maps. Even plans whether or not they went ahead. Gill also suggested that Parliamentary archives, Society of Genealogists, British Association of Local History, One Place Studies, Genuki, Online Parish Clerks etc should not be overlooked.

Studying maps over various years can show major changes.



So we should look for such things as schools, school houses, post offices, churches and large houses and farms.

Deeds can enlighten as to who built properties, when sold or rented. Tenancy information could reveal names (perhaps more) in individual houses, and Rights of Way for such things as shared wells, information on adjoining land.

Sale catalogues can sometimes be very detailed.

When it comes to census records, Gill suggests studying enumerators' descriptions and routes. Who else was around at the time?

Do not overlook the Parish Chest, poor law records and rate books. Probate records, insurance records, inventories etc. The last may give a very good idea of how people lived at the time. Food for thought Gill – thank you.

Following on from Gill's talk and with taxes being so much in the headlines recently, here are a few tax laws from the past:

1662 - 1688	Hearth Tax
1693 - 1963	Land Tax
1696 - 1851	Window Tax payable
1796	Legacy Tax (death duties) introduced
1798	Land Tax Perpetuation Act
1799	Income Tax introduced
1896	Inheritance Tax introduced
1924 - 1969	Houses and Inhabited House Tax
1949	Payment of Land Tax merged with Income Tax
1963	Land Tax abolished

It seems that over the centuries there have been many instances of odd taxes – windows, wallpaper, hearths, salt and, in ancient Rome, urine. One of the strangest is King Henry VIII's beard tax – fact or fiction? Peter the Great's imposition of a beard tax, however, is evidently well-documented.

## **REPORT ON 'BACK TO BASICS' MEETING – BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATH CERTIFICATES AND PARISH RECORDS – 22 September 2022**

When tackling our family trees, we normally work backwards, thus starting with our more immediate roots and then branching out.



However Glenys's talk didn't !

She started in reverse - in fact from taxes imposed by King Henry VIII, part of the income from which helped to care for his subjects, before that it had fallen to the Lords of the Manor.

The Church looked after the people insofar as births, marriages and deaths were concerned but there was no formal recording, although possibly some notes about the more wealthy in society.

Very few could read anyway so little point in recording information. Instead information would have been spread verbally. This in itself led to difficulties resulting in such things as bigamy and annulments.

In 1538 Thomas Cromwell directed that births, marriages and deaths be written down on paper after Sunday Church Services. These records were kept but seldom used. Sixty years later copied onto parchment but most originals would have disappeared. In 1598 Queen Elizabeth decreed that parchment be used and each parish was to have a book in which to record. Church records would be read out at the end of each week in Church. Just after Easter copies were to be sent to the Diocesan Registrar. Records kept in large chests, often with three locks and three key holders.

Originally only minimum information, varying from place to place, was listed and births, marriages and deaths all muddled up together, as you may have seen in old parish record books. With any luck, there may be additional information such as occupations and additional names. Notes of events may not have been completed at the time and there was the risk of bits of paper getting lost.

During the Civil War, some ministers hid parish registers but others were destroyed. So most registers start after the monarchy was reinstated.

The Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1753 directed that all marriages, except for Quakers and Jews, must take place in a Church of England. Exceptions were recorded in special books. The age to marry without consent was raised to 21 whereas previously marriages could even permit for 12 and 14 year olds.

Banns originated from as early as the 1400s. Later, three weekly announcements had to be called in both party's churches. Banns called were intentions to marry and not confirmation. For those wanting to marry quickly, a licence was the alternative. Initially a £500 Bond against infirmity and deception would be required, but the Bond was soon abandoned. Marriages by licence could be conducted in both parishes. A Special Licence required permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, so were few and far between.

Marriages were permitted between 8 am and 12 noon and could not be held when dark. Were there fears of a veiled bride not being the right lady?

From 1813 formal books for baptisms and burials were introduced which contained additional information. Registration became a necessity – a way of raising taxes and providing statistics.

Certificates issued from 1874. Births to be registered within 3 weeks, but later changed to 6 weeks, or a hefty fine imposed. Thus it was possible that incorrect birth dates were given in

order to avoid being fined. Deaths had to be registered within five days, in theory, but could be delayed if a death certificate was late. A death certificate was required for burial.

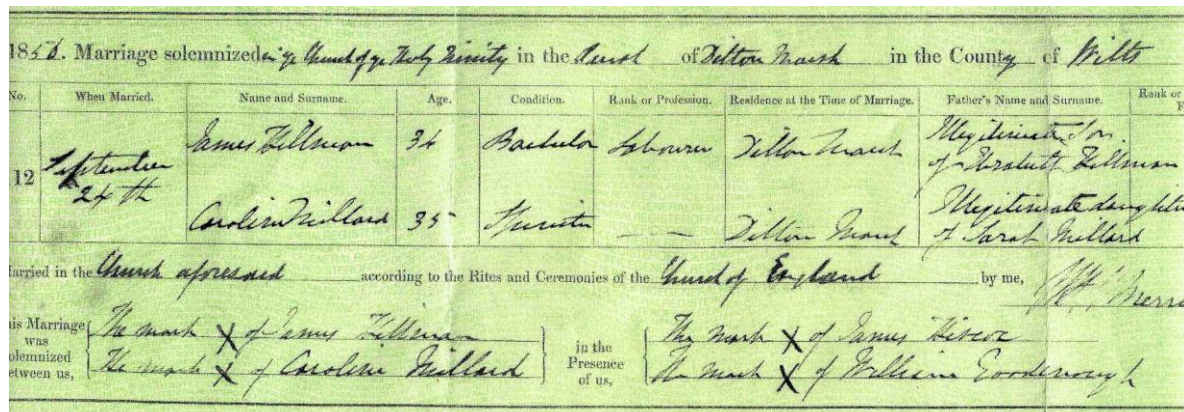
Still there was a 6 – 10% failure to register births so fines increased in 1875. Registration districts originally followed the Poor Law districts with sub-districts. Register entries were required to be copied and sent periodically to the Registrar General.

From 1875 it was necessary for an 'office' to be available for storing registers, registering births and deaths and getting certificates with opening hours displayed. The local registrar position would have been part-time only and, previously if needed, he would have to be searched out from his other employment – which could be in a farmer's field!

Two copies of a marriage register were raised, one kept by the Church. It is interesting to note that only the Church record contains genuine signatures, otherwise just copied.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion about 'Oddities' for which there were many and varied. A really enjoyable, informative, inter-active and fun evening.

PS from Yvonne – this is an example of a very helpful oddity relating to my great great grandfather James Goodenough/Hillman. Two illegitimacies shown on the marriage certificate.

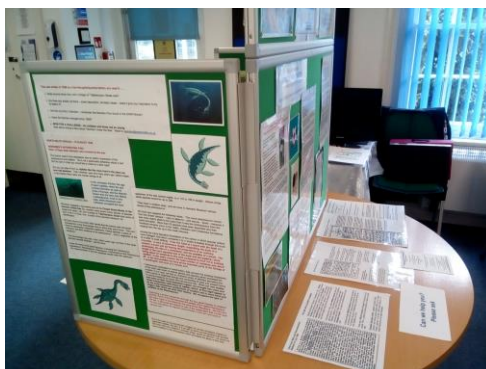
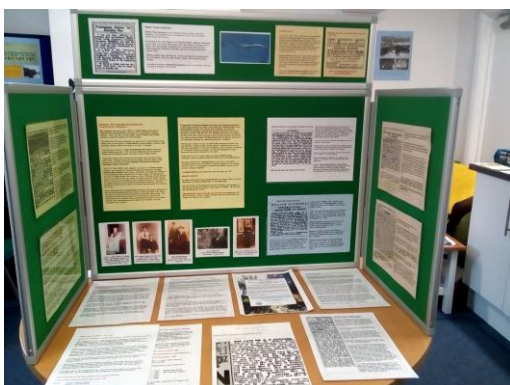


James Hillman 34 bachelor Labourer of Dilton Marsh – illegitimate son of Elizabeth Hillman  
 Caroline Millard 35 spinster of Dilton Marsh – illegitimate daughter of Sarah Millard

**Do YOU have an 'Oddity' that you'd like to share with us – [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)**

### SWINDON HERITAGE OPEN DAY – Saturday 10 September

After all the rain, the day was fine and warm. We spread our family history information around the meeting room, off the main hall, at the Central Community Centre.





Our theme was mainly centred around the Railway Village cottages, with quite a few short accounts relating to people and families who had previously lived in them.

It was encouraging that we had a steady stream of people interested in our displays.

## **ROGER BEDELLS – SWINDON BRANCH EX-CHAIRMAN**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our dear friend Roger Bedells. Roger had been a member of the Swindon Branch of the Wiltshire Family History Society for many years. Although not an avid researcher, he plodded away at his Northampton roots with his wife Mary. His main interest was on the computer side putting various indexes into suitable forms working alongside Douglas Jackson.

He and his wife Mary did a lot for the running of the Branch with Roger supporting Richard Moore as Vice Chairman. When Richard took a back seat to be our Branch President, Roger took over the job as chairman which he did for several years with a gentle encouraging hand.

Roger started life in Northampton and I believe met Mary at school. After getting his degree, they eventually moved to Swindon working at Plessey with computers. He and Mary had two daughters one living in London and one in Manchester and they loved having the grand children to stay. Unfortunately the younger daughter predeceased Roger as she had a brain tumour.

One of his main hobbies was digital photography and he produced some amazing pictures.



Photo courtesy of Roger's daughter  
Alison

Our main contact with Roger was a meal out with some of our original members. We used to go to the pub after our FH meetings with Richard, Margery, Roger, Mary and a few others who changed over the years. From this social meeting we decided to have a meal out every 2-3 months and these have continued over the years with people joining us or dropping out as time progressed. A while after Mary died Roger brought a friend Theresa Hill, to join us and Theresa became a real rock for Roger when his eyesight and then his mental health began to degenerate. He ended his days in a nursing home. We all miss him and are grateful for all the friendship and guidance he gave. **GLENYS BETTLEY**

### **A memory from Julia**

It's such a long time that we have known Roger and also Mary. What a very sad end to his life. I can remember when he first joined our branch which then met in a wooden meeting room at Nythe community centre. The first thing he did was to volunteer to help with the refreshments. That was in the days when we took it in turns to bring something to munch with our tea or coffee. And he was a very good washer-upper! Goodness knows how long ago that was. So many lovely memories of Roger. **JULIA HUNT**

## CENSUS v CERTIFICATE

Whilst doing some research about the Swindon Railway Village, I came across a marriage after banns at the Parish Church, Swindon (would that be Holy Rood?), on 13 March 1842: George Wheeler (x) full age bachelor and Labourer of Swindon, son of Richard Wheeler, Labourer, married Harriet Painter (x) full age spinster of Swindon, daughter of James Crowley, Gentleman. W: Charles Coley (x) and Henry Noad.

According to censuses Harriet was born c. 1816 in Swindon and there was a Harriot Painter baptised 8 May 1815, daughter of Hester Painter.

This of course begs the question ... who was James Crowley, gentleman, purported father of Harriot/Harriet? Not found in 1841 in Swindon. Was the name made up? Had mother Hester been a servant in his household? Another little mystery! Yvonne

## JEANETTE'S MEMORIES OF THE ANGELINETTAs and BLACKSMITHS

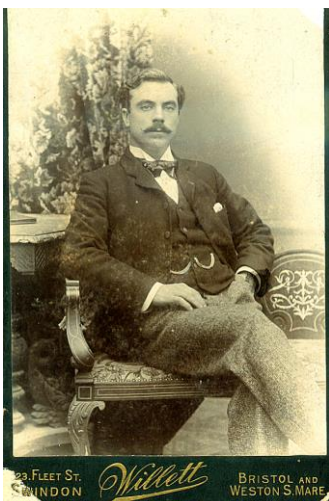
With regards to the August newsletter regarding the Angelinetta family, I grew up in Savernake Street, and knew George and Charlotte Angelinetta. They were elderly when I knew them. My memory of George is vague, but Charlotte had 2 or 3 toy poodles, they were well loved and spoiled by her. I used to chat with her when she took her beloved dogs out. I don't know much more about them but did find their surname an unusual one. They were the only Angelinetta family I knew of. There was an Angelinetta, a butcher, who had a shop in Groundwell Road, possibly a brother of George. **JEANETTE CHALLICE**

As for the September newsletter regarding Blacksmiths



My father's side, the Challice family, were all Blacksmiths and came from Devon. It was a family tradition.

My Great Great Grandfather, George Challice, and my Great Grandfather William Challice (see photo on the left) had a forge in the Devon village of Lapford. I made a visit to Lapford in 2005 and saw wrought iron gates they'd made for the Independent Chapel.



My Granddad, Frederick R Challice went to London and joined the railways there, and after he married he settled in Swindon.

He started work in the GWR in February 1897 and was a Grade A Blacksmith. He worked there till he retired, but carried on at the Works as a gatekeeper to help during the war years.





My Grandad was married three times, his first wife he met in London. She died in 1914 and he then married a woman half his age, probably needing a housekeeper and childminder. We're not sure but believe his second wife left him. I'm unable to find a divorce, trouble is on his marriage certificate to my Grandmother he was down as a widower (possibly a bigamous marriage) but he didn't marry my Gran until 1926 and by then they had my Dad. They had settled in Savernake Street where I grew up. My Dad didn't follow on the family trade.

Two of my Grandad's older brothers were Farriers and went to the London area as there was a real need for Farriers. Sadly both the brothers died of Smallpox (death certificates read Variola Maligna) in 1885 in Lambeth, just one day apart. William Henry Challice was 25 and died within 4 days of contracting the disease, and Isaac John Challice was 20 years old and died within 3 days.

And – just to finish with, Jeanette added the following: I also loved the story about Tommy King's sweets. We always had some boiled sweets from the shop in the market. The photo of Tom King was just how I remember him. **JEANETTE CHALLICE**

## **A FEW ADVERTS FOR OXFORD STREET PAST RESIDENTS**

### **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 25 November 1861:**

William Dicken, Veterinary Surgeon, No. **4 Oxford Street**, New Swindon, begs respectfully to inform the gentry, yeomanry and inhabitants generally of Swindon and its vicinity, that he has commenced business in the above profession, and hopes that an extensive experience, moderate charges, and the treatment of diseases in accordance with modern practice, will secure him a share of their patronage. Horse, cattle and dog medicine on the lowest terms. Contract by the year or quarter entered into.

### **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 22.11.1890:**

PORTRAITS! PORTRAITS!! PORTRAITS!!! Enlarged in crayon from cabinet or vignette to life size by W Hooper, **9 Oxford Street**, New Swindon. Correct copy guaranteed; weekly payments taken; prices on application. Specimen on view in the Imperial Clothing Co's Window, Fleet Street, New Swindon.

### **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 13 July 1878:**

'A Card' Miss Brown, Milliner, straw hat and bonnet maker, **16 Oxford Street**, New Swindon. Hats cleaned, dyed and altered to the newest fashions

While on the subject of **Oxford Street** does anyone know of the Powell/Money families who lived at No. 8 at the time of the 1861 census? Thomas Money had married widow Mary Elizabeth Powell and Mary's son John Powell was 12 and living there with them. John met with a fatal accident in December 1879 in the 'A' Shed, GWR Works.

John's father was **Alfred John Powell**, born c. 1823 at Bristol. At the time of the 1851 census he and his family (including wife Mary and son John) were living at 14 Reading Street. Alfred John, a Brass Finisher, died June 1851 when he was only 27. Could he also have met with a GWR accident?

## **THE MARY ROSE – 40 years Anniversary**

The warship was built 500 years ago at Portsmouth dockyard and now rests 'at home' once again at that Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

The Mary Rose was a flagship of Henry VIII's 80 strong fleet. It had given the King 34 years of successful action.

A breeze sprang up on the evening of 19 July 1545 enabling the Mary Rose to engage with the fleet of Francis I of France, in the Solent. But the Mary Rose floundered and sank. But why?



It is said that King Henry had dined at Portsmouth the previous evening, so did he witness the sinking?

Having rested for 437 years on the bottom of the Solent, on **11 October 1982** around 60 million people watched TV to catch the first glimpse as the Mary Rose emerged from the waves. Her remains now rest in the Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth Dockyard.

**Was an ancestor of yours connected to the sea?** A sailor perhaps – or captain? They could be difficult to trace and possibly at sea when censuses were taken. Have you managed to track any of their careers? Any stories to tell .. maybe a shipwreck or even piracy and smuggling? (The wife of my second cousin is purported to be related to the last-known smuggler of Hartland, Devon.) Please contact [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

## **OLD OCCUPATIONS: 'PIECES OF EIGHT' ... and all that!**



We may not be able to boast a Blackbeard, Long John Silver, Captain Hook or Captain Jack Sparrow in our family histories – or can we?

Not even a hint of a treasure map with 'X' marks the spot!

Pirates were mostly just ordinary people who, because of poverty, had been forced to turn to criminal activity.

Living in land-locked Wiltshire the possibility is extremely small however.

Around our coastlines it was a different story but that was mainly smuggling perhaps. Robin Hoods Bay is a good example. Sea-washed caves were an ideal place for hiding contraband as many of them were actually under houses. Trap doors led into such houses and with a sharp tap on the trap door, a hand would appear to lift the goodies and disperse them. Coast Guards eventually spoilt their 'fun'. Wiltshire has its fair share of such stories and even Swindon. The 'Fishing for the moon' story may be mainly attributed to the Devizes pond, but some think it actually referred to The Lawns in Swindon – the old Mill Pond now having disappeared many years ago. There are tales of underground tunnels within the Old town area so ... who knows what our ancestors got up to in the dead of night!

Pirates had existed since ancient times, threatening the trading routes of ancient Greece but let's not forget the Vikings from which (perhaps) some of us are descended. It seems that regions of the Indian Ocean and Madagascar were often safe places for pirates to stay and be outside of the law and state governance. We've all heard of the Pirates of the Caribbean of course.

This was the case with Charles Goddard, third son of Ambrose Goddard Esq of the Lawn, Swindon. As reported in local newspapers in very early January 1850, news had filtered through that Charles Goddard, midshipman, had heroically and tragically died trying to foil the captain of a Junk ship from setting fire to the magazine in the hold of the 'Columbine'. Unfortunately he was not successful and the ship was destroyed. Charles Goddard, nine seamen and two marines were killed or wounded.

This all happened 'on the coast of China next to Hong Kong' when it was reported: 'in a recent attack of her Majesty's ship 'Columbine' on a fleet of pirates in the China seas'.

**22.11.1718** Edward Teach, English pirate who sailed under the name of Blackbeard, was killed.

**05.10.2021** Following a train cancellation, the extremely over-crowded 2.19 pm Penzance service, which didn't usually stop at Swindon, had the town added to the route. But it didn't stop – and there was mutiny! Six emergency alarms were set off causing the wheels to stop working. The train was returned to Swindon before continuing on its way to Reading, and the service was delayed by well over an hour.

## **2021 SWINDON CENSUS STATISTICS – in case you missed it**

First results show that Swindon's population is up by 12% from 2011.

Residents per square kilometre: 2011 = 909  
2021 = 1014

Very small higher proportion of women to men – equal in 2011.

Swindon's ageing population up by 2.1%.

Across England and Wales, population grew by 6.3%.

Households increased by 1.4% with an average of 2.4 people in each. Same as in 2011.

Swindon's population:

1981	150,746
1991	170,850
2001	180,053
2011	209,156
2021	233,400

Just a thought ... has Swindon sufficiently increased in amenities and services to accommodate the increased population of 82,654 over the past 50 years?

## **JUST AS A MATTER OF INTEREST**

"The Swindon Advertiser wrote that Elizabeth Comley died 20 December 1854 aged 94. She was the eldest inhabitant of the parish and much respected by all her neighbours." **DOES ANYONE KNOW OF THIS ELIZABETH COMLEY?**

Having done a little research, it seems that Elizabeth of Morden (Moredon) was buried aged 94 years on 24 December 1854 at Rodbourne Cheney. That would make her birth year 1760.

Could Elizabeth possibly be Elizabeth Smith who married John Comley on 17 November 1788 at Wootton Bassett? She should be on the 1851 census records and there was an Elizabeth Comley aged 85 (c.1765) born Faringdon, Berkshire, a visitor at Morden (Moredon), Rodbourne Cheney living with Sarah Comley, whose husband was absent) and the wife of a Shop and Beer

House Keeper, born Wroughton. NOTE: If this is the same Elizabeth, then no way was she 94 when she died.

There was also an Elizabeth Comley, 78 (c.1762) Independent, born Wiltshire (so not Berkshire!) on the 1841 census at Morden (Moredon), Rodbourne Cheney with Robert Comley, a butcher, wife Anne and children. The children's names do match with the 1851 census and Anne could be the Sarah in the 1851 census as a Robert Comley married a Sarah Alice Ann Palmer of Wroughton.

I'm stopping there! Rather complicated and no proof. Does anyone know who this 94 year lady may have been – sounds as though she may have been well-known in the vicinity? Yvonne – [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com) or [swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:swindon@wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

Note from John Mills regarding the spelling of Moredon: When Moredon Youth Centre was refurbished in the 90s, the county printers sent two new signs for the Youth Centre which read 'Morden Youth Centre'. They refused to take them back as it was too expensive, so they were never used.

### **'EVEN MORE FROM MY HEADMASTER'S STUDY'**

Earlier this year the Newsletter referred to Matthew Jenkinson Cammish, a past headmaster of Sanford Street School, Swindon. Mr Cammish was also a renowned preacher and friend of Margaret and Denis Thatcher.

One of his former pupils Martin Robins has written to say, 'Mr Cammish came as a headmaster to Swindon in 1956 and he and his wife attended Bath Road Methodist Church for 62 years. Mr Cammish also maintained diligent records of his time in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and one of his notes records:- "Between June 1944 and May 1945, I conducted many services in Alexandria in Egypt, one of which was in a German Church! It can reasonably be said that my serious preaching activities began 2,300 miles away from my home town Filey in Yorkshire".'

Martin Robins is also pleased to report that the third booklet of Mr Cammish's sermons, entitled 'Even More From My Headmaster's Study' is available now. Please email [martinrobins@btinternet.com](mailto:martinrobins@btinternet.com) for a copy. **MARTIN ROBINS**

### **SWINDON'S MAGIC ROUNDABOUT – 50 YEARS OLD**



(You are receiving this email from Yvonne Neal, Secretary of the Swindon Branch of Wiltshire Family History Society, as a member, or interested party, living in or near Swindon. Your email details are held securely and not divulged to any other persons or organisations. Please let me know if you want to be removed from the list by emailing [nealy1@virginmedia.com](mailto:nealy1@virginmedia.com))

