



Herefordshire Record Office

FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

No. 90

Welcome to the Newsletter. Since the last one, the Friends have had a visit to the Hereford Resource Centre – which I found fascinating – and of course, the Annual General Meeting. Most of us have the mind-set, me included, that whatever the organisation the AGM will be dull: but not this time. Held at Broadfield Court and with our president, Mr Edward Harley in charge, we had the usual and obligatory reports but they were followed by an excellent history of the court including a slide show by Rhys Griffiths. This was followed by a tour of some of the very old rooms. We hope future AGMs will be just as interesting. All the reports are on the next few pages.

Christine, with her husband, Adrian Harvey, has retired from the committee having given four years of very hard work as secretary. Our thanks go to them both. Phil Bufton is the replacement secretary. John Harrison has taken on the role of treasurer and membership secretary, while Jane Adams becomes his assistant. We also welcome on board two new committee members; Peter Crocker and Richard Smith.

The committee continues to support the record office in every way possible and one of the latest is to see how we can help with the digital imaging of historic manuscripts and maps which has the potential to open up local history to a wider community. Discussions are on-going and there should be much more news in the next newsletter.

My thanks go to all those who have contributed this newsletter, including two excellent historical articles, thus making my job that much the easier!

EDITOR

**NEW
MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET**

As you will have found when you opened your envelope, your committee has produced a new leaflet

The production proved a little more difficult than originally anticipated and our thanks must go to Christine Harvey and Virginia Goodbury who wrote and compiled it, Beryl Lewis who designed the new logo and Rhys Griffiths and Adrian Harvey for supplying the photographs

The reason for sending a copy to everyone is to encourage all of us to ask a friend or friends to join. The more members we have, the better it is for our finances, of course, and the greater the clout we have in supporting the Record Office in their discussions with the County Council

PLEASE ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN

2011 AGM: Chairman's Report

at Broadfield Court

Welcome and thanks for attending the AGM this evening. Many thanks to Elizabeth, Rhys and the HRO staff for their help and support and to the Friends committee for attending four meetings and one sub-committee meeting. We are very sorry to lose Christine Harvey our hard-working and enthusiastic secretary and her knowledgeable husband Adrian, and very grateful that Phil Bufton has kindly offered to take over as secretary.

New ideas were learnt from attending the West Midland Archive Forum with Rhys Griffiths last May - to plan a yearly programme, give committee members a role, involve other groups and hold social events which the FHRO committee have carried out. In the future Valerie Goodbury will be our representative at the Forum and the FHRO will be providing the venue for the annual group meeting next March.

Our events during the year included a Hereford walk with David Whitehead, a presentation by David Lovelace on Landscape Changes, an outing to the Hereford Museum Resource Centre and help with the Book and Map sale. All were successfully held with thanks to our events secretary Virginia. For the rest of the year we have planned an afternoon investigating the riverside at Ross as a joint event with the Woolhope Club Research Section in September, and a Seasonal Quiz with local history groups in December.

Over the past year our editor, Peter, has introduced a new look newsletter which has been well received, and our secretary, Christine with a sub-committee has designed and produced a smart new membership form which we hope will attract new members. Your chairman has kept the website and notice board up to date with past and present events with images taken by Fenny and John has been researching local business archives.

There is an exciting future for the Herefordshire Record Office with a move to new premises which the Friends are supporting. Their views and suggestions will be

based on Brian's submission to Shape the New Record Office. We discussed the use of Donor Cards and Legacies investigated by Adrian and Jane, and we suggest that the Rules and Constitution should be updated. A steering committee has been formed to seek the possibilities of funding a challenging project.

The Friends have partly funded the purchase of the intriguingly named Deadwoman Deeds and the Cracklow Collection purchased by the Record Office with donations from the Ross Civic Society and Hereford Family History Society. Seven library books have been repaired or bound and the proceeds of the book sale paid for another seven to be rebound. For the reorganised library the Friends purchased volume XII of the Gloucestershire VCH and a copy of the Dovecotes and Pigeon Houses.

Finally thanks to Alex for arranging this attractive venue at Broadfield Court and to Rhys for offering to talk on the history of the court.

Heather Hurley
FHRO Chairman

Christine and Adrian Harvey

The January 2007 *Newsletter* carried a somewhat despairing appeal from the Chairman for a new Secretary. Beryl Lewis, on whom we had all depended, had resigned on moving to the west coast of Wales. It had all happened so rapidly that no successor had been identified, never mind prepared for office. Valerie Goodbury nobly filled the vacancy for the few months until the AGM, whilst the Chairman studied the membership list.

Christine Harvey came forward and over the last four years has been a brilliant Secretary in managing the Friends' affairs, organising events, recording our activities and in general looking after with grace and good humour everything we do. Moreover, in electing her, the Friends also obtained an unofficial Assistant Secretary in Adrian, who not only added to our deliberations with his knowledge and experience but also prepared papers for committee meetings.

We thank them warmly for all that they have done for the Friends, especially over these last few years.

Brian Smith
ex- chairman

AGM: Annual Accounts

Our treasurer, Jane Adams, presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011. Despite lower membership income (down to £1,088 from £1,205 in 2009-10, the total income increased by £300 due to a tax refund of £284 and increased donations £238. Our expenses were reduced by nearly £200 because of reduced purchase outgoings plus bookbinding and library costs. Sundry expenses were down by £64.

This means the Friends ended the year with £9,581 compared with £9,063 the previous year. At this time our Lloyds TSB account held £1,027 and the Nationwide account £8,554.

AGM: Report from the Record Office

There have been many changes to local government in the past year, including their finances. So far, I am pleased to report, the Archive Service has not faced any cuts to its budget, unlike many other record offices and services in Herefordshire. We are able to retain our full complement of staff and continue to pay the gas bills. However, we have not remained unaffected by the restructures that inevitably follow in the wake of budget cuts. As many of you will know we have been, since 2005, a part of the Information Technology service, a strange partner but actually quite logical when you view our holdings as information. IT is concerned with information in the here and now; Modern Records are interested in it when that information becomes “middle aged” and the archives finally receive the information when it has passed its sell-by-date as a working document. This arrangement has worked very well over the last few years and has ensured that the archive service has been involved in discussions about the format and storage of electronic records which will impact upon how they can be stored and accessed in the future. But changes are coming – the latest restructure has placed us back in Cultural Services, within the Places and Communities Directorate, where there is a project in hand to look at ways of delivering cultural services other than via the council – i.e. through a culture trust or some other external provider. These discussions are in an early phase. It seems that the Archive Service is in scope for this arrangement as the council moves to a commissioning model.

In the meantime, we have been busy with our day jobs. Fortunately, we have never had so many staff as at present. Last year we lost our cleaner caretaker Andy Hartless but recruited, Stephen Rogers. We have also recruited a second archivist, Philip Bouchier. He had been backfilling Alison Bignell’s secondment. Alison then resigned to take up an archivist post in Bermuda. We then employed a replacement archivist, Richard Wade whose contract we have successfully extended until end of March 2012. We have recruited a further conservator to a part-time post – Kaori Takahashi Hilton.

Much of our work last year was around satisfying the requirements of “The National Archives”. We now have a delightful outstore which gives us expansion space and allows us to move certain collections out of the building to make room for new accruals and to accommodate the internal moves that the TNA require. The outstore was ready in December and the first collections were moved in by January. Further moves followed and more are planned for this year. The new building is still on track and information has been collected to inform the space and facility requirements of the building. There is much more work to do and formal consultation will be required. The dehumidifiers that were put in place in 2010 have improved conditions in the strong rooms, making the humidity more stable. We can’t really control the temperatures and of course this year saw huge extremes in temperature, particularly in the winter, but overall the strong rooms had the recommended level of humidity for 81% of the year (against a target of 80%), and the temperatures were in the correct range for 36% of the year against a target of 18%. These improvements to the

environmental conditions, in staffing levels and in facilities were reflected in the TNA self-assessment score in which we retained our 2* rating (out of a possible 4 stars).

Feedback from our users continues to be positive – besides the comments from questionnaires and via the council website, we also participated in the PSQG visitor survey. We have not yet had the statistical analysis of this, but the majority of comments were positive complimenting the helpful and friendly staff. Negative comments centred on the lack of an online/electronic catalogue, record office facilities and the inadequate building. These themes, together with requests for longer opening hours are the main complaints. The new building should resolve these issues. We are looking at options for an electronic catalogue that does not involve buying one as we do not have the funds. Similarly, satisfaction with outreach events is 99% and with education sessions is 100%. Last year Rhys undertook 5 education sessions, and the service was involved in 26 talks and tours, plus attendances at Castle Green summer and winter fayres, a local and family history drop-in event in High Town, and the second of our very popular Tales from the Archives event. Overall, 1,555 people engaged with the service at an outreach event, helping to raise the profile of the service and its work. We also held a map and book sale – raising much needed income for the service - £800. The money was spent on a new lens for the microform reader printer and on rebinding some record office library books.

The library was one of the major volunteer achievements in the past year. Our honorary librarian, Heather Hurley and another volunteer Sylvia Wright, weeded out the contents of the library, entered all the details onto a database (which will soon be accessible in the search room and on the website), and reorganised all the books into Dewey sequence order in the “slip room”, making them easier to find. Other volunteer projects have included cataloguing, sorting and listing, indexing and data input; also work in preparation for the moves of collections to the Hatton Gallery. We are immensely grateful for the contribution that volunteers make to our service – so many extra tasks that would be impossible for staff to fit in can be completed with volunteers help. With the aid of the volunteers we catalogued an amazing 150 cubic feet (or 300 boxes) of material against our target of 25 feet or 50 boxes! The volunteers gave us 1,392 hours which equates to just over 188 days, or 72% of a full-time employee. Later in May this year we welcome more volunteers as the new probate preservation project begins – to clean and repackage our 670 boxes of diocesan wills prior to an internal move to a new location in the record office building. We had a huge response to our call for volunteers – it seems that getting up close to “ye olde documents” is very popular!

Despite the continued popularity of archives, visitor numbers continued to fall with 3,902 visitors to March 2011. August and September were the busiest months, with May the quietest except the stocktake and snow affected November, December and January. The busiest month for document productions was March, followed by January and August. The total number of documents produced was 5,343, with 94% of them produced within the 20 minute target. Over the year we also received 6,759 written, telephone and email enquiries. 88% of these were answered within the 15 working day target. We also had 14,178 visits to our webpages, which we continue to develop, responding to requests for information to be added.

Of course, all this work depends on the archives themselves – and new collections continue to arrive each week. We received 149 new collections in the last year. Thank goodness for the outstore! The conservation team have also been extremely busy – much of the liaison work re the outstore and preparation for moving the collections has fallen to them, plus on-going work of cleaning, repackaging and repairing documents. We were fortunate to be able to buy packaging materials and equipment at the end of last financial year which will set us in good stead for this important work in the coming years. Overall, it has been a very good year – certainly busy but extremely rewarding. We look forward to more of the same as we move into a new chapter in Cultural Services and with the continued support of the Friends – constantly with us in times of flux.

Elizabeth Semper O’Keefe
Record office Information Services Manager

AGM: The History of Broadfield Court by Rhys Griffith >>>> A Report

How does one achieve a good attendance at an annual business meeting? Hold it at an interesting venue, draw attention to the importance of booking and add the extra attractions of viewing the house and learning about its’ history. The result? A room filled to capacity and a fascinating evening. The contents of the business meeting is covered elsewhere, so this report is confined to the venue and its’ history. The meeting was held in a former farm building, above what is now the cafe and gifts shop. Following the AGM, Rhys Griffiths revealed the history of the house as he had been able to discover it from very limited documentary resources. The first known record of Broadfield is in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it was held by Ralph de Toden. During the reign of Henry III the possessions of the Toden family were divided among co-heiresses. Hugh de Bradfield became proprietor of the manor and assumed his name from the estate.

An interesting link was made with the home of our President in that the property had passed into the hands of the Bryan family (of Brampton Bryan and Maund Bryan), holding it as tenants-in-chief (of the king). It never appears to have been a dynastic seat and throughout its’ history it seldom appears to have been occupied by the owner (until more recent times). Rhys said that this is the reason for the ‘entirely organic structure – evolved and mutated over nearly seven centuries’. The house with its’ medieval core at first had a north/south alignment, but with additions to the building this changed to east/west. For information about the building Rhys had visited the NMR at Swindon, which holds the background material for the 1930s RCHM surveys of Herefordshire.

One very interesting feature is the north entrance which includes carved ball flowers. According to Mrs James, a stone mason who carried out some restoration to the doorway said he believed it to be 12th century, reset in its’ present position in the 14th century. He also believed the ball flowers had been carved by a mason who had also worked on Worcester Cathedral. RCHM give early 14th century for both this doorway and for the Great Window on the south elevation. The present owners recently received a postcard sent by a servant girl, Annie Fawke, to a friend, c1900. This shows the south elevation and the state of the window before restoration can be clearly seen.

An intriguing mystery surrounds the 'lost chapel'. In 1346 Margaret, widow of John de Bradefield was granted a licence to have mass celebrated at Broadfield, and 'chapel orchard' is named on the 1813 enclosure map, south east of the house. In 1936, Eric Carnegie Romilly, then owner of Broadfield Court, wrote an article for the Woolhope Club Transactions in which he related, *'By digging I have revealed the foundation walls of the chapel, which are still easily traceable. Its dimensions are roughly 45 feet long by 20 feet broad. I found a certain amount of diamond shaped greenish glass, a fairly large quantity of broken crockery (the date of which I am not qualified to assign) and a few broken clay pipes'*. Does any other evidence remain? It seems probable that it was during the mid-19th century 'Gothic Revival' that the corbels were reset to their present position on the south elevation – but where did they come from? They certainly made one think of Kilpeck.

Following the talk, Mr and Mrs James kindly allowed us to enter their lovely home and view both the entrance and fireplaces also mentioned in the talk. In giving a vote of thanks our President, Edward Harley, said that only an architect could give a talk revealing so much about the history of a house without records. Rhys had begun his talk by saying the house deserved to be better known, he also recommended the cream teas. It was dark when we left, so not possible to see those fascinating corbels. Two days later I returned with my husband, to view the corbels and the gardens – we can recommend the lunches!

Valerie Goodbury

INVESTIGATING the RIVERSIDE at ROSS

**Joint Visit with the
Woolhope Archaeological Society Research Section**

**SUNDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER
At 2.00pm
From Wilton Road car park, Ross**

For more details contact Heather Hurley 01432 840 649

Latest News from the Record Office.

- Two moves of collections into our outstore have been undertaken, with more planned for July
- There will be a two week closure from 4th – 15th July inclusive to undertake the third series of collection moves. We open again on Tuesday 19th July
- Charges across the service are being increased with effect from 4th July – see our website for details
- We held an exhibition in High Town as part of “Walk to Work Week”
- There will be a Record Office stall at the Castle Green Midsummer Fair
- In September and October, a knitting event is being planned – “A Stitch in Time” - to knit an item from a Victorian knitting pattern book
- A very successful start has been made with our Probate re-packaging project with nearly 30 very enthusiastic volunteers helping us with our 670 diocesan probate documents
- Since the AGM, a follow up inspection from the National Archives Inspector had a broadly positive outcome, with great praise for our outstore. Work on the new building is now vital as the deadline for completion is the end of 2013. Further news will follow in later newsletters

Elizabeth Semper O’Keefe
Record office Information Services Manager

COMMISSIONS FOR SALE

From the journals of Edmund Cox (b.1722 - d.1805)

“Dec^{ber} I went & Stay’d with my Father, in Jan^y I heard of Several Cornecys to be Sold; upon which went to London got My Money together; Agred for One in the Duke of Montague’s Regiment; Which was Sign’d Feb^y y^e 6th 1748...”¹ Thus Edmund Cox recorded in his Journal climbing a rung in his career in the British army by selling his quartermastership in the Royal Horse Guards and buying a commission as a cornet in the Second Dragoon Guards.

To us in the 21st century, it seems an extraordinary procedure that one could purchase a commission and later promotion in rank in the army, but in the 18th century and indeed well into the 19th century it made sense, the advantages were deemed to outweigh the disadvantages. It is believed that in the mid-18th century about two thirds of the officers serving in the army had bought their commissions and the system had been firmly entrenched and legally recognised since at least the beginning of the century. It was subject to a number of restrictions of detail which varied over the years; among them all transactions were subject to the king’s approval, or in practice usually that of the commander in chief; official tariffs were from time to time established for colonelcies and subordinate ranks; an officer could not normally sell his commission if he had not purchased it; an officer could only sell his commission to an officer of a rank immediately below his own; an officer purchasing a commission did not receive the seniority of the seller; a commission could not be inherited and a widow could not therefore sell her late husband’s commission.

The success of such a practice, with its implications for the efficiency of the army, clearly depended to a very large extent on the integrity of the commander in chief. In the middle of the 18th century both the duke of Cumberland (perhaps surprisingly in view of his reputation) and Sir John Ligonier were notably resistant to private interest and political pressure—unlike certain officers who, towards the end of the century, permitted widespread abuse; scandals had by then become so frequent that in 1795 the duke of York, soon after he became commander in chief, instituted an enquiry to ascertain how many captains in the army were under the age of twelve.

A commission constituted a valuable asset similar to a partnership in business or to a financial investment which could be bought and sold. When an officer bought one he paid not only the regulation price but also, by usage, a negotiable sum to the vendor who received both the regulation price as well as this addition. An opportunity to purchase a commission would arise when an officer sold out, retired or transferred to another regiment. The retirement of a major, for example, might well initiate a succession of purchases within his regiment.

Although clearly unfair to the less well-heeled, and acknowledged as such, the purchase of commissions was justified on four principal grounds. Commissions were property and their confiscation without adequate reason would be illegal as long as property rights were protected; thus the system hampered political meddling with the army, such as James II's attempts to appoint Roman Catholics in place of Protestant officers. Officers purchasing their commissions were ipso facto men of property with a stake in the kingdom and its institutions—with an army in their hands there would be less risk of a recurrence of the harsh military government of the protectorate in the 1650s, a period etched on the country's collective memory by a visceral public dislike of careerist professional soldiers. The lump sum available to an older officer when he retired and sold his commission provided him with a form of golden handshake in lieu of a government pension which he could invest in an annuity, as Edmund Cox did on his retirement after 31 years' service. Finally, an officer thinking of retirement, perhaps in mid-career, would not be locked into his profession as he could realise a capital sum to resettle in a new occupation—and this would provide an opportunity for an ambitious young man to take another step up the promotion ladder.

For the poorer officer, and one without 'interest' or patronage, there did exist an avenue for promotion—a commission on merit. A vacancy would arise when, for instance, an officer died or was cashiered. In wartime there could be a large number of promotions through deaths in action, not only among officers but also among non-commissioned officers who might be promoted to ensign, cornet or even lieutenant.

The colonelcy of a regiment was a prestigious office and a valuable financial asset which could be sold in much the same way as commissioned ranks in the army. It would be subject to the approval of the king who would be interested in the candidate's politics as well as his professional, social and financial standing. A 'propriety' colonel—for he 'owned' his regiment—was usually a General Officer but, being as a rule absent from his command, he would have left his regiment in the care of a lieutenant colonel. The propriety colonel was responsible for the regiment's finances as well as for its military efficiency, and he had opportunities to keep for himself some of the monies allowed him for the upkeep of his regiment. As he was

responsible, through a civilian agent he appointed for the purpose, for equipping, feeding and clothing his unit he had opportunities to feather his nest in dubious ways, but while there was plenty of scope for abusing the system major transgressions, unacceptable by the standards of the times, do not appear to have been all that frequent. It would have been a matter of pride for a colonel of a regiment to maintain a smart and efficient regiment of high morale; and there was always the commander in chief, if he was willing, to interfere in the management of a regiment.

By the middle of the 19th century irresistible pressure was building for a root and branch reform of the system which led in 1871 to the abolition by Edward Cardwell, Gladstone's Secretary of State for War, of the purchase of commissions and the implementation over a period of a series of measures to improve the army's efficiency. Serving officers were bought off by generous compensation and a system which had become both politically and professionally indefensible came to an end.

The Journal and other papers of Edmund Cox are in the Gatley Park Collection in the HRO: F76/G/23-8, F76/IV/607-8, F76/IV/609-10, F76/IV/612, F76/IV/647-50.

Charles Hopkinson

FHRO visit to the Herefordshire Resource Centre

On Wednesday 30th March, 12 of us made our way to Friars Street to visit the above centre. Also known as Herefordshire Heritage Services, this centre acts as a store, not only for the Museum and Art Gallery in Broad Street, but also for other Hereford museums, including the Old House with its display of 17th century material, Ross Market House Visitor Centre, the Museum on the Move, a bus shared 6/6 between Herefordshire and Shropshire, which serves schools and local communities, and Ledbury's Old Grammar School, which is almost entirely run by volunteers.

We had a fascinating talk by staff member Judy Stevenson on the function, management, and scope of the resource centre and, after a welcome hot drink and informal chat, we enjoyed a fascinating tour of the holdings from paintings to ploughshares, via the celebrated Judge's Coach, Roman altars, and dainty 18th shoes and hats.

We left with the impression that there is a lot more besides, all carefully documented and cared for by a number of dedicated volunteers. It's certainly worth a visit if ever you have another opportunity.

Fenny Smith



Shoes from the late 118th and early 19th centuries at the Resource Centre

From the Book Shelves at HRO

Reorganisation of HRO library

The reorganisation of the HRO library has been completed after a year of weeding out duplicate and unsuitable books, entering all titles on a database, re-labelling the shelves and checking that the stock had been accessioned, catalogued, tagged and placed in Dewey order. The greatest task was moving hundreds of books of all shapes and sizes and altering the shelves to accommodate them. We hope we have created a much improved compact and workable library for searchers and staff.

The major changes to the library included moving the Woolhope Club Transactions and Field Name Surveys which now sit comfortably together, bringing the books from the far end of the search room into the main sequence, shelving the three volumes of the RCHM in the Quick Reference section, placing the Bishop's Registers into the Herefordshire sequence and keeping the social history of inns together.

Apart from the Woolhope Transactions and Field name Surveys the books are all located in the area marked as Library formerly known as the Slip Room. The sequence from the left runs from New Acquisitions on the top shelf above the Quick Reference volumes. On the bottom shelf of this bay the books follow in Dewey order: Archives - 000, Religion - 200, Administration/Law/Business/Transport/Customs - 300, Agriculture/Industry - 600, Archaeology/Biography - 900, Genealogy - 920 and British History - 940.

The local collection starts on the right hand side where the books arranged in Dewey order are pre-fixed with an H. Shelf labels indicate Religion, Administration, Military, Welfare, Education, Transport, Industry, Folklore, Natural History, Agriculture, Inns, Archaeology, Biography, Herefordshire County, Herefordshire Parishes A - Z, Wye Valley, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Welsh Borders.

A final improvement has been made by moving the Herefordshire, Shropshire, Monmouthshire and Worcestershire Directories, Duncumb volumes, Census and Population records plus the outsize volumes of Domesday, Strong's Heraldry, Atlases, Road Maps and two old recipe books into the last bay..

New library acquisitions

The reorganisation has left space to add new titles and display recent acquisitions, which have been either donated by authors, presented by the Friends or purchased by the Record Office. Since October 2010 the following titles have been added to the library:

The Wye Tour, Julian Mitchell 942.44

Leominster in Living Memory, Malcolm Mason 942.44

Brilley Voices, Judith Gardner 942.44

Discovering Parish Boundaries, Angus Winchester 942.007

Turnastone, Brian Smith 942.44

Historical Aspects of Ross Vol II, Ross & District Civic Society 942.44

The Green Lanes of Herefordshire, Heather Hurley 942.44

Lower House Farm, Anthea Brian & Beryl Harding 942.44

VCH Gloucestershire Vol XII, A R J Jurica 942.41

Glimmers of Dissent, Wendy Brogden 942.45

Dovecotes and Pigeon Houses of Herefordshire, Robert Walker 728

The following were donated by Hereford City Library:

The Pleasant Land of Gwent, Fred Hando 942.9

About Chepstow, Ivor Waters 942.9

A History of Mathern, E T Davies 942.9

Hanes Llanffwyst, T E Watkins 942.9

The Leominster Guide, Eric Turton 942.44

Madley Then and Now, Maureen Hind 942.44

Hereford History, J D Devlin 942.44

Land of my Fathers, G Evans 942.9

Library of Brinsop Court, Constance Astley 942.44

The Cathedral Church of Hereford, John Britton 726

Agriculture in the West Midlands, G H C Amos 630

Catalogue of Hereford cathedral Manuscripts, R Mynors & R Thomson 016

The Order of Grandmont and its Houses, Rose Graham & A W Clapham 271

King John, John Charles 920

Hereford School, W T Carless 378

Public Health in Hereford J Chambers 362

Abbey Dore, Edwin Sledmere 942.44

Old Industrial sites in Wyedean, Bob Cross 942.44

Heather Hurley

Hon Librarian

Feb 2011

Combating Smallpox in Nineteenth-century Herefordshire

At the beginning of the eighteenth century smallpox accounted for between 10-20% of all deaths in Britain with mortality especially high among children. Mortality rates in severe epidemics could be as high as 50% and those who escaped death might still be left with disfigurement, infertility or blindness. When the World Health Organisation celebrated the worldwide eradication of the disease in 1979 it was widely recognised as a major achievement of medical science and global co-operation. The defeat of smallpox was achieved through mass vaccination, a process developed by Edward Jenner in 1796 to improve on inoculation first widely introduced in Western Europe from the 1720s. It is of interest to social historians not only for the positive effect on mortality but also because vaccination is the first example of enforced medical intervention by the state, marking a new departure in the relationship between the individual, central government and local administrative bodies.

From 1840 onwards legislation first introduced free voluntary vaccination, later introduced compulsion along with measures for enforcement and then in 1896 a more relaxed framework allowing individuals to opt out through a declaration of conscientious objection. Legislative changes were shaped by public opinion and in particular a strong national campaign against vaccination that articulated objections on health, moral and political grounds. The new Poor Law Unions established from 1834 onwards were made responsible for administration. A reconstruction of measures taken against smallpox in Herefordshire leads the researcher into a number of archives including parish and Poor Law records, political tracts, newspaper reports, diaries and institutional records. As these records are widely scattered this article can do no more than provide some brief examples of the sort of information available to those interested in looking into a locality in more detail.

Prior to the collection of central statistics in the middle of the nineteenth century parish and workhouse records are the best sources for information on prevalence. For example, Ross workhouse records for the period 1749-1780 show there were a few cases each year with the parish covering costs of nursing the sick and on occasion for a coffin (Langford, *TWNFC*, 1958). Inoculation, the process of deliberately giving a person a mild form of smallpox in order to develop immunity, became established in Britain from the 1720s. The process had been observed by Lady Mary Wortley Montague in Turkey and on her return to London in 1714 she had her children inoculated. The procedure attracted the attention of the scientific and medical elite including the Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians. Inoculation began to spread across the country although not everyone was in favour of the procedure. Those inoculated ran a risk of a severe attack of smallpox and possible death and also posed a threat to others as the disease was highly infectious. Others including some members of the clergy argued it was wrong to deliberately infect a small infant with a potentially fatal disease. The cost of inoculation was also a concern with allegations that practitioners- not all of whom

were doctors – were cashing in and exploiting the paying patient. The development of a simpler, safer form of inoculation by Robert Sutton in the 1760s allayed some of these concerns, by 1768 there were over 60 men practising Suttonian inoculation across the country including Mr Vaux in Hereford and Mr Vaux (junior) in Worcester. Vaccination, developed by Edward Jenner in 1798 using cowpox produced a much milder reaction but the procedure disgusted some opposed to the idea of introducing matter from a cow into a human. Vaccination did not immediately supplant inoculation with both being used in the period to 1840.

Scattered sources show that both inoculation and vaccination were available across the county both for those who could pay for the procedure and for the poor. W. Jones from Weobley advertised his services in the *Hereford Journal* of 17 June 1773, claiming to have ‘inoculated THOUSANDS for the SMALLPOX, sometime since, with the greatest success... Those who think proper to place themselves under his direction may depend upon being conducted through the several stages of the disorder with perfect safety’. In February 1801 Lady Greenly of Titley describes in her diary that she decided ‘with the smallpox raging in surrounding parishes, to inoculate 53 children of various ages. Cowpox was recently introduced, not much known and the prejudice against it strong in many minds. I got matter from a healthy subject, a servant of Mrs Muscott’s, and thank God all my patients did well’. Vaccination was available in Hereford as early as 1801 and carried out at the General Infirmary by 1815 (Langford, *TWNFC*, 1958). The *Hereford Times* of 10 May 1809 records Mr Weaver in King Street, Hereford offering free inoculation to the poor in the city parishes.

A severe epidemic in 1837-40 with more than 42,000 deaths nationwide was a prompt for legislation. The Vaccination Act of 1840 outlawed inoculation and introduced free vaccination for the poor. In 1852 vaccination was made compulsory for all infants within 3 months with a system of fines and imprisonment for defaulters. Despite support by the state and the medical profession the public did not rush to comply. A national Anti-Vaccination League was formed in 1853 to co-ordinate national action with meetings held across the country reported in provincial newspapers including the *Hereford Times*. Opposition was not only on the grounds that some babies were dying unnecessarily but also on the principle of personal liberty and an appropriate role for the state. This concern remained at the heart of much opposition as stated by Walter Hadwen at an anti-vaccination rally in Gloucester in 1896. ‘I say that the very moment you take a medical prescription and you incorporate it in an Act of Parliament, and you enforce it against the wills and consciences of intelligent people by fines, distraints and imprisonments, it passes beyond the confines of a purely medical question - and becomes essentially a social and political one.’

Little seems to have been done to try and enforce the Acts until 1867 when the age group was extended to 14 in order to ensure compliance in all children targeted in the 1853 Act. The *Hereford Times* of 30 October 1869 reported a recent visit to the

Hereford Board of Guardians by Mr Seaton one of the Poor Law Medical Inspectors sent from the central Board to discuss poor performance in enforcing the legislation. Although the Guardians were responsible for ensuring compliance their returns showed a success rate of 25% with only 267 infants out of 987 live births vaccinated for the year to end September 1867. After castigating members for this Seaton went on to agree steps to be put in place to ensure better compliance. Dedicated vaccination officers were to be appointed who would be paid a fee for every case vaccinated at a rate of 3d in Hereford and 1s in rural areas. Parents registering the birth of a child would be given a form stating that the infant was to be vaccinated within 3 months. After 2 reminders those failing to comply would be brought before the Guardians. The Union was to set out and publicise the system of fines and advertise their intention to enforce the law. A notice in the *Hereford Times* on 26 November set out the new system of fines and legal proceedings and similar information was posted around the union on flyers. The system yielded results. Within a year Thomas Lane, vaccination officer in Burghill District, achieved a 93% vaccination rate -above the level needed to qualify for the Government bonus scheme. It seems that target setting and pecuniary incentives had already proved their worth in changing behaviours!

Cases of smallpox recorded in the county appear to be low but when they were identified isolation measures were taken. At Bromyard workhouse in 1872 personnel, including the medical office, were quarantined to avoid the disease spreading. Twenty years later in 1893 a further outbreak at the Workhouse was attributed by the *Bromyard News* to tramps staying in the casual ward. Recent legislation enabled Unions to establish isolation hospitals and the Guardians purchased of land at Burley where a hospital for 6 patients opened in 1895. This was one of several small isolation hospitals that opened in the county including one at Tupsley and another at Breinton. Cases of smallpox were rare but did occur- a young man from Withington admitted to Breinton in May 1908 survived the attack. The hospitals began to be used for other infectious diseases including scarlet fever and diphtheria that were not admitted to the Hereford General Infirmary.

A complete picture of measures taken across the county to control smallpox in the nineteenth century would require many hours of research but this preliminary survey has indicated the wealth of evidence available in a variety of printed and primary sources.

Jane Adams

The author would like to thank Henry Connor for references to smallpox in the "*Hereford Times*"

SEASONAL QUIZ

Monday 5th December 2011

At the Hereford Record Office

Teams from other History Societies will be invited

Make a note in your diary now

**Further details may be had nearer the time by contacting the
Record Office or a committee member
Contact details at the end of this Newsletter**

Report from Herefordshire Family History Society

Herefordshire Family History Society now has a new website at:

www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk

This is a great improvement on our previous site and now gives members the opportunity to register their interests on-line, up-load comments and exchange views with other registered members. Currently 150 of the present membership have registered on the site.

Projects that the society is co-ordinating include our long-term aim to record all gravestones within Herefordshire. There are only 60 burial sites left to do. We also have a project to index all the records of the Herefordshire Registrars and are further helping with the indexing of records at the Bereavement Services at Hereford Crematorium.

Phil Bufton

CATALOGUED COLLECTIONS

Listed below are the Collections taken on by the Herefordshire Record Office that have been catalogued in the last 6 months:

Cat. Ref	Description
CE58	Emily Ingram Collection
CE59	1971 Census Reports
CE60	Hereford City Map
CE61	Leominster Deanery magazines

CE62	Documents relating to All Saints & other parishes
CE70	Kington Rural District Council Minutes
CE91	Photographs of Herefordshire Churches
CG36	Colwall Parish Council
CG91	Thornbury parish records
CJ67	Herefordshire County Council Highways Department
CJ82	Much Birch parish records
CK75	Herefordshire slides
CK86	Ross Town Council records
CK90	High Sheriff of Herefordshire & Worcestershire
CK91	Local Government Act
CK92	Shobdon & District Women's Institute
CK93	Conveyance of "Springfield" in Hope Mansell
CK94	Fownhope & Woolhope Royal British Legion
CK95	Marden Gardeners' Association
CK96	County court records
CL50	Hereford City Surveyor's Department
CL67	Herefordshire photographs
CL86	Records of the Woolhope Club
NEWS/B	Additions to Bromyard & District Local History Society catalogue
NEWS/HCT	Additions to Hereford Civic Trust catalogue
NEWS/GWENT	Additions to Gwent Family History Society catalogue
NEWS/GT	Additions to Hereford & Worcester Gardens Trust catalogue
NEWS/H	Additions to Herefordshire Family History Society catalogue
NEWS/HET	Additions to Historic Environment Today catalogue
NEWS/IOA	Additions to In Our Age catalogue
NEWS/LH	Additions to Leintwardine History Group catalogue
NEWS/RCS	Additions to Ross-on-Wye & District Civic Society catalogue
NEWS/WW	Additions to Waterwords catalogue
NEWS/W	Additions to The Wharfinger catalogue

BS98	Oral History Reminiscences
BY10	National Health Service Records
CC47	Tony Brown Collection
CF24	Upton Bishop Old Vicarage
CF25	Dilwynner Parish Magazine
CF26	Albert Ernest Davies
CF27	Titley Sources
CF29	Hereford Co-Operative Society
CF30	Fownhope Flag Village Magazine
CF31	Mary Berry Jones
CF32	Madley Parish Council
CF34	Cox Family Papers
CF35	Leominster Bye-Laws
CG71	Herefordshire Estates and Smallholdings
CH52	Eardisley C.E. Primary School

CH95	Burghill Lease
CH96	Probate and Agreements
CH97	Postcards
CH98	The Old House Vowchurch
CH99	Solicitors Bill Book
CJ10	West Mercia Constabulary
CJ27	Goodrich Parish Records
CK53	Lingen Parish Records
CK55	Coddington Parish Records
CK56	Stanford Bishop Parish Records
CL67	Herefordshire Photographs
CM9	Fownhope Flag & The Beneficial
CM19	White Lion Inn, Wilton
CM23	Minerals Planning Authority Records
CM39	Hereford Times Newspaper
CM44	Bishopswood School Photograph
CM45	Geo Hopkins & Sons
CM46	The Phoenix Magazine
CM47	Leominster Library Petition
CM48	Dilwynner Parish Magazine
CM49	Dakota EN 500 Accident R.A.F. January 1946
CM50	Probates of the Poole family of Leominster
CM51	Photographs of the Welsh Bicknor Rectory Youth Hostel & Symonds Yat
CM52	DVD of Hereford Diocese Institutions 1275 - 1539
CM54	Llangrove Parish Council
M5B Volumes	Edwin Stooke Collection

DETAILING HEREFORD'S RETAILING PAST

No child at junior school today will buy tuppence-worth of barm in a twist of blue paper, see flour scooped from a sack, tea weighed out from a canister or butter cut from a cask and patted into shape while he waits, as I did when shopping in the 1920s,. The feel and organisation of such shops are now part of that lost world in which milk was brought to the door in a can or on milk-float, bread and buns on an errand-boy's bike. It is worth trying to recapture and record it.

At the moment, in King Street, Hereford, the tailors and outfitters, Pritchard & Sons are celebrating with banners flying their 175 years in business here. I was delighted, therefore, when they generously lent me a ledger, which in 710 substantial pages records every item sold to some 1,000 customers between 1897 and 1912. It provides a richly detailed view of upper class Edwardian society in county and town. How 'other' it was a little quiz may demonstrate:

1. What was striped Valencia used for? - and Italian silk?
2. What did Nelson, Eton, Westward Ho, and Cuddlesome describe?

3. Why did Pritchards write to British Columbia, Bangalore, Johannesburg and Pretoria?
4. What were rubber fronts used for?
5. Where in Hereford was Lloyds Bank?
6. What did the initials LAPT stand for?
7. How many pages did the Constitutional Club employ?
8. In what colours did the Master of Hereford's beagles turn out?
9. What did the 30 tailors sitting cross-legged in Pritchards' workroom chew?
10. Who, in Hereford, would supply you with the London Illustrated News, Scotch Lathspring and Dover Sole, damsons, a Cambridge flag, a stuffed fox and a goose and mushrooms?

(Answers at the end of this newsletter)

Working on the ledger has been enlightening and fun. May I urge Friends to seek out the records of shops and businesses in their own villages and towns? The Record Office needs them and so will future historians. The supermarkets and Google threaten them all.

John Harrison

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Answers to the quiz:

1. Livery waistcoats and their sleeves.
2. Different types of detachable collar.
3. To absconding debtors.
4. To save washing the shirt worn underneath them.
5. In the Old House.
6. The London Association for the Protection of Trade - a commercial detective agency.
7. Five.
8. Green jacket, yellow waistcoat and white breeches.
9. Quids of tobacco.
10. Pritchards - in every case