



## Herefordshire Archives **FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER**

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### From the Editor

#### **Defending Our Beautiful City & County of Hereford**

It is fair to say that we, the Friends, all love Herefordshire and that some of us (including myself) especially love the City of Hereford.

In 1904, W.J. Humfrys, Esq., commented that, after the Restoration, Hereford declined into the condition of an unimportant provincial town. He quoted an “amusing writer” (unnamed) who had said that at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century only one person in Hereford besides the Bishop had horses to his carriage, and “to evening parties the matrons came in sedan chairs, and the younger damsels walked with a lantern borne before them.”

That, so I thought, was an insult too far. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century there were horses, stables, and carriages within the walled city. A search of the 1801 *Hereford Journal* discovered an advertisement for a gig and a post-chaise for sale in the City of Hereford – particulars to be obtained from Joseph Thomas of Hereford, coach-maker. If the records have survived, it might even be possible to discover the number of carriages in the City in, for example, 1801 – duty being payable on private carriages.

In the coming years, I would like to see more books published about the City and the County of Hereford – to claim our rightful place in the history of England. The Hereford Archives has a superb collection of documents, maps and even photographs of our beloved City and County. The card index (partly available online) is a good starting point for research; but reading the catalogue folders is even better. For several decades, the staff have put in the time and effort to read documents (in spite of the difficulties of faded ink and unusual handwriting styles) and to create detailed descriptions of their collection.

**Jean Dobson**

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## Chairman's Report

### **New Year, New Challenges (or just more of the same?)**

At the turn of the year we naturally look back and contemplate the future. So, leaving aside the Friends' internal affairs, what of 2016?

The Consultants' report on their review of the Museums and Archive Services held few surprises: reduce costs (✓) generate income (✓) and more studies needed on efficiency and cost-effectiveness (✓). Digitisation of archives, or at least their indexes (indices) and catalogues, merited no more than a passing mention. The subsequent Cabinet report included some possible charging opportunities for the HAS/HARC, which we (the Friends' Committee) embodied in a rather wider and more detailed yet concise (one-page) discussion document on income generation options. In May 2016, this was discussed first with the Assistant Director-Communities and then with the Archives Manager. In October, the latter's preliminary proposals emerged, which the Friends' Committee endorsed on October 18th.

In the meantime, a Libraries and Museums Support Fund (LMSF) was launched in May, also extending to archives. This prompted consideration of a bid, from or involving the Friends, with a view to further studies into service delivery. We envisaged a scoping, feasibility and options study into the possibility of external funding and/or a partnership approach. However, the Fund closed on June 20th.

The Committee's attention then turned to digitisation. It was clear to us that digitisation held the key to the most cost-effective (ie labour-saving) delivery of archive services and to the most promising means of generating income. Reopening of the LMSF in mid-September triggered some rather hurried work on an ambitious funding bid towards a study into the integration and delivery of the HAS's multiple digitisation programmes, merchandising of suitable holdings and raising the HAS profile through marketing and promotion. However, it became apparent that there was insufficient time to compile a substantiated bid before the LMSF closed again in October and, anyway, the £10K funding limit was unlikely to suffice.

In short, for me 2016 was characterised by too much work and too little to show for it. What might 2017 hold in store?

As I write (January 25th) we have just submitted a bid to a newly-reopened LMSF for the procurement of laptop computers to be used in the HARC, in particular by the HAS volunteers. A charging regime for the HARC will be in place by March 31st to deliver at least £16K by March 31st 2018. And a further report will be taken to the Cabinet in October this year on the future delivery of the Museums and Archive Services. The outcome of that can, realistically, only be further and even more stringent demands upon the HAS to cut costs and generate yet more income. Hence the Committee's concerns over the continuing absence of anything resembling a comprehensive, coherent and fully-funded digitisation programme.

So, this New Year, like the next, will pose new challenges closely resembling the old ones but even more intense and demanding.

Happy New Year!

**Richard Smith**  
**Hon Chairman**



## Report from the Senior Archivist

The first piece of good news is that Elizabeth, who was on sick leave for the last weeks of 2016, is now back with us and is gradually picking up where she left off. Since her absence coincided largely with the period covered by this report, it is being transmitted, as it were, straight from the horse's mouth. Normal service will be resumed in the next edition.

Perhaps the centrepiece of the year at HARC came rather lopsidedly towards its end. In November, we were pleased to provide the venue for the launch of the English strand of the *Explore Your Archive campaign*. This is a national annual initiative whose aim is to draw attention to the diversity and vitality of archive provision in the UK. The timeliness of such a campaigning initiative was not lost on the audience of Friends, volunteers and local history society representatives, who enjoyed a series of impassioned presentations.

The noted historian and author Dr Ian Mortimer led the event with a clarion call for archives and an exhortation for local authorities to value their archive services even in times of want. As a former archivist, his experience on both sides of the issue desk gave him a clear understanding of the mutual responsibilities faced by provider and consumer alike. Diversity of provision even within Herefordshire was further illustrated in lively contributions by Amanda Huntley of the Huntley Film Archives, Revd Canon Chris Pullen of Hereford Cathedral and Dr Kate Lack, representing the demi-centenarian Bromyard and District Local History Society.

An essential element of the afternoon was the provision of cake, in mountainous quantities, by Archive Service staff and Friends. I am most grateful to the Friends for their support in making a success of the event. It was an important *shop window* for the county and for HARC, attended as it was by the Lord Lieutenant and the great and the good of the archive world.

This was the second occasion within the space of three days that the Friends rallied to support the Archive Service. After a hiatus caused by our preparations to relocate, we re-established the pre-Christmas tradition of the map and book sale. Despite the inevitable depletion over time of our surplus Ordnance Survey maps, the sale was as frenetic as ever and yielded a record breaking haul of over £1,400.

Such a bonanza will need to be continually replicated, albeit on a more modest scale, if we are to meet a testing income target during the forthcoming financial year. We are already gearing up to function in a more commercially minded way and our coordination assistants are more than proving their value by managing the use of our busy Learning Room. This will need to attract regular *paying guests* if we are to succeed financially.

Already, the Learning Room is giving us the opportunity for promotion. Our first season of talks on a variety of subjects is proving a hit and while the main purpose is of course to tell the world about the joy of archives, it will be an important income source. This is all part and parcel of our growth since the move to HARC, of which branding is an important concomitant. Visitors to HARC may have noticed the replacement of tired purple staff shirts with sky blue and the arrival of a jaunty logo. In practical terms, this will shortly manifest itself in, glory be, proper external signage.

As ever, we are indebted to our volunteers who are working on several major projects in the interests of access to the holdings. An enormous photographic collection is almost fully catalogued thanks to their efforts and indexes to prison records, building plans and early wills are also well underway. In addition, the volunteers will shortly be starting the

digitisation of photographs taken by WH Bustin and Son for uploading onto the *Herefordshire History* website.

It was a great pleasure to bring the volunteers together with the Friends for a Christmas tea party, where news was exchanged over some delicious tit bits. This was an all too rare opportunity to acknowledge the crucial role our supporters increasingly play in the life of the Archive Service. Thanks to their enthusiasm and encouragement, we can contemplate the demands that the future will bring with greater confidence.

**Rhys Griffith**  
**Senior Archivist**



### **Committee Member, Why Me?**

There comes a time, after a certain number of years holding a role in a voluntary organisation like the Friends of Herefordshire Archives, or Friends of the Record Office as I still think of it, when due to many other commitments one must give up something. Unfortunately, this is the one I am having to relinquish, not without some regret I must admit. As I look back on my time on the committee of the Friends, I remember how I came to join the committee as the Family History representative. When John Harnden decided to step down, I was approached to see if I would like to become a committee member, for which I was elected at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006 held in the Record Office in Harold Street. Looking back at the minutes, I see that there were concerns about falling membership. In 2006 there were 155 members, today it stands approaching 170, so we are not doing too badly, I think.

At that time on the committee we had stalwarts like Brian Smith as Chairman, Beryl Lewis, Charles Hopkinson, Valerie Goodbury, Jim and Muriel Tonkin and Heather Hurley. As with all volunteer organisations, people come and go on the committee but I believe they all have one outstanding quality - they are willing to give their time, enthusiasm, commitment or any associated adjectives you want to use to help others. And perhaps now more than ever, in these challenging times for Libraries, Museums and Archives in particular, we need to encourage more of these types of people to come and help us all to preserve what we have managed to achieve since 1985. But more than that, to be able to achieve more.

We need more finances, so how can we accumulate more money? One way, which we all could do, is join as a Life Member. If all 170 members joined as life members that would raise more than £17,000. I have done it, why not think about it. The cost is £100 for Single, £150 for a Couple.

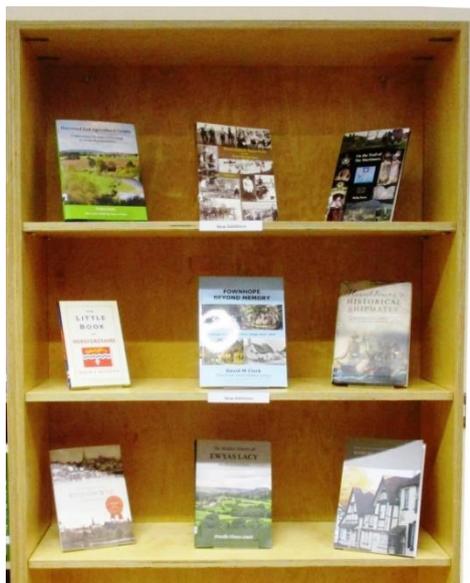
However, it is not all about money. I have enjoyed being a committee member for the last 10 years because of the people that I have come into contact with as part of my role, all of whom have skills and knowledge they are happy to share. So, I would like to say a big thanks to all that I have had the pleasure to meet and work with, and also to hope you give my successor the same big welcome and help.

As a final thought, I am only the 4<sup>th</sup> secretary since 1985. Most seemed to do 5 years at a time, but the first two, Brian Redwood and Beryl Lewis, did more than one stint at the Secretary post, so you never know, I may be back one day.

**Phil Bufton**  
**Secretary, Friends of Herefordshire Archives**

## From the Book Shelves

Herefordshire Archive Library



Since the last newsletter there was, according to the disorder of the shelves, a heavy use of the local history collection before Christmas.

The Library has recently received 21 additions that have been donated or waylaid from the Map & Book Sale and there are at least another six to be added to stock. Titles include: *The English Medieval Town*; *Ross on Wye through Time*; *The Ross and Monmouth Railway*; *Shrewsbury Abbey*; *VCH Shropshire Vol VIII*.

The following authors have kindly donated copies of their books to the library: David Vaughan, *The Little Book of Herefordshire*; Bill Laws, *Herefordshire's Home*

*Front*; David Clark, *Fownhope Beyond Memory*; Janet Cooper, *Bosbury*; Philip Hume, *On the Trail of the Mortimers*; H Noel-Smith & L Campbell, *Hornblower's Historical Shipmates*.

Thanks to Alan and the committee, the Friends have paid and supplied much needed book stands to display new additions and topical books. The Friends will be funding the binding of volumes 57-59 and 60-62 of the *Woolhope Transactions* into two volumes. Please note that these will not be on the shelves whilst being bound.

**Heather Hurley**  
**Hon Librarian**



## Notice

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Jean Hopkinson** at the end of last year. Jean was well-known within the Friends, not just as our long-time editor Charles's wife, but as a researcher and writer of history in her own right. She was a very kind and gentle woman, and always a pleasure to chat with. Our sympathies are with Charles and their family.



## Past Events

### Rotherwas Walk with Bill Laws

On Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, an enthusiastic group joined Bill Laws on a walk around the site of the munitions factory at Rotherwas. Bill, who is the author of *Herefordshire on the Home Front*, was a mine of information about the workers who came to Hereford to take up these new employment opportunities. Many were women, some from as far away as Lancashire and Cork.



Bill pointed out the main surviving buildings on the site, some for the expansion in the Second World War. Several of those attending had family connections with munitions workers in the Second World War or had worked around Rotherwas themselves so that memories and ideas were shared as we strolled around.

Research has uncovered that not everyone welcomed these incomers, despite their vital and dangerous work. Newspaper reports and other sources show that some Herefordians saw these independent young women with money to spend as potential troublemakers. In Bill's view, in addition to their contribution to the war effort, many of the workers also made their mark in the struggle for women's rights.

### Jane Adams



### Map and Book Sale

Rhys has made reference to the success of this event in his Report. Here are two photos.



The quiet before ...



The onslaught ...



## **Wassail, Wassail, ...**

The little HARC orchard of 8 apple trees was enthusiastically Wassailed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, with the Leominster Morris men, The Bushel-bag Wassailers singers and over 100 visitors and friends. This was our second ever Wassail, and along with the trees, it had grown in numbers and activities from last year.

We had the wonderful Leominster Morris group bedecked in all their finery of bells and feathers. They led the procession around the trees, with Ian Elliott as the Master of Ceremonies. The singers had a great selection of Wassail songs, some of which the crowd tried to join – the ones with easy words, like “wassail, wassail, wassail.”



The trees were doused with apple juice and cider, and squares of toast were hung on their branches. Ribbons of all sorts had been tied to the branches earlier in the day, and the little trees looked very festive. The liquid libations have sunk into the ground, the birds have eaten all the toast, but the ribbons are still there, fluttering happily in the sometimes strong winter wind.

Inside HARC food and drink had been prepared in the form of two types of soup, juice or cider, brownies, flapjacks and LAMBSWOOL. The lambswool had made an appearance last year and was so enjoyed there was more of it this year. A heady mixture of apples, spices, sugar and pale ale heated up to serve hot. The foam head on the drink gives it the name. Delicious.

The learning room was full of ivy vines to make crowns for everyone, and there were very few people not sporting a wreath.

The running order was: inside to get your personal ivy crown, outside to process with the Morris men, then the wassail ceremony, back inside for some hot soup, hot lambswool, cider or juice, then outside again for more dancing from the Leominster Morris.

Many thanks to Sarah Chedzoy, Cultural Services Learning Officer, for organising the whole event. All the HARC staff had to do was follow orders!!



Already thoughts have turned to next year, and with the debrief after this one producing a raft of “things that will be better organised” in 2018, it will be a memorable event.

We hope the apple trees appreciate our efforts and grow happily throughout the year.

***Eleanor Harris***  
***Conservation Technician***

*Photos by Rhys Griffith*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 AGM will be at the HARC, starting at 7pm on **Thursday June 15th**.  
Tea and coffee will be available.

After the AGM, there will be a talk by  
David Whitehead  
on '*Capability Brown in Herefordshire*'.

Committee vacancies are filled by election at the AGM, at which all ordinary members may vote. Ordinary and associate members are invited to make nominations for vacancies on the Committee from those who are already ordinary members of the Society.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Following on from the AGM talk,**

**A Walk at Moccas**

Look out for further details at HARC later in the Spring.

### **A message from the Treasurer**

As you probably know by now, our subscription rates are increasing in April.

Many thanks to all those who have completed a new Banker's Order. I would like to remind everyone else to do so, or if you manage your bank account online you can, of course, amend the payment details yourself from home.

To subscribers who prefer to pay by cash or cheque, can I ask you to make sure your fees are up to date? If you are uncertain when you last paid, please contact me and I will let you know. Contact details: Telephone 07989 863074.

Email: [wack1w@gmail.com](mailto:wack1w@gmail.com)

### **NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES COMMENCING APRIL 2017**

	Annual	Life
Individual membership	£10	£100
Family membership	£15	£150
Group membership	£20	£200

Thank you

**Alan Walker**  
**Hon Treasurer**

<b>Collections Newly Catalogued</b>	
<b>Cat. Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>
AJ86/7	Hereford County Council Department of Agriculture Records - Glass Plates
CF46	Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Papers
CF66	Hereford and Mid-Wales Monthly Meeting Newsletters
CF67	Hereford Preparative Meeting Minutes
CF68	Cox Family Papers
CF69	Record [LP] of Evening Service
CF70	Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious
CF71	Downton Estate Ledgers
CF73	Herefordshire Family Deeds
CF74	James Peachy Deeds
CF75	Westhide Deeds
CF76	Order of Service in remembrance of Arthur Cedric Foster
CF77	Accounts of Charles Dipper
CF78	Records of Rosemary Poore-Saurin-Watts
CF79	Hereford City Surveyor's Ordnance Survey Maps
CF81	Postcards, correspondence and notes on Hereford Cattle
CF82	Records relating to Chelsea Pensioners
CF84	NADFAS Records of Church Furnishings in Colwall
CF100	Photograph Album of Bryngwyn Manor
CN51	Much Dewchurch Parish Records
CR60	Tony Brown Collection
CR61	The Manor of Marden Collection
CS94	Credenhill Parish Records
CT7	Bishopstone Parish Records
CT60	Pembridge Parish Records
CT61	Madley Parish Records
CT62	Dorstone Parish Records
CT63	Michaelchurch Escley Parish Records
CT64	Michaelchurch-on-Arrow Parish Records
CT65	Aylton Parish Records
CT66	Norton Canon Parish Records
CT67	Weobley Parish Records
CT68	Staunton-on-Wye Parish Records
CT69	Sarnesfield Parish Records

**Richard Wade**  
**Archivist**

## Summary and Analysis of Collections Accessioned in 2016

The beginning of the New Year in the archive sector heralds a reflection on the previous year. This is particularly relevant every January, when I am required by The National Archives to complete an “Annual Accessions” return to inform about the new collections that have come into our custodianship. Despite the onerous task of compiling the information, it does force us to analyse the data to assist with future planning.

The facts and figures of new accessions in 2016 follow the pattern set in 2015. There were 247 collections ranging in size from 1 item to 78 archival boxes. The accumulated total was equivalent to 500 boxes of material – 300 more than the average set in the years preceding our move to HARC. This year’s total remains the second highest in the last 10 years, but still significantly behind the 778 boxes that were received in 2015. Most archive services follow a similar influx trend after the publicity of moving to a new repository. It is therefore expected that the collections received in the upcoming year will again fall below 2016’s total.

The 247 new collections represent a mammoth breadth in diversity. They range from records produced by various departments of the local authority to archives pertaining to disparate societies and organisations based within the county of Herefordshire. It is difficult to objectively judge and determine the collections with the strongest evidential, cultural and social impact. Nevertheless, I identified three collections that (I believe) represent an exceptional addition to our archival heritage.

Firstly, the **C.H. ‘Tony’ Williams Collection (CY33)** is unique in documenting life in World War II and post-war Herefordshire in the 1940s. The archive contains around 6,500 photographic negatives taken by Mr Williams’ for his work as a photographer for Herefordshire’s *Citizen and Bulletin* Newspaper. The collection also contains records relating to Mr Williams’ involvement in other career interests, including the League of Herefordshire Hospital Friends, Knights Head and Barronia Metals. The latter was a company famous for developing a special alloy used in the manufacture of fuel valves for planes flown during the Second World War.

The next collection of interest was created by an individual that many of you will remember. Mr ‘Jim’ Tonkin (1921-2010) was a long-time volunteer at Herefordshire Record Office and former Chairman of the Friends. His archive of recordings of **old buildings in Herefordshire (CY25)** reflects Jim’s, and his wife Muriel’s, interest in vernacular architecture. It includes photographs, architectural plans and architectural reports of historic properties. The potential value of these papers to house and local historians cannot be understated.

Thirdly was the deposit of a collection of national and local importance, that of the **Royal National College for the Blind (CZ67)**. The RNC is a co-educational specialist residential college of further education that has been based in Hereford since 1978. The minute books, reports and letter books capture the evolution in teaching practices and care for those who are blind or partially sighted. The archive spans nearly 140 years from the establishment of the college by Victorian philanthropist Dr Thomas Rhodes Armitage and Francis Joseph Campbell in the early 1870s in London. Its deposit at HARC will ensure its long-term preservation, access and hopefully inspire others in developing specialised education both locally and nationally.

It has also been another successful year for the Archive Service in promoting the deposit of parish registers. These documents form the backbone of our parish collections and are by far the most commonly consulted documents at HARC. The newly accessioned registers of baptisms, marriages and burials date from 1813 onwards and have come from the following parishes: Aconbury (CY39), Ballingham (CY40), Bolstone (CY41), Bullingham (CY42), Callow (CY43), Dewsall (CY44), Dinedor (CY45), Hereford St. Martin (CY46), Holme Lacy (CY47), Little Dewchurch (CY48), Leominster (CY49), Ledbury (CY52), Coddington (CY53), Edwin Loach (CZ46), Tedstone Delamere (CZ47), Weobley (CZ48), Whitbourne (CZ49), Lugwardine (CZ50) and Kenderchurch (CZ51).

Now that all these collections have been accessioned, they remain in a state of limbo within the physical limits of the archive before being catalogued. Uncatalogued records are not generally available for research due to security reasons. It may be possible to make specific items available with prior notice.

**Philip Bouchier**  
**Accessions Archivist**



## **The City of Hereford in 1835**

Recently, I have been reading the 1835 editions of the *Hereford Journal* with unusual thoroughness – and, to a much lesser extent, the 1835 editions of the *Hereford Times*. Normally, I would be scanning the newspapers hurriedly in the search for specific information. Much to my surprise, I have discovered many interesting articles, news and advertisements. Any comments on the following would be greatly welcomed. (Jean Dobson on [freemen5132@btinternet.com](mailto:freemen5132@btinternet.com))

### ***The Unpopular Stamp Duty on Newspapers***

In 1835, both the *Hereford Journal* and the *Hereford Times* were priced at 7d. At 7d, a newspaper was almost a luxury item! As high prices put the purchase of a newspaper beyond the means of many people, newspapers in London could be hired for an hour or two at the cost of 1d – that is, if you can believe an article published on the internet.

The blame for the high cost of newspapers lay with the government – not with the newspaper proprietors. The Stamp Duty on a newspaper was 4d! The proprietors of our two newspapers, who had done all the hard work and borne all the expense of producing a newspaper each week, received only 3d!

In 1836, after years of public complaint about this Stamp Duty being a “tax on knowledge”, the Government finally responded by reducing the duty from 4d to 1d. The *Hereford Times* rejoiced in this news – announcing that from Saturday, 3 September 1836, their price would be reduced to 4½d. This announcement proved to be premature – as the legislation did not come into effect on 1 September 1836, as expected, but was delayed until 15 September 1836. For their first issue after 15 September 1836, both proprietors reduced their price to 4½d.

### ***Quill Pens***

I was surprised to discover that quill pens were still in use in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was a report of a criminal trial which drew my attention to this. John Bryan, aged 20, was charged with stealing, at Ledbury, on 24 November 1834, a sovereign and two half-crowns, from

Morris Shire. At the trial in Hereford on 30 March 1835, Morris Shire said that by trade he was a quill dealer. The word “quill” made me think of quill pens.

If information on the internet is to be believed, steel nibs came into use in the 1830s; however, quill pens were still in use as late as the 1850s. I wonder if an ordinary person, as opposed to an expert, can distinguish between quill pen writing and steel pen writing?

### ***Street Names & the Apostrophe***

Reading so many newspapers in a short time drew my attention, once again, to the inconsistent use of the apostrophe in street names. For example, should the street named in honour of the (demolished) church of St. Owen in the City of Hereford be spelt as “St. Owen Street” or “St. Owen’s Street” or “St. Owens Street”.

Even in this year of 2017, the street signs in the City of Hereford illustrate the problem – as you can see in these two photographs. At the west end of the street named in honour of St. Owen, the street sign reads “St. Owen’s St.”; whereas, at the east end the sign reads “St. Owen Street”. Furthermore, a street sign at the west end also gives the name of another street – “St. Peters Sqre (no apostrophe)”.

If the Street Naming Authorities cannot standardise the use of the apostrophe on its street signs, how are we to know what is correct? My decision has been to avoid the apostrophe.



### ***Sunday Schools***

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sunday Schools conducted by churches provided some poor children with their only opportunity to learn to read. In 1835, it was reported that about 250 children from the Sunday Schools of St. Peters and St. Owens were treated with tea and plum-buns at the Infant School in this city. I wonder how many of the 250 children received no schooling other than at the Sunday Schools?

### ***Dentists & Dental Products***

In 1835, there was no excuse for people with money to have dirty teeth. Tooth brushes and tooth dentifrice were readily available in the City of Hereford.

William Yapp, the chemist, of Broad Street, opposite the Hotel, sold superior tooth brushes and tooth powder, and other preparations for the teeth and gums, as recommended by Mr Levason, surgeon-dentist who visited the City several times each year.

In 1835, the *Hereford Journal* carried an article which described the correct procedure for cleaning teeth. Not only were teeth to be brushed, horizontally and vertically, with soft brushes and tepid water, three times a day, but two different styles of toothbrushes were required - one of the common shape, nicely fitted to the size of the teeth, to avoid friction of the gums – and a second, with the brush part placed at right angles, and the handle a little curved inwards, for cleansing the inner surfaces of the teeth. A third style of

toothbrush was required for occasional use. It was composed of harder hair, cut of various lengths, like the (then) modern hair brushes, to remove any particle of food that may be lodged between the teeth or any salivary deposit, that may adhere to them, while yet in a soft state.

In 1835, there was no excuse for people with money to endure the problems of decayed, broken or missing teeth. Although there was only one resident firm of dentists in Hereford, there were also dentists who visited Hereford several times a year. T. Taylor & Co. of No. 21, Bye Street, Hereford, advertised themselves as surgical and mechanical dentists. They filled carious or decayed teeth with gold, silver, or a mineral succedaneum, which they warranted to prevent the tooth-ache and preserve the tooth for life. To those who had missing teeth (whether one or all), the dentists offered sets of natural, artificial, or terro-metallic teeth.

The most frequent dentist to visit Hereford in 1835 was Mr Joseph Levason, a surgeon-dentist of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, who visited Hereford five times a year. He offered artificial teeth made of stone as well as those of other substances. The most prestigious dentist to visit Hereford was William Lukyn, resident dentist to the University, Cowley House, Oxford. He visited twice in 1835 – on both occasions for only half a day! Presumably, he catered for rich clients only!

### ***Was the Blue Coat School established in 1710?***

In 1835, the Blue Coat Schools in Hereford provided education for 100 boys and 30 girls – 70 of whom were clothed. As usual, the children were examined twice in the year, March and November. In 1835 a collection of £34.10.0. was made for the charity at St Peters church.

It has been frequently said and written that the Blue Coat School was established in 1710. Perhaps, people have been relying on the sign on the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century school building which declares “BLUE-COAT-SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED.A.D.1710.” Although the sign is one piece of evidence of the establishment date, it is not enough.



If the Charity Commissioners of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century had investigated the charity, they probably could have found documentary evidence of the establishment date.

The Charities Commission Report 1819-1837 made only a brief comment about this school:

Blue Coat School – Jones's Charity

Robert Jones, of Cheltenham, clerk, in 1698, gave 10s yearly to the Master of the free school of Hereford for teaching one boy of the parish of All Saints, and 10s more yearly to buy books for the said boy.

This payment issues from a house in Widemarsh street, now the property of Charles Bulmer, esq., of Hereford, who regularly pays the £1 to the master of the Blue Coat School. This institution, being supported almost entirely by voluntary contributions, and managed by a committee, was not considered as a charity subject to inquiry under our Commission.

There are two obvious questions. What was the relationship between the free school in Hereford in 1698 and the Blue Coat School supposedly established in 1710? Who had the authority to transfer the charitable gift of 1698 from the free school to the supposedly new charity school in 1710?

By the way, there were many free schools in Herefordshire in the 17<sup>th</sup> century – so it would have been very surprising if Hereford did not have one before 1710.

### ***The Unpopular Stamp Duty on Advertisements***

For anyone interested in the long ago past, newspaper advertisements are a fruitful source of information about products, people, and the community. Even a cursory look at the 1835 newspapers will see vast numbers of advertisements.

Until mid-1833, advertising in a newspaper was costly - not because of greedy newspaper proprietors but because of the Stamp Duty. The advertiser had to pay not only the fee imposed by the newspaper proprietor but also duty of 3s.6d.

In 1833, the *Hereford Times* expressed the commonly held belief that taxing advertisements interfered not only with agricultural and commercial business, but also with employment of assistants, servants, and others. In 1833, the Government finally bowed to public pressure and from 5 July 1833, the duty was reduced from 3s.6d. to 1s.6d.

In response to the reduction in Stamp Duty, the *Hereford Times* wanted, through the medium of advertisements, to bring together people who had jobs to offer and people who wanted a job – at the small expense of only 2s.6d. (which included the duty).

To facilitate this ambition, the *Hereford Times* set up a system. A Register Book was to be kept not only at the *Hereford Times* office in Widemarsh Street but also at the residence of every agent of the newspaper. Anyone offering a job or wanting a job was to visit the office in Widemarsh Street or visit any of the agents. Details would be entered in Register Books – the person would immediately pay the fee of 2s.6d. – the details from the agents would be conveyed to the office – and the advertisement would appear in the next issue of the newspaper.

The system was to begin on Saturday, 29 June 1833 – not only at the Widemarsh street office but also at the residences of the agents in Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster, Ross, and Weobley in Herefordshire – as well as agents in Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Wales.

Although the intention was commendable, the system was so cumbersome that it is to be wondered whether it met with success. What can be said is that by 1835 there were many advertisements about jobs – not only in the *Hereford Times* but also in the *Hereford Journal*.

The *Hereford Times* article in 1833 admitted that the system of Register Books for employment was not a new one. What was new was the taking of the information from a Register Book and advertising it in a newspaper.

About 1750, Henry Fielding and his brother John founded the Universal Register Office – the purpose of which was to bring together those who needed a servant or apprentice with those in need of a position as a servant or apprentice. For a small fee, details were written in a Register Book. Apparently, the idea spread and by the 19<sup>th</sup> century such Register Offices were to be found in many towns.

According to the *Hereford Times*, the failing in the Henry Fielding system was that there was no publicity of the jobs available or the jobs wanted – so most people were unaware of the employment opportunities therein listed.

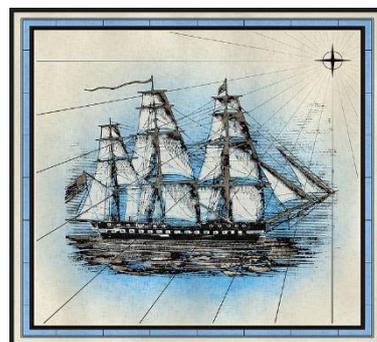
Was there a Register Office for employment in the City of Hereford in 1835?

### ***Transported to Australia!***

Australians (and I am one) like to believe that their convict ancestor was transported for a trivial offence – e.g. stealing a handkerchief.

An example of a trivial offence resulting in a sentence of transportation was the 1834 stealing of a quantity of walnuts from a tree belonging to William Southall, at St Owens Gate by two boys, Henry Williams and Henry Long. Presumably, their sentence was commuted to something more reasonable, as I have not found any evidence that the boys were transported.

A much more serious offence was theft especially when accompanied with violence. In September 1835, George Preece found himself on board the *John Barry* bound for New South Wales. On 30 March 1835, he had been tried and convicted at the Hereford Lent Assizes for stealing four shawls, the property of William Moore Gibbs, and a tin milk can, the property of Richard Prince. As the theft was accompanied by physical violence to Prince's servant, Susan Beavan, who was carrying the tin can with the four shawls in it, the sentence of transportation was not surprising. As was usual, the *Hereford Journal* reported his removal from Hereford to Woolwich for transportation. On 17 January 1836, he arrived in New South Wales – to begin his new life. [Australian Convict Records]



***Jean Dobson***

***Specialist Subject: The City of Hereford 1659-1835***



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