

No: 97



# Sherington Historical Society

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# Newsletter



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**January 2018**

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[www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)

# Special dates for your diary

## 9th January

Members Meeting. Please come for a low key evening archiving and chat.

## 13th February

Wolverton Works. Philip Marsh is coming to talk to us about the Wolverton Works, Philip will talk about life in the Works, the royal train and what was special about the 1838 London to Birmingham train.

## 13th March

AGM, Annual General Meeting. Time to review the year and appoint the committee for the next.

Our Tuesday monthly meetings start at 8.00 pm unless otherwise stated.

## Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



Happy New year to all! I am not too sure when we should stop saying this, but I think we're still OK to say it in the second week in January, would be a bit odd if we kept saying it after the end of the month I think. I hope that you all enjoyed the festivities over Christmas/New Year and looking forward to getting into 2018?

As has been said in previous communications we are not running the January Jolly this year due to the White Hart's kitchen being out of action. Although, I understand that the work is due to start in earnest this month, so as soon as they are up, running and settled, we will get

things moving and have a February Feast or a March Munch depending on what the timing is.

Liz has just updated me about the 2017 Photo Competitions. We had in the end 209 entries over both categories - Sherington: Sights and Seasons, 98 entries, and Wild Sherington, 111 entries. All on the website <http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington>. The exhibition of the entries and the awards/prizegiving is due to be in the Village Hall on Saturday 24th February between 2 and 4pm. Come if you can to have a look at them all.

Since my last musing we have had a visit in November from Chris Rowe who came and talked about the Gunpower Plot. It was a very interesting evening where she gave more of an insight of the event and her interpretation of who she felt was really behind it. It was nice to see a contingent from Gayhurst House come over and hear what she had to say, and if I overheard the conversation correctly, there was an invite for her to go over for a visit and a tour of the House.

I have already talked about the Members Can Talk meeting in October in the Society's article in SCAN, but I just wanted to say again how enjoyable it was. Then December we had our Christmas party in the Village Hall. Richard tested us with a wonderful quiz about the village, and I think we all learned something that evening, including Richard I think!

We are in the new year and the AGM will soon be upon us, so the Committee and I need to prepare for this. We need to talk to the membership as I understand that there have been some recent changes relating to Data Protection and Safeguarding which we need to take account of. So there might be a need to pass some changes to the constitution in March to cover ourselves. We are still in need of Committee members, so if you are able to take on a small amount of work then your offering will be very gratefully received, I think especially we need an Events Secretary, or just another member of the Committee that can help talk things through. As I'm sure that some of you are aware, Kay has been out of the Village for a while now looking after her Mum, Erica, as she had needed Kay's support recently. I just wanted to say that we are thinking of you both and we wish Erica a speedy recovery.

*Mark Vale*

# The Petts Family of Sherington, Buckinghamshire

*The following is the first part of an article from Rosemary Collict who emailed Sherington Historical Society a few months ago while researching her family tree. She visited Sherington and met Dave and Liz Revell and also Philip Smith. We scanned the photos included in this article. She also gave us the two school photos on page 11.*

The Petts family, my mother's grandparents, were an old Sherington family whose ancestors I have found in the village records right back to the end of the 17th century.

The Sherington Historical Society has clearly spent a lot of time and energy on deciphering the church records and thanks to them, I have traced the earliest of the Petts records back to William Pett(y)s, who married Sarah Hedge on 17th February 1723. William Petts appears to be the son of Robert Petts but the church records are only extant back to 1698. The family remained in the village until the time of my great-grandfather, Joseph Petts, born in 1845 to James Petts and Sarah Attwood, the third of six children. Unusually, Joseph actually left the village and went to work as a milkman in London. He married Eliza Vincer there in 1866 and in the 1871 Census they were living at 56 Mildmay Street in Islington. However, Eliza died in 1873 and Joseph returned to Sherington where he married Eliza Hooton on 14th August 1875. They had four children: Arthur Henry (1877-1953), Ada Lotty (1882-1925), Hooton Annie Eliza (aka Annie) (1884-1956) and the youngest, my grandmother, Beatrice Mary (aka Beattie) (1888-1961). By all accounts they were a very devoted couple and died on the same day, in January 1923. My mother recounted that one died upstairs and the other died downstairs. My mother knew next to nothing about Joseph's first wife - only that she thought he had been a widower when he married Eliza Hooton. She hadn't even noticed that the photograph she had assumed was of her grandparents had been taken in Islington!

In the 1841 Census, Joseph's father, James and his mother, Sarah, were living in Water Lane, Sherington with his oldest brother, Thomas Henry, then aged 5 months. James was a farm labourer. By 1851, the family had expanded to include Joseph's brother Henry, Joseph himself and his younger sister Sarah Ann. Joseph's mother was a lace maker. My mother told me that many people in Buckinghamshire made pillow lace and her greatgrandmother was clearly one of them. I understand that my grandmother had a collection of Buckinghamshire pillow lace but, to my mother's annoyance, had given it away to someone at the door!. The family was



*Joseph Petts with his first wife, Eliza Vincet, taken in Islington, c 1866*

living at Calves End, Sherington, next door to James' brother Thomas, a widower of 46. Both James and his oldest son, by then known as Henry, were farm labourers. In the interval between the 1841 Census and the 1851 Census, the family must have been devastated by the loss of a baby girl, Ann, aged only three weeks.

In 1861, Joseph, aged 16, was a farm worker and still living with his family at Church End, Sherington. The Census does not, of course, record the loss of two further daughters, Rachel, who was born in 1851 and died in 1855, and Mary Ann, born in 1858 and died 9 months later, just before Christmas 1858. There are no more births recorded to James and Sarah so the youngest of the family was Sarah Ann, who was born in 1848 and grew up to marry Heneage Alfred Rose. They lived and died in Newport Pagnell.



*Joseph Petts, photo taken at ?Church End, Sherington c 1919*

By 1871, Joseph was a married man, living at 56 Mildmay Street, Islington and working as a milk carrier. As my mother knew so little about her grandfather's early life, I can only guess that following the deaths of his three little sisters, he decided to go to London, as so many agricultural labourers did around that time, to see if life there was any better. There were also, around then I think, problems with bad weather and poor harvests in the countryside which may also have been the cause of his decision.

Sadly, Eliza died in 1873, of 'tapeworm peritonitis' and Joseph returned to Sherington, where he married Eliza Hooton in St Laud's church on 14th August 1875. The 1881 Census records them living at Gowel's Farm, Sherington with their eldest (and only) son, Arthur Henry, and a niece on Eliza's side, Florence Leech (or Leach).



*Eliza Petts, with Beattie, Frances and Joan, ?Church End, Sherington c 1919*



*Eliza Petts with ??Cecil?, probably taken at Church End, Sherington c 1919*

By 1891, Joseph and Eliza had extended their family and were living in Church End, Sherington, not far from Joseph's father, James who had been living on his own since Sarah died in 1878. I think this must have been the holding where my mother remembered living as a small girl in the period during and just after the First World War. All their four children had survived the illls of infancy and were to live on into adulthood: Arthur Henry (1877-1953), Ada Lotty (1882-1925), Hooton Annie Eliza (1884-1956) and the youngest, my grandmother, Beatrice Mary (1888-1961). I have been unable to find in the Sherington Registers any indication that there were any children who died young.

I have only three photos of Joseph and Eliza Petts, found entirely by chance after my mother's death. I found two packs of negatives in the box of family photos and out of interest had them reprinted. One pack contained early photos my father had taken of steam locomotives, one of which apparently is quite rare, the other contained photos taken at Sherington! The quality of these photos may leave something to be desired but since I have no others, I find them very moving. I think that the child in the photo on the right was neither my mother nor her sister but may have been Arthur's son, Cecil.

## **Eliza Vincer**

According to the Petts Marriage certificate, Eliza was born in Monken Hadley, Middlesex but the information regarding her family appears very sketchy. According to the marriage certificate, she was the daughter of Daniel Vincer (not listed as deceased). I have been unable to find any Census information for her family for

1841 but in 1851 she might have been living with her grandparents in Albury Terrace, Marylebone, although the place of birth states Surrey, Lambeth. Whether this was because her parents had died or whether she was just staying with them at the time, I do not know. I cannot even be certain that I have found the correct record.

Joseph and Eliza were married on 27th February 1866 at St James' Church, Islington. Sadly, there does not appear to have been anyone from either family present at the wedding. The witnesses were William Joyce and Mary Ann Lea. The first Census information which can be relied upon is that for 1871, when Eliza had married Joseph Petts. She died in 1873.

## **Eliza Hooton**

Joseph's second wife, also Eliza, was born in Newport Pagnell, daughter of John Hooton and Susannah Revit. Again, they were a local family, born and raised in Newport Pagnell. Eliza had three sisters, Ann (1844-1910), Mary (or, maybe, Maria) (1848-1938) and Charlotte (1850-1918) - known to my mother as Aunt Lot. Eliza's oldest sister, Ann, married Joseph's oldest brother, Henry Thomas Petts. Their first daughter, Eliza, was born in October 1862, only six months after the wedding! The first available Census after Eliza's birth shows the Hooton family living in the High Street in Newport Pagnell (which is only a couple of miles from Sherington). By 1861, aged 15, Eliza was working as a domestic servant in Northampton. I have not been able to find any Census information for 1871 and by 1875, she was married to Joseph Petts.

## **The Petts children - the first three of four**

### **Arthur Henry Petts, 1877-1953**

Arthur was the oldest of the children of Joseph and Eliza Petts, born on 11th April 1877 and baptised in Milton Keynes on 8th July 1877. He was married to Elizabeth Orchard on 4th November 1899 in St Laud's Church, Sherington and they had one child: Cecil Henry Thomas Petts, who was born in 1902 and baptised in St Laud's Church on 6th April 1902.

In the 1901 Census, Arthur Petts and his wife were living at Church End, near his parents and he, like his father, is described as a market gardener.

In 1911, the family has grown with the birth of Cecil; they are still living in Church End and Arthur is still a market gardener.

At some point, probably after his wife's death, Arthur moved up to Warwickshire, where he died, aged 76, in 1953. His wife, Elizabeth, died in North Buckinghamshire in 1936. Arthur's grandson, John William Henry, was born in Southam, Warwickshire in 1928 and his granddaughter, Joan Elizabeth, was also born there in 1930. Certainly he was there at the start of the Second World War, as the 1939 Census lists him living at 14 Coventry Road, Southam with Cecil, Cecil's wife Gertrude, and their daughter Joan. Cecil died in Leamington Spa Hospital on 14th January 1956.

Cecil married Gertrude Charlotte Attwood (another Sherington family) in the March quarter of 1927 and had two children (see above). John married Winifred M Lomas in 1955 in Rugby and had two children: Janet (b 1960) and Roger J (b 1962). John died in 2011; Joan married Raymond C Bicknell in 1957 in Southam and, as far as I have been able to discover, had no children.

Of John's children, I have found that Janet married Kevin P McCormack in Southam in 1980 and had a son, John Paul, in 1984. I have not been able to find out for certain any contact details for any of the surviving Petts's without sending for more certificates.

Sadly, I cannot add much to this account of Arthur Henry Petts, culled from official records. I have little recollection of anything my mother ever mentioned about him, except that I suspect that Cecil received much family teasing on account of his name.

## **Ada Lotty Petts (1882-1925)**

My mother's Auntie Ada was born in Sherington on 29 April 1882 and baptised in St Laud's Church on 6th August. She seems to have been the aunt to whom my mother felt closest!

My great aunt went out to service at an early age, and by the age of 21 was working as a parlourmaid in the household of Mr and Mrs Kentish at 5 Oaklands Road, Bromley, Kent. By 1911 she was cook at Fair Meadow, Mayfield, Sussex, only a short distance from where I was brought up in Love Lane, Mayfield. It must have been there that she met her husband, George Lusted - a Mayfield man. They were married the same year, on 30th December 1911 in All Saints Church, Warlingham, Surrey and went to live at Love Lane Terrace, Mayfield, again only about 150 yards



from where I was to live from 1955. A photo of my mother with her sister Joan, taken in the 1920s with Ada and her sister-in-law Nellie shows the house.



Ada was the reason my mother chose to go down to Sussex to live following the breakup of her marriage in 1955: although Ada had by then been dead for 30 years, my mother and her sister used to go down there to stay and my mother retained excellent memories of her holidays in Mayfield. Although Ada died in 1925, not that long after her parents, her sister-in-law, Nellie Holmwood (née Lusted) was still living in Mayfield. Ada had one son, Eric George Lusted, who, although born in Mayfield, returned to his mother's roots to live in Sherington with his uncle Arthur and married Elsie Annie Kate Haynes in 1937. He died on 4th May 1961 in Sherington. Their son, Terence George Lusted, was born in 1939 in or around Milton Keynes and married Joyce E Harris in the second quarter of 1963. In 1939, Eric was working as a lorry driver and living with his wife and young son at Crofts End, Sherington, where his son Terence still lives. His son, Adrian Terence, born 1969, also still lives there. On a recent visit to Sherington, Terry and I met up so it was good to meet a second cousin!

### **Hooton Annie Eliza Petts (aka Annie) (1884-1956)**

Annie Petts was born on 10th February 1884 at Sherington and was baptised in St Laud's Church on 6th July 1884. By 1901, when she was 16, she was still living at home in Sherington with her parents and presumably helping them by looking after her younger sister Beattie, born in 1888. In 1908 she was married to John Thomas Rose, who was born in Milton Keynes around 1883. She had three sons: Wesley George (1909-1972), Horace John (1910-1979) and Henry Charles (1912-1974).

By 1911 the family had moved to Ipswich where they were living at the time of the 1911 Census and where the youngest son, Henry Charles, was born and her husband John (or maybe Jim) was a motor car body maker. The current unavailability of the 1921 Census makes it impossible to see where they were living at this time but by the outbreak of the second World War, the family had moved to Huntingdon, where they appear to have remained and where Annie died in 1956. I have few memories of any stories about Annie, I suspect because my mother didn't know her very well, although I remember her talking about Annie's three sons. I also remember that my

grandmother went up to Huntingdon for her sister's funeral. I think even at the time when my mother and her sister were living with their grandparents in Sherington, Annie was living in Huntingdon, as I'm sure I remember my mother talking about an aunt who lived in Huntingdon. I have been unable to find out where her husband John (or possibly, Jim) was in 1939: although he does not appear on the record completed for Annie and her children, Wesley and Horace, together with one other person whose record is still closed and Emma Mace, who was to become Horace's second wife in 1942. Annie is, however, listed as married, rather than widowed, so the inference is that he was still alive. As a motor mechanic, his services would have been needed but as he was born in 1884 and had served throughout the First World War (see what I believe to be his entry in the National Roll of the Great War\*), I think he would have been too old to serve. If this record is to be believed, they were already living in Huntingdonshire at the time of WW1.

*\* ROSE, J T (Private) K.O. (Y.L.I.) - Joining in March 1916, he was drafted two months later to France. In the following September he was wounded in action on the Somme and, invalided home, he was sent to hospital at Newton Abbot. Returning to France in March 1917, he took part in heavy fighting at Vimy Ridge, Arras, Messines and Ypres, where he was wounded for the second time. Evacuated to England, he spent some time in hospital at Birmingham and upon his recovery was once more drafted to France, where he again took part in heavy fighting at Amiens, Epemay Wood, Ypres and Le Cateau. He was demobilised in January 1919, holding the General Service and Victory medals. Station Road, Warboys, Hunts. Z4036/D - Z4037/D*

*To be continued ...*

## **Other Sherington Photographs**

For the sake of interest, I have also included 2 photos (see next page) which I assume were taken on Empire Day (24th May) during the time my mother spent at the village school in Sherington. As far as I know, my mother and her family moved away from Sherington around 1920, first to rented housing near Hampton Court and then to Merton Park, a vast area of ribbon housing development built following the First World War but which was, at the time the Unwin family moved there, still largely countryside. One of the photos has at some time been cut up to take out the picture of my mother but I have put them together as best I can. The photos figure Mr Garrett, the village schoolmaster and his wife. Mr G clearly made a big impression on my mother as she described him as 'red haired and with a temper to match!' I'm grateful to David from Sherington Historical Society for scanning and Photoshopping these 2 photos, particularly the bottom one, to make them complete and easier to look at the faces. Some Sherington residents may recognise their forebears!





**Sherington  
Historical Society**

presents

A talk by Philip Marsh

# **Wolverton Works**



**Sherington Village Hall**

**Tuesday 13th February 2018**

**7.45 pm for 8.00 pm**

Refreshments available  
Raffle

Entry: £2.00/£3.00 for members/non-members

Web: [www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)

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