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Michaelmas Term 1999

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A message from the President

As this issue of The Escutcheon reaches the membership, we will be nearing the end of the first term of this so far successful Fiftieth Year. Attendance at speaker meetings has continued to be encouragingly high, and the recruitment drive at the beginning of October resulted in a number of new memberships. Since then, we have welcomed a steady flow of new members, which we hope will continue as the year progresses.

We look forward, next term, to a continuation of the varied programme of speaker meetings which we have enjoyed this term, as well as one outing to St George's Chapel, Windsor. Next term will culminate in the Fiftieth Annual Dinner in March, to which we hope to welcome a substantial proportion of the membership as well as several Guests of Honour. Another important event during the Lent term will be the Mountbatten Commemorative Lecture on 18th February, 2000, so it is our intention to ensure that, within our year of celebration, we include a fitting tribute to our former Patron, Earl Mountbatten.

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the Committee for their continued support, and especially to the Secretary, Camilla Haggett, for her valued efficiency.

Rohan Stewart-MacDonald

18th Century Marriages

in Cambridge College Chapel Registers - Part 2

Corpus Christi College

The 111 marriages for the period 1719-1753 are entered in the back section of the College's Second Matriculation Register lodged within the Parker Library. Approximately A4 in size it is in good condition although the edges of the pages are slightly crumbled and the spine is probably rather fragile.

Emmanuel College

The marriages are recorded in a black stamped leather-bound volume, with paper pages 9.25 ins x 13.5 ins and marbled endpapers. The book which is lodged in the College Library (Ref CHA 1.5), originally was intended for recording memorials (presumably of Fellows/Scholars). It has an illuminated opening page featuring an illustration of an arch of books, with each of the following pages in the first half of the book headed *Liber Memorialis* but there are no entries on any of the pages. When the book is turned over and opened from the rear there are two pages recording 33 marriage entries between October 1736 and December 1753.

Jesus College

Details have been entered in a small day-book, with ruled and lined cash columns, incorporated into a vellum "envelope" packet cover with strings sized approximately 5 ins x 7.25 ins. Lodged in the College Archives it records the 511 marriages which were conducted in the chapel between 1695 and 1754.

King's College

The entries which have been made in a volume measuring 6 ins x 7.75 ins, include fifteen 18th century marriages, 41 pre 1837 burials relating to interments in the college chapel, two notices of Fellows dying in their rooms in July and August 1860, a list of baptisms 1929-1981, confirmations (mainly of choristers) 1949-1977 together with some 20th century marriages.

Queens' College

As mentioned in part 1 of tills article [Escutcheon. 4 (2)] the entries from the College Register were transcribed by the Rev J F Williams and published in the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. The transcriber noted that the marriage register was "a paper book measuring 15 ins x 8 ins bound in parchment, and it is preserved in the treasury of Queens' College, over the gateway. It is in good preservation, and on the cover is inscribed Queens' College Register Book for the Chapel. 1728. Walter Post. Dean. It contains, however, earlier entries from 1723, and altogether it covers a period of thirty years. It records 140 marriages which took place in the old chapel between 17 January, 1722/3 and 28th October 1753."

St Catharine's College

Entries have been recorded in a leather-bound volume of vellum pages, approximately 12.5 ins x 10.5 ins (ref 72) *entitled A Register of Marriages and Burials in St Catharine's Hall Chapel in the University of Cambridge*. Despite the mention of burials, none are included. At one point a 1752 marriage is entered plus a further five marriages on three slips of paper which have been pinned onto the page and copied out underneath, with the statement: "as appears by three memoranda in this book, but which memoranda being merely on slips of paper it has been thought better to make the above entries. G.E. Corrie 19th April 1826".

Sidney Sussex College

In a Dutch-watermarked paper volume 16 ins x 6.25 ins with marbled paper covers, lodged in the Sidney Sussex Archives (ref MR 60) entitled. Register of Marriages in Sidney Sussex Chapel. 1729, there are listed 47 marriages contracted between 1729 and 1751.

Observations

It is interesting to note that only Jesus, Queens', St Catharine's, and Sidney Sussex Colleges appear to have held registers specifically for recording marriages - King's College has one register in which baptisms, confirmations, burials and marriages are entered haphazardly; Corpus Christi College marriages appear at the back of the second Matriculations Register whilst those at Emmanuel College have been listed in the rear portion of an otherwise unused Liber Memorialis register. Although there are no known marriage registers for Magdalene or Trinity, details of three marriages which had taken place in these two colleges were found among the chapel papers at Jesus College.

In every instance the ministers who officiated at the marriages appear to have been Fellows of the Colleges concerned, in addition to being incumbents of local parishes, just as observed by Rev Williams, transcriber of Queens' College Register. However, whereas the latter had assumed that marriage in a College chapel as opposed to the bride's parish church was for the ease and convenience of the officiating minister, I wonder whether then, as now, there was a certain cachet in having a College Chapel wedding: the number of marriages by licence rather than by banns tends to support this view.

SUMMARY OF MARRIAGES IN COLLEGE CHAPELS

College	Groom's county			Bride's county			Marriage by		
	in	out	N/A	in	out	N/A	banns	licence	N/A
Corpus	99	12	0	100	3	0	14	90	7
Emmanuel	30	3	0	32	1	0	6	3	24
Jesus	421	53	37	484	23	4	54	416	41
Kings	6	0	1	7	0	8	0	0	15
Magdalene	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	1
Queens'	117	12	11	137	0	3	2	82	56
St Cat's	4	2	0	6	0	0	0	2	4
Sidney	43	4	0	46	0	0	6	27	14
Trinity	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0
Total(866)	722	86	58	823	28	15	82	622	162

Acknowledgments

The Society wishes to express its appreciation to the many College authorities, their Masters, Deans, Fellows, Keepers of Muniments, Archivists and Librarians, who have allowed these unique registers to be transcribed. Copies of indexed transcripts will be deposited in the Society's Library and also in the County Record Office.

Mrs Eve Logan

BOOK REVIEWS

Current Publications by Member Societies (Tenth Edition); compiled by Elizabeth Hampson, FFHS (Publications) Ltd, Birmingham, 1999. 202 pp, A5 format, paperback. ISBN 1 86006 085 4, £6-50.

Since the foundation of the Federation of Family History Societies twenty five years ago, more and more family history and related historical societies have become involved in a vast cooperative effort to foster the study of genealogy, heraldry, local archives, demography and a host of other associated disciplines. Most of the organisations participating in this enterprise not only provide programmes of educational lectures but also sponsor a great deal of project work such as the transcription and indexing of archival material.

To disseminate this data more widely, many of the trustees of these societies have adopted remarkably ambitious publishing policies. Consequently, as each new edition of this guide is published, the reader is sure to be impressed by the increasing number and range of printed works produced largely as a result of voluntary effort by so many enthusiastic members of local and national societies.

The tenth edition, which has been compiled by Elizabeth Hampson, carries on the tradition established by John Perkins, who compiled so many of the previous versions. However, as so much additional material has become available the new booklet is almost double the size of the last one. Nevertheless, the layout remains more or less the same as before, with all publications listed under the names of the organisations responsible for publishing them.

Local Indexes to the 1851 Census Returns are available in convenient sections from most societies, but several have opted for Microfiche versions which are listed in another FFHS booklet. Some societies have indexed Census Returns for years other than 1851 but in general there has been a realisation of the importance of recording Memorial Inscriptions (Mis) before they are lost to redevelopment, vandalism and atmospheric pollution. For this reason many societies are now giving priority to the publication of Mis in both transcript and index form.

A significant number of societies are publishing transcripts of Parish and non-Parochial Registers whilst others are concentrating on local Probate records, including a few publishing indexes of Will Beneficiaries in addition to Testators. A few societies have started to realise the enormous potential of the data to be found in Poor Law documents; for instance the Lincolnshire FHS has published details of Settlement Certificates and Bastardy Bonds.

All in all, this new edition of a very popular Guide is, without doubt, an absolute treasury of information for the historical researcher seeking access to up-to-date secondary source material, in addition to the whole range of manuals, explanatory texts and reference handbooks. It is certainly worthy of a place on my bookshelf.

Derek A Palgrave

An Introduction to Occupations: A Preliminary List (Second Edition); compiled by *Joyce Culling*, FFHS (Publications) Ltd, Birmingham, 1999. 64 pp. A5 format, paperback. ISBN 1 86006 103 6, £2-95.

Whenever we consult Census Returns we frequently come across agricultural labourers but from time to time find references to a wide range of other occupations, many of which are unfamiliar to us. We are indebted therefore to Joyce Culling for compiling such a handy list of trades and crafts which we can dip into. Many of us, who have relied on the first edition for several years, welcome this revision containing several extra definitions.

Some of the entries are most unusual; for instance the trade of gummer turns out to be one who renovated saws for cutting wood; duffer, a pedlar of women's clothes and pleacher, a hedge-layer. There is also a selection of very early occupations from the seven or eight hundred years ago when Latin terms like *textor* (weaver) and *tinctor* (dyer) were still quite common in taxation lists.

Basic Facts About Using Education Records; by *Colin R Chapman*, FFHS (Publications) Ltd, Birmingham, 1999. 16 pp, A5 format, paperback. ISBN 1 86006 1060, £1-50.

Dr Chapman has written several extremely useful manuals on various aspects of family history research. In spite of this being one of his shortest it is nevertheless a very good example of how he accurately focusses on the matter in hand. He begins by drawing attention to the institutional records, student records and reports of events associated with the institutions and students. He goes on to identify the variety of establishments including those which were religiously based, those derived from occupational fraternities, plus academic, civic, military and commercial foundations. He also deals with the relevant legislation of the late 19th century which eventually enabled everyone in Britain to receive some formal education.

The booklet mentions the the substantial volume of published literature in this field including printed registers, biographical directories and year-books which are readily accessible in major libraries. Naturally only a relatively small proportion of the available information appears in print so it is usually necessary to consult archives such as admissions and attendance registers, log books recording the the day-to-day life of a school, punishment books recording names, offences and retribution; minutes of Governors and Trustees, etc. Normally these items have been deposited in the County Record Office, where, in general there are specialised catalogues, card indexes and, increasingly, computer databases.

The point is made that family archives and artefacts occasionally contain certain documents, like proficiency certificates, and other memorabilia including group photographs and trophies relating to educational background and these often provide further useful evidence. Official reports by Government and Local Authorities may be consulted but articles in local newspapers or specialist periodicals may yield more interesting detail. As usual Dr Chapman's text is well-written and very well worth reading.

Derek A Palgrave

Forthcoming Conferences and Other Events

30 October, 1999

North Western Family History Fair
organised by local family history societies
Preston, Lanes

29 November to 4
December, 1999

Public Record office
Closed

25 March, 2000

Millennium Conference
Parchment to Website
hosted by Catholic FHS
on behalf of NW Group of FFHS
Hope University, Liverpool

1 April, 2000

Silver Jubilee Conference and AGM
Guild of One-Name Studies

8 April, 2000

One Day Conference
Computers in Family History
Hosted by SoG & NE Group FFHS
Askham Bryan College, York

12-16 April, 2000
(Revised date)

9th British Family History Conference
Domesday to Database
hosted by Wiltshire FHS
incorporating FFHS AGM & Council Meeting
University of Bath

1 July 2000

East Anglian Group Conference
hosted by Huntingdonshire FHS
Swavesey Village College

1-3 September, 2000

Weekend Conference - Lincolnshire FHS

Incorporating FFHS Council Meeting
Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln

27 September to 1
October, 2000

Perth Congress 2000
University of Western Australia

Notice to Members

If you change your address please notify the Society so that the principal officers are always able to maintain up-to-date and accurate lists of members' addresses.

Editor's Postscript

The Escutcheon is compiled for and by the members of the Society. I would like to thank all those who have sent in articles and reports for inclusion in future issues of our journal. I look forward to receiving further contributions from them and from any other members with information of interest to our readership. If you wish you may contact me by E-mail (see address below), but posted typescripts. Word files on floppy disk or attachments are all acceptable.

So far we have been able to produce around eight pages per issue and, on a few occasions, we have increased this to twelve pages. With additional contributors we might be able to justify even more pages each term. Original articles are always welcome irrespective of their precise subject matter although items related to me University and its Colleges have an obvious appeal. For instance Eve Logan's recent two-part article, devoted to marriages in Cambridge College Chapels during the Eighteenth Century, was particularly apposite. Incidentally readers, who are on Internet, may like to visit the Society's website <http://www.cam.ac.uk/CambUniv/Societies/cuhags> which features several back numbers of The Escutcheon published during the period 1995-1999. John Horton has inserted links so that individual articles may be accessed with ease.

In the past we have published lists of surnames, associated with specific locations, which occur in the ancestry of our readers. This was to enable others with similar links to make contact. If you would like to take advantage of this option please let me know.

Derek A Palgrave

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