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*Easter Term 2001*

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## *A message from the President*

When I joined CUH&GS last year it was a time of great change. The society had just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding and the Golden Jubilee year was one of the most successful in the society's recent history. On being elected to the Presidency, whilst I cannot deny my obvious delight, I was only too aware of tremendous responsibility that accompanied the office. I mentioned change earlier, and this could not be truer, because just as the world was going leaving a century and indeed millennium behind, so too, CUH&GS was entering a new stage in its life.

Whilst CUH&GS remains a convivial and vibrant association of ladies and gentlemen, who enjoy meeting each other under most sociable circumstances, its primary objective is as an academic society to promote a serious study and pursuit of Heraldry and Genealogy. This was the aim that guided my efforts in drawing up the society's calendar. The choice of speakers reflected the society's desire to maintain the strong links it has enjoyed with the many bodies and associations to which it is affiliated such as the College of Arms, the Federation of Family History Societies and the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. Thus we heard from Mr. Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, Mr. Derek Palgrave and Mr. Cecil Humphery-Smith.

Though we are primarily a University Society, a large proportion of the membership is representative of the Town. The influence and impact of the people and the city of Cambridge on the evolution of the University, cannot be overlooked - you will excuse my use of that most infamous phrase but after all it was coined in Cambridge! Therefore we invited probably the most eminent local historian Cambridge has, Mr. Mike Petty, and Dr Philip Saunders of the County Records Office, Shire Hall, to address us. New speakers to the society included Mr. Patrick Lamb, of James Lock and Co. London and Mr. Anthony

McClenaghan. The former gave a most entertaining lecture on military headgear and the latter spoke with great authority on Indian Princely Regalia. But the highlight of the year was most definitely the Mountbatten Memorial Lecture delivered this year by none other than Mr. John Brooke-Little, formerly Clarenceux King of Arms. Mr. Brooke-Little has not been in the best of health recently but this did not prevent him from giving an outstanding lecture peppered with his customary humour, wit, erudition and charm. It was a memorable evening and a great personal privilege to be present. In the last term we heard from two of our own members. Our own beloved Senior Treasurer, Dr. Gordon Wright, gave the first lecture when he spoke on the history and heraldry of the de Clares whilst the last lecture of the year, given by Miss Barbara Megson was devoted to life and death in Chaucer's London.

I cannot say which speaker was best during the year, because each was an expert in his or her chosen field and, while I am sure that individual members had their personal preferences, the general standard was excellent and catered to the varied interests within the Membership.

The society is specially grateful to Mr. David Whyte, Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms and former President, for having sacrificed his weekend to arrange a tour of the College of Arms during the Lent Term. We express our thanks also to Mr. Cecil Humphery-Smith for having organised a trip to Canterbury Cathedral in the Easter Term.

The society has not been without its share of misfortune this past year. Earlier this year, the society lost one of its most valued and well-loved members, Mrs. Evelyn Logan. Eve, as we knew her had served on the committee for some years and was eminent in her own field of Family History. Not only had she undertaken an exhaustive study of the genealogy of her own family but also had compiled a book based on her research into Cambridge College Chapel Registers. Education was a subject very dear to Eve's heart and the local foundation established in her memory will serve to support deserving students who experience financial constraints. We are very glad that Bari, Eve's husband is with us today and that he has joined CUH&GS as a member. We look forward to enjoying several years of fellowship with him as we did with Eve. On a personal note, though I knew Eve for only a short time I held her in great affection and was touched that she had proposed me for the Presidency. It has been suggested in the Committee that an Eve Logan Memorial Lecture should be instituted to recognise her considerable efforts on behalf of the Society. Members of the committee have indicated that the lecture should be delivered by an eminent genealogist so I hope that this proposal will meet with the approval of the membership. Her contribution to the society cannot be estimated, Apart from the exuberance, friendliness and warmth, which were natural attributes of her character given to all who met her, her fortitude and courage were inspiring.

Sir Colin Cole and Sir Walter Verco passed away earlier this year and the society joins the nation in mourning their loss.

The Society has for the better part of the year functioned without a secretary so the responsibility for this most difficult office fell upon the junior Treasurer, Mr. Robin Millerchip. Robin, already overburdened with other responsibilities, never once complained having spend tireless hours undertaking the duties of Acting Secretary. His and also Sarah's efforts merit our highest commendation. However I am glad to say that William Edwards volunteered as Secretary and was coopted during the Lent Term and although he came in at a late stage he undertook his responsibilities most efficiently.

At you are aware, the society has been concerned with an unfortunate matter which raised at the General Meeting last year. Although it had been the task of the Committee to settle this matter, it could not be resolved until an EGM was held two weeks ago. I sincerely hope that an amicable solution has been reached.

I have greatly enjoyed being President of CUH&GS this past year. From the moment I joined the society last year as an undergraduate I was received with warmth and friendliness by one and all. I am most grateful to the Committee for their support and to the membership for having attended the meetings and dinners throughout the year in such large numbers. It has been a pleasure to see all of you every fortnight. Special mention must be made to Dr. Gordon Wright. I thank him for his friendship, encouragement and wise counsel.

It is my hope that the newly elected committee will release a special Golden Jubilee edition of The Escutcheon. Also it is my desire that a service of thanksgiving be held to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Society. Belated congratulations are due to Professor Peter Spufford, one of the Society's founding fathers, who recently has been awarded a personal chair in History by the University.

I always knew that my predecessor was a tough act to follow. Your appreciation of my efforts is the only reward I seek so I trust that I have served you well. I am also thankful for your having supported my re-election as President for a further year. I offer a warm welcome the newly elected committee and earnestly hope that the Society will continue to prosper during the next academic year.

*Anando Mukerjee*

**GENEALOGY IN HASLINGFIELD**

*An alternative service provider*  
**Harold Evan Hopkins**

It was in 1986 that I first took an interest in the churchyard at Haslingfield. At that time groups of young people would meet on Wednesday evenings to tidy the yard and as time went by I realised that it would be useful to have a record of all the inscriptions on the stones. It wasn't long before I found out that the Cambridgeshire Family History Society had started to do Haslingfield some years previously but had not been able to finish it. They were only too glad to pass the task on to me, and I spent the next three years checking and amending their original recordings. Each stone had been recorded on a single sheet of a note pad and inserted in a ring binder along with a rough sketch plan. I discovered that there was no graveyard plan for the area to the south of the church, but there was one of sorts for the north. Having completed the field work, I set about typing out all the information on a word processor. I had to devise some sort of identification system such that the relative positions of the stones could easily be identified. The numbers of those in the old part to the south of the church had no prefix, those on the north side of the footpath were prefixed N, while those inside the church were prefixed C. I also used a code to show what type of stone or memorial it was, such as 'A' for a headstone, or 'B' for an altar tomb, and so on.

I spent many long hours with a 75 foot tape measure trying to plot the relative positions of the graves on the south side, and lost several tent pegs in the process. I first drew the plans of the yard out by hand on graph paper, then traced them and then reduced them to fit A3 and A4 sizes of paper. I used different shapes to indicate different shapes of memorial. When it came to drawing out the plan for the part to the north of the footpath, I found an old piece of paper showing the positions of all the graves, including those without stones. From this I was able to make two drawings of the north side, one showing the relevant positions (also with a type code) and the other, which was more symmetrical, containing the register and memorial numbers, and whether the plot was a single or double depth. The latter information is very important on the death of a widow or widower, when the undertakers need to know if there is enough room. To illustrate this point, there is one grave where the third coffin is only two feet from the surface and is covered by a concrete slab, so errors can happen. Enlarged copies of all the plans are kept with the Burial Register and regularly updated.

To save writing out the memorial words each time, another code was developed where the leading letters were used, eg 'ILMO' means 'In Loving Memory of' or 'CLMO' for 'Cherished and Loving Memories of' and so on. An oblique slash showed a change of line on the original memorial. Here is an example of how a memorial inscription is actually recorded;

46 A(B)(F) ILM/WILLIAM PATE\_\_\_/who departed this life/May 4th 1841/aged 54 years/also/MARGARETTA his daughter/who departed this life/Feb 2nd 1847/ aged 24 years/also SARAH/wife of the above/died Nov 14 1862/aged 78 years (*this stone was readable in 1992 - now frost damaged* )

[A = headstone; (B) = broken; (F) = flat on ground; ILM = In Loving Memory of]

I am sometimes able to add details that are missing by referring to the appropriate burial register. This information is recorded in italics or in brackets.

The first edition of the Memorial/Monumental Inscriptions came out in 1989 and this was soon found to contain a number of errors. I took more care over the next edition which was published in 1992, adding new inscriptions and including the results of a flora and fauna survey completed by the young people of the village.

By the turn of the century I decided it was time to produce a third edition (March 2000). This included a lot of extra information about the inscriptions on the bells, past vicars, and a listing and plan of those graves without stones. I also included details of the war memorial which is in the churchyard. Copies of the Memorial Inscriptions have been sold in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

Shortly after I became Churchwarden in 1992, it was agreed that all the older church registers should be deposited in the County Record Office. In order to avoid having to go to the CRO every time we wanted to look anyone up, I decided to transcribe the registers first. This has now been done and there is now a record from 1599 to 1969, with some gaps in the early years, and I have recently embarked on further transcriptions from 1969 to the present day. We are now in a good position to readily access any information which may be required from those who come as pilgrims or visitors to the church. Haslingfield church was always on the mediaeval pilgrim route to Ely and East Anglia, and it is possible that the money collected from the pilgrims at the time was used to assist in the building of the church we see today.

Here is now an example of how I have been able to help the modern day visitor. One afternoon some years ago my fellow churchwarden who was in the churchyard at the time, was approached by an Australian couple who were looking for their ancestors' graves and any other information. She was able to direct them to my house as she knew I had recently recorded the memorials. Needless to say it wasn't long before we returned to the church, where I was able to show them the window in the chancel with their surname on it, which was photographed, as well as the gravestone in the old part of the yard, once

we had pulled all the long grass back. During the course of conversation it transpired that the husband of the couple was descended from two young people who got married in Haslingfield in 1848, and then immediately emigrated to Melbourne, Australia. After exchanging addresses, they went away and I heard nothing more until an international money order for five hundred Australian dollars arrived with a request for yet more information. After many exchanges of letters, and with the help of the Mormon records he was able to produce a huge volume of his family history, a copy of which is now in our church records. So this was really the beginning of the genealogical service which I now operate from Haslingfield.

Since that time, however, I have been able to help 44 other people with information about their ancestors. The procedure I have developed is that whenever they visit the church, the visitors will see a notice that those seeking genealogical information are asked to put their names and addresses in the Visitors' Book, and write down who it is they seek, and I then contact them by phone or mail. Sometimes I meet them in or around the church, and am able to talk to them about the church, its development and its history, and show them the graves they seek. There is a copy of the latest Memorial Inscriptions in the Visitor's Centre which is just inside the entrance of the church. I find it immensely satisfying to help people in this way, and have made many friends. At the same time that I am scanning and producing lists of names etc, I am compiling lists for future use from which will enable me to draw out family trees of people who used to live here.

When I run out of information on a particular enquiry, I put them in contact with the The Haslingfield Village Society Archivist, who is more than willing to help from very large archive of village history. The Cambridgeshire Family History Society has now put all our transcripts on microfiche, and there are copies in the Cambridgeshire Record Office and Cambridgeshire Collection.

For further information about the village, the churches and the people I invite you to visit the village web site on "[www.haslingfield.net](http://www.haslingfield.net)," where you will see a site which is run like a magazine and regularly updated.

I would, however, recommend a visit to Haslingfield Church itself to see not only the finest tower in Cambridgeshire, according to several books, but also the unique painted chancel ceiling depicting the saints' emblems of the Red Letter Days of the Christian year after the Reformation. Don't forget to buy a copy of our 'little red book' - the church guide which explains the ceiling and the history of the building.



## The Jervis World War I Photographic Index

The aim of this index is to ensure that photographs and ephemera relating to service personnel who fought in the First World War found in bookshops and at fairs which would otherwise have been lost, are preserved and made accessible. The compiler is particularly concerned with ensuring that the part played by the common man in the tumultuous events of the Great War does not go unmarked by posterity and that there is more than just a name on a war memorial to record the passing of men who fought and often died for King and Country.

The index, compiled by Simon Jervis and consisting of photographs of World War I servicemen and officers (mainly soldiers, but it does include some sailors, marines and airmen) is open for searches. Every photograph has been carefully researched and identified from the Medal Rolls and other records.

The number, rank and name is given together with the regiment or unit and details of any decorations. Details of regiment(s) and corps in which the man served are also recorded together with any subsequent renumbering. Many men served with several regiments and many who were wounded were not sent back to the trenches after convalescence, but transferred to the Labour Corps.

The index also includes other ephemera such as postcards and letters to and from the man, discharge documents, photographs of graves (often the original field grave), medal slips, Christmas cards, memorial cards and pay books.

The information has been computerised by Imperial Soldier Searches and on receipt of a cheque or postal order for £3-00 and a stamped, addressed, envelope (UK) or an International Money Order for £3-00 in sterling, plus self addressed envelope and two Inter-national Reply Coupons (overseas) a search will be made. If nothing is found, the enquiry will be included in the database and checked against future additions as new material is coming in all the while. If an entry is found the enquiry will be passed to Simon Jervis who will negotiate with the enquirer direct for copies of the relevant material. Because of the archival nature of the material, he will retain copyright of all photographs and will offer laser or photographic copies and negatives. Remittances, payable to Imperial Soldier Searches, should be sent to Cobwebs, Long Burton, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 5PD, UK.

*Readers should also be aware that there is a Photographic Archive at the Imperial War Museum (visitor's room at All Saints Annexe, Austral Street, London, 0171-416-5333, open by appointment Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 5.00pm.) that has over 5 million WWI, WW2 and post-war photographs. Write to the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ*

## Forthcoming Conferences & Other Events

**8-13 July,  
2001**

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain  
21<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY  
*To be held in London – details from Dr A P Joseph*

**31 August –  
2 September,  
2001**

Society of Genealogists Autumn Conference  
FORWARD TO THE PAST  
*Imperial College, London*  
Incorporating the FFHS Council Meeting

**22  
September,  
2001**

Public Record Office Open Day – Free Admission  
VICTORIAN TIMES  
*Historical Recreations, Tours and Tableaux: 10-00 am – 4-00 pm*

**12-14 April,  
2002**

Guild of One-Name Studies Spring Conference  
DAMNATION, EDUCATION,  
COOPERATION, SALVATION  
*University of Warwick*  
Incorporating FFHS AGM & Council Meeting & also Guild AGM

## Editor's Postscript

This magazine, which appears each term, is the official publication of the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society. It is published for the benefit of the Society's membership so I very much hope that members will take advantage of its pages to let us know about their own researches into family history and heraldry.

If you have material you would like to see published please feel free to contact me at one of the Society's meetings or by E-mail, telephone, fax or letter.

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