

Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

Date - Wednesday 18th November 2009

Next Meeting - 16th December 2009

Issue 36

www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk

Notice Board

➤ Quarriers

Approximately 30,000 children spent at least some of their childhood in the Orphan Homes of Scotland, a name changed in 1958 to Quarriers Homes. Each child's entry to and departure from the Homes was recorded as was basic information about the family's circumstances. Records generally include more information about the progress of the individual child from the mid-1960s...

www.quarriers.org.uk

➤ Glosgen

If you are interested in Gloucestershire, or Family History, or both, then this site is for you. Parish records, the FLIGHT database and much more are all available to you

www.glosgen.co.uk

➤ Who Do You Think You Are

like the series this website can be a great help into what different historical records there are out there. Also some very helpful links to genealogy up coming events across the UK.

www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com

➤ Look Up Uk

This is a Resource Centre for finding that Lost relatives or friends in the UK. It may or may not help you with your research, however it has some useful contact information and where to look.

www.lookupuk.com

Beyond Parish Registers and Censuses 3



Who was John Doe?

When I began researching a branch of my paternal line, I discovered a marriage between Mary Ann Humphreys and Samuel Doe dated 4th February 1823. Along came several children including one called John. However, my curiosity was aroused when I found John Doe in documents where he had no right to be - he popped up in parts of my maternal line.

I was looking at **marriage licenses** and I realised that John Doe was the name given to a fictitious person bound along with the groom into a bond to pay the archdeacon a sum of money if a marriage did not take place, usually one or two hundred pounds.

There are three parts to a marriage license, although the **license** itself has rarely survived, we normally have only the **bond** and **allegation**. Whilst collecting several licenses on my maternal line, I have just one on my paternal line and the reason for this anomaly will become apparent later.

I first came across a licence in a parish register when my 4x great grandfather John Humphreys married Sarah Pudney on 1st March 1793 in the little village of Cressing. The entry simply stated that they had "Married in this Church by Licence." Intrigued, I ordered the original document at the Essex Record Office and amongst a large bundle of licences, I came to the one marked (incorrectly) Samuel Humphreys. It was then that I discovered what a wealth of information these documents might contain.

There were two sheets, folded in half. The first one turned out to be the **bond**, pre-printed, but with spaces filled in by hand - original spelling has been maintained. It was dated "First Day of March in the Thirty Third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George ye Third" (1793). It began "Samuel Humphrey of the Parish of Hatfield Peverel Husbandman & William Pudney of the Parish of Cressing Blacksmith both in ye County of Essex" were bound in the sum of "one hundred Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain."

Further down, it stated that "John Humphrey of ye Parish of Hatfield Peverel in ye County of Essex Batchelor & Minor & Sarah Pudney of ye Parish of Cressing in ye County of Essex Spinster & Minor may lawfully solemnize Marriage together." It continued "& that the said Marriage be had & Solemnized by & with the Consent of the above bounden Samuel Humphrey the natural & lawful Father of ye said Jno Humphrey ye Minor & Wm Pudney ye natural & lawful Father of Sarah Pudney the Minor." The icing on the cake, so to speak, was that both Samuel and William made their marks at the foot of the page.

The **allegation** had also been pre-printed with handwritten details added. It began "This first Day of March One Thousand seven Hundred & Ninety Three Appeared personally John Humphrey and made Oath that he is of the Parish of Hatfield Peverel in the County of Essex aged Twenty Years Minor and intendeth to marry with Sarah Pudney of the Parish of Cressing in ye County of Essex aged Twenty Years Spinster & Minor by & with the Consent of their natural & lawful Fathers Wm Pudney & Saml Humphry. The next part states that the marriage was to take place in the Parish Church of Cressing, whereupon John made his mark.

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At the foot of the page, there followed two handwritten paragraphs, the first states: "Then also appear'd Personally Samuel Humphry of the Parish of Hatfield Peverell in ye County of Essex aforesaid & alledg'd that He is ye natural & lawful Father of the said John Humphry the Minor & that He is consenting to ye above intended Marriage." Samuel then made his mark. The second paragraph is similar, but refers to William and Sarah Pudney, followed by William making his mark.

Probably what I found even more exciting was that I held in my hands a document over two hundred years-old touched and signed by two 5x great, and one 4x great grandfathers.

As mentioned above, there were far more marriage licences on my maternal side, the reason being that the Alexander's were farmers and marriage by licence was more of a status symbol and avoided the publication of banns in front of all and sundry. So why the single licence on the Humphreys side? Well, licences were more expensive than banns which agricultural labourers could ill-afford. However, what may provide the solution to this riddle was the baptism of John and Sarah's first-born John, on 28th April 1793, I'll leave you to do the maths.

So the moral of the story - John Doe may not be an unidentified body lying in an American mortuary!

Article by David Humphries



Who Starred In Quiz ???

- 1 Name the actress born on 5th November 1913. She married three times and one of her movies included "Waterloo Bridge" she died of Tuberculosis in 1967?
- 2 Name the author who wrote "The Hobbit"
- 3 Who starred in Casablanca 1942?
- 4 Name The Male lead in "Streetcar Named Desire"
5. Who Starred "In Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
- 6 which author wrote "The Famous Five" Children's books?

Name Them



Our Bloody Ships

"There's something wrong with our bloody ships today" were the words of Admiral Jellicoe as he saw yet another Battle cruiser blow up taking thousands of British sailors lives.

On the 31st of May 1916 the British High seas fleet encountered the German Grand fleet off the coast of Jutland in the North Sea. Battle cruisers HMS Indefatigable, Invincible and Queen Mary all blew up taking thousands of lives. In total 14 British ships were sunk on that day and 6097 lives were lost.

On the German side 11 ships of varying sizes were sunk with 2115 lives lost. On paper purists may say the British lost the battle due to the higher losses but the object of the fleet in being and the battle itself was to establish superiority and control over the North Sea and this was achieved. The German fleet never again put to sea until after the end of the war when it sailed into Scapa Flow and surrendered.

Why did the British Battle cruisers blow up? It was due to the actual handling of the explosives and shells to feed the ever-hungry guns. Shells penetrated the armour of the ships and ignited the unprotected cordite placed around the guns. This was known within weeks of the battle but Jellicoe was now made First Lord of the Admiralty and he "covered up" the reason.

This legacy continued into World War 2 when the Battle cruiser HMS Hood suffered the same fate as its class at Jutland when it blew up under the guns of Bismark.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter or share your research please feel free to contact myself
Cheryl Horncastle

Email: Cheryl@familypast.co.uk