

Chairman: Dr Alan Thomson

Secretary: Dr Heather Falvey

Treasurer: Mr Ian Fisher

Chairman's Report

At the last HRS AGM Jane Walker and Peter Elliott stood down as Trustees of the HRS. Both had held additional roles within the Society: Jane as Sales Manager and Peter as Newsletter Editor. We had recently welcomed Alison Cassidy as a Trustee, and she kindly agreed to manage the sales and distribution of our volumes, and has been doing so for the past year. Philip Sheail became a Trustee at the last AGM and kindly agreed to edit the Newsletter. We are grateful to Alison and Philip for taking up these roles and, of course, to Jane and Peter for all of their hard work on behalf of the Society.

The HRS has close links with the Hertfordshire Association for Local History, and both the HRS and HALH have a representative on the other's Executive Committee. The HALH holds regional meetings in various areas of the county to discuss aspects of local research and to exchange ideas. It also has an annual award scheme for exceptional work in the local history of Hertfordshire. The annual symposium this year will be on Saturday 9 November at Woolmer Green, the theme for which will be 'Local History, Landscape & Archaeology'. Furthermore Anne Rowe's latest book, *Tudor and Early Stuart Parks in Hertfordshire*, has recently been published by Hertfordshire Publications and can be obtained from the University of Hertfordshire Press.

At each of the HRS Trustee's meetings, Gary Moyle, archivist at HALS and their representative to the HRS, provides details of the latest accessions into the archives. These vary enormously in age and range, some being centuries old, but also twentieth century records. Many relate to schools within the county, for example, material concerning the 60th anniversary of Morgans Primary School, Hertford, including the recorded memories of the Head Teacher. Other schools have produced audio recordings including that of 'Sunday Half Hour' at Berkhamsted School; Broxbourne School choir in 1972; and Goff's School bands also in the '70s. Increasing numbers of twentieth century sources are being deposited from parish, district and county level. Nineteenth century parish registers have come from St Bartholomew's Wigginton; minute books and financial papers from Westmill parish council from its inception in 1890 to 1989; and a large deposit from Bishops Stortford Urban District Council for an even longer period 1857-1968. A large number of title deeds and leases have also been deposited, including manorial records from Hinxworth; deeds from Ippolitts and Maydencroft Manor in Hitchin; and deeds and land conveyances from St Albans 1585-1830. There are also some interesting 'oddities' including posters advertising a 'Mesmerist' in Hitchin in 1859 including 'Electro-biology, Mesmerism & other exhibitions for entertainment'. Photographs are also being deposited at HALS, for example, from Hexton from 1890s to 1960s; of roads and bridges in Ware and Bishops Stortford with signposts for the period 1935-1973; and photographs on postcards from Shenley 1894-1987. All these sources are worth studying by anyone wanting to write on aspects of Hertfordshire history in the recent, and not quite so recent, past.

Alan Thomson

AGM Venue

This year's AGM will be held in the Mill Bridge Rooms, The Wash, Hertford. The building dates from the mid-nineteenth century and was originally used as a seed warehouse by A. McMullen & Co. Ltd. The McMullen family are best known for the brewery business which was founded in Hertford by Peter McMullen in 1827. Following his retirement in 1860, the brewery was run as a partnership by his sons, Osmund and Alexander, but the latter also built up an ancillary line of business as a coal and seed merchant. The building is now owned by Hertford Town Council and, apart from the meeting rooms, it also provides some office space and houses the collections of Hertford Museum.

Volume XXXV, Hertford Gaol Records (1830s and 1840s)

Hertford Gaol Records is the volume for 2019/20. A flavour of the records kept by the Hertford County Gaol is vividly revealed in such entries as: 28 April 1838 – James Bacon given 30 lashes but Edward Harris only 24 'because he was of a weak disposition'; 18 April 1840 – Emma Bygrave sentenced to two days in a solitary cell for singing in the Gaol; 13 September 1842 – James Neeson sentenced to two days in a solitary cell for repeatedly laughing. A boy, John Scales, pulled nails from his cell window and received three days in solitary on bread and water in 1836. He was called a hardened and mischievous lad.

These harsh punishments were thought necessary because by the 1830s Hertford Gaol contained a large number of disaffected and sometimes violent people as terms of imprisonment with hard labour had replaced the public and brutal punishments of an earlier era such as the pillory, the stocks and branding. Hanging was now reserved for murder and treason, but still took place in public and was a popular spectacle. Thomas Cook even ran excursion trains to witness it. Transportation continued and about 520 people from Hertfordshire left for Australia between 1834 and 1844, the youngest being a boy of nine years old. Hard labour within the gaol took the form of up to nine hours a day on the tread wheel. The prisoners hated this and some harmed themselves to try to avoid it. The crank was later introduced which consisted of a handle which prisoners had to turn many times in a day. It could be screwed tighter to make it harder to turn so the turnkey who controlled the mechanism was often called a screw. Women and old and feeble men had to pick oakum, teasing out strands of old rope until their fingers bled. Prisoners were forbidden to talk to each other or make any other noise and were expected to look straight ahead. They were punished for turning round while on the wheel, for example, which usually meant days in a cell without light on basic rations or whipping for more serious breaches of the rules.

We know a great deal about life in Hertford Gaol because, under the Prisons Act of 1823, governors had to keep a journal of the punishments meted out and any other important occurrences within the gaol. Volume XXXV will comprise a transcription of the first two surviving volumes of the Hertford Governors' Journals from 1834 to 1844 which give a graphic picture of life

within the gaol for inmates and staff alike. It illustrates the struggles of the inmates to survive under such harsh conditions and the struggles of the staff to keep order whilst trying some small and not very successful measures of rehabilitation, mainly through the efforts of the chaplain.

Eileen Wallace

**Special Publication: *Hertfordshire Population Statistics 1563 to 1801* (2nd edition)
First edition by Lionel Munby (1964),
updated by Heather Falvey**

Hertfordshire Population Statistics 1563-1801 includes tables with population figures for 127 pre-nineteenth century Hertfordshire parishes. The data come primarily from ecclesiastical sources which counted parishioners, sometimes non-Anglicans, whilst others simply counted 'houses'. The original sources did not list individuals' names. The tables include all of the figures available from each source, but returns do not survive for every parish in every source. Introductory chapters discuss the figures in general terms, population trends in so far as they can be ascertained, Dissenters and Roman Catholics, and how to interpret and use the tables.

First published in 1964 and long out of print, the statistics have been reprinted by the Hertfordshire Record Society, as a tribute to Lionel Munby who was a founding member of the Society and its first Honorary Secretary. All of the data are, of course, still valid, but this reprint provides the opportunity for some amendments and additions to be made. Archival references have been updated; footnotes and a postscript have been added referring to recent work on the various sources; and two new appendices provide some recently-discovered data from the archdeaconry of St. Albans dated 1595 and references for some surviving hearth tax returns

All members for 2018/19 will receive a free copy, following its launch at the HALH Spring Meeting on 18 May 2019. It will be £5 for non-members (or for additional member's copies).

Heather Falvey

Review of Volume 34, *Walter Morrell's 'Manufacture for the New Draperie' (1616)*, from *Economic History Review*.

Walter Morrell's proposal to establish cloth-making for the unemployed poor was an ambitious attempt to reinvigorate the Hertfordshire textile industry through a co-ordinated work scheme. Morrell's scheme was a mixture of partly capitalist and partly co-operative enterprise. His company or corporation would have 'adventurers' and shares, but also a Crown monopoly, giving it the power to supervise all new drapery in the county. This volume reproduces Morrell's *Manufacture for the New Draperie*, an explanation for the project, written to coincide with the awarding of a royal charter establishing the monopoly company. The manuscript is now in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, having formed part of the archives of diplomat William Trumbull (c.1579-1635). Inexplicably Morrell's manuscript was not acquired by the British Library when it purchased the rest of the family archive in 1989.

Morrell's Manufacture is divided into three sections. Much of the text outlines Morrell's ten-year campaign to obtain official recognition of his project. Scattered among this are imaginary discourses or debates between

a spokesman for the new draperies and speakers who represent other interests. Statistical tables present cost-benefit analysis. Both the tables and the logical arguments demonstrate the economic benefits of extending the production of new draperies across the country. Morrell's text also includes sample ordinances and regulations for his company and associated institutions.

Walter Morrell was a native of Devon, who moved to London. Plague in the city took him to Enfield in 1603, where he claims he was inspired to propose a solution to unemployment and poverty by setting the idle poor to work making new draperies. He gained the patronage of Sir Robert Cecil, and set up a prototype workshop and school in the new draperies at Hatfield. Under the terms of agreements made in late 1608 or early 1609, Morrell undertook to train 50 persons from the parish of Hatfield in cloth-making for 10 years. Morrell would maintain 20 as apprentices, teach the remainder and pay reasonable wages. He supplied materials and instructors, while Cecil provided buildings to house 10 looms. Morrell had possibly been a trader of coarse narrow cloth known as Devonshire kerseys. There is no evidence that he had ever made cloth before he took charge of the new draperies project at Hatfield. The new draperies were lighter and narrower woollen cloths than the heavier broadcloths. They offered, Morrell believed, the greatest value to English wools and provided employment to the largest number of workers. The new draperies were already being produced in Essex and east Kent, and Morrell argued that they lacked the regulation and quality control applied to broadcloths.

Hertfordshire was a county almost totally dependent on agriculture, with an economy which offered relatively few employment opportunities for women and children. Its population had expanded rapidly in the later sixteenth century and many poor migrants passed along its roads and squatted on its commons. It could therefore be seen as ripe for the opportunities offered by cloth-making. The deputy lieutenants persuaded Morrell to pilot his project in eight principal towns in Hertfordshire. Yet a trawl of records has so far only identified one, Berkhamsted, where Morrell's scheme was implemented. The Hertfordshire gentry objected to Morrell's scheme, complaining about the cost, and thought it was wrong to introduce cloth-making to a county devoted to 'tillage'. The Privy Council continued to defend Morrell but could only force the Hertfordshire gentry to invest in the Company. County politics and society did not enable the Hertfordshire scheme to succeed.

In addition to the text of Morrell's *Manufacture*, this edition contains 43 additional documents relating to the scheme. These draw on sources in national and local archives. There is an appendix of Hertfordshire men named in the documents and a useful glossary of terms. The endpapers even provide a map of the county showing the places of residence of members of the company in 1616. This is a very useful edition providing examples of early modern economic argument using statistics as well as patriotic rhetoric. By drawing on the combined efforts of their research, Michael Zell and Heather Falvey are able to shine a light into this ambitious but ill-fated scheme which highlights the limited economic power of the state in the face of opposing county interests.

John S. Lee
University of York

Review of Volume 26, *The diary of John Carrington, farmer of Bramfield, 1798-1810, 1. 1798-1804, from Agricultural History Review*

The diaries of John Carrington were originally deposited at the Hertfordshire Record Office in 1943 and a typed transcript was prepared in the 1950s. This resulted in two popular accounts, which were published by W. Branch Johnson in 1956 and 1970. In 1973, some three-quarters of the diary, along with extracts from his so-called Arithmetic Book, was also published. All of these works are now long out of print, although they are readily and cheaply available second-hand. In 2010, the Hertfordshire Record Society decided to republish the diaries in full: this book is hardly the new presentation of unknown archive material.

This first volume includes the diaries from 1798 to 1804 along with the Arithmetic Book; the second is due for publication in 2018. As well as being the farmer at Bacons Farm, Bramfield, John Carrington was Chief Constable, Tax Assessor, Surveyor of the Highways and Overseer of the Poor in his parish at various times throughout the period of the diaries. This is reflected in his diary entries such that the record of agriculture relates primarily to the world beyond his own farm. As a result of this, there is little detail of the work going on at the farm, although on p. 123 he records 'Shore my sheep 83', although his own name is not amongst the names of the shearers. The only evidence of the work of the farm interrupting his daily life is on p. 167 where he writes, 'Not market as being buisey at Oates' cart', having noted earlier on the same page that 'In general, crops very great'...

Whilst this volume represents the publication of the complete diary for seven years during the Napoleonic War period, there is little detail about the day-to-day workings at Bacons Farm to satisfy agricultural historians: indeed [the editor] has presented a comprehensive summary of Carrington's farming activities in her introduction using the limited material available. However, it does offer an account of rural life in Hertfordshire during this period, as well as describing the activities carried out by Carrington as an individual in fulfilling his various public duties.

**Alan Wadsworth
Evesham, Worcestershire**

Bees in the medieval economy and in record society volumes

As Editorial Assistant for the *Economic History Review* I see all submissions made to the journal. Although the majority of potential articles relate to the period after 1750, we do receive some medieval and early modern contributions. In 2018 we accepted for publication a fascinating article by Dr Alexandra Sapoznik of King's College London, entitled 'Bees in the medieval economy: religious observance and the production, trade, and consumption of wax in England, c.1300-1555'. As she explains in her introduction, the article 'seeks to understand the demand, production, trade and consumption of an often overlooked but highly significant commodity in medieval England: beeswax'. The abstract summarises its content thus:

High and late Middle Ages saw a significant increase in demand for beeswax, a fundamental component of medieval Christian devotion, spurred by both changing socio-economic conditions and shifts in religious practice. The vast quantities of wax needed for

churches and religious foundations in England drove a thriving international trade spanning from the hinterland of Novgorod to the port Lisbon, while at the same time encouraging widespread domestic beekeeping. This paper considers the impact of supply-side constraints and increasing demand on wax prices, calculating the cost and quantity of wax purchased by large foundations, parish churches and individual offerings, to reveal the hitherto underexplored impact of religious consumption on the medieval economy.

When considering the quantity of wax needed for basic Christian observance in parish churches, the largest total consumers of wax, she uses entries in churchwardens' accounts to substantiate her argument. She scoured published accounts for purchases of wax, wax candles and the like. It was very pleasing to see that, amongst other record society volumes, she made use of HRS volume X, *Early churchwarden's accounts of Bishops Stortford*. Alexandra calculated that in 1432 'wax and attendant labour accounted for 63 per cent of the necessary expenses in the warden's account for Bishop's Stortford' (vol. X, p.12). As well as parishes purchasing wax, they might also have had it donated to them. She found examples of bequests of wax in wills, including those in 1479 by Thomas Palmer of St Peter's parish, St Albans, who gave 1 lb. of wax each to the rood light, the Holy Trinity light, St John Baptist's light and for the light in St Mary's chapel, all in St Peter's church (S. Flood, ed., *St Albans wills*, HRS vol. IX, p. 50).

It is always satisfying to find books or articles that use information found in record society volumes, after all it is the purpose of societies such as ours to make historic manuscripts more accessible to others, not only to read but also to use as source material for research.

FULL REFERENCE for article may be available by APRIL. CURRENTLY ONLY ONLINE: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ehr.12740>

Heather Falvey

'The Unknown A. Bryant and His County Maps' by Jonathan Pepler, *Imago Mundi* 67 (2015), pp.90-103.

In 1985 *Four County Maps of Hertfordshire*, with an Introduction by Donald Hodson, was published by Hertfordshire Publications. One of the four maps was Bryant's *Map of Hertfordshire* (1822). Reproductions of old maps are always popular and in 2003, as the 1985 book was out of print, the HRS decided to publish Bryant's map in 4 sheets (it has subsequently been reprinted). In his Introduction to the HRS map, Alan Ruston stated that: 'The name "A Bryant" appears on his maps, and while some writers believe his first name was Andrew no evidence has been found to support this conclusion'. Bryant's identity, however, is revealed in the article by Jonathan Pepler in *Imago Mundi*.

The name of this 'elusive cartographer' was in fact 'William Andrewes Bryant', sometimes known as 'Andrew Bryant'. His father William Bryant was an attorney who died in prison in 1844, an insolvent debtor and bankrupt.(p.93) His mother Charlotte was second and youngest daughter of William Andrewes.(p.93) They had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood. Of the four sons three had the forename William, including Charles William and William Andrewes, who were both named in their mother's will. As Pepler notes, 'it is reasonable to suppose that they generally used their other names, at least within the family and

perhaps beyond, to avoid confusion'.(p.91) In some documents relating to the family the map-maker is referred to as 'Andrewes' (his given name, his mother's maiden name) and in others 'Andrew'.

Bryant began his survey of Hertfordshire in 1820, 'at the astonishingly young age of 20'.(p.91) He issued a prospectus in 1821, promising publication in the summer of 1822, under the patronage of the Marquis of Salisbury.(p.94) Pepler suggests that he chose Hertfordshire for his first map because it was close to London where he was based (by this time he was living in Great Ormond Street) and because no new map of the county had been published since Dury and Andrew's map in 1766.

The bulk of the article is about the process of surveying for Bryant's map of Cheshire, known because the diaries of William Lloyd Holden, one of his surveyors, have survived for 1829-30. Bryant's last map to be published was that of Herefordshire in 1835. Pepler suggests that one possible explanation is that following a substantial legacy from his mother in 1835 he no longer needed to work. He apparently became an antiques and picture dealer. He married in 1853, when he was 54; his wife Agnes was in her 20s; they had no children. He died in 1878. Bryant's maps were not financially successful but had a reputation amongst contemporaries and they are still appreciated today. Indeed, as Pepler notes, the HRS map's Introduction concludes that it is 'amongst the most finely drawn and elegant maps ever produced of the county'.

Our thanks for Yolande Hodson, widow of Donald, for drawing our attention to this article. Sadly it is not freely available; articles in *Imago Mundi* are available via a subscription to JSTOR.

Heather Falvey

Making use of HRS Volume XV *Observations of Weather': The Weather Diary of Sir John Wittewronge of Rothamsted, 1684-1689*

In July 2018 HALS and the HRS were contacted by volunteers working on a Welsh website that makes available historic weather and environmental data. One section of the website (<http://www.llennatur.cymru>) is devoted to dated and geolocated environmental records called Y Tywyddiadur ('weather diary', although connections with weather are often very indirect). There are more than 100,000 such records on the site. The volunteers publish syntheses of them on various platforms, hitherto only in Welsh: Facebook; the project Bulletin; the journal of Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd (a Wales-wide environmental organization). Although these are Welsh language platforms they do not, of course, confine their data to Welsh language sources.

The volunteers wanted to use entries from Volume XV *Observations of Weather* because the entries would complement and enrich the environmental narratives currently available on the website for the period concerned. The editors of Volume XV were agreeable. And so now, we understand, Sir John Wittewronge's observations are more widely available – except that the website is currently only in Welsh.

Heather Falvey

James Bettley, Nikolaus Pevsner and Bridget Cherry, *Hertfordshire (Pevsner Architectural Guides: Buildings of England)* (hardcover) (Yale University Press) £35

Nikolaus Pevsner's county-by-county guides to architecture are being revised; indeed some members may have been contacted by James Bettley about buildings in their locality. The new Hertfordshire volume was published in March 2019.

According to the jacket 'blurb': 'This fully revised and up-to-date guide to the architecture of Hertfordshire is an eye-opening introduction to the wealth of fine buildings that can be found right on London's doorstep. Hertfordshire is one of the smallest English counties, largely rural in character. Its buildings range from remains of the Roman city of Verulamium to the medieval abbey at St. Albans and the 17th-century Hatfield House. Numerous timber-framed buildings and Georgian houses are found in the small towns whose preservation was aided by the early 20th-century creation of the Garden Cities at Letchworth and Welwyn, as well as Stevenage New Town, built after the Second World War. Pretty villages set in the county's rolling farmland feature churches that have towers crowned with spires known as Hertfordshire spikes, while commuter suburbs are rich in housing from homely Arts and Crafts to radical Modernism. With expanded entries and new colour photography, this is an essential work of reference for visitors and residents alike.'

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If you need to inform us of a change of address, please inform the Secretary. Her contact details are:

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Data protection statement

Since you are a member of this Society, the Secretary and Treasurer hold your personal details: name and address, and telephone number (if supplied) and e-mail address (if supplied). This information is used in the ordinary running of the Society. Under no circumstances will this information be disclosed to a third party without your express permission, unless required by law.

The HRS has a data protection policy which is available to members upon request to the Secretary.