

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

April 2024

Dear Member

I hope you will enjoy reading your April Newsletter and will find it interesting, entertaining or useful. Firstly, I would like to thank those members who renewed their membership at the Annual General Meeting in March. If you were unable to attend the meeting you can renew your membership in several ways. The single membership fee is £14.00 and joint membership is £21.00. You can pay by cash or cheque to any of the Committee members or by post to the address at the end of the newsletter. You may pay by BACS using the following Details. Market Bosworth Society, Virgin Money Sorting Code 82-11-07 account number 00452350. Please place your surname (and the last three characters from your postal code – if permitted) in the reference section. For example mine would be palmer0ju.

Advertisement.

Market Bosworth society is seeking to recruit additional Committee members to join the existing committee.

Would you like to make a difference, learn new skills, meet new friends and discover more about the work of the Market Bosworth Society? Take part in the exciting project to Digitise the Archive? You would? Then read on!

The Society is looking for enthusiastic people of all ages and abilities to join the Committee team. We are looking for people who would like to learn how to book lecturers, arrange field trips and Summer visits, write newsletter articles and press releases. Full training and support will be given, and the amount of time you spend is up to you.

We are also looking for more digitising volunteers. We are currently in the early stages of digitising the archive and whilst we already have some volunteers would welcome anyone with an interest in this type of work. You will learn how to scan and copy items such as photographs and documents, transfer them to a pc/laptop/smartphone/netbook. You will learn how to upload files to the archive and to create accurate descriptions and search words. You will then be able to see the Archive grow and be used worldwide.

The committee work is not arduous, the Committee meets monthly in the evening to discuss any continuing or emerging work. Members then spend whatever time they choose on action points from that meeting. You can do as little or as much as you have time for. Initially you would be co-opted as a Committee Member and would then be elected by the members at the next Annual General Meeting. As a digitising volunteer after training you will be able to spend whatever time you choose. Be that an hour a week or a month, its up to you.

Want to know more? Contact any committee member, or via info@marketbosworthsociety.com or give me a call on 07930149408

Meeting Report

The Royal Observer Corps (ROC), Forewarned is Forearmed.

We welcomed David Skillen, shown below, as a new lecturer and we were not disappointed. David began by explaining that he and his father had been members of the ROC and he had enjoyed many experiences with them. David was a Chief Observer when he retired and whilst that sounds grand he was actually the rank of a Sergeant. The origins of the ROC can be traced back as far as Queen Elizabeth I as it was during her reign the corps was formed. Their job was to monitor the Channel and look out for the Spanish Armada. Once spotted the corps would start off a chain reaction by lighting the first beacon. As the beacons were lit other members of the corps would see the lit beacons and light their own beacons and so on. This meant that the whole country knew that we were threatened with imminent invasion. It would be some weeks before everyone learned who was invading and the outcome of the attempt.



The ROC was active throughout the years, but the next major event affecting them was World War 1. The threat this time came more from the skies than the seas. It is true that the German Navy would sneak up and fire a salvo or two at coastal towns before running away but the real threat this time came not from the sea but the air. The new machine for carrying the war to the enemy was the Zeppelin. These airships could carry large numbers of bombs and could strike anywhere not just the coast. Zeppelins were quite vulnerable to attack as they were effectively a large bag of inflammable gas. Designed to run on the safer Helium gas because of export restrictions this gas was in short supply in Germany. Instead they turned to Hydrogen a much more dangerous and inflammable gas. The difficulty was finding them in the first place in order to fire at them with incendiary bullets. The ROC were tasked with setting up posts where it may be possible to locate Zeppelins and alert the nearest airbase to scramble fighters. Even then it was not always easy to spot the Zeppelin in the dark skies but at least the pilots were given an idea of their height and heading.

In 1917 the German Airforce started to utilise far more fixed wing aircraft and the Zeppelin raids diminished. This new threat needed a new approach and Major General Edward Bailey Ashmore, CB, CMG, MVO (20



February 1872 – 5 October 1953) shown left, who was a British Army officer from the 1890s to the 1920s who served in the Royal Artillery, the Royal Flying Corps and briefly in Royal Air Force before founding and developing the organisation that would become the Royal Observer Corps as we know it today. He was appointed to devise improved systems of detection, communication and control. A system to be called the Metropolitan Observation Service was created which covered the London area and was known as the London Air Defence Area.

This was soon extended towards the coasts of Kent and Essex. The system met with some success and although it was not fully working until late summer 1918 (the last air raid took place on 19 May). The lessons learnt were to provide valuable grounding for later developments.

During World War 2 the ROC was once again asked to help in the detection of bombers. Watson Watt, the inventor of radar (and here David digressed to tell us a lovely story about Watson. Whilst driving his car in the US he was stopped for speeding having been caught doing over the limit by an officer with a radar gun. Upon learning about the method of being caught speeding he is alleged to have said “If I knew you were going to use radar for that I would not have invented it” Whether true or not it is a charming story). The radar was a great boon to detecting attacks but it had two serious disadvantages. Firstly it could only look forward and once an aircraft had passed over the towers it could turn in any direction. Secondly it could not at that time differentiate between a fighter and a bomber. Fighters could be a nuisance but bombers could cause heavy casualties and so it was vital not to waste aircraft, fuel and pilots chasing after fighters but to concentrate on the much deadlier threat.

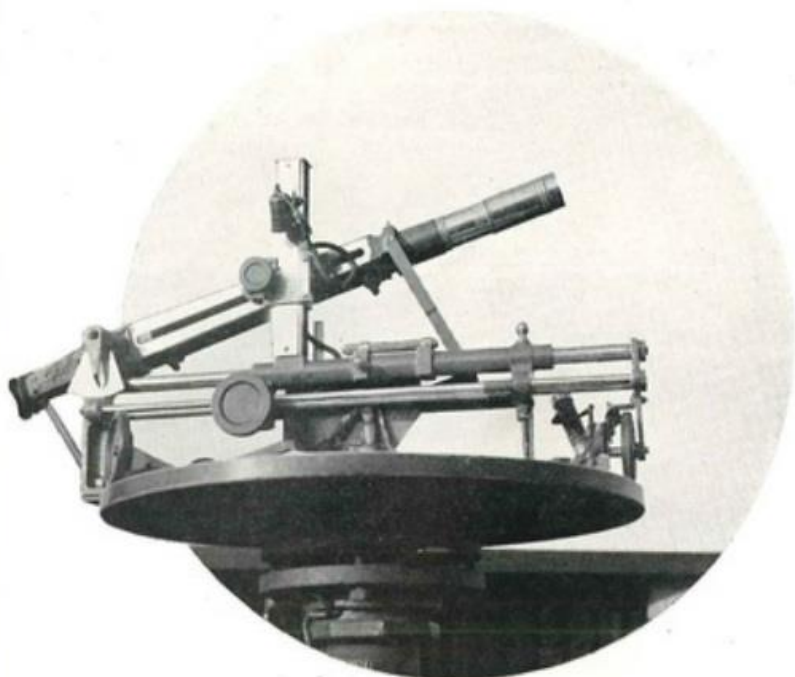


A network of ROC stations was set up. Some using listening equipment, huge concrete parabolic shaped sound mirrors, similar to the one shown left. An aircraft engine or several engines could be detected over a distance far greater than the human ear could detect by using these devices. A microphone was positioned at the focal point and by manipulation a trained operator could estimate the direction of the sound. This information was then relayed back to a control room where the

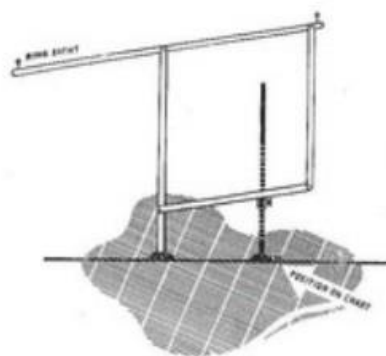
speed, height and direction of the enemy was plotted before a decision to scramble a flight to intercept was

made. Early on in World War 2 came a new development which helped to identify the direction, speed and height of the enemy aircraft.

The operators had to be extremely skilful in estimating the height of an aircraft, and also of course to recognise the aircraft from a distance to ensure that only bombers were reported and only enemy bombers at that, not our own bombers returning from a mission. The website <http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk/post-instrument.html> explains this new equipment better than I ever could.



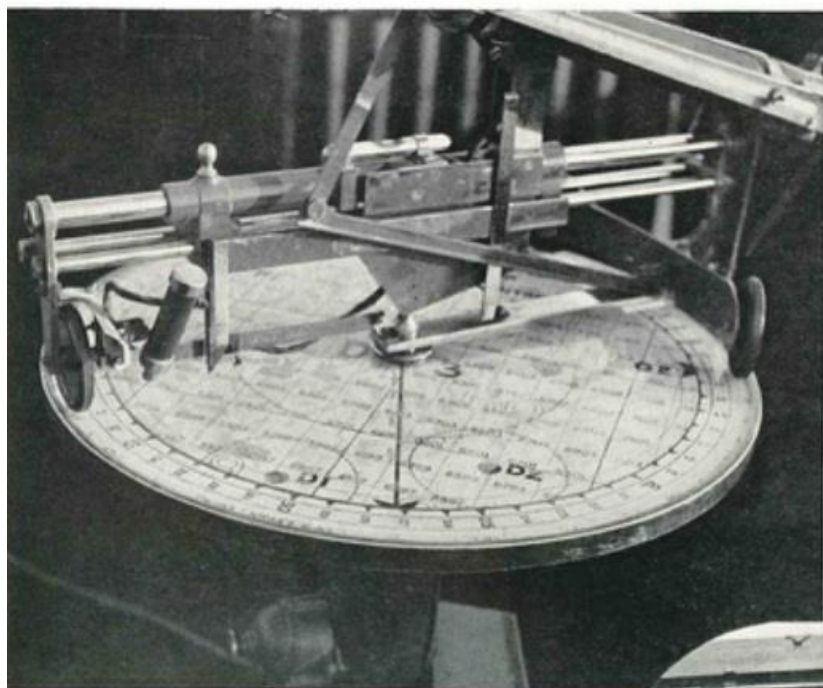
THE OBSERVER INSTRUMENT



The original Observer Instrument (sketched above) consisted of a rectangular frame, having one side mounted vertically on a pivot passing through the centre of the wooden chart table. All four corners were hinged; the upper side, being extended backwards towards the Observer, formed a combined sighting-arm and operating handle. The instrument was operated in conjunction with a height-bar. Its base consisted of a weighted wooden disc about 3 in. across. From its centre rose an upright metal rod (of "D" section) on the flat surface of which were engraved heights in thousands of feet. A lateral arm which traversed this rod was secured at the selected height by a wing-nut. To operate, the height-bar was set at the estimated height, the sighting-arm was aligned on the plane, and the height-bar was then brought back under the lower inclined section of the parallelogram until the two were touching. The grid square was then indicated below by a small pointer.

The system was simple and accurate, but very slow.

As the speed of aircraft increased it was found necessary to design a completely new instrument of all-metal construction, incorporating a built-in height-bar and geared sighting-arm. Apart from the replacement of worm-gearing by rack-gearing, and the addition of the Micklethwait Height Corrector, this instrument has remained practically unchanged and continues to give rapid and accurate tracking of aircraft travelling at five times the speed of those before the war.



One observer operated the instrument, whilst the other transmitted the plots to centre.



During WW2 the ROC bought two Spitfires costing over £5000 each, money was raised by the members of the ROC in many ways, jumble sales, flag days, beetle drives etc. The final problem entrusted to the ROC was during the Cold War. The Government realised that if an atomic attack were delivered they would need to know where the bomb had fallen. Special bunkers were set up which house three personnel. It was possible to remain in these bunkers for up to 3 weeks, they had sufficient food and water for that time. One device was a photo sensitive plate, much like an old style photographic plate. Four were placed together in a cover, each facing a compass point. After an atomic bomb had been dropped, one of the three personnel would climb up a ladder to a hatch to retrieve the device replacing it with a new one. They would then develop the film, which would then indicate the bearing of the bomb. This information would be passed to a control room. By plotting all the coordinates it would then be possible to pinpoint where the bomb had fallen. The Government would then be able to send help and supplies to the effected area.

The ROC was finally stood down on the 31st December 1995 but I expect should our country face danger from an enemy in the future they will return.

There was a lot more to David's lecture but I hope I have given you a flavour of the talk. If you would like to learn more about the ROC and fill in all the gaps I have left then I would recommend you start here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Observer_Corps

David's lecture was entertaining, amusing and informative and we all enjoyed it immensely. As usual there was a lively question and answer session after the lecture. We will see more of David in the future as he has a number of lectures and I certainly would look forward to hearing him again.

Next Month: 16th May 2020. Atherstone Hatting – John Whitehead.

Another first for the Society as this will be John's first visit to the Market Bosworth society and we are looking forward to hearing all about one of our neighbouring towns. There were at least 3 manufacturers of hats in Atherstone and Atherstone has a long tradition in hat making. During the second world war the industry benefitted from orders to make military headwear. Many of the local women were employed in the industry or worked as outworkers, as out workers they could care for any children and still work. This enabled many people to support their families and the war effort.



I am absolutely certain that John will be able to tell us so much more as there is a lot to learn about the process of making hats and the social and historical aspects. Come along and support John, we will be delighted to welcome you. The talk will be in our usual

venue, The Free Church, Barton Road and will commence at 7.30 PM

David Whitehead

We often receive emails from all over the world asking for information about places and people. Mostly we are able to help. Every now and again we receive one that is a bit special and worth talking about here. Here is the first email we received from Dave:

Good Morning,

Researching my family history, I have found that one of my nine times great grandfathers, William Chancy (Chancie, Chauncie) was the (Head) Master of Bishop Vesey (Grammar) School, in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire (West Midlands). He was elected to the position in 1659 from his then post as Master of the Grammar School at Market Bosworth. William remained as Master at Bishop Vesey until his death in 1687.

In 1664 he was elected as 'Warden' of the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield (basically the mayor).

William was born in 1621 at Market Bosworth the son of William Chauncie (later prefixed by 'Mr'); I am assuming that William senior became a notable person in the town.

Via various routes (none in Leicestershire) I now live (and have for the last forty years) less than a mile from the school which has moved less than that from its original site in William's time.

Question:

Are there any publications that cover the history of the school at Market Bosworth at the time William would have been there?

The online sources appear to miss out the school history for the period I am interested in (say 1640 to 1670) and only deal with pre and post that era.

Many Thanks

Dave Whitehead

I began some research and asked around, Walter was able to tell me something about the headmastership:

Hi Nigel,

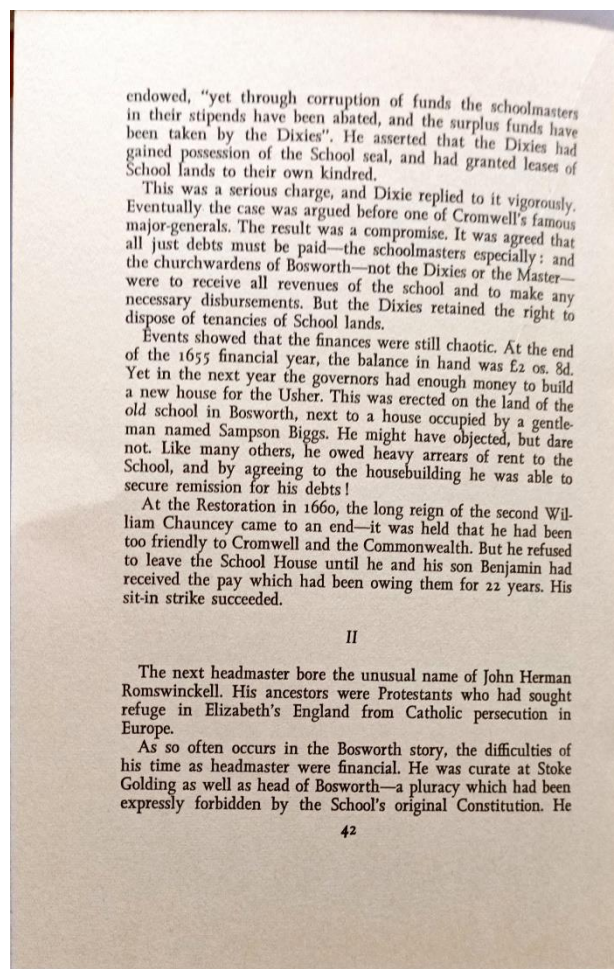
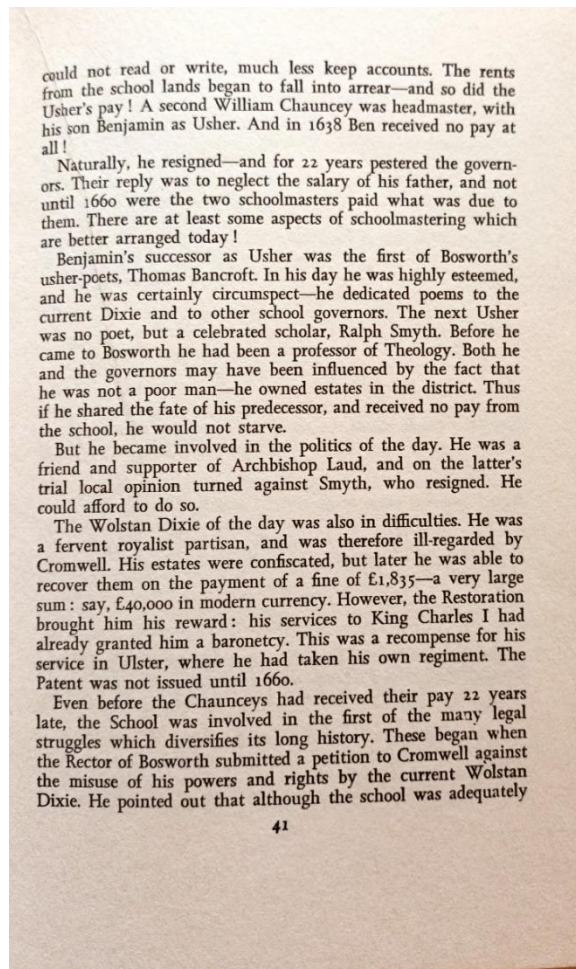
William Chauncey the Elder is listed as Headmaster 1602- 1627 followed by William Chauncey 1627 - 1660. This information is from the 'Ancient Documents' discovered by Sid Hopewell and mentioned in his book.

The documents are stored in the County Records Office at Wigston and are "difficult" to get at! Try Graham who I believe is registered as a 'Reader', Does this help?

Regards,
Walter.

Yes, Walter it did help and Graham was willing to see what he could discover. Unfortunately not very much more than we had discovered from the Newman book. It appears that the documents have been lost.

I appealed to the committee and one useful piece of information was to look in *The Bosworth Story* by Bernard Newman on pages 41 and 42. Sure enough there is a mention of William Chauncey as headmaster and his son Benjamin as Usher. In 1638 Ben received no pay for his work as usher. On the following page the second William Chauncey's rein as headmaster came to an end in 1660. He refused to leave until he and his son Ben had been paid.



More recently Dave emailed me with a final (probably not) draft of his research and it makes jolly interesting reading. Here it is for you to enjoy:

Chancey/Market Bosworth and Bishop Vesey Schools

This is a complicated story and takes quite a bit of understanding and mental gymnastics. I need to start somewhere. My family tree was the start of this journey of confusion and the least confusing is Ann Chancey; she is also the better option for an 'anchor' point in this saga.

Ann Chancey b1668

Ann Chancy born in 1668 at Sutton Coldfield is my seven times great grandmother. Her parents were Mr William Chancey School master and Mary [??] (from baptisms of Ann and her siblings plus other sources). William Chancey was the (head) master of Bishop Vesey Grammar School (BV) in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire 1659 – 1687 and elected in 1664 as Warden of the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield. The current BV is less than a mile from where I have lived for the last forty years and next to the college where I lectured from 2001. The original school building is less than a quarter of a mile from the current location.

Now before we go any further, the name; Chancy, Chancey, Chauncy, Chunny, (any of those with i.e. at the end instead of y) Chauntler, Choyse (I think you could pronounce that as Choi See or Chois Ee) and even a Chawacre (Chore acre, Chor acer, Chor assen).

Time also for a health warning to the reader; whatever version of the surname is used there are at least three Williams, so saying that it becomes confusing is an understatement.

Ann's Parents, William and Mary also had the following children:

Baptism 1657 Maria Chancy - Milwich

Baptism 1659 Charles Chancey – Mr William Chancey - MB

Baptism 1661 Dorothy & Elizabeth (twins) – Sutton Coldfield

Baptism 1664 William Chancy – Sutton Coldfield

Baptism 1666 Edward Chancy – Sutton Coldfield

Baptism 1668 Ann Chancy – Sutton Coldfield

They are identified in the will of Mary in 1703 and by their baptism records.

I had traced the children of William and Mary who had been born in Sutton Coldfield, but I couldn't find Charles, Elizabeth or Mary (both named in Mary's will of 1703), that is until I looked Leicestershire. Charles was born in 1659 and baptised at MB, the son of Mr William Chancey. The next two (twins) Dorothy and Elizabeth were born in Sutton Coldfield, the daughters of Mr William Chauncy (schoolmaster) and Mary. I still couldn't find Mary the daughter, until I went back to Staffordshire. Eventually her baptism record appeared (fickle search engine). Maria/Mary the daughter; was born in 1657 and baptised at Milwich, Staffordshire.

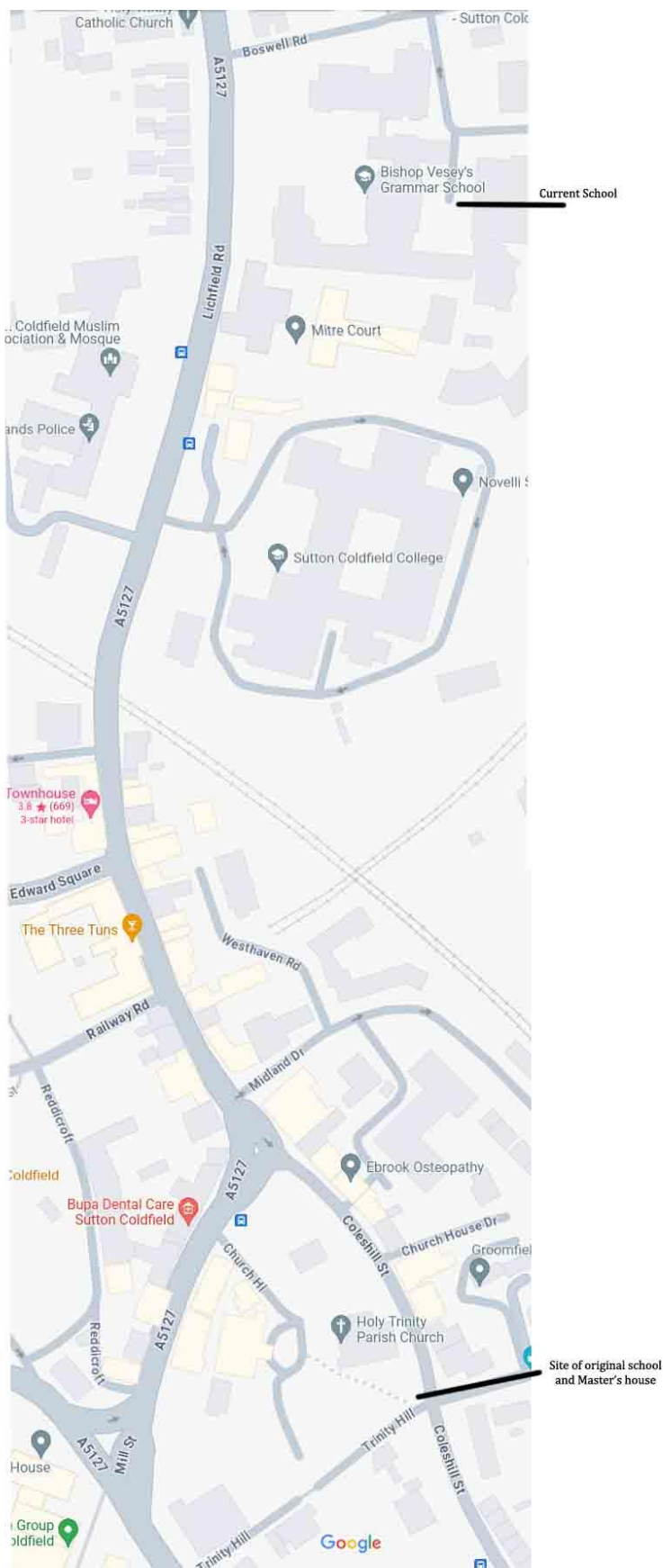
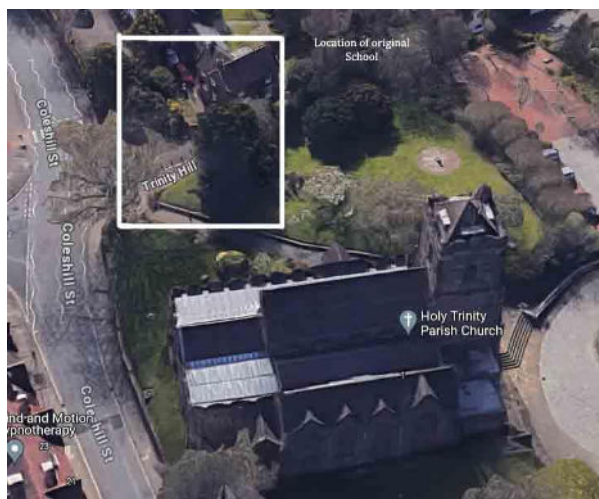
The only marriage I could find for William and Mary (in England) was in 1655 at Milwich, Staffs, but there were no baptisms for William in Staffs. Initially I dismissed this marriage as there was no other link with Staffordshire. Having now found Mary's baptism in Milwich in 1657, the 1655 marriage to Mary Aston was promising. There are two baptism records for Mary [Aston] born in Milwich; 1629, the daughter of Edward and Dorothy (names which appear in their own children) and 1634, the daughter of John and Margaret (neither name appearing in their children). I have now (14/4/2024) found a will for Edward Aston in which he names his daughter Mary married to William Chancey.

William was still in post at BV school when he died at Sutton Coldfield in 1687. It appeared that William didn't leave a will, but I found it later by chance, listed as Thomas Chancey. His will dated 1683 named only his wife Mary, but the probate papers also name his son Charles Chancey of Ashbourne.

Mary died in 1704 at Sutton Coldfield, she had made a will in 1703 naming the above children except Elizabeth.

The Hearth Tax records “Warwickshire, Occupational and Quarter Session Records, 1662-1866”
 Show that in 1670 William had two hearths (probably living in the Master’s House) and by 1673 he had moved from there to Maney (the Birmingham side of Sutton Coldfield) where he was paying for five hearths.

The school history indicates that the original School was off Blind Lane (later Trinity Hill) near Holy Trinity Parish Church, but in 1729 a new School was built on its present site in Lichfield Road.



All the online information about Bishop Vesey Grammar School in the main skipped the 1600s, but then I found at the local library a golden book, from which came this...

“On the death of John Elley in 1659 the trustees (of the school), of whom only five were then surviving, met to elect a new schoolmaster and the post was given to William Chancy, who was Master of the grammar school at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Chancy was soon elected to the Corporation and became Warden in 1664...but as there were only three hundred household in Sutton in 1660, it is unlikely that there was more than one class of boys and therefore no assistant master.” (Osbourne, K. ‘A History of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, The First 375 Years (1527 – 1902)’; ISBN09516216 02).

Wikipedia also records the fact that, “In the late 16th century the school had a national reputation as a first class boarding school, but then the Town Council failed to fulfil its obligations, until 1636 when the Headmaster (John Savage) instituted proceedings in the Chancery Court and the Council was ordered to transfer the School funds to 14 private trustees.”

Not much different to what was occurring at Market Bosworth around the same time.

Back to the story.

Armed with this information regarding William and Mary [Aston], it was time to look in Leicestershire for a William born between 1620 and 1630. The only William I could find was William Chauncy, baptised at Market Bosworth in 1621, the son of William.

That’s the easy bit!!

William Chancey b1621

If ‘my’ William was born in 1621, the son of William; who was his mother? There are two options: In 1618 (a) William Channce married Mary Clarke and in 1619 (a) William Chancie married Ann Frisbee, the daughter of John (marriage licence).

For the next couple of minutes this is irrelevant.

I need to jump back a generation as it is of importance. The only record I can find for the William who could be married to either of these is Wylliam Chaune alias Gyles baptised in 1596 the son of Thomas Chaune (alias Gyles in his will of 1612). Of his siblings, William only has one brother, James born in 1601 who is also ‘alias Gyles’; none of the other siblings have that alias. Although not shown in all of the baptism/death/marriage records I thought that the ‘alias Gyles’ might lead me to the correct resolution of the family line. I had a trail of breadcrumbs as far back as a death in 1578 of Clement Chawacre ‘alias Gyles’. In addition to this I found a baptism record for Clementina Chancey in 1610, the sister of William (b1596). An unusual name for the time that fitted nicely with Clement Chawacre via Thomas Choyse (will of 1612 above).

Now we come to a small problem. Will the real William Chancey please stand up!

Back to where we were – almost.

‘My’ Ann’s parents were William Chancey and Mary Aston. William was the master at Bishop Vesey School in Sutton Coldfield between 1659/60 and 1687. Prior to that he was the master at ‘the grammar school at Market Bosworth.’ What could go wrong? Too many William Chancys to start with.

According to Newman. B, “The Bosworth Story” (1957), The first Master of the new school was William Chancy 1602 – 1627, followed by William Chancey (1627- 1659). At the time of the second William, the school Usher was (second) William’s son Benjamin. Benjamin left in 1638 after a period of non-payment of salary. Although not paid, William stayed on until moving to Bishop Vesey. If I have this correct, William had at least two sons, William and Benjamin by his wife Ann [Frisbee]. William became the master at BV after MB; Benjamin was the Usher at MB. There is more speculation about Benjamin below.

Wylliam Chauneý alias Gyles b1596 MB

William was born in 1596 at MB, the son of Thomas Chauncy/Chancie alias Giles. There is no name of his mother shown.

There are two marriage records at MB for William Chauncey, both of which could be the main suspect. In 1618 (a) William Channce married Mary Clarke and in 1619 (a) William Chancie married Ann Frisbee, the daughter of John (marriage licence).

Either by baptism records, the probate application in 1672 or the alias Gyles link, I have identified the following children as those of William & Ann Frisbee:

Baptism 1623 Benjamin Chancye – William & Ann – MB (this is the only baptism for Benjamin that I can find).

Probate 1672 Benjamin Chancey – MB & Sandon

Baptism 1624 Wolston Chancye – Master William - MB

Death 1627 Wollston Chanche - MB

Baptism 1630 Anna Chancy – William – MB

Death 1641 Ann Chauncye – Master Willliam & Ann – MB

Baptism 1632 Judeth Chancy – William – MB

Marriage 1658 Judeth Chancy & Humphrey Chapman – MB

Baptism 1635 Marye Chancye – Master William - MB

Death 1654 Mary Chancy – William – MB

Baptism 1639 Elizabeth Chauncy – Mr William & Anne – MB

Death 1640 Elizabeth Chancey – William & An – MB

None of these children have the 'alias Gyles' name.

The 'Brothers' William and Benjamin

Now the question arises about the 'brothers' William and Benjamin. Is Benjamin's presence at Sandon the reason for William's presence in the area? More importantly, which William?

Going on etiquette of the time as the William married to Ann [Frisbee] is shown as Mr/Master/gentleman in most of the records and Ann is shown as Mrs Ann Chancy (burial record 1675) they had respect in the parish. So by inference he must be the master at Market Bosworth.

I think Benjamin b1623 is the son of William b1596 and Ann Frisbee. Well I do at the moment!!!! However, see 'Alarm Bells' below.

The problem now is that I have the following children, the baptism records for whom only show the father's name – William.

Baptism 1621 William Chauncey – William – MB

Baptism 1626 Thomas Chancy – William – MB

Baptism 1626 Susanna Chance – William – MB

Baptism 1628 Gane Chanse or Choyse – William – MB

I wonder if 'Gane' (Jane) is named after William's aunt, Jane (b1589), the sister of William b1596.

None of these have the 'alias Gyles' either.

So 'my' William could be the son of either, William and Ann or William and Mary Clarke. The answers create more problems.

Thomas and Susanna – are an extra problem they were both baptised in September but on different dates.

If William b1621 is the son of William b1596, then the latter's granddaughter is 'my' Ann. In which case I can link Ann with her father William b1621 and his father William b1596 the headmaster at the Dixie school (and later at Bishop Vesey grammar school, Sutton Coldfield???) with William Chancey the headmaster of Market Bosworth (Dixie) school.

OR CAN I?

If Ann (the mother of Benjamin) was a widow in 1672, who was her husband? Are there two Benjamins and two Williams & Anns?

The School Connections

Let us look at the schools in a bit more detail. Starting with a recap at Bishop Vesey:

“On the death of John Elley in 1659 the trustees (of the school), of whom only five were then surviving, met to elect a new schoolmaster and the post was given to William Chancy, who was Master of the grammar school at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. (Osbourne, K. ‘A History of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School, The First 375 Years (1527 – 1902)’; ISBN09516216 02).

The first Master of the new school (Market Bosworth) was William Chancy 1602 – 1627: A second William Chauncy was headmaster (1627 – 1660) with his son Benjamin as the usher when his dad William was the master. Benjamin resigned in 1638 having not been paid for the whole year (Newman.B, “The Bosworth Story 1957).

The book also states that “at the Restoration in 1660 the long reign of the second William Chancey came to an end” (as master of MB). Neither the second William nor his son Benjamin had been paid for 22 years.

“The great upheaval of the civil war left the school largely untouched...and thanks to the master William Chauncey, whose religious views were slightly left of centre, the rule of the major-generals caused little disturbance. There followed a curious incident when the Dixies were restored by Charles II, and wished to dismiss Chauncey. He refused to go until all the arrears of salary due to his family were fully paid. He went on strike and won.

The staff of the school consisted of a master, who had to be a Master of Arts, received a salary of £25 per annum, and taught the senior boys their Latin Greek and Hebrew; an usher, a Bachelor of Arts, £20 per annum, teaching the rest of the school their English and arithmetic; and a bailiff (the modern caretaker), whose duties included summoning the local boys by ringing the bell and collecting fines from staff who struck any pupil (12d for a slap on the face and 5s for a kick). The bailiff’s salary was 26s. 8d a year, plus 3s.4d for every extra day the master used.”

(Ed. Rogers, T. "School for the Community, A Grammar School Reorganises"; 9781000804010, 1000804011)

The next time we hear of Benjamin is his death in 1672 at Sandon, Staffordshire; more on this added complication shown below.

The premise I am considering here is that at some point after 1638 Benjamin moved to the Stone/Sandon area to work in some capacity at the Alleyne School in Stone, four miles away.

The ALLEYNE SCHOOL, STONE, was founded in 1558 by Thomas Alleyne, who left money in trust for the foundation of a grammar school for boys in Stone, Stevenage and Uttoxeter. The school's original location in Stone was on part of the Stone Priory at a site beyond the Jervis Mausoleum until 1843. In 1843, a new building was constructed.

Staffordshire record office is closed for another twelve months (March 2024).

Alarm Bells

It was Benjamin’s death/probate that set off the first alarm. Prior to this I had been happy with the William (b1621) who married Mary Aston at Milwich, Staffordshire was Benjamin’s (b1623) brother and that Ann Frisbee was the mother of both and the wife of William (b1596). Potentially, Benjamin b1623 was the brother of ‘my’ William b1621 i.e. ‘my’ Ann’s uncle.

The probate application by Ann Chancey, Benjamin’s mother and his sister Judith Chapman, shows Ann as a widow. This can’t be right, can it?

'My' William, the master at Bishop Vesey made a will in 1683 and died in 1687 in Sutton Coldfield naming his wife as Mary, so this Ann cannot be the wife of William (b1596) if he was the master at Market Bosworth and Bishop Vesey. Which means that the identity of William (master at MB and BV) is in doubt especially if his son Benjamin were his usher; if Benjamin (b1623) were the 'second' William's son he would have only been 15 when he resigned as usher (BA required) from the school at Market Bosworth in 1638.

Likewise, Benjamin's line is now in doubt.

I can't find a marriage for Benjamin in Staffs. Leics. or Derbyshire.

Benjamin died in 1672 at Sandon, Staffordshire (about 2 miles from Milwich). The probate application was made by Ann Chancie 'of Market Bosworth widow' and 'mother,' Judeth Chapman (Benjamin's sister) and Anne Robinson (????). If Ann Chancie is the mother of Benjamin, then she must be Ann Frisbee, married to Wylliam (b1596, son of Thomas) and who died in 1775 at Market Bosworth.

However, there is a 'small' problem here. If Benjamin's mother Ann was a widow, that means her husband William b1596, must have died before 1672. I can't find a suitable death for William before 1672 and we also 'know' that William ('my' Ann's father) was still in post at Bishop Vesey until 1687.

Now here is another alarm or two:

If Benjamin is the son of Ann, who was her husband (Benjamin's father)?

If the probate is incorrect and Ann wasn't a widow, then 'my' William could be Benjamin's brother and he (William) married Mary Aston in 1655.

If the probate is correct and Ann is Benjamin's widowed mother, are we looking at another William and William (b1596) being married to Mary Clarke and later to Mary Aston and another William being married to Ann Frisbee.? In other words a cross generation relationship or cross families.

If the school records are correct, William married to Mary Aston in 1655 couldn't have been born in 1621 and be the master at MB in 1627 and William (b1596) couldn't have married Mary Aston and have been married to Ann Frisbee (she died in 1675).

William b1621 cannot have been the master at Market Bosworth in 1627, he would only have been 6 and needed a master's degree to qualify for the job. In this case, this William can't have been the Master at Bishop Vesey and therefore not the father of 'my' Ann. Or could he?

However, if the school records are incorrect and there were three William Chanceys who were the master at Market Bosworth and Benjamin was William's brother and not son, then yes it's possible, but the problem of the widowed Ann still haunts us.

The 'Alias Gyles' Connection

When I first started to research this branch of the family tree and discovered that there was a baptism for William in 1621 at Market Bosworth, I think the euphoria overtook the logic.

This baptism was the only one I could find, yet despite noticing the poor state of some of the records, I assumed that this must be the man I was looking for. Researching his parentage led to William b1596 who had the first 'alias Gyles' addition to the surname. This was the whole reason for looking specifically for 'alias Gyles.' My search criteria was anybody in Leicestershire with a surname beginning with 'Ch' plus 'alias Gyles' baptised before 1621 and any marriage or death up to 1660.

I have at the moment over fifty Chancey (etc) options to play with, but out of those only five with the 'alias Gyles;' the furthest back being the will of Clement Chawacre alias Gyles in 1578 at Melton Mowbray. Not much of an easy option!

Going back in time, the first 'alias Gyles' appears in 1596 – William Chauncey, the main suspect for being the master at Market Bosworth and afterwards at Bishop Vesey. William was the son of Thomas Chauncey

alias Gyles. Thomas left a will dated 1612; the transcript only showing Thomas Chancey is mostly an inventory of property with the beneficiaries almost as an afterthought.

(Sir?) Woolston Dixie

To his Lady Mary ye Baroness

William Mason

Mr Richard Roberts

Gilbert Wright

????

Robert Burg????

Mr William Roberts

Thomas Channey Gi?? (the only Chancy named)

To his son in Law ???? (I don't know which Thomas this refers to)

John Moston

???? Woodwoodl

????

The top of the document is torn but the third line shows the name 'Thomas Chauncey alias Gi' (Tomas Chauncey alias Giles).

Why would he leave anything to the Dixies, unless he owed them; surely in that case any debt would be listed as a debt payable to Sir Woolston alone and not separate items to him and his wife. It is also interesting that of the family only Thomas Chauncey (a GI???) is named and he is low down on the list of beneficiaries.

The only Thomas (son of Thomas) that I have found was Thomas Chuncy baptised in 1584 at Melton Mowbray (the oldest son). Interestingly (or confusingly) Ann Chancey (alias Giles) married in 1605 at Market Bosworth, was the daughter of Thomas Chancey baptised at Melton Mowbray in 1583. I just wish I could prove the relationship and not go with the gut feeling.

Now the big question: Are there two Thomas' we are looking at, one in Market Bosworth and one in Melton Mowbray?

Melton Mowbray Children of Thomas

Baptism 1583 Anna Chancey – Thomas – MM (married 16095 at MB)

Baptism 1584 Thomas Chuncy – Thomas – MM

Baptism 1585 Walter Chauncey – Thomas – MM

Baptism 1586 George Chauncey – Thomas – MM

Baptism 1587 Maria Chauncey – Thomas - MM

Baptism 1589 Jane Chauncy – Thomas – MM

Baptism 1590 Elizabeth Chuncy – Thomas – MM

Marriage 1598 Elizabeth Chauntler & Richard Wythers – MM

Market Bosworth Children of Thomas

Baptism 1596 Wylliam Chauney alias Gyles – Thomas – MB

Baptism 1601 Francis (dau) Chancey – Thomas – MB

Baptism 1603 James Chauncy or Gyles – Thomas – MB

Baptism 1604 John Chancie – Thomas – MB

Marriage 1605 Ann Chauncy or Giles & Richard Ayrate – MB (b1583 at MM)

Baptism 1606 John Chancie – Thomas - MB

Baptism 1608 Henry Chancye – Thomas – MB

Baptism 1610 Clementina Channce – Thomas – MB

Note that in this list, the name Giles/Gyles occurs which it doesn't in the children born in Melton Mowbray (except the marriage of Ann in 1605).

Note also that the children born in Melton Mowbray stop before those born in Market Bosworth.

It may be that they are all the children of 'my' Thomas and the children of one Mrs Chancey or several Mrs Chancey; both options in two places, having moved after 1590 from Melton Mowbray to Market Bosworth. Have you noticed an element of doubt creeping in?

Let me draw your attention now to the baptism of Thomas in 1584 at Melton Mowbray and the last record at Market Bosworth – the baptism in 1610 of Clementina Channce – the daughter of Thomas.

Thomas b1584 is too young to be the father of Wylliam b1596. Similarly he can't be the son of Clement who died in 1578 – but he could be the grandson of Clement. Wylliam b1596, the son of Thomas had a sister named Clementina, baptised in 1610. Was she named after the grandfather (Clement)? In my experience (14 years) Clement is an unusual name and I've never come across Clementina/Clementine at all (in family history that is). Couple this with the 'Gyles' link and I think I'm on to a winner...maybe!

Another spanner heading your way.

There is another Thomas (Choyse) born in 1573 at Market Bosworth. He could be the father of Wylliam b1596 and Clementina b1610 and those between; the spanner here is that his father is shown as William (another one). The only sibling of this Thomas I can ID is probably Robert in 1572; I say probably because the only part of his name that is visible in the register is 'rt' Choyse son of William.

I think that these two are a bit young to be producing kids at Melton Mowbray between 1583 and 1590, but neither are too young to be the father of Wylliam b1596 and his 'siblings'.

One of these (alias Giles) made the will in 1612 at Market Bosworth. The problem is which one?

Thomas' last child baptised at Market Bosworth was, Clementina in 1610. He must be descended from Clement.

Time for a small diversion, just to add another spanner.

In 1571 Roger Chauntler married Maria Giles at MM on 16/7/1571. Maria died in 1585 at MM. The following year Roger married Anne Baylie at MM. The Philimore record shows Roger as a "ludimagister," which I think should be "ludimagister."

Magister is a Latin word meaning "teacher", while ludus can be translated as either "game" or "school". A ludi magister was a teacher at a Roman school (Ludus). Magistri were often Greek or other educated slaves. The ludi magister was the teacher of the first stage of Roman education, the equivalent of an elementary school teacher. He would have a class of around thirty students. Students would go to a ludi magister at multiple ages and leave at the age of eleven. Classes would be held in a room rented by the ludi magister or outside.

(Wikipedia for both)

According to Ladict (<https://latin-dictionary.net/definition/25974/ludimagister-ludimagistri>), it refers to either a school master or teacher.

Is the school master occupation going back even further than assumed? Does the occupation run in the family, either by academic qualification or by family connection? The only problem is that Roger (if he is a son of Clement) is ten years older than his siblings. It would be nice to think so but I doubt it, but he may be a contender for another route down to 'my' Ann.

The only children I have found who were fathered by Roger/Rogeri (Chuntler) were born in Melton Mowbray between 1576 and 1593. The names of these children do not 'match' any of the others I am interested in (pity).

Back to the path...

In 1578 Clement Chawacre (Chauncey) alias Gyles of MM left a 'will'; unfortunately, it is only an inventory. The only children I can find for him are:

Baptism 1551 Agneta Chauncey – Clement – MM
Baptism 1552 Chrisopher Chuncey – Clement – MM
Death 1552 Christopher Chauncey – Clement – MM
Baptism 1553 Maria Chuncy - ??? MM
Baptism 1555 Edrus (Edward) Chauncey – Clement – MM
Death 1555 Edrus Chuncey
Marriage 1569 Agneta Chauncey & Hugo Ellwoode – MM
Marriage 1571 Elizabeth Chauncey & Henry Gulson – MM (note that Elizabeth married on 16/7/1571 – the same date as Roger above)

Summary of Known Facts

My direct line is via Ann Chancey b1668 at Sutton Coldfield.
Her parents were William and Mary.
William married Mary Aston in 1655 at Milwich, Staffordshire.
William died in 1687 at Sutton Coldfield, leaving a will.
Mary died in 1704 at Sutton Coldfield, leaving a will.
There are two women named Mary Aston born at Milwich:
1629 daughter of Edward and Dorothy.
William & Mary had other children named Edward and Dorothy, both born in Sutton Coldfield.
The will of Edward Aston (1665) names daughter Mary Chancey.
William's and Mary's first child, Mary was born in 1657 at Milwich.
The next child was Charles, born in 1659 at Market Bosworth.
The other children were born in Sutton Coldfield.
William was the master at Bishop Vesey grammar school 1659/60 – 1687.
There were two master's at Market Bosworth named William Chancey.
1602 – 1627
1627 – 1659/60
William's son Benjamin was the usher at Market Bosworth until 1638.
Benjamin was born in 1623 at Market Bosworth (therefore too young to be the usher –degree required).
Benjamin died at Sandon in 1672. His mother Ann 'of Market Bosworth' applied for probate and is shown as 'mother' and 'widow.' His sister, Judith is also named in the application.
There are two marriages for 'William' at Market Bosworth:
William Chancey married Mary Clark in 1618.
William Chancey married Ann Frisbee in 1619.
Mrs Ann Chancey died at Market Bosworth in 1675.
William Chancey was born 1621, the son of William.

Summary of Possible Facts

One or both sets of school records are incomplete.
There are two couples William and Ann at Market Bosworth.
There is a third William as yet unidentified.
Ann, the mother of Benjamin (d1672) was married to someone else and not William.
William Chauncey alias Gyles was born 1596 at Market Bosworth, the son of Thomas.
Thomas Choyse alias Gyles was born 1573 at Market Bosworth, the son of William.
Thomas had a daughter in 1610 at Market Bosworth named Clementine.
Thomas died in 1612 leaving a will; Thomas Channey was the only named family member.
William Choyse may be the son of Celent Chauncey.
Clement died in 1578 at Melton Mowbray, leaving a will.

Conclusion

My 7 time great grandmother is Ann Chancey b 1668 at Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire (100%).
Her parents were William Chancey, born at Market Bosworth and Mary Aston, born in 1629 at Milwich, Staffordshire, the daughter of Edward and Dorothy (100%).
William was the Master of Bishop Vesey School between 1659/60 and 1687 (100%).

William was the Master at Market Bosworth between 1627 and 1659/1660 (90%).

Any questions – see the manager!

I think you will agree that this is an amazing piece of research, carefully constructed and meticulously checked for accuracy. It also demonstrates just how difficult it is to delve into the past, we are travelling back over almost 4 centuries and I wonder what researchers will do in the next 4 centuries, probably just Google.

Time for a quiz

Something a bit easier than researching family, lets have a look at King Henry III (No cheating now and you will find an answer in the Desford talk report).

1. What was the name of Henry III's father who had preceded him on the throne of England?
 - a) Stephen
 - b) John
 - c) Richard I
 - d) Henry II
2. Which of the following is the correct list of Henry III's brothers and sisters?
 - a) John, Elizabeth, Eleanor and Beatrice
 - b) Richard, John, Isabella and Eleanor
 - c) Richard, Joan, Isabella and Eleanor
 - d) John, Edmund, Hugh and Isabella
3. How old was Henry III when he succeeded his father as king?
 - a) eleven
 - b) eight
 - c) nine
 - d) ten
4. When he came to the throne only one part of England was truly loyal to Henry as king. Which of the following was it?
 - a) The people and barons of the midlands and the south-west.
 - b) The people and barons of the northwest
 - c) The people and barons of London and the southeast
 - d) The people and barons of the northeast
5. What was the name of the man in his seventies who became Henry III's first adviser and who made all the important political and military decisions until the year 1219?
 - a) Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester
 - b) Hugh de Burgh, Chief Justiciar
 - c) William the Marshall, Earl of Pembroke
 - d) Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester
6. Henry III was actually crowned twice. Where did the first crowning take place?
 - a) St. Peter's Abbey, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester.
 - b) Hereford Cathedral, Herefordshire.
 - c) St. Cuthbert's Shrine, Durham Cathedral.
 - d) Winchester Castle Chapel, Winchester.
7. What was the name of Henry III's wife whom he married in Canterbury Cathedral in 1236?
 - a) Berengaria
 - b) Isabella

- c) Eleanor
- d) Catherine

8. Under Henry III a large number of foreign noblemen came to England and acquired important positions at court. Which two countries were most strongly represented by this influx of newcomers?

- a) France and Germany
- b) France and Spain
- c) France and Italy
- d) Spain and Italy

9. How many children did Henry III and his wife have?

- a) 8
- b) 4
- c) 5
- d) 7

10. Which saint did Henry III wish to honour by installing his shrine in Westminster Abbey?

- a) Thomas Becket
- b) Crispin
- c) George
- d) Edward the Confessor

11. On which of the following did Henry III not spend huge sums of money that he raised by oppressive taxes on his English subjects?

- a) A campaign against the Welsh
- b) A campaign against the Scots.
- c) A large number of Church building projects
- d) Paying the debts of the papacy for its war in Sicily

12. What happened in England as a result of the Provisions of Oxford?

- a) Henry III had to agree to a ruling council who made most of the big decisions.
- b) Henry III had to agree to share power with his eldest son.
- c) Henry III had to agree to declare war on Scotland.
- d) Henry III had to agree to banish his younger son, Edmund.

13. What happened at the Battle of Lewes?

- a) Edward, the heir to the throne defeated Simon de Montfort and the barons.
- b) Simon de Montfort defeated the Royal Army and captured both Henry III and Edward the heir to the throne.
- c) Both the rebellious barons and the King's army retreated after an inconclusive short encounter.
- d) The King's army defeated the Welsh.

14. In what way was Simon de Montfort related to Henry III?

- a) He was his first cousin.
- b) He was his brother in law.
- c) He was his nephew.
- d) They were not related.

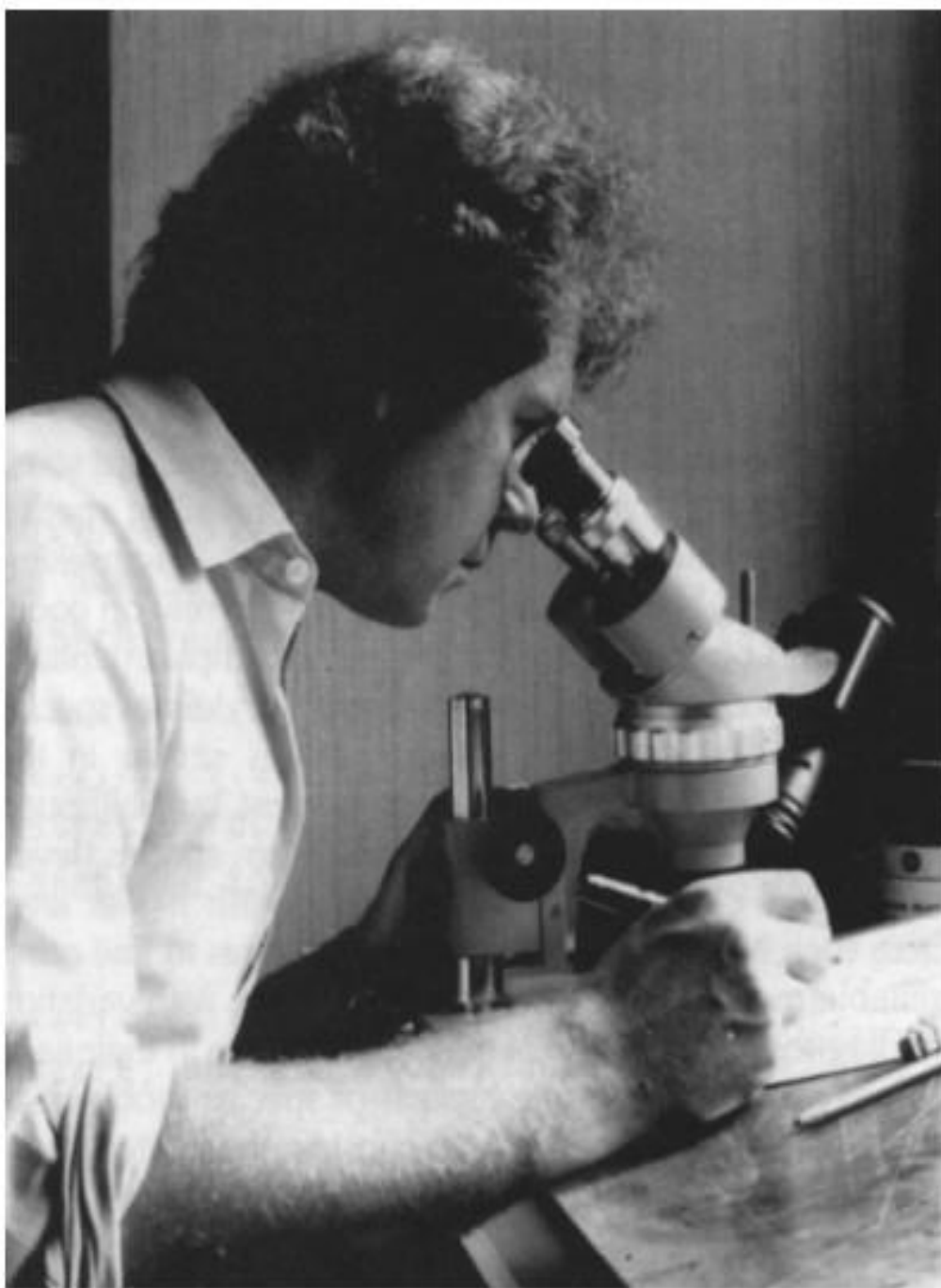
15. For how many years did Henry III reign over England?

- a) 26 years
- b) 46 years
- c) 56 years
- d) 36 years

The Dixie Grammar School Old Boys and Girls

Dr. Michael J. Roberts

1945 - 2020



CAUTION

This document contains **SPIDERS**



www.thedgsa.co.uk

Info@thedgsa.co.uk

Michael John Roberts, “Mike” as he was known to his friends, was born in Leicester. His mother was well known locally as a talented artist. He started at Dixie in 1956 and proved to be hard working and studious. His mother had always encouraged the development of his exceptional observational and technical skills in a variety of artistic media, and so naturally he did well in Art. By the time he left school in 1962 he had submitted, and had accepted, 42 of his works for showing on the BBC’s programme “Sketch Club”. Although the BBC cannot confirm it, we believe this to be a record number!

However, Michael’s wish was to become a doctor. Art was purely a hobby. So with this in mind he worked hard to ensure exam results that would get him a place at university. He had always had a keen interest in wildlife and natural history and his extra-curricular activities in this field were strongly supported by the Head of Biology, Mr. H. I. James.

In 1962 the hereditary Governor, Sir Wolstan Dixie, gave permission for Mr. James to set up a Field Study Group on his land in order to record the wildlife around Beau Pool in Bosworth Park. As you can imagine Michael eagerly accepted the opportunity to join and became one of the more active members. It was at this time he became interested in, if not obsessed by, SPIDERS!

His schoolwork went well and he passed eight subjects at “O” level and three at “A” level, including winning the “A” Level Prize for Biology. This was sufficient to win him a place at Sheffield University to study Medicine. Before leaving he presented a copy of a book, “The Atom,” to the School Library then set off to become a doctor.

Michael graduated from his studies at Sheffield in 1968 and began his career as a General Practitioner. It was during his time at University he became more focused on spiders and he took on the challenge of studying and illustrating them. He clearly felt that he could improve on the standard of illustration of both genitalia and whole body images and thereby ease the way for the novice, who may have struggled to find a way through the identification keys of the day. He also recognised the advantages of spider illustrations at greater than life size. In March 1968, while resident in Sheffield, we find him being admitted to membership of the British Spider Study Group, at its Annual Meeting. This was the successor organisation to the Flatford Mill Spider Study Group and then became the British Arachnological Society (BAS). By this time, he had honed his illustration methodology and technique and produced the first of his characteristic larger than life colour illustrations.

As a GP, he is remembered by former patients for the spider pictures in his surgery! One wonders if he treated arachnophobes? At the time, as well as carrying out local surveys, he was also working on spider specimens from various Royal Society expeditions to the Indian Ocean. He finally published papers on these spiders from the Seychelles and the Aldabra Atoll in 1978–9. Clearly an achiever, he was elected to the Council of the BAS and served, almost continuously, from 1973–1985.

By the late 1970s, he was producing more full-colour illustrations, using inks, and considering the possibility of publication. He is remembered as having a stall at the Wigan Insect Show, advertising his natural history illustration skills. While in Sheffield, he was establishing a successful medical practice and developing an interest in using acupuncture as a treatment for various ailments. Indeed, at least one BAS member had their ‘arachnologist’s knee’ successfully treated. His receptionist, Debbie, became his second wife and, together, they wrote the spider chapter in *The Natural History of the Sheffield Area and the Peak District*.

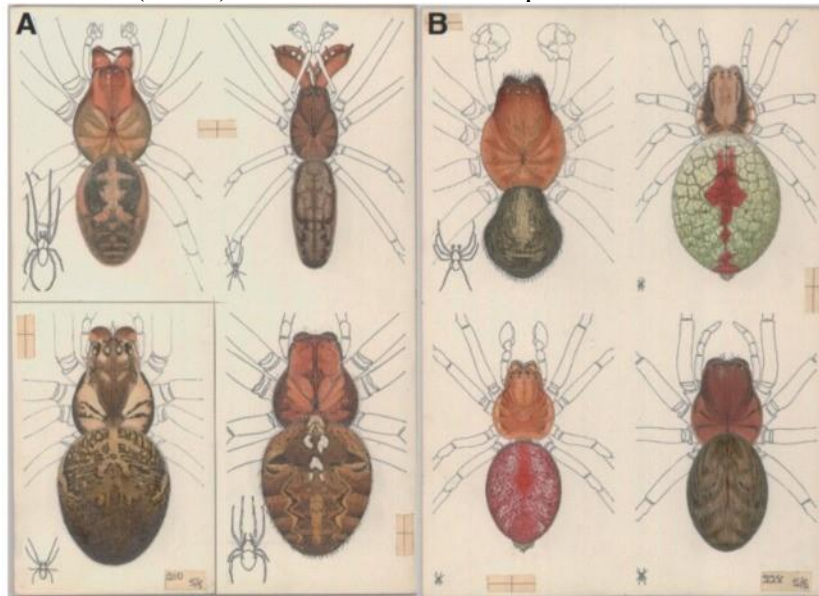
The spider illustration project finally came to fruition when Basil Harley of Harley Books agreed to publish *The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* in 1985. Michael later discovered that another publisher, who had rejected the opportunity, subsequently entered it in a trade magazine competition for the “Oddest Publisher’s Reject,” not realising it had already achieved success! That tickled Michael. Around this time, he was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary of the BAS, which he held from 1986 until 1997.

In the Spring of 1990, he announced that he was giving up medicine, and moved from Sheffield to a run-down farmhouse with three acres of land in Banffshire: Burns Farm near Cornhill. Michael proved his versatility by taking on most of the renovation and settling down to “the good life.” What would have been the chalmers (loft accommodation for farm workers above the farm buildings) was converted to a lab/studio and Michael was up with the sun working on his illustrations.

The next project was the publication of an updated, compact edition of *The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland*. This New paperback version was published in 1993, with the original text bound in one volume and the plates separately for ease of simultaneous reference. Several spiders which had been added to the British list, perhaps due to the increased spider recording his book had generated, were added in an appendix with new illustrations and descriptions.

In his studio, work was now beginning on a small-format field guide, to be published by Collins. This covered all families but included only the larger and more distinctive of the money spiders (i.e. not the tiny black ones). This was for a more general audience, at a much lower price point, but still making it possible to identify all larger species. The big problem for him was that he was unable to use the illustrations from his previous book (for copyright reasons) in this new book. Nothing daunted, he set about redrawing and creating a series of new plates with the legs intricately interwoven to fit the smaller format. The Collins Field Guide was published in 1995 and is still in print (now by HarperCollins). It was so popular that it was translated into Dutch and French (two editions) and in total has sold over 40,000 copies—quite spectacular for a field guide, and even more so for one on spiders!

Michael produced a staggering 1350 spider-related plates, which were published in “*The Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe*” (1995), “*The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland*” (1985 & 1987), “*Spider Families of the World and their Spinnerets*” (2015) and “*Gnaphosid Genera of the World*” (2007). The Natural History Museum in London (NHM) now owns all of these plates.



From *The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland*.

A plate 135; B plate 7. Both 265 × 185 mm.

Credit: The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.

The Michael J. Roberts archive forms part of the Special Collections in the Library and Archives Department. It is specially housed in two locked glass-fronted cabinets in a locked room.



One of the two locked cabinets housing the archive and an example of a bespoke box containing plates from part of the archive.

Credit: Janet Beccaloni.

The artist had glued several works to a non-archival back board. This back board is yellowing, delaminating and warping. However, to try to remove the plates is more likely to cause damage than leaving them in situ. Several pages from the “*Collection of approximately 600 graphite drawings, tracings and MS. notes of spiders c. 1990s*” are edged with Sellotape. Sellotape is non-archival cellulose film with glue and is always a conservator’s nightmare because over time it discolours, loses its adhesive properties, and stains the medium to which it is attached



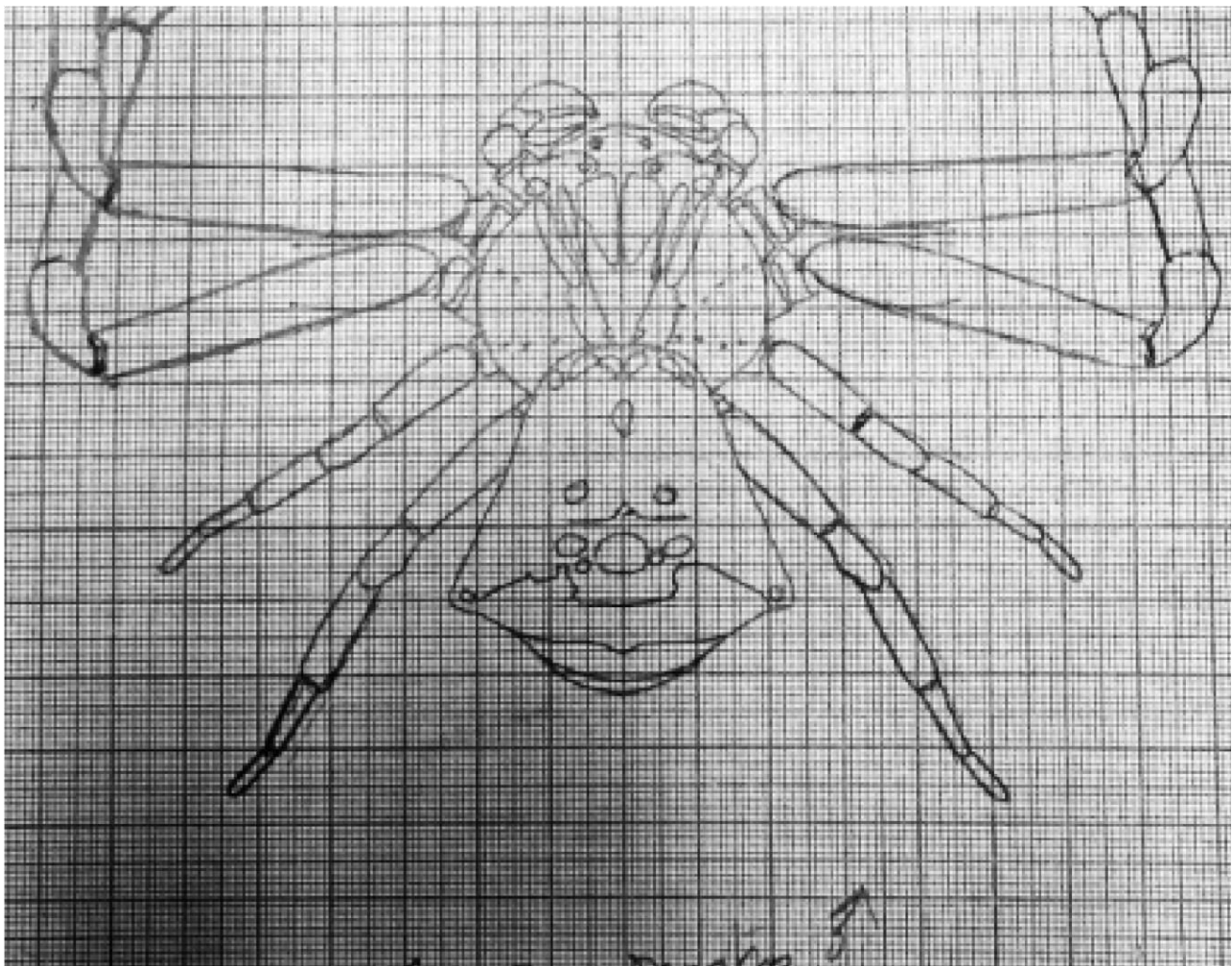
Michael used pen and ink, as well as watercolour, and a combination of the two. To produce his stunning images of webs and egg sacs, he used both black ink on white board and white paint on black board. Almost all of his whole-specimen plates are in watercolour. Below is an example of one of his beautiful large colour plates. In this illustration one can see the gorgeous use of colours and the extremely finely detailed hairs.



Atypus affinis Eichwald, 1830 (Atypidae), plate 1, 265 × 185 mm, from *The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland*.

Credit: The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.

How Michael produced his extremely detailed plates becomes clear when studying the undigitized collection of graphite drawings on graph paper. He was drawing at a very consistent scale from the microscope and using graph paper to allow him to scale up for the final drawing to maximise the detail and resolution available in the photo reduction which was necessary for the published images. So essentially scaling up the image to get the detail in and then reducing for the final image. This of course makes the lines appear finer and provides the detail we so value. He then used the age-old technique of tracing in order to transfer these graphite images onto the art boards he used for his final plates. The accuracy of Michael's illustrations compared to the live specimens can be seen from the example below. His skill is undeniable.

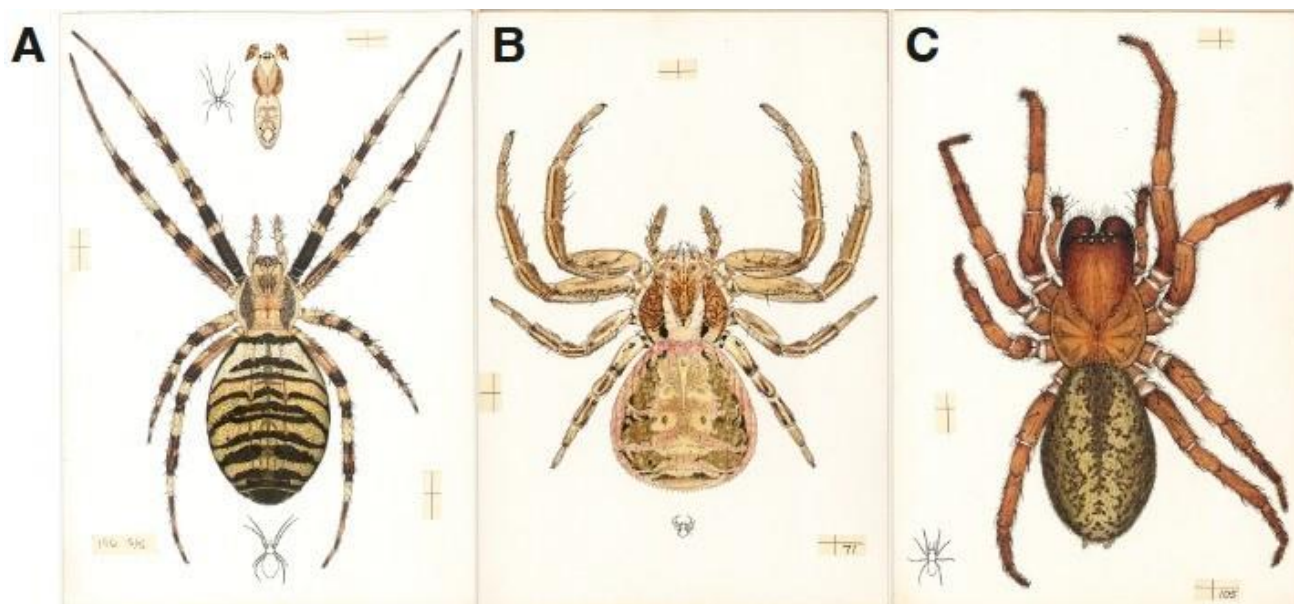


Showing how Michael used graph paper to achieve the accuracy of his illustrations.

From the “Collection of around 600 graphite drawings, tracings and manuscript notes of spiders”.

Credit: Jan Beccaloni.

Michael employed several techniques when positioning his spiders on their plates. Although he was drawing from preserved specimens, he endeavoured to depict a life-like attitude. For example, the legs of spider A in the plate below are depicted as if it is sitting in its web. The distinctive leg positioning of the crab spider B is depicted as in life. The uneven leg positioning on specimen C is typically found in alcohol-preserved specimens which cannot be manipulated into life-like positions.



From “The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland.”

Credit: The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.



From “The Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland.”

Credit: The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.

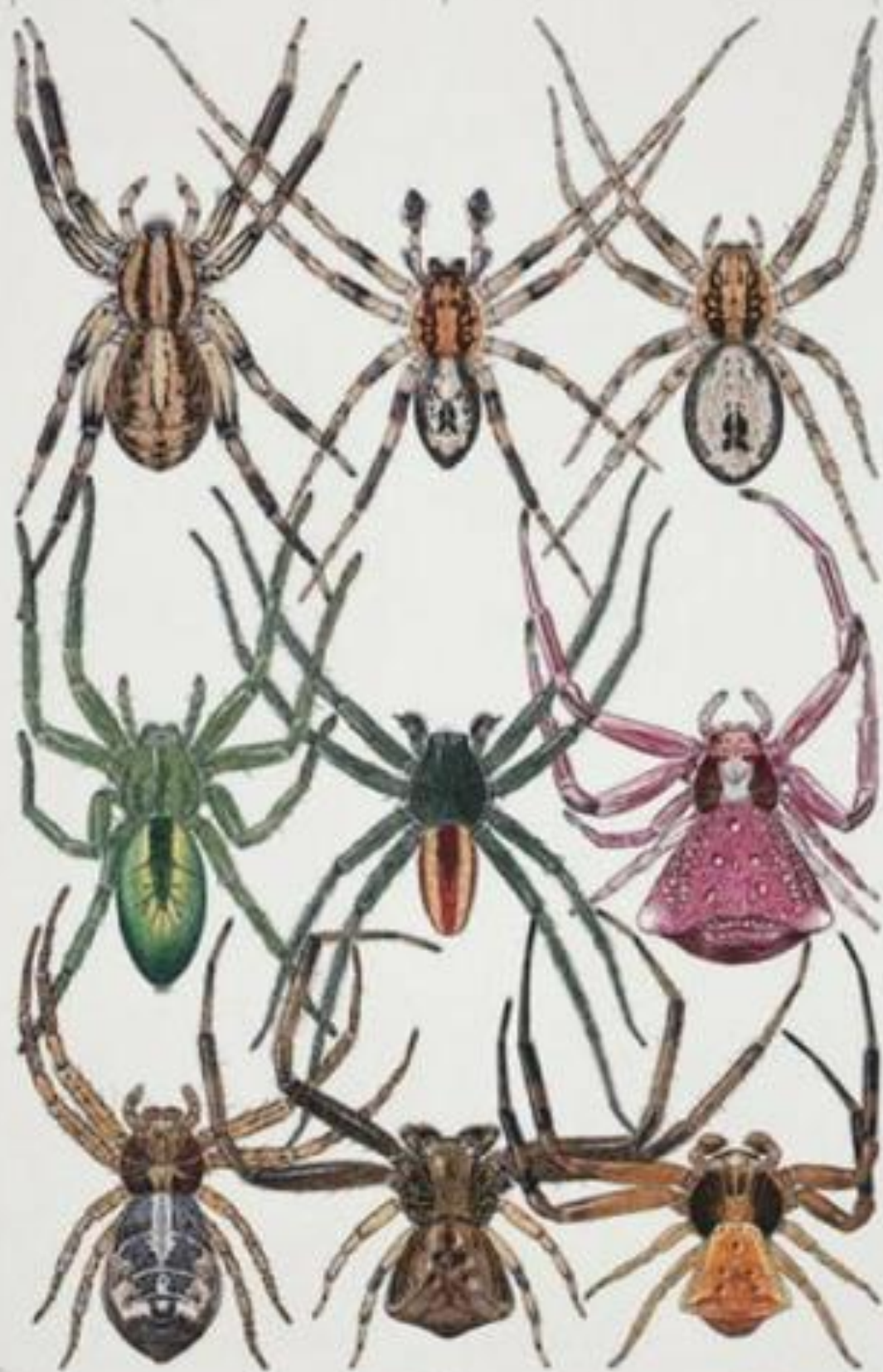
Mike died on 26th October 2020 at his home in Chirnside. The study of arachnology has lost a great talent. Mike was taken from us far too soon but the hours spent at the microscope, or with pen and brush on his drawing board, would amount to more than most mortals could achieve in several lifetimes.

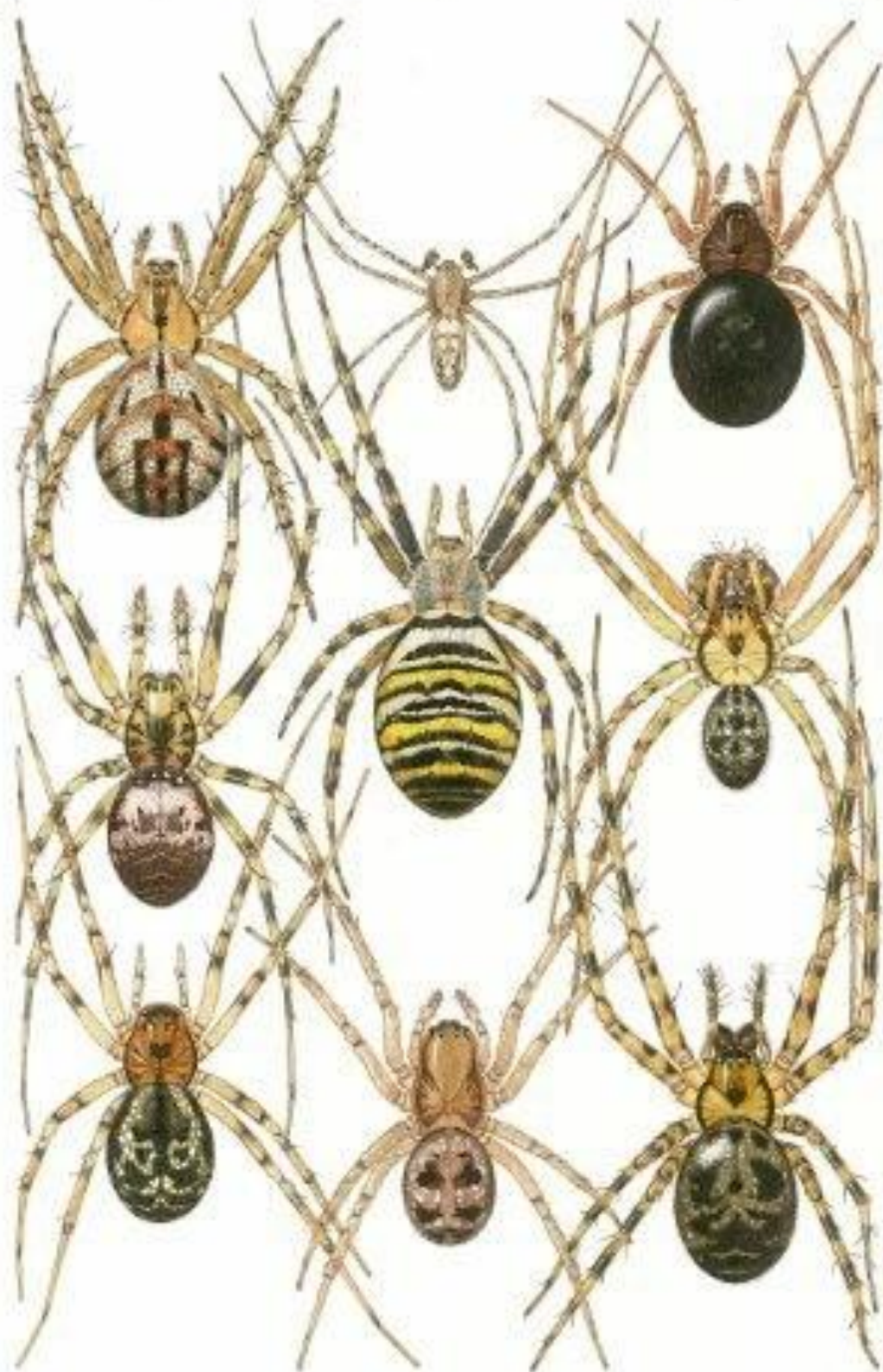
What of his legacy? Several important books, great art, making the study of arachnology more accessible and influencing three generations, and counting.

We are grateful to the many people have contributed memories and details to this sketch of Mike’s life in spiders. He had no truck with email or the internet and certainly not Twitter, but we will end with one online quote which sums up how many of us will feel: “Roberts’s books guided me through much of the last five years of research in the most comprehensive yet accessible manner. His achievements are truly exceptional. A great loss to science.” Many of those who expressed their sadness had never met him but were influenced by his books and illustrations.

Taken from his obituary by Mike B. Davidson, British Arachnological Society (BAS)

Finally here are two of Michael’s exceptional illustrations, see below.





BOSWORTH LINKS

Digging up the past

It was the turn of Shenton to host Bosworth Links over the weekend of the 20th and 21st April. What fantastic hosts they turned out to be. Shenton was to be the 4th of the nearby satellite villages to be visited after Carlton, Coton, and Cadeby. After completing the digs in Market Bosworth we wanted to see if we could prove or disprove that the development of neighbouring villages mirrored that of the local hub, or Market Town. We also had some questions to ask about Shenton and how the village developed.



Mathew conducted a lot of research looking at the Domesday Book, ancient maps and Lidar Images. We also met with local metal detectorist Rob Thompson who generously shared his

knowledge of the area.

We estimated that we would need between 12 and 15 test pits in prime locations in order to be able to answer the questions and ensure a robust database. The Shenton Community really embraced the project and we dug 23 pits that weekend! We are most grateful to all of the villager who hosted pits in the gardens of their homes or in fields that they farm. A big thank you must also go to Charles Wollaston for fully embracing the project and giving us the opportunity to dig in Shenton.

As is becoming usual, I was photographer for the weekend and as ever we had Bill Newsinger as our videographer. You can see Bills previous films here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@marketbosworthsociety7535/featured> on the Market Bosworth Society

YouTube channel. You can also see the photographs from the Shenton Dig weekend here: [Shenton Dig 20th & 21st April 2024 « Market Bosworth Society](#)

We were extremely lucky with the weather and the weekend remained dry and predominantly sunny. It was raining on Friday and again on Monday, how lucky is that?

The Bosworth Links Committee, Mathew, Gemma, Judy, Marion, Jon, Mary and I were joined by around 100 other volunteers. We said hello to a lot of our friends who had dug at previous events but also welcomed a large number of new volunteers. Some from the host families, and some who just wanted to have a go at



archaeology. The drop in pit was very popular and one young lady who was to be there on Saturday only, persuaded her dad to bring her back on Sunday! I had a great time visiting the pits and chatting to the volunteers. The washing team were kept very busy and we had a visit from Dr. Luke Evans MP who has taken a great interest in the project.

As usual we ended up with a feedback session, this time in St. Peter's Parish Hall. The Dixie Grammar School generously allowed us to use their school yard for parking and we all enjoyed a most welcome tea together. After tea we had a feedback session where each pit elected a

spokesperson to say how it had gone and what had been found. Finds included glass, metal, pottery, flint and animal bones. There were some quite large sherds of pottery and a couple of examples of worked flint.. We

are now waiting for the finds to be categorised and identified before Mathew can write his report. It will make interesting reading and I am keen to discover if it confirms some of the theories being developed.

If you took part, thank you! We really cannot do it without you and we are truly grateful for your time and support for this project.

Our next dig will be over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of September so please put this date in your diaries. If you have not yet taken part then you are running out of opportunities, sign up now via the website. Thanks to all those who came time travelling with us.

Contact Details Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email on info@marketbosworthsociety.com or if you would like to call MBS then 07930149408. Correspondence can be sent to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0JU.

Membership subscriptions (single £14.00 joint £21.00) can be paid by BACS/Bank Transfer using the following Details. Market Bosworth Society, Virgin Money Sorting Code 82-11-07 account number 00452350. Please place your surname (and the last three characters from your postal code – if permitted) in the reference section. For example mine would be palmer0ju.

If you have any items you would like to preserve for future generations, please contact MBS, or any Committee member.

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Nigel Palmer

Chairman

Answers to King Henry III Quiz

Answers

- 1 b
- 2 c
- 3 c
- 4 a
- 5 c
- 6 a
- 7 c
- 8 c
- 9 c
- 10 d
- 11 b
- 12 a
- 13 b
- 14 b
- 15 c