

Education Newsletter & Case Study. May 2015

“Rascal” or Symptom of a Flawed System

A lesson from history!

*What will you be doing at
lunchtime?*



South East Central Branch

The communications union

1871 Census - inmate

The undenumerated houses are shown within the boundaries of the [Page 1]

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family or to other person in household	SEX	AGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
John Galt	Head	M	40	Labourer	Worcestershire
John Galt	Wife	F	35		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	10		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	8		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	6		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	4		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	2		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	1		Worcestershire

1881 Census - convict

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family or to other person in household	SEX	AGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
John Galt	Head	M	40	Labourer	Worcestershire
John Galt	Wife	F	35		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	10		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	8		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	6		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	4		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	2		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	1		Worcestershire

1891 Census - convict

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family or to other person in household	SEX	AGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
John Galt	Head	M	40	Labourer	Worcestershire
John Galt	Wife	F	35		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	10		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	8		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	6		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	4		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	2		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	1		Worcestershire

1901 Census - convict

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family or to other person in household	SEX	AGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
John Galt	Head	M	40	Labourer	Worcestershire
John Galt	Wife	F	35		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	10		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	8		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	6		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	4		Worcestershire
John Galt	Son	M	2		Worcestershire
John Galt	Daughter	F	1		Worcestershire

Genealogy Lunchtime learning :

Case Study

Following on from my last genealogy report, where I reported on the untimely death of a First World War relative, this time I thought I'd report on the other end of the spectrum, a rascal.

I was brought up in the belief that my family was always hard working and never ever got into trouble, in fact we looked down on those people who shamelessly broke the law, with a sense of pride as we had been poor but always stayed on the right side of the law. Or so I thought...

Through doing some lunchtime learning, I had found that we were related to the "Oxborough" family and in about 1850 I found three relatives, all named Stephen Oxborough and all born within a few years of each other in the same town Beccles. All these Stephens living so close together and of a similar age made it difficult to say, with certainty, which one was which. One lunchtime I searched for the name and found a facebook page which seemed to have some information that would help me. I contacted the people concerned with the Facebook page and found that someone had already done a lot of the hard work for me whilst completing a Master of Arts. Finally I knew which Stephen was which. I already knew one of these Stephens had been in trouble with the law and I was eager to find this rascal!

Knowing that South East Central CWU branch had access to a new database of old newspapers as well as census documents, I used both to drill down on this wayward Steve.

The earliest record I found of Stephen was the 1861 Census, aged 8, showing he was living with his father Charles, mother Elizabeth and four other siblings, (*upon further investigation, Charles and Elizabeth had named two other children Stephen but both had died under the age of 2*). However, it was only a further six years later before he was reported in the East Suffolk Gazette, for stealing gooseberries from a garden. He was given the option of paying 8s 6d or going to gaol, but as the family were poor he had to go to Ipswich gaol for seven days.

Five months later, in November 1867, he appeared once again in the East Suffolk Gazette for stealing a silver watch with another older boy and once again was fined 5s or 7 days in gaol. On December 23rd 1867 he was committed to 2 months hard labour for larceny as they took his previous convictions into consideration.

Unfortunately this hard labour deterrent did not deter him, East Suffolk Gazette reported that in June 1868, he had been caught stealing strawberries and was given 3 months hard labour and afterwards sent to a reform school for 3 years. He was aged 14.

In the 1871 Census, Stephen is shown as an inmate in Thorndon, Reformatory School.

1903 Cambridge Independent

ESSEX AND CAMBS. STATION BURGLARIES. PRISONER COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

At Saffron Walden Police-court on Wednesday, Stephen Oxborough (50), described as a labourer (of Beccles), was brought up on remand from Cambridge Gaol, charged with being found upon the premises of the Great Eastern Railway, at Saffron Walden, at 12-45 a.m. on August 25th, having in his possession, without lawful excuse, certain implements for housebreaking, viz.: two burglar's jemmies and six pick-lock keys, with intent to commit a felony.

Police-constable Fell stated that he was looking round the Railway Station when he noticed the door of one compartment of a third-class carriage open. The carriage stood by the side of the platform opposite the booking office window. He entered the carriage, and found the prisoner lying upon a seat. Asked what he was doing there, prisoner replied that he was having a sleep. Witness asked the prisoner his name and he replied, "George Smith, Cambridge" He apprehended the prisoner, and on searching him found 4s. 11½d., a pocket-knife, a key, nine halfpenny postage stamps, a pair of men's gold earrings, a tailor's thimble, a silver ring, and in the watch pocket of his trousers six skeleton keys. On returning to the Railway-

1903 Cambridge Independent

Robbing Railway Booking Offices

ARREST AT SAFFRON WALDEN.

During the last fortnight the booking offices at ten stations on the Great Eastern Railway in Essex and Cambridgeshire, and a number of private business offices have been broken into by burglars at night, and cash and other articles stolen. Early on Tuesday morning Constable Fell, of Moat Farm fame, apprehended a man in the act of breaking into a booking office at Saffron Walden Station. The officer promptly arrested him and conveyed him to the Police Station, where it was found that he was a man the police have been looking for for some time. He is said to be a notorious criminal, an ex-convict, and is wanted on suspicion of breaking into and stealing from Brentwood, Baynes, Braintree, Dunmow, Heddingham and Linton Railway Stations.

Later in the day the prisoner was picked out and identified at the Police Station as the man seen at Great Chesterford the night Messrs. T. and E. King's office was broken into, when upwards of £200 was taken. He gives the name of Stephen Oxborough, of Beccles. He was brought before the magistrates on Wednesday, charged with having in his possession certain housebreaking implements, to wit, six picklock keys and two jemmies, with intent to commit a felony.

The robbery at Linton Station booking office was discovered on Friday morning by Mr Shar-

In 1875 the Bury & Norwich post reported that Stephen had stolen a pair of boots and that he had deserted from the Royal Artillery. The judge warned him of his further conduct and sentence him to 6 months hard labour, things were not looking good for Stephen.

In 1877 Stephens criminal activities continued whilst visiting a relative in Newcastle as the Morpeth Herald reported he broke into a house and stole £4, a silver watch and clothes. His luck, if you can call it that, had ran out and he was given 7 years penal servitude. In the 1881 census he is shown as in Wormwood Scrubs (a new prison at the time). Thanks to the Victorians wanting to use photographs in recognition of criminals, I have a photograph of him (see front page).

Brushes against the law continued on his release, twice being caught, in 1885, drinking out of hours in a pub, resulted in him being fined. Being well known to the local police has its disadvantages.

The Bury & Norwich post reported he had been caught house breaking again and sentenced to 8 years penal servitude.

The 1891 Census shows he was now in Dartmoor Prison.

In 1895 He appeared in the East Suffolk Gazette, described as a "notorious character" for robbery, but this time he wasn't convicted. Again 3 months later he is reputed to have stolen some beer and spirits, but I could not find an outcome to this allegation.

Home office records showed that he was arrested again in 1897 for two house burglary's and sentenced to 5 years penal servitude.

In 1901 he is to be found as a convict in Parkhurst Prison.

1903 sees Stephens career move in a new direction, to the railways stations. The Cambridge Independent Press reported he was caught breaking into Saffron Walden station, and was linked to several other station robberies. The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser called him a "notorious station thief." Once again he was given 5 years penal servitude.

In 1908 the Essex Newsman, reported that a policeman spotted Stephen and followed him, and once he began to follow Stephen, Stephen increased his walking speed which made the policeman give chase (rather like a Charlie Chaplin scene) only to find he had recently broken into an office. Once again he got 5 years penal servitude. But the newspaper reported his plea, "**I have never had a chance. I can't get work**".

These two short sentences, state quite clearly the difference between nature and nurture. How lucky I have been in being educated, unlike Stephen. How lucky I am that I haven't felt the urge to steal food because I was hungry. How lucky I am to have options. Stephen was just a symptom of his time, with many less options than me! In the 1911 Census, Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight. Every census from 1871 Stephen is in gaol.

Check out the genealogy lunchtime learning events on the back page, where you too can check the old newspapers for your own rascals!

Free Online Courses in May

What is a mind?



Course by University of Cape Town

This free online course will bring together learners and practitioners interested in how the mind works. It aims to build bridges between traditionally antagonistic approaches to understanding the mind.

This course is aimed at anyone with an interest in psychology and the mind. The course will also appeal to practitioners, students and researchers from a range of disciplines, whose work directly or indirectly looks at the mind and the brain. This includes, but is not limited to neuroscience, psychology, psychoanalysis, philosophy, psychiatry and neurology.

Course starts 11th May, lasts 6 weeks, 3 hours per week.

Propaganda and ideology in everyday life.



Course by University of Nottingham

This free online course explores the building blocks of our political views: freedom, community, place, justice and choice.

These words mean different things to different people – such radically different things in fact, that individuals, protest movements and entire states often go to war to assert their understanding of, say, freedom over somebody else's.

This course is designed for anyone with an interest in politics, history and propaganda.

Course starts 11th May, lasts 5 weeks, 3 hours per week.

World War 1: Trauma and Memory



Course by Open University

On this free online course, you will study the subject of physical and mental trauma, its treatments and its representation. You will focus not only on the trauma experienced by combatants but also the effects of World War 1 on civilian populations.

This course is aimed at anyone with an interest in World War 1. Some prior knowledge of the history involved may be helpful in understanding the context of some elements of the course, but is not necessary.

Course starts 25th May, lasts 3 weeks, 2 hours per week.

Shipwrecks and Submerged Worlds: Maritime Archaeology



Course by University of Southampton

Learn how maritime archaeology investigates our changing relationship with the oceans and seas, from 2.5m years ago until today

Anyone and everyone is welcome to take this course. Students should be curious, enthusiastic readers, with an interest in archaeology, history and the sea.

Course starts 25th May, lasts 4 weeks, 4 hours per week.

For details on any of the above courses email cwu.sec.finsec@btinternet.com and check out the website cwusec.org.uk and click on the education page.

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Aristotle

Last Years Winning Photos

First Place Winner - Geoff Tondeur



Second Place Winner - Son of Dave Green



Third Place Winner - Son of Dave Redman



Congratulations again to last years winners, but perhaps your photo can be here this time next year?

2015 Branch Digital Photo Competition

At the branch AGM it was agreed that we would once again hold the branch digital photograph competition again this year with the same prize fund.

- 1st Prize £50
- 2nd Prize £30
- 3rd Prize

The overall winner will also have their photograph put on the branch 2016 desk calendar, which we will produce at the end of the year. In fact, any photograph entered in the competition might be able to appear within the calendar.



Once again, this competition is open to all members and their immediate family (basically a relative who lives in your house). This will mean that this is an event which the whole family can get involved. However, you will be restricted to 5 photos per category per member (ie 2 from you 3 from a relative), even with this restriction that's still up to 20 photos per member. The categories are as follows:-

Scenery - This is your chance to send in that holiday scene of beautiful landscapes, sunsets, dramatic mountain ranges, violent seascapes etc. the world is your scenery oyster so to speak.

People - This category could be, close up of faces, people working, celebrating, sadness, excitement, a lone person on a park bench, a cheering crowd etc

General/Unusual - This is an open category in which you can send in your brilliant photos that do not fill the other criteria's. It might be an arty close up, reflections, unusual angles on everyday items, dramatic action photo of a motor sporting event or almost anything you can think of.

The Natural World - This could be a scenery photo but in close up and it has to be natural, it can also be of animals/birds/insects in their natural habitat doing the things that they do, such as last years 3rd place winner (see left).

All the photos will be judged individually by a panel of judges and the complete rules of the competition will appear on the branch website next week along with a downloadable booklet of digital photograph tips, courtesy of the BBC.

There is also a free online course on digital photography available for all members on the CWU "Left Click" education page at <http://leftclick.cwu.org/>

Win an i-Pad with “Left Click”



Left click, is the new online education system designed by the CWU has recently been launched, and to help celebrate the launch they are giving away an iPad for one lucky person who has registered with them.

Log onto <http://leftclick.cwu.org/> and register on “Left Click” and then check out the free online courses. Courses available are:-

No nonsense guide to photography (ideal if you’re thinking of entering the photo competition), Microsoft Excel, Spreadsheet Contact lists, Spreadsheet Pivot Tables, Using Facebook, Using Twitter, Using Skype, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Mail merge using envelopes, email, letters & labels.

“Left Click” also link you to other education sites to learn, such as:- Life saving with resuscitation, online safety & security, Understanding the web, Typing tutorial and Macmillan Cancer Care online courses. There are also other online courses available for union reps, should they wish to take them up.

So what are you waiting for, go online and register and look at the courses available. Entry for iPad **closes May 31st**.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th May, 11:30 -14:30, Tunbridge Wells Tel Exch - Genealogy Lunchtime Learning.

Friday 22nd May, 11:30 -14:30, Withdean Tel Exch - Genealogy Lunchtime Learning.

This is open to all members, non BT and retired members included. Where you can look up your family tree using “Ancestry” and “Find My Past” websites. Non BT or retired please ring 0791 8147211 or email cwu.sec.finsec@btinternet.com for further details.

We never look down on anyone, unless we’re helping them up!

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