



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 22 January 2014

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Events in 2014 begin on Friday 31st January with a short AGM to be followed by a talk entitled Beaulieu in Books revealing what writers have said about our village these last 200 years and why they said it. The talk will be presented by History Society past-Chairman Sir John Coles, and is free to members.

On Friday 7 March, local author Sarah Campbell will present a talk on Historic Walled Gardens.

Chairman's Column

As we approach this year's AGM, you will know that after seven years I have decided to stand down from the Beaulieu History Society committee. My last two years as chairman have been immensely enjoyable – if time-consuming! – and I have tried to keep to the standard set by Sir John Coles. We have had a varied programme of lectures and activities which you have been kind enough to attend in considerable numbers and with enthusiasm.

I have been particularly fortunate in having a talented and supportive committee: Gill Hawkins is also retiring after six years and has been every chairman's dream secretary. Emma Page as vice-chairman and treasurer, has steered the ship into calm waters with her quiet efficiency and dependability. John Pemberton has excelled in his production of the newsletter of which I feel truly proud. Anne Coles has proved invaluable in her help and encouragement to members researching their own houses and her scholarly articles for the newsletter. Christina Dykes has not only run events smoothly and efficiently but also found time to research and present a lecture on Sir Philip Hunloke as well as producing articles on local people for the newsletter. Ralph Montagu is a deep well of knowledge about Beaulieu and its people. He has given me constant help and encouragement as well as

presenting 'Hollywood Comes to Beaulieu' and hosting our first evening of the Listening Project when he persuaded members to join in a fascinating discussion. What a team! I thank them all for their support.

Whilst continuing the series of lectures in the village hall and the country house visits, we have introduced in the last two years a social evening at Buckler's Hard when members can eat together informally and take part in a light-hearted talk and quiz afterwards. We have also made a start in the Junior section of BHS by encouraging the village school to take part in the excavations at Buckler's Hard. I hope that this occasional liaison with the school will continue because I believe the children should know about their locality and its history. We have successfully obtained a grant from the Common Good Trust and we have contributed to the provision of a projector and screen for the village hall. I am also particularly glad that we have begun our 'Listening' project when we record local people who have memories to share. Gill Hawkins and I are hoping to continue our work in this field. Lastly may I assure you that there is an exciting new programme planned for this year under your new chairman. Thank you for all your support.

Rosemary Johnson

Contents

	Page
Chairman's Column	1
Buckler's Hard Survivor	2
Local Research - Poor Law	3
Reuben of Beaulieu	5
A Kaiser in the New Forest	6

Dates for your Diary

Friday 31 January 2014 7pm
Annual General Meeting and
Talk: Beaulieu in Books
presented by Sir John Coles
Beaulieu Village Hall

Friday 7 March 2014 7pm
Historic Walled Gardens
presented by Sarah Campbell
Beaulieu Village Hall

Subscriptions

Membership fees are now due. If you have not yet paid, please send a cheque for £5 per member payable to 'Beaulieu History Society' to: Gill Hawkins, Membership Secretary, at her address on the back page.

One in a new series of articles about the residents of Buckler's Hard cottages

Buckler's Hard's Titanic survivor

Many of you will have heard of the legendary large Hendey family from Buckler's Hard, but perhaps not of its seafaring member Thomas Knowles.

William Hendey (born 1771) and wife Martha (1776) lived in Buckler's Hard where he worked as a labourer. His son Benjamin (1817) married Sarah Kemmish (1821) and they too lived and worked in Buckler's Hard. They had 8 children, 2 sons and 6 daughters. The youngest born 1865 was Clara Jessie and she married Thomas Knowles from Lymington. They had one daughter Dolly born 1893. Dolly did not marry and died in 1986 in Lymington. They lived for some time above the chapel in Buckler's Hard and later at Tanners Lane and East End.

Thomas Knowles was born in 1870 in Lymington. He quickly devel-



Clara Jessie Hendey

oped a love of the sea and ships and at the earliest opportunity he signed on to the big ships.

From his Certificates of Discharge we can trace his career, he started out mainly on the Cape runs, with various excursions into trooping and Cape Mails. He served on a wide variety of ships, and seemed to take any ship that was going.

On February 23, 1900 he was aboard the *SS Mexican* which foundered off the coast of South Africa. In his book is the simple entry "Shipwreck".

His next ship was the famous *Oceanic*, which he often in later years described to his daughter as his "favourite" ship.

However in April 1912 while on leave he decided to try for the *Titanic* and arrived at the dock with his

gear and waited to take the place of a deserter. True enough, several crew members did desert and Tom took one of the places going.

It was not until his wife was informed that he had been saved that she even knew that he had been aboard the *Titanic*!

On his return to Plymouth in the *Lapland*, he was detained there for two days for Board of Trade statements and then returned to his family. He was 'Detained' by the Board of Trade for the British Enquiry, he was not called but held on standby the whole time, for which he was paid £2 a week plus expenses, which at the end amounted to £8 10s 0d.

He later rejoined the *Oceanic* and served on her until World War I broke out, managing to stay with her when she was requisitioned and became *HMS Oceanic*.

Then on August 8th 1914, during a Royal Navy/Merchant Navy dispute as to her true position she became stranded and wrecked on a reef of Foula in the Shetland Islands.

Tom joined the Royal Navy and served mainly on luxury steam yachts for the duration of the war. Demobilised in 1919 he resumed his sea going career.

Eventually this survivor of three shipwrecks lived to be 82 years of age, passing away in January 1951, and is interred in South Baddesley Cemetery, Lymington, Hants.

Mary Montagu



Tom Knowles

Letter written in 1973 by Tom's daughter Dolly about her father's recollections of his experience on the Titanic

1973 Wednesday 28th November

Dear Cousin,

I myself, was 80 last September, I will try to answer your questions re the sinking of the Titanic and how my father was a survivor. If questioned by anyone, he closed up as an oyster on the subject, with

the polite remark, 'Folk that were not on her knew more about it than those that were'.

A few years after, when an account of it was printed in a Sunday paper by 2nd Officer Lightoller, my father said that this account was the most accurate.

continued ...

... continued

My mother and I heard the story from his brother Charles, who came for a weekend to see him after he got settled at home, but not a word was spoken, until my mother and I had gone to our beds, then the two brothers talked far into the night over it, and it was from Uncle that we heard it, later on.

First, my father was so greatly thrilled about this wonderful ship Titanic, that he left his own ship then to get on the Titanic, but she had her full list of crew. Not to be put off, he went up on chance, to do a dock head jump as they call it, and he succeeded.

Several crew members did not turn up on time, but not from the engine room. He sailed as a store-keeper. My mother was not sure that he was gone, until the third day.

Father, before retiring to his bunk, he remarked to one of the crew that the smell of the iceberg was strong, which seaman I understand know.

Already they had beaten the speed record.

My father, off duty went down to his bunk and was roused by the impact, grating and shuddering. He guessed what had happened and came up.

Many cabin doors were jammed and many passengers were unable to get out.

Seeing the seriousness of the conditions, my father tried to return to warn others, but found water rising quickly up the companion way. It was hopeless. The carpenter was



Dolly or Dorothy Knowles

sent down to measure the depth of water and he never returned.

This was a fatal sign. My father then returned on deck and stood just beneath the captain's bridge and advised many people not to join the rush to the stern of the ship which was already rising in the air, the bows slowly sinking.

"If you want a chance, stay here, or we shall all cling together as drowning rats".

Only a few stayed. He could not swim, strange to say, but as the Titanic gradually sank, he stood on the rails, water over his feet, and Captain Smith pacing the bridge.

Finally father jumped into the sea of chaos and saw Captain Smith lift a baby into a lifeboat, but he refused to be saved himself.

My father was picked up by the Carpathia from the last collapsible lifeboat, half frozen feet and hands, from which he often suffered afterwards.

That, on top of other sea experiences, changed my father's disposition, he was like two different men and hard to deal with at times, yet still a sea dog, and carried on Patrol duty ships during the 1914 war, which I cannot go into details here, as someone has kindly offered to type this for me, for you.

P.S. I have left out what he said about the terrible noise of all the 'moveable' equipment in the engine rooms, etc. falling out of her as she sank - was unforgettable.

Parish Records and the Poor Law

One in a series of articles about researching the history of Beaulieu

Beaulieu's parish records are a splendid resource not only for baptisms, marriages and burials. The accounts are available continuously from 1646 to 1838. Widnell in 'The Beaulieu Record' emphasises their importance, 'To write an account of the church is to write a cross section of pretty well the whole history of Beaulieu...' Until the nineteenth century the parish was effectively administered by those annually elected at Easter. These included churchwardens, who cared for the church and disbursed its charity, constables, responsible for ensuring good behaviour and implementing

regulations, and the overseers for the poor. All were, initially at least, unpaid.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries (1538), the church became the main provider of assistance to a parish's poor. Poverty was widespread. Most people were vulnerable to deprivation at some stage in their lives. Causes included illness, accident or death, particularly of the breadwinner, and simple bad luck. Wider events included vagaries of the harvest, especially a sequence of bad seasons, war and its consequences, epidemics (Beaulieu

had recurring problems with small-pox), and structural changes in the economy.

The old Poor Law Act of 1601, which incorporated legislation from the late 1500s, made each parish responsible for its own poor. Overseers raised the necessary funds by a charge on the rates, a property tax paid, not by owners, but by the occupiers of property. They then distributed the relief to the 'deserving' and 'impotent' poor, but not to 'idle vagrants'.

continued ...

... continued

Assistance was mainly given to paupers in their own homes, as outside relief, but Beaulieu also had an almshouse by the late 1600s. In principle, relief could only be received in one's parish of origin. Rules of Settlement (1662 and subsequently) were complicated but designed to avoid undesirable migrants becoming a charge on the rates.

The parish had associated duties. As Beaulieu records show, outsiders were expelled, its own indigent wanderers fetched, errant fathers identified and needy youngsters,

Who were the Overseers?

(Listed by property not name in this extract)

- 1815 Leonards
Pennerley
- 1816 Hilltop
Lay Green
- 1817 Hartford
Berjery
- 1818 Gardener's (Carpenter's
Dock)
Newlands
- 1819 Warren
Sowley
- 1820 Montagu Arms

one a girl of only eight, apprenticed.

By the early 1800s the system had crumbled. Poverty had increased, especially in southern rural areas. Causes included industrialisation, urbanisation, the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1825) and increased migration. Rural wages were very low in relation to prices. Wages were increasingly subsidised out of rates. Beaulieu's rates increased enormously. Overseers and constables, often substantial farmers, were increasingly overworked.

The new Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 radically revised the system. Parishes were grouped into Poor Law Unions under boards of elected Guardians, supervised by Poor Law Commissioners in London. Relief was essentially to be provided through union workhouses. Outside relief was to be largely phased out. Beaulieu's Poor House's occupants moved to the New Forest Workhouse in Ashhurst. Workhouse relief aimed to discourage all but the neediest, providing conditions worse than those of the lowest paid workers. The new arrangements were coldly impersonal as inmates were removed from their own communities. In 1844, Beaulieu, with a population of about 1,200, had 36 parishioners in

There was a wide range of requests for relief, including in 1814:

- To several 'travelling' women
- To a family with three children under nine
- To poor house paupers their 'fair pence'
- To make up wages
- To go to hospital for a bad leg
- For new shoes
- For the loss of a pig
- For a quarter's rent
- And regular assistance to some widows

Ashurst Workhouse, including 14 under tens with or without their mothers. But economic conditions were such that outdoor relief necessarily continued. That summer it went to 48 adults, three-quarters being 'infirm' over 60s. Other recipients were families with many children, and those suffering personal incapacity.

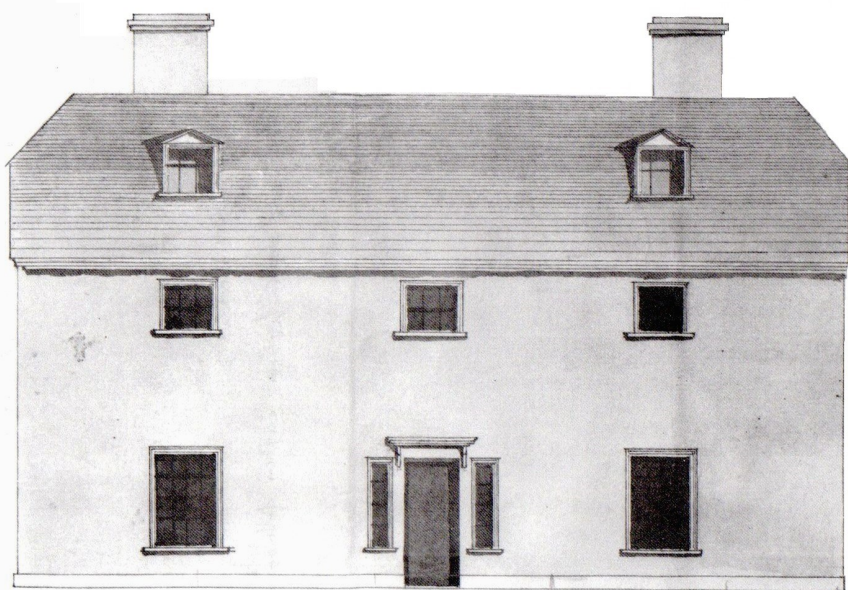
Dip into the parish records and enjoy them in all their vivid detail!

Anne Coles

Research Tips

Hythe Library has most of the same facilities as Lymington Library, and includes material on Beaulieu. The address is Pylewell Road, the phone 02380 841 457. Ample (pay) parking is at the rear. Angela Sutherland, who is knowledgeable on local resources works on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Available on request is Fowler's History of Beaulieu Abbey 1204-1539, The Victoria County History and the Hampshire County Council Magazine. Among the fun items in the Beaulieu 'Boxes' is a paper by the late Stan Seaman on local traditional dances and bands and a teaching pack on Beaulieu and the Poor.



The 'new' Poor House of 1795, probably on the site where the monks distributed charity

Reuben of Beaulieu

Walking in the Beaulieu churchyard I noticed, as the sun was at the right angle, the grave inscription of Reuben Jones. It seemed a strange Christian name, not one I had found in the parish registers. What could be discovered about this person using the sources available?

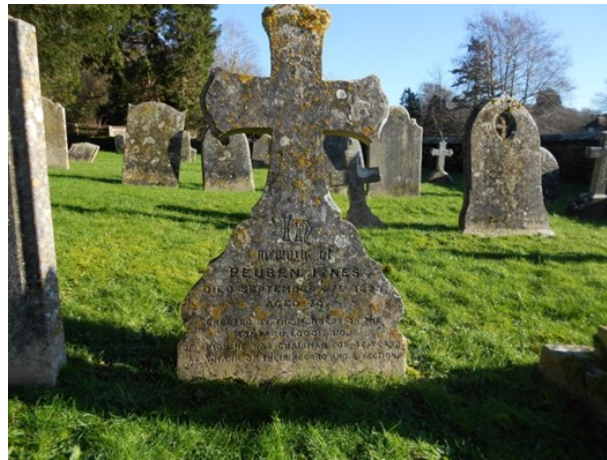
Of the reverse of the stone is an inscription marking the burial of his wife Louisa who died January 2nd 1893.

The Baptismal records for Beaulieu Abbey Church do not show any record of Reuben's baptism though the Marriage records show he married Louisa Baker, of Exbury, on January 31st 1852.

Reuben's parents were Edmund (b 1807) and Sarah (b 1808), and after their marriage in October 1827, lived at Bunker's Hill. Edmund was one of the village carriers and his widow continued with the business after his death in 1868, until she, herself, died in 1877. Reuben, I believe, was their first son and if the date on the gravestone is correct, he was born in 1828.

Reuben Jones and Sarah Gregory married and also lived at Bunker's Hill, the building being large enough for a number of families to live independently. Over the next two decades they had seven children and the 1861 and 1871 censuses show some of the children living next door with their grandparents. Their eldest son, Tom, carried on the carriage business of his grandparents and used to transport the Beaulieu Cricket team to their away fixtures.

Much of Reuben's life is a mystery, though successive censuses describe his trade as a bricklayer. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters and at the dinner following the annual fete in June 1889 the *Hampshire Advertiser* records 'Lord Montagu proposed the health of Mr Reuben Jones as being the oldest



Grave of Reuben Jones, the inscription being:
In memory of Reuben Jones died September 27th 1898 Aged 70; Erected by the members of the Montagu Lodge of which he was chairman for 32 years as a mark of their regard and affection

member of the local court'.

The East Boldre section of the *New Forest Magazine* for November 1898 records 'The brightness of our Harvest Thanksgiving was dimmed by the terrible accident which happened on Tuesday 27th September. It was a great shock to the whole parish. It seems almost incredible that he who was known to us all as "Reuben" was taken away for us in such a manner. We miss his happy welcome every Sunday at the church door, and the whole parish and neighbourhood will miss him more and more, especially the members of the Beaulieu Club, those who have a weekly paper, and who look for letters on Sunday; he was a kind of father, and a real benefactor of the parish, always willing to do anything he could'.

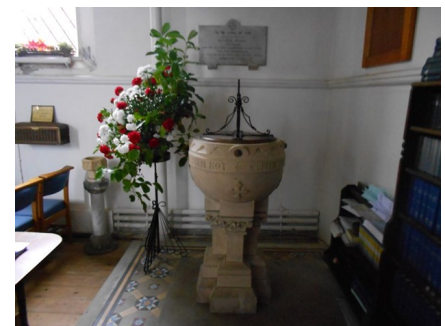
The report goes on: 'A memorial service was held in Church at the end of Evensong on Sunday Oct. 2nd. The Church was crowded and there were very few dry eyes during the service, all felt they had lost a friend. It is very properly felt that something to Reuben's memory should be placed in the Church he loved and served so well for so many years, therefore it is proposed to have a new Font which will be placed in the new baptistery that his family are going to have prepared

in memory of him as their own special gift'.

There were so many subscribers to the memorial font that a Chancel Stove was paid for as well as new books for the choir. It was dedicated on the fourth Sunday of Advent in the presence of a large congregation.

It was only when I stumbled across an article in *Hampshire Advertiser* of October 1st 1898 that I discovered the dreadful details: 'A sad and fatal occurrence took place at East Boldre on Tuesday morning. Mr.

Reuben Jones, the esteemed and respected octogenarian parish clerk meeting his death under shocking circumstances – a mad bull knocking him down, and goring and trampling him to death. Mr. Jones, during his long life had won the



The new font in East Boldre Church, purchased in memory of Reuben Jones, the plaque behind recording the dedication

goodwill of all classes, and that his long and useful life should have been brought to a close in such a tragic manner has exacted the deepest regret and sympathy. In addition to holding the office of clerk to the East Boldre parish church for a prolonged period, Mr. Jones had for many years been associated with the Beaulieu Band, severing his connection a few years since, on account of his great age'.

It was a sad end to a long life.

Anthony Norris

A Kaiser in the New Forest

One in a series of articles about interesting local residents

In 1907 a weary and ill Kaiser Wilhelm II visited his uncle Edward VII in England. After the visit the Kaiser wanted to recuperate in England. Knowing that his nephew was a keen yachtsman, Edward looked to the coast of Hampshire for a suitable place to house the Kaiser and his entourage.



Kaiser Wilhem II, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia

The ever-ambitious Cornwallis-Wests immediately offered their home, Newlands Abbey in Milford-on-Sea. But it was too small. So instead the Kaiser took nearby Highcliffe Castle the home of Colonel Edward James Montagu Stuart-Wortley. A keen Germanophile, the Colonel agreed to lend his castle as long as he was allowed to remain as host.

The Kaiser was to have bitter-sweet memories of his visit to Highcliffe. Tending to overstate his personal ambition and authority, he spoke freely to his host. Stuart Wortley made notes of the conversations and, thinking that they would show the Kaiser as a friend of England, he gave a report of them to the *Daily Telegraph*. The revelations were to cause a political and constitutional storm in Germany, which did much to undermine the Kaiser's shrinking influence.

That was to come at the time the Kaiser enjoyed his visit. We know something about it from a letter that Patsy Cornwallis-West wrote to her daughter Daisy, Princess of Pless. Daisy had married HSH Prince Hans of Pless. It was a good status marriage for the Cornwallis- Wests

but Daisy found it difficult to settle in Germany where she was always treated with suspicion. After the war, divorced and impoverished by rapid inflation and the loss of the Pless lands, Daisy resorted to publishing extracts from her diaries. It



Daisy, Princess of Pless in 1901

is from one such extract that we learn of the Kaiser's visit to the New Forest.

Patsy wrote in her letter to Daisy that in October 1907 the Kaiser came to Beaulieu. A keen motorist, he is known to have visited John, 2nd Lord Montagu at Palace House, who rushed back from London to greet him. On the way he had coffee with Patsy at Newlands. Patsy drew a sympathetic picture of him. She thought he was 'looking very ill, that same blue that his sister has'. Patsy quoted him

saying, 'if I could have chosen my life I would have been a country gentleman and quite content with a home like this'. He reassured Patsy that he was watching over Daisy and 'taking a great interest in her'. He was true to his word. Throughout the war the Kaiser intervened to protect Daisy from malicious slander, and he helped her find work nursing the injured. For her part, Daisy always maintained that the Kaiser was a man of peace who did not want war. She knew he was 'a difficult master' and 'full of personal vanity'. His trouble, she opined, was that he was isolated from reality and lacked impartial advice. Above all he did not understand his 'diminishing authority'.

The *Daily Telegraph* crisis in 1907/8 proved just how weakened Wilhelm was already. It is no wonder that he would later speak of his New Forest sojourn as 'those glorious days'.

Christina Dykes

Committee Members

Rosemary Johnson – Chair bretrosrj@aol.com
 Emma Page – Treasurer emma.page@lepe.org.uk
 Ralph Montagu ralph.montagu@beaulieu.co.uk

Anne Coles – Research anne@johncoles.plus.com
 Christina Dykes – Events christina@exalon.net
 John Pemberton – Newsletter
 johnlpemberton@compuserve.com

Contact: Gill Hawkins – Secretary jr.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk
 11 The Hummicks, Dock Lane, Beaulieu SO42 7YU 01590 611 143