



Explore the World in Bedfordshire Archives!

Inspired by the 'Explore Your Archive' campaign led by the National Archives and Archives & Records Association, our new online exhibition highlights some of the documents in our collections relating to global travel and adventure. They show the impact of Bedfordshire people world-wide, and the influence of the wider world on Bedfordshire. For centuries people have been migrating to and from the County, businesses have traded far and wide, and travellers have recorded their experiences in letters and photographs. Inside is just a sample of the diverse documents we hold at the Archive Service. For the full exhibition go to www.bedford.gov.uk/archiveexplore

Your local Archive Service needs you!

- The centenary of the First World War, August 1914 to November 1918, is upon us, and as the nation prepares to remember a conflict that cost so many lives, the Archives Service has an important part to play. As well as records of the Home Front, we hold the archives of the Bedfordshire Regiment, including the battalion war diaries. Information on individual soldiers is limited, but we can usually point researchers towards the available sources. So, if you are from a local museum or history society, or carrying out individual research, we can help. This is what we are planning over the coming months:
- ◇ Starting in August 2014, a daily summary of the contents of the official Bedfordshire Regiment battalion war diaries, local newspapers, and personal diaries of people at home.
 - ◇ A calendar of local First World War events in Bedfordshire, including Luton. Please let us know what you are planning so we can publicise it on our website - date, times, venue, nature of event, any charges. E-mail details to sue.edwards@bedford.gov.uk.
 - ◇ A Military Family History section of our website, covering all periods, not just the First World War, and with special emphasis on the sources for The Bedfordshire Regiment.

Menu for the Savage Club Farewell Dinner to the officers and members of the Antarctic Expedition of 6 July 1901. The artist was Charles Dixon. The expedition included Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton.

We believe that our founder, Dr George Herbert Fowler, who was a marine zoologist at the time, may have been present at the dinner; this menu comes from his own personal papers.

[Ref.M13/2/4]



This map of gold mines in South Africa was found among Leighton & Linslade District Council building plans. [ref.UDLLP]

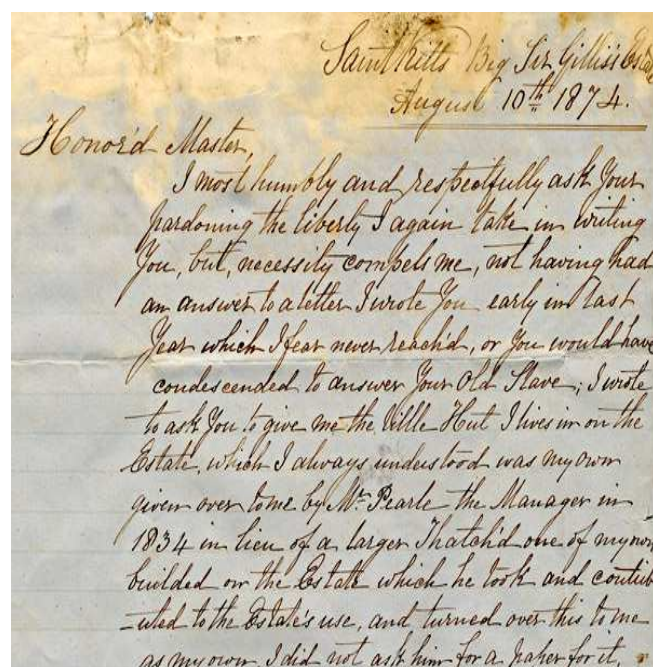
This photograph was taken in China in 1911, and shows Howard's six furrow balance plough in use. The plough was made at the Britannia Works in Bedford. [ref.BR34]



日本工業倶楽部 • 日本經濟聯盟聯合夜會
日本舞踊に蕩醉する海外會員
(十月三十日 日本工業倶楽部)

Evening Party by the Industry Club of Japan and the Japan Economic Federation.

(1) The Overseas Members fully enjoying the typical Japanese Dances. (At the Industry Club of Japan, October 30th)



Letter from James Amos, Saint Kitts, Big Sir Gillies Estate, ex-slave, to his former Master (probably Sir Coventry Payne), asking to be given the hut he was promised for his old age. '...So I now beg of you the small Hut, as I am now Eighty odd years, very feeble and poor and must very soon change life for death, and have not a little home of my own to leave my poor wife in after I am gone...' [ref.D203]

When Mr R W Allen of WH Allen Limited attended the World Engineering Congress in Tokyo in 1929 all delegates received a souvenir photo album [ref.AQ11/2/3] . It's not clear if the caption to this photograph was ironic!

*I am for the continent & have gott for my horse about 100/18
 & 100/100 of my horse & go a foot of 2 months 20 days to
 the continent & 100/100 of my horse & go a foot of 2 months 20 days to
 the continent & 100/100 of my horse & go a foot of 2 months 20 days to*

This is part of a letter from Nicholas Lawrence, a merchant tailor, who had travelled from his home town of Bedford to Taradanty [now Taroudant, Morocco]. He is writing to his cousin Henry Howe. He states that he set out for Taradanty on 13 May 1586, and had 100 odd miles to go by foot, and took 2 months 20 days to get to the country. Nicholas died in 1597, 'in the city of Morocus in the country of Barberye'. In his will he stated that if his three children died then his wealth was to be given to the town of Bedford 'for marriage portions for poor maids or for the upkeep of the bridge'. [ref.TW397]



This 1742 Map of Maryland shows parts of New Jersey and Virginia, before the boundary with Pennsylvania and with Delaware was fixed. William Stuart, Archbishop of Armagh married Sophia, daughter of Thomas Penn one of the sons of William Penn the colonist. William and Sophia's eldest son, also called William, bought the Tempsford Hall estate in Bedfordshire in 1824. The archives became part of the Wynne family and estate papers that came to the Archives Service in 1948. [Ref.WY890]



H C Janes of Luton during his visit to the Congo while Baptist Missionary Society chairman in 1949-50. The image was made into a postcard for the Baptist Medical Mission Birthday Fund 1949-50. [ref.JN117]

On 16 August 1837 Joseph Henock, a travelling jeweller, was examined by the Magistrates as to his legal place of settlement prior to his marriage in Bedford. 'I am about 26 years of age, was born at Warsaw in Poland. When 18 years of age I left Warsaw. I came to England in 1832. I was married this morning 16th August at the Office of Mr Samuel Wing, Superintendent Registrar, situate in the parish of St Mary to my now wife Mary Levi, spinster.[ref.PUBZ3/9/37].

*Bedford } The examination of Joseph
 Henock now residing in
 the Parish of Saint Paul
 in this Town Travelling
 Jeweller touching the place
 of his legal settlement
 who upon his oath saith I
 am about 26 years of age - was
 Born as I have been informed and
 believe at Warsaw in Poland. when
 18 years of age I left Warsaw
 and came to England in
 1832 and went with a man of
 the name of Morris a jeweller with
 whom I learnt my trade and travelled
 together about a twelve month since
 that time I have travelled on my
 own account. I have occasionally
 resided at Bedford during the last*

BLARS Learning Officer



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Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service has been granted £82,400 by The Heritage Lottery Fund to employ a Learning Officer for three years to work with Bedfordshire schools. Clare Rogers has been appointed to the post and began work here in December. She will work in Luton for the academic year 2013-14, in Bedford Borough in 2014-15 and in Central Bedfordshire in 2015-16 with primary and secondary schools of all types – LEA controlled, academies, free schools and private schools. If you would like more information about this exciting project please contact Clare on 01234 276023 or e-mail clare.rogers@bedford.gov.uk.



Learning Officer
Clare Rogers

Wi-Fi

Two wireless access points have now been installed at the Archives Service, allowing members of the public to connect to the internet when they are visiting.

New Charges for Enquiry & Copying Services

New charges for some services will be introduced from 2nd January 2014.

A full list can be found on our website. There is good news for people wanting colour photocopies of documents for the price has been reduced from £2.40 a sheet to £1.30.

- ◇ Minimum charge for copies sent by post: £6.20
- ◇ Straightforward black and white copying: 65p per sheet
 - ◇ Complex copying (postal only): £1.25
 - ◇ Digital images taken by staff: £8.40 each
- ◇ Digital photography by visitors: 65p per document, capped at £16 per day in total
 - ◇ Research fees: £32 an hour ; £16 for 30 minutes £8 for 15 minutes

Prebend Street Car Park

The car park on Prebend Street in Bedford has opened after a refurbishment and is ideally located for visitors planning to spend some time at the archives. The ticket machines presently take cash only. Visitors should note that Melbourne Street Car Park remains the cheaper long stay option. For details of how to find us and parking see the 'How to find us' page on our website.

Can you help us put history online?

The first stage of putting our archive catalogues online is transferring our old hand and typewritten catalogues into word processed documents. We have already done three quarters of the 60,000 pages; now we are looking for some volunteers to type up the rest at home. The catalogues describe the documents we hold which can be anything from a medieval deed to a 20th century photograph, so you will learn a lot about the archives as you type. Then, when the catalogues are transferred to our on-line database, they will be accessible to anyone interested in the history of Bedfordshire. Over 75% of our catalogues are already available in this way. If you are interested in helping call Pamela Birch on 01234 228908 or e-mail Pamela.birch@bedford.gov.uk.

BLARS Closure Week 2014

We will be CLOSED to the public during the week of February 24th – 28th 2014 to enable us to undertake some reorganisation and stocktaking.

This newsletter is edited by Susan Edwards, who welcomes ideas and material for future issues.

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