



...society as passed Ge

The Bedford Society for Women's Suffrage.

RULES.

- 1.—The Society shall be called "The Bedford Society for Women's Suffrage."
- 2.—The object of the Society shall be to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
- 3.—The Society shall be affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and be attached to the Berks. and Bucks. Federation.
- 4.—The methods of the Society shall be constitutional.
- 5.—Membership of the Society is open to all women who approve of its object and adhere to its principles.

The Financial Year shall end on July 31st of each year.

The Society shall be governed by an Executive Committee of President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and other Members. The Members of the Committee shall be annually in rotation and be eligible for re-election.

The Annual General Meeting shall be called as soon as

- (a) To receive the Report and Financial Statement.
- (b) To elect by ballot the President and Hon. Treasurer also Members of the Executive Committee by retiring Members.
- (c) To transact any business which may have been brought forward.

Sources for Women's History

Bedford County Federation of Women's Institutes.

The Masque of Lady Margaret

THE PARK, BEDFORD,
Wednesday and Thursday, June 10 & 11. 1916.
each day at 2.30 and 7 p.m.
PROGRAMME - - Price 3d.

PLEASANT TRIP
The Bedfordshire and Luton Railway
Member of the Masque - The Entrance Free.
[For List of Cakes and Restaurants on Back Cover.]



In the Name of our women. The Sixth Day of
January Anno, 1756. In the County of Bedford
Parish of St. Andrew's, Bishop's Hatfield, in the
of the Bedford Midwife & Widow, Being, In the
& Perfect Memory, thanks be to Almighty God,
willing to Remember the Uncertain State of this
Life, & that all flesh must yield unto Death,
shall please God to Call, do make & Declare this
will and Testament in Manner & form following


The Mothers' Union.
founded by ALBERT BAKER.

THE OBJECTS

1. To uphold the Sacrament of Marriage.
2. To assist in all Mothers a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls—the Father and Mother in the Future.
3. To encourage in every place a band of Mothers who will think on prayer, and work by their own example to lead their families in piety and holiness of life.

*To the work we should be hearty in thought and action. We should be true to our duty in the presence of our children, and in the presence of our fellow-workers.



Diary 1916.
Wednesday
May 24th morning. I helped
quite a busy morning. I was on with Sister
with dresses. I made beds & washed
woolens in evening. I sewed &
went to park. The day
I saw a bill cause into force
in Bedford this week. All
I saw on an hour.

This may Certify you that Avice B
of Littleton in your P. Arch deaconry of
of very sober and peaceable life and discre
and according to the Gift of our Judgment we
Qualified to execute the Office of a Midwife
I never heard of any woman, by making use of her

BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON Archives and Records Service

August 2005

BEDFORDSHIRE & LUTON ARCHIVES & RECORDS SERVICE

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SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

EDUCATION

STATE SCHOOLS

Before the 1870 Education Act there was little formal educational provision for working class children in England and Wales. If they attended school at all they would have gone to a School run by a charity or religious society, a Dame school, a Sunday school or even a workhouse school.

Evidence for the education of girls before the 19th Century is scanty but the Emery's Charity School in Meppershall was teaching girls to read in the late 17th Century (P29/25/1). By 1867 more women than men were able to sign their names on a marriage register see CRT 160/140 page 522.

For details on schooling see: The Bedfordshire Schoolchild – elementary education before 1902, ed. David Bushby, BHRS Vol 67, 1988 and The Education and Employment of Girls in Luton, 1874-1924, ed. Anne Allsopp, BHRS Vo.84, 2005

Also:

Reports of the Charity Commissioners: Bedfordshire, 1815-1839 [Library Reference 120 CHA]. This provides a useful summary of charities in Bedfordshire, including educational charities.

Report on Girls' Continuation School, Bedfordshire Mercury, 9 May 1896, p.3, col.3.

Report on Ladies Annual Congress, Bedfordshire Mercury, p.8, col.1. (Lady Representatives of Technical Instruction classes).-

Report on Crescent House Ladies College, Bedfordshire Mercury, 29 July 1904, p.10, col.4.

Archive Sources

Look at the subject index marked "EDUCATION" for references to schools in the County.

School logbooks (archive class SD) contain details of the curriculum, school attendance, illness etc. Also within the SD class are admission registers, reports on schools, pupil teacher agreements.

School syllabi can be found amongst the entries in the "EDUCATION" section of the subject index. These are very useful in showing the type of education deemed suitable for girls of a particular social class

e.g. EBV 18, Syllabus for Harpur Girls' Central School, 1929.

Views on the education of girls are hard to come by. In 1779 Wm Talbot, rector of Elmsett, Suffolk, wrote to his sister in law Mrs Talbot of Sharnbrook on the education of his girls: "We do not know how we can do them good more effectually than by contributing to give them such an Education as is suitable to their station and such as may enable them to make their way in the world and support themselves with credit" (Z 654/8).

The records of the Education Department of the County Council provide details on education in this century. Ask the archivist for the catalogues. The following may prove useful:

Education Committee Minutes, 1903-1985 (E.M. 1-53); Education Committee Agenda Papers, 1904-1992 (E.P. 1-142). The latter includes useful material on salaries, pupil teachers etc.

TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

(see also Apprenticeship in **EMPLOYMENT** section of this guide)

E.V. 115	Technical Instruction Executive Committee Annual Reports. These reports are good for describing instruction given in the county in plaiting, cookery, nursing, laundry work etc. Each one includes a report on the Congress of Lady Representatives. 1896-1903
Book 130 LUT	The Education and Employment of Girls in Luton 1874-1924, Widening Opportunities and Lost Freedoms Allsopp <i>Thesis, Anne</i>
E/Sub M O/11/1-4	Technical Instruction Committee Minutes 1891-1903
E/Sub P O/11/1-11	Technical Instruction and Farm School Sub Committee Papers.1891-1903
E/Sub M O/6/1-25	Higher Education Sub Committee Minutes 1903-1945
E/Sub P O/6/1-25	Higher Education Sub Committee Papers 1903-1945

Cardington Industrial Day School for Girls (founded c. 1859)

A venture promoted by the Whitbread family. Girls were admitted between the ages of 7 and 17. Apart from instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, girls were given special training in the work of a cook, a housemaid, a laundress and a dairymaid. See CRT 160/140 Beds Evidence from the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons and women, 1867; also CRT 150/71 which contains an article from the Bedfordshire Mercury, 10 February 1862 describing the opening of the new school building.

Cookery Centres

Great emphasis was placed on the teaching of domestic subjects to girls especially from the 1880's onwards. A Cookery and Manual Centre was opened in Bedford in 1902 with cookery for the girls and carpentry for the boys. This was a cooperative venture with the Harpur Trust and Bedford School Board. For further details see Bedford School Board file EBV 29.

Bedfordshire Training Home for Girls

Formed by the Bedfordshire Ladies' Association, 1879. The objectives of the home are stated in its first minute book (ST 1497) "The Association takes for its first object 'the prevention of evil'. To meet this it is proposed to establish in or near Bedford a training home for girls of all denominations and of the lowest grade of society".

ST 1497-1545	Records of the Bedfordshire Training Home for Girls	1879-1931
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The Bedford Kindergarten Training College and School (Froebel System)

Bedford Training College Archives, list prepared by R. Smart [130 BED]

Bedford Training College 1882-1982 – A History of a Froebel College and its School, by R.

Smart [130 BED]

The Froebel Gazette, Autumn 1957 [pamphlet 50]

Journal of Sources in Educational History, Vol 3, No 1. "The Victorian Training College". Includes Bedford material. Micf 7/1.

Obituary of Alice Walmsley, Principal of Bedford Kindergarten and College. Appointed 23 November 1895. Bedfordshire Times, 28 December 1928

Archive Sources

Fac 90/1-2	Bedford Froebel College, Registers of students and pupils	1883-1903
Fac 90/3	Bedford Kindergarten Co Ltd. Register of students and fees (Above records also on microfiche at Micf 40)	1889-1919
Z 50/9/343-346	Photographs of Bedford Kindergarten pupils and students	1901, 1913

Bedford Physical Education College

Founded in 1903 by Miss Margaret Stansfeld

Street, Kevin 'Stanny's Stues – Bedford Physical Training College 1903-1918' Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 24 pp.245-249

Bedfordshire Lace Education Committee

This committee consisted of a group of ladies who decided to encourage the teaching of lace making.

AD 3295-6	Beds Lace Education Minutes	1907-30
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ADULT EDUCATION

EG 13/2 A survey of H.M. Inspectors of classes of particular interest to women in Bedfordshire 1962

PRIVATE EDUCATION

Details about private schools can often be found in local directories, newspapers, and guide books e.g. Illustrated Bedfordshire, Its History and Commerce, Nottingham, 1895.

See also: Moser, E. "The Crescent, Bedford", B.H.R.S. Vol 72, pp. 210-212, for private schools in 19th Century Bedford.

The main records held for private girls schools are listed below. (Supplement this list by checking the subject index and the catalogue entries):

Moravian Ladies' College

The Moravian Ladies' College in St. Peter's Street, Bedford, was the best girls' school in the County until the creation of the Harpur Trust Girls Schools.

Archive Sources

M.O. 713-746	Records of the Moravians Ladies School Mostly ledgers and accounts.	1805-1891
M.O. 36-39	Moravian minute book – contains references to Ladies School	1793-1911
M.O. 343	Bedford Congregation Diary, p.58. "There are insuperable difficulties against the establishment of a Girls' School." (Calendared CRT 170/7/19)	1767
M.O. 371-375	Bedford Congregation Diaries Contains references to boarding school.	1807-1897

The Harpur Trust Girls' Schools

Books

The Harpur Trust, 1552-1973, Joyce Godber, Bedford, 1973 [Library Ref 150]

The Harpur Trust Girls' Schools, Vol I and II, Mary F. Hunt, unpublished dissertation
[Library Ref 150]

Bedford High School

Books

A Century of Challenge. Bedford High School, 1882 to 1982, Joyce Godber and Isobel Hutchins (eds), 1982 [Library Ref 130 BED]

Seventy Five Years. The Story of Bedford High School, 1882-1957, K.M. Westaway (ed), Bedford, 1957 [Library Ref 130 BED]

A history of Bedford High School, K.M. Westaway (ed), Bedford, 1932 [Library Ref 130 BED]

Archive Sources

HT 9/19/1-4	Registers	1882-1913
HT 9/15/1-3	Applications	1893-1963
X 291/433-434	Prospectuses	1939-1940
X 291/456	<u>Aquila</u> , the school magazine	1921
Z 160/240	<u>Aquila</u> , Jubilee number	1932
Z 160/653-654	<u>Aquila</u>	1972-1973
W/V 2/1	Book: <u>Old Girls in New Times, B.H.S. in the War</u>	c. 1946
Z 439/63-82	Details of school life at B.G.M.S. and B.H.S. and subsequent career at Cheltenham Ladies College of Irene Joan Langley, b. 1884	

Dame Alice Harpur School

The History of the School, 1882 B.G.M.S.-D.A.H.S. 1982, Constance M. Broadway and Esther I. Buss, 1982 [Library Ref 130 BED]

Archive Sources

Micf 12	Logbook	1882-1890
HT 9/20/1-3	Registers	1882-1913
HT 9/16/1-2	Applications	1916-1968
X 291/435	Prospectus	1930s
Z 239/1-9	<u>Visage</u> , the school magazine	1930-1934
X 291/512/1-3	<u>Visage</u>	1949-1951
Z 160/85	<u>Visage</u>	1975

St. Andrew's School, Bedford Founded 1897

Prospectus [pamphlets 130 BED]

Archive Sources

Z 160/431	Prospectus, uniform list, rules etc	1960's
X 291/439	List of staff, fees etc. with photographs of classes	c.1980

Convent of the Holy Ghost, Bedford Opened 1907

Archive Sources

Z 160/288-291	Admission Registers	1907-1957
Z 160/292-298	Summary Registers	1940-1969
Z 160/109	<u>Columba</u> , the school magazine	1932-1969
X754/1-5	<u>Columba</u>	1936-1940
Z 160/110-112	Parents' Association Committee minutes	1968-1974

PRIVATE EDUCATION – OUT-COUNTY

M 10/4/174-175	Letters from Maria Waller, St. Albans. Schoolmistress to Miss Williamson	1776
M 10/4/282-305	Letters from Mary Williamson from school to her mother	1772-1778
SFM 2/44	School bill of Alice Swaffield at Miss Charlotte Weight's	1862-1863
OR 2298/3-5b	Letters from Rouse-Boughton sisters at school in Belgium	1852-1853
Book 150	An Inquiry into the private education of females in Essex, Herts and Beds (dissertation by Fiona Bengtsen – Acc.No.c1791-1861 13378 – 2/2001)	

SCHOOL BOOKS

OR 2164-66	Exercise books of M Orlebar	1740's-1743
PM 3006	Arithmetic book of Jane Leslie Melville (Lady Jane Pym nee Leslie Melville, wife of Francis Pym, died 1848)	7 Feb 1810
LL 17/322	Mary Ann Brooks arithmetic book	1833
Mic 193	Eaton Ford House, seminary copy book. Miss Randall. Mainly the rules for various types of arithmetic and appropriate examples)	1847
X 393/12	Exercise book of Sophia Elizabeth Barker	1856
SD Toddington 12/9-10	Annie Walker – homework books	1901-1903
Micf 118/1-3	Elsie Gadsden's Exercise Books	1931-1934
SD Toddington 12/11	Heather Pear's nature study book	1957-1958

TEACHERS

L 30/11/133/1-15	Letters of Sarah Harrison to Mrs Box and Countess de Grey. Mrs Harrison kept a day school at Silsoe	1789-1820
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P.U.A.C. 1/2	Advertisement for schoolmistress [p.22 of letterbook]	1838
HF 127/2/9	Mrs Kemp, teacher at Langford. Offered resignation as about to get married but in fact continued	1881-1882
Z 967	Essay describing journey through Caldecote with biography of Ann Gentle, school mistress at a dame school	1887
E.B.V. 5/1-3	Registers of appointments of school teachers	1900-1945
E.B.V. 5/4-16	Registers of qualifications of school teachers	1900-1945
E.V. 68/1-6	Registers of teachers	1904-1944
E.B.V. 13	File relating to resignations of women teachers on marriage and teachers aged 60 applying for pension.	1923-1944
X 394	Central Council of Beds. County Teachers – subsequently Beds County Association of the N.U.T. minute books (with gaps)	1903-1970
P 10/29/1/9	Northhill School. Teachers' salary returns	1912-1929
Z 160/237	Photograph album belonging to the late Misses Bull, Foster Street, Bedford, dancing teachers. Mainly personal snapshots but including two large photos of dancing classes.	1930's-50's
P 10/29/1/13	Application forms of Mrs H. Turner and Mrs M.A. Stead for the post of head teacher at Northhill School, with covering letters etc	1931
P 10/29/1/14	Agreement for the appointment of Miss F.E. Marchant as assistant teacher at Northhill School at a salary of _95 p.a.	1932
SD Cranfield 6/4	Letter of application from Ellen J. Doddridge, Bristol for the post of Certified Teacher giving qualifications and experience and of her present post teaching in a slum school in Bristol	1934

Pupil Teachers

The early agenda papers of the Higher Education Sub Committee (E/Sub M O/6) and the Education Committee (E.P.) contain material on pupil teachers in Bedfordshire schools. See also:

SD Riseley 5/3-6, 7/3-4	Records <u>re</u> pupil teachers	1875-1903
HF 127/2/3	Correspondence re appointment and examination of pupil teachers, Langford	1880-1884
SD Toddington 9/2	Examination reports and memoranda of agreement for engagement of pupil teachers	1896-1901
SD Toddington 12/18	Article re pupil teacher at Toddington School	1976

P 16/29/7 Memoranda of agreement concerning the engagement of pupil
teachers at Westoning 1871-1889

Z 212 Teacher's certificate for Lizzy Mephram, having been pupil teacher at
Harpur Trust Ampthill Road School. 1879

Governesses

OR 2324/3 Letter from Caroline Longley, former governess to Frederica Rouse-
Boughton 1855

D 139, 176, 177 Agreement as to Ellen Vincent Schroder becoming governess to
Lady Payne to educate daughter 1870-1873

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

EMPLOYMENT

APPRENTICESHIP

See:

A List of Bedfordshire Apprentices: 1711-1722, Mrs Hilary Jenkinson (ed). BHRS Vol 9, pp 147-176

Bedford Apprenticeship Enrolments, 1615-1843 [130 BED]

Archive Sources

See subject index under TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Apprenticeship.

The main records for the apprenticeship of girls come from Apprenticeship Indentures found amongst parish collections (black catalogues marked P). Apprenticeship records can also be found amongst Poor Law Union records e.g. Emily Ashton of Flitton who was apprenticed to Sarah Moore of Ampthill, dressmaker in 1890 (PUAV 36/30). See also BHRS Vol.84 The Education and Employment of Girls in Luton, 1874-1924: Widening Opportunities and Lost Freedoms.

The Harpur Trust provided money for apprenticeship and a list of registers can be found in the HT catalogue at HT 8. The Bedford Charity also gave gifts to poor girls going out to service. Wilkes Charity of Leighton Buzzard provided money for apprenticeship. All the girls apprenticed between 1839 and 1862 were to milliners and dressmakers with the exception of Jane Parson who in 1862 was apprenticed to a pastry cook and confectioner in Birmingham (X 174/17 Wilkes Charity Apprenticeship Book). Further charities that provided money for the apprenticeship of girls can be found in the Reports of the Charity Commissioners: Bedfordshire, 1815-1839 [Library reference 120 CHA]. Apprenticeship could allow for exploitation and mistreatment. Such cases can be found in the High Sheriff's Assize rolls of the 17th Century (H.S.A.). For example in 1669 there are depositions relating to Sarah Mosse who was apprenticed by the parish of Houghton Conquest to Thos Willimott. She was badly treated and subsequently ran away (H.S.A. 1669 S 64-70).

Migration to find work

During the 19th Century northern mills were eager to recruit labour from this county:

- PUBM 1 Letter from Mr Christie from Esdale Mill, Derbyshire to Bedford Board of Guardians. Asks for destitute girls or widows with mainly girls for mill work. 20 Feb 1836
- P.U.Pu. 1/3 First Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1836, pp. 324-327. Cites Bedfordshire families who have moved from Cranfield to Mellor in Derbyshire. The women were formerly employed in lace-making and now doing mill work. Compares wages made from lace-making to that of mill work.

Wages

Willan, T.S. "A Bedfordshire Wage Assessment of 1684" in BHRS Vol 25 pp.129-137. Gives rates of wages for men and women.

OCCUPATIONS (for teachers see EDUCATION section)

Agriculture

PBwP/W 1714/3B	Will of Mary Crofts, Biggleswade, Dairywoman	1714
ABP/W 1750/4	Will of Elizabeth Brotherton, Linslade, Bucks, Grazier	1750
Z 50/142/366	Group photograph of woman's hoeing or weeding group in a field near Potton church	c.1920
Z 50/109/8	Photograph of women and girls gathering herbs at Staploe	n.d. ?1940's

Bakers

ABP/W 1605/111	Will of Alice Prince, Bedford St. Paul's, Baker	1605
ABP/W 1854/16	Will of Elizabeth Bass, Stagsden, spinster, Baker	1854
P 10/14/2	Apprenticeship indenture of Mary Syer, Northill to Robert Syer, Clophill, gingerbread baker	1736

Basket Makers

X 171/253-255	Three small note books. Eliza A. Wells	1851-3?
X 171/263	Wage book. On cover "Annie Wells"	1906-7

Blacksmiths

X 171/276-278	Two ledgers and a day book, Annie Slater, Clifton	1894-1917
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Drapers

WE 233	Mrs Green and Mrs Taylor, drapers of Ampthill, mentioned in will of Judith Walduck of Ampthill, widow	pr., 1796
AL 226	Sarah Miller, draper and grocer of Pavenham party in a conveyance	1803
AD 3269/22	Bill for mantle from Paris House, 91 High Street, Bedford, proprietor Mrs F.J. Bobby	1887
AD 3269/88	Bill of Mrs J.H. Prole, Modes et Robes, 1 Ampthill Road, Bedford	1910
Z 50/13/230	Photograph of interior of Dusts' ladies drapers, 75 High Street, Bedford	c. 1920
Z 50/13/231	Photograph of interior of Whitelocks, ladies drapers, 117-9 High Street, Bedford	c. 1920
Z 50/16/156-7	Interior photograph of Mrs Matilda D. Wells, draper, Biggleswade	1923

Dressmakers

Item re dressmakers and overtime in Bedfordshire Times, 13 June 1891, p.7. No remuneration given for women working overtime nor do they have weekly half-holiday given to men.

ABP/W 1629/119	Will of Mary Bosworth, Salford, Seamstress	1629
ABP/W 1638/143	Will of Elizabeth Wilson, Bedford, Seamstress	1638
ABP/W 1690/27	Will of Margt. Knight, Bedford, Seamstress	1690
X 174/17	Wilkes Charity Apprenticeship Book, Leighton Buzzard. Several entries for girls apprenticed to milliners and dressmakers	1839-1862
X 67/784	Card of Mrs Rowlatt, Catworth. Milliner, dress and mantle maker	1867
X 67/785	Notice that Miss Cooper of Eaton Socon, dressmaker and tailoress has removed to the premises once occupied by Miss Cook	1888
AD 3269/41, 75	Bills of Miss Barker of London, dress and mantle maker, London 1897;	1899
X 21/729	Apprenticeship papers of Alice Matthews of Woburn	1897

Firewomen

X 637/5/1	Papers of Regional Woman Fire Officer Alice Marie Sophia Foster	1940's-50's
X 637/15/18	Photograph of Women Auxiliary Fire Service personnel learning the organisation of the brigade at Brigade Control (British Official Photograph)	1951
X 637/15/23	Photograph of women of the Auxiliary Fire Service with portable wireless transmitter (British Official Photograph)	early 1950's

Insurance Agent

ST 743	Insurance Agent for the Royal Exchange Assurance, Mary Partridge mentioned in insurance policy	1815
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Lacemaking

Lacemaking was practised in the north of the county. The earliest references to lace making being at Eaton Socon in 1596 in the overseers account book with a note as to payment of "the woman that teacheth the pore children to worck bonelace" (P 5/12/1).

Pillow Lace and the East Midlands, C. H. Freeman, Luton Museum, 1958 [Pamphlet box 160]

Thomas Lester, his Lace and the East Midlands Industry, 1820-1905, Anne Buck, 1981
[Library Reference 160]

Romance of the Lace Pillow, T. Wright

Buck, A, "Middlemen in the Bedfordshire Lace Industry", B.H.R.S. Vol. 57, p.31

The Teaching of Lacemaking in the East Midlands, A. Buck, 1967 [Pamphlet box 160]

Kennett, D.H., "Lacemaking by Bedfordshire Paupers in the Late Eighteenth Century",
reprinted from Textile History, Vol. 5, 1974 [Pamphlet Box 160]

Buck, A., "The Lace Schools of Bedfordshire", Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 3, pp. 3-5

Zeidler, Marjorie, "My Mother's Pillow", Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 4, pp. 79-80

Bushby, D.W. "Half-timers at Marston", Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 14, pp 340-344

Brown, C.L.F., "The Charm of Lace", Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 2, pp. 24-27

Bushby, David, "Lace, Straw-Plait and Child Employment", Bedfordshire Magazine
Vol 17, pp. 97-101

CRT 160/140	Bedfordshire Evidence from the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons and women, 1867. Gives interviews with mistresses of plait and lace schools.	
CRT 160/121	Apprenticeship indenture of Mary Heale to the art of making bonelace and other works of housewifery, High Wycombe	1630/31
ABP/W 1665/73	Will of Grace Andrew, Elstow, lacemaker	1665
ABP/W 1708/52	Will of Elizabeth Woodward, Stevington, lacemaker	1708
ABP/W 1722/15	Will of Alice Smith, widow, Stevington, lacemaker	1722
X 109/1	Bedford Charity Apprenticeship Book. Kitty Stimson apprenticed to Rich Stimson lace buyer	1790
X 259/1-4	Pillow lace account books and trade cards of Mrs Read of Cranfield	1885-c.1908
Z 50/142/400-1	Photograph of Bedfordshire lace makers at their pillows, Aspley Guise	c.1900
X 254/88/379	Photograph of 12 Bedfordshire lacemakers all over 80 years of age	c.1900
X 291/186/93	Post card of lacemaking at a Bedfordshire lace school	c.1900
Z 50/143/173	Photograph of making pillow lace at Bromham	c.1900
Z 50/143/169	Photograph of lace makers at Roxton	c.1900

AG Sub 5/1	Parish returns in response to a questionnaire sent out by the County Agricultural Officer asking if there is any special industry in the village such as basket making or lace making. Returns show areas of lace manufacture at this date.	1921-1924
Z 50/100/121	Photograph of lacemaking class, Sharnbrook	c.1948/9
<u>Laundress</u>		
X 171/62(3 & 37)	Bedford Charity Apprenticeship Book records Maria Macdonald and Jemima Newman apprenticed as laundresses	1840-41
Z 50/12/64-69	Photographs of Bedford Sanitary Laundry	c.1910
Z 50/142/289	Photograph of group of employees outside laundry buildings	c.1930
<u>Maltster</u>		
BH 28	Mortgage in fee. John Abbott to Elizabeth Cook of Luton, maltster	1843
<u>Masseuse</u>		
Z 155/30-32	Ledgers of Miss Louisa Alice Gabriel, C.S.M.M.G., masseuse.	1921-1942
<u>Mercers</u>		
ABP/W 1719-20/5	Will of Mary Green, Langford, mercer	1719-20
ABP/W 1719-20/94	Will of Susannah Bell, Henlow, mercer	1719-20
<u>Milliners</u>		
<u>B.H.R.S.</u> Vol 72, pp.142-155 Buck, A., "Mantua Makers and Milliners"		
OR 2071/135	Letter from Mrs Southwick, milliner	18th C
OR 2071/137	Deed, apprenticing Mary French to Mrs Southwick, milliner	1721
OR 2071/136	Receipt for wages given by Elizabeth French	1721-3
ABP/A 1727/11	Administration of Elizabeth Richards, Luton, milliner	1727
WE 183	Probate of nuncupative will of Ann Wisdom Cunningham of Clophill, widow and milliner	1783
WE 184	Correspondence of Messrs Eagles, Mrs Lancaster of Clophill, draper and others. Includes account of cash owing to Mrs Cunningham's respective creditors at the time of her death, giving amount of stock in trade.	1783-1805
X 330/2	Admission of Catherine Livett of Potton, mantua maker to messuage in Potton	1760

ABP/W 1769/23	Will of Ann Oakley, widow, Bedford, Milliner (further copy X67/174)	1769
WE 183	Probate of nuncupative will of Ann Wisdom Cunningham of Clophill, widow and milliner	pr. 1783
X 168/111	Indenture of apprenticeship. Eleanor Green apprenticed to Chas Goode of Ampthill, cordwainer and wife Ann to learn the art of a mantua maker and milliner	1817
X 174/17	Wilkes Charity Apprenticeship Book, Leighton Buzzard. Several entries for girls apprenticed to milliners and dressmakers	1839-1862
X 171/62	Bedford Charity Apprenticeship Book. Several entries for girls apprenticed to milliners	1840-41
X 67/784	Card of Mrs Rowlatt, Catworth. Milliner, dress and mantle maker	1867
Z 434	Advertisement for the Misses Williams of Bedford	c.1905

Pawnbroker

Press Cuttings Volume 2 page 3. Describes Mrs Gamby, pawnbroker in Bedford in 1839.

X 171/62 (32)	Ann Gamby apprenticed to Sarah Gamby of Bedford, Pawnbroker	1840-41
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Publicans, Victuallers and Innkeepers

ABP/W 1692/40	Will of Mary Eames, Houghton Regis, aledrawer	1692
ABP/W 1727/61	Will of Grace Newold, Sutton, victualler	1727
ABP/W 1781/48	Will of Mary Chessan, Woburn, widow & victualler	1781
ABP/W 1793/27	Will of Hannah Ellis, Ampthill, victualler	1793
ABP/W 1834/26	Will of Edith Randall, The Queen's Head, Sandy, victualler	1834
ABP/W 1839/33	Will of Ann Clarke, Bedford, publican	1839
WG 2526	Women innkeepers mentioned in deed of St. Neots brewery: Queens Head, Wyboston, occ. Mary Martin Beer Shop in Horley Street Potton, occ. Jane Gilbert Swan, Wilden, occ. Ann Wyman The Recruiting Sergeant beer shop, Eaton Socon, occ. Jane Jefferies	1840
ABP/A 1845/10	Administration of Ann Hill, Tingrith, publican	1845
Z 224/25/2	Postcard of Mrs. Farrer, Swan Inn, Milton Ernest, working at first Tricity cooker installed in the country	7 March 1927

Rush-weaving

A rural industry conducted in the north of the county. In Pavenham alone there were at one time eighty women and girls busy on it. See report on Rush Growing in AG Sub 5/1.

Servants

Printed Works

Anderson, J. M., "Family Budget", in Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 3 pp. 201-203. Describes account book of Sir William Becher of Howbury Hall Renhold for the year 1664 (Record Office reference P.O.3). Includes payment to midwife, nurse-keeper, servants etc.

Houfe, S., "Below Stairs in Bedfordshire - Memories of the late Ethel Stanbridge" in Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 17 pp. 334-337.

Armstrong, V.E., "In Service at Wrest Park" in Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 19 pp. 182-184.

Cardigan, Earl of, "Domestic Expenses of a Nobleman's Household: 1678" in BHRS Vol 32 pp.108-142. Extract from the analysis book kept by Simon Urlin for Robert, 1st Earl of Ailesbury. Includes payments to laundry maid, washwoman etc.

Archive Sources

ABP/W 1574/46	Will of Elizabeth Claye, Luton, servant	1574
ABP/W 1576/46	Will of Kath. Smith, Salford, servant	1576
ABP/W 1632/9	Will of Mary Cottrell, servant	1632
PO 3	Volume containing disbursements and purchases of Sir William Becher. Gives wages of servants 1663-1690	
TW 960	Draft of a letter to Mrs Alston of Odell recommending a young gentlewoman who wants a place as a waiting woman. She is a "discreet and sober mayd, and one who hath beene very well bred, and is very serviceable".	c. 1640s
ABP/W 1673-4/72	Will of Marg. Capperman, servant. Lists clothes. Everton	1672
H.S.A. 1679 W 68	Information of Margarett Worledge of Woburn, servant to Mr Henry Baduly of Woburn, Innholder	1679
L 30/9/10/1	Letter to Jemima Marchioness Grey from Tryphosa Box maid to Margaret Heathcote describing Margaret's death in childbirth (Jemima subsequently took Tryphosa Box into her own service and on retirement was settled in a house in Silsoe [Godber <u>History of Beds</u> p 380])	1769
Mic 193	Account of persons in Cardington workhouse including list of girls sent out to service	1787-1789
L 30/11/79	Testimonial for housekeeper: ability in making cakes, jellies etc. not to be exceeded by any.	18th/19th C
L 30/11/99/1	Testimonial for a cook	18th/19th C

L 30/11/112	Testimonial for a laundry maid	18th/19th C
L 30/11/165/1	Letter describing Mrs Purvis "capable, understands marketing, but is afraid of not having time without kitchen maid".	1781
OR 2071/125	Goods and chattels belonging to Hannah French, housekeeper to Mr Orlebar	1719
L 30/11/114	Long semi-literate letter from former servant of Lady Mary Grey	1798
HY 877/1-14	Records of servants wages, Northill	1819-1820
L 30/11/167	Letter describing Anne Smith "honest, sober, steady, tolerably good-tempered; good cook; can send up very good dinners"	1823
ABP/W 1831/140	Will of Anne Hyde, Biggleswade, Servant	1831
GA 2538	Receipts by servants for wages	1842-1847
Z 525/23	Letter from Ann Deborah Fletcher. Includes homily on the need for respectable servants.	1856
Z 525/130	Letter from Ann Deborah Fletcher. Servants should be neither young nor pretty.	1856
HO:D 6	Deed of Foundation and Trust for Daneswood Hospital, Aspley Heath, states "In the event of such a convalescent home being founded, the training of Jewish Domestic female servants to be promoted to the fullest extent	1863
ST 1497-1545	Records of the Bedfordshire Training Home for Girls	1879-1931
CCE 3146/37/11	Louisa Deeming, housekeeper of Chicksands Priory, mortgagee	1888
SM/E 50	Daily routine for servant (loose in cookery book)	[early 20th C]
OR 2325/11-12	Instructions by Frederica Orlebar of Hinwick Hall to new servants - the cook, house and parlourmaid	[late 19th C]
LF 19/1-3	Servants and domestics wages books, Fairfield Hospital	1911-1947
LF 20/2-5	Female Monthly Salaries, Fairfield Hospital	1931-1958
LF 23/1-4	Service registers, Fairfield Hospital	1916-1957
HG 12/9/21	Letter from Ann Higgins to son Henry. "We are cookless at present.... a regular old drunkard... her last exploit was to put something into the pan of beans, with intent, to poison us or make us ill".	8 September 1904
Z 271/1	Tape recording of reminiscences of Mrs Nuttall, stillroom maid at Woburn Abbey	1920/30's
X 464/124	Pamphlet: 'Girls Entering Service' by Mrs Massey	c.1920

Shopkeepers

ABP/W 1784/15	Will of Mary Taylor, Riseley, Grocer	1784
X 380/59	Sarah Swepson, ironmonger of Bedford, mentioned in abstract of title	1797
ABP/W 1809/44	Will of Rebecca Webb, Clophill, Shopkeeper	1809
ABP/W 1827/60	Will of Sarah Porter, Silsoe, Shopkeeper	1827
ABP/W 1830/3	Will of Elizabeth Chapman, Clophill, Shopkeeper	1830
X 171/62 (50)	Bedford Charity Apprentice Book. Ann Norman apprenticed to grocer and dressmaker	1840-41

Strawplait

General View of the Agriculture of the County of Bedford, T. Bachelor, 1808, pp 594-5 (Library Ref 160)

Kalm's Account of his Visit to England on his way to America in 1748, translated by Joseph Lucas, 1892, p.337 describes hat making in Hertfordshire. (Library Ref 120)

Luton and the Hat Industry, C. Freeman, Luton Museum, 1953 [Pamphlet box 160]

Bushby, David, "Lace, Straw-Plait and Child Employment", Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 17, pp. 97-101

C.R.T. 160/140 Bedfordshire Evidence from the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons and women in agriculture, 1867. Gives interviews with mistresses of lace and straw plait schools.

P 8/5/1	Toddington Churchwardens' Account Book, "hatting straws for Dorothy Powell",	1714/15
P 72/14/60	Apprenticeship indenture. Mary Phelps to Wm Willis in the art of plating and making straw hats and housewifery, Market Street, Caddington,	1734
PBwP/W 1819/118	Will of Eliz. Conquest, Biggleswade, Straw Hat Manufacturer	1819
X 815/7/1	Ann Belshaw, straw hat manufacturer, High Town, Luton, party in conveyance	1848
ABP/W 1853/43	Will of Maria Cook, Toddington, Straw Plait Dealer	1853
X 815/8/8-13	Deeds relating to Ellen Tuffnell, straw hat manufacturer, Luton	1881-1894
AG Sub 5/1	Parish returns in response to a questionnaire sent out by the County Agricultural Officer asking if there is any special industry in the village. Straw hat manufacture is mentioned in several places near Luton.	1921-1924

EMPLOYMENT IN THE 20th CENTURY (see also WOMEN AND WAR section)

	Bedfordshire top at the Women's Work Exhibition, <u>Bedfordshire Times</u> , 7 May 1915, page 4.	
Z 397/1,2	Certificate of age and school attendance for purpose of employment re 13 year old girl	1902
AG Sub 5/1	Parish returns in response to a questionnaire sent out by the County Agricultural Officer asking if there is any special industry in each village of the county. Returns show lace making still existing as a cottage industry in the north of the county and straw hat manufacture carried out in the area around Luton. A glove factory employed c.50 women and girls at Meppershall.	1921-1924
Em Sub 2	Equal Opportunities Sub Committee records	1985-1991
CS 2175/28	File on equal pay for equal work	1955-1956

Public Servants

Local Government Officers

News cuttings Volume - Celebrities p.56. Article on women in local government. Miss Doris Cowcher, Children's Officer; Miss Joyce Godber, County Archivist; Miss Winifred Frost, Chief Nursing Officer. Taken from Bedfordshire Times 16 February 1968.

PULM 28	pp.21, 25. Luton Union minutes. Registrar General disapproves of appointment of female as Registrar for the Dunstable Su-district [Mrs. Gilbey, widow of the late registrar D.G. Gilbey apparently wanted the job].	1884
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Police women

Address on subject of "Women police and patrols" Bedfordshire Times, 21 February 1919,
p6

The case for Women Police - address by Mrs Ruth White to Business and Professional
Women's Club, Bedfordshire Times, 1 October 1943, p5

Records of Bedford Council of Social Service, later North Bedfordshire Council for
Voluntary Service: Z 1136/1/2 Minute Book – includes letters of 8 January and 14 August
pasted in concerning the campaign by the Council for women police in the Bedford Borough
force, 1943

National Conference demands more women police. "Main obstacle sheer prejudice",
Bedfordshire Times, 17 March 1944, p8

Watch committee have "open mind" on subject of women police, Bedfordshire Times, 21
April 1944, p7

Policewomen to be appointed in Bedford, Bedfordshire Times, 19 May, 1944, p5

Bedfordshire Magazine, Vol 23, no. 178, Autumn 1991, p.67

History of Bedford Borough Police. Watch Committee refused to recruit females, 1943, relented by 1947

Post women

Article on retirement of postwoman for Flitwick and Westoning after 38 years service. Includes picture. Bedfordshire Times, 6 November 1936

X 378/20	Photograph of post women	c.1921
X 378 general	Records of Ampthill, Bedford and Sandy districts postal staff and women.	c.1882-1952
X 378/20	Album, named portraits of female staff, 1921, and unnamed group.	1921

INDIVIDUAL FIRMS See also WAR RECORDS section of this guide

Co-operative Society

Report on first Co-operative picnic in connection with Bedford and Harrold Co-operative Women's Guild. Bedfordshire Mercury, 26 August 1893, p.4 col 6.

Greene King, Biggleswade, Brewers

Z 50/16/285	Photograph of girls in the Bottling Dept., Biggleswade Brewery	1930
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Hewlett-Packard, Bedford

Hewlett-Packard training scheme in electronics for women
Bedfordshire Times, 15 January 1965, p.6

London Brick Company Ltd

Z 41 uncat	Photograph album of London Brick with one photograph (number 42225-7) showing women working on the shop floor.	n.d. c.1950
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Meltis, Bedford

Z 160/597	Photographs of the interior of Meltis showing women at work	1923
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E.P. Rose (Debenhams)

X 679/2/1	Volume of agreements signed by staff saying that they will not set up in Bedford as drapers, hosiers etc. within four years of leaving the employment of Edw. Paine Rose	1910-1914
X 679/2/4	Service agreements signed by staff	1935-1945

Royal Aircraft Works, Cardington

X 495/251	Photograph of women working in balloon sheds at Cardington.	WW I
X 495/253	Photograph of women workers, Cardington	c.1919

Z 50/24/109	Women paring down gold-beater's skins to make airship fabric at Short Bros. Cardington	n.d. [c.1918]
Z 50/24/110	Women fixing panels to airship R38 under construction at Cardington	n.d. [c.1920]
X 291/246/9/1	Photograph showing inside the airship sheds - women sorting fabric	c.1919-1921
X 291/246/11	Letter of dismissal and reference sent Miss Ira Smith, Head of Tracing Office at the Royal Airship Works, Cardington, in consequence of the closing down of the works	1921
	<u>see also:</u> X 291/246/65-105 diaries,	1915-1974
Z 50/24/113	Women applying goldbeater's skins to airship fabric stretched out over a large frame (probably R101). (Dorse of original is stamped: Royal Airship Work, Cardington. Drawing Office: Neg. R101/102)	20 Feb 1928 1928
Z 50/24/114	Women preparing the fabric of the R101 (Dorse of original stamped as above, but neg. R101/236, 13 Jul 1928)	1928
Z 50/24/115	Woman attaching together section of the R101 fabric. (Neg. R101/355. 16 Jan 1929)	1929
Z 50/24/116	Women seated at benches working on the fabric of the R101. (Neg. R101/352. 3 May 1929)	1929
Z 50/24/105	Photograph of women working on barrage balloon fabric at Cardington Airship Works	n.d. [1930s]

Vauxhall's, Luton

X 498/175	Postcard of women workers at Vauxhall, Luton, on strike for higher pay. The instigator and leader was Mrs Dor Clarke (later County Councillor and J.P.)	1916
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UNIONS

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS

Newspaper Sources

Report on the meeting of the Bedford Branch. The NUWW had been running 3 years. Started in war time for the combination of women workers and has 26 affiliated societies in Bedford and county. Speech of Mrs Ogilvie Gordon – comments now women have the vote, Bedfordshire Times, 22 March 1918, p.6.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN WORKERS

Local branch set up in 1920 by Amy Walmsley (see Bedford Politics 1900-1924, Beds.R.O. Background Papers No. 2, 1986)

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

MEDICINE AND NURSING

DOCTORS

Printed Sources

Conisbee, L.R. "Elizabeth, Countess of Kent (1581-1651), Bedfordshire Magazine Volume 12, pp.69-77. (Countess was author of "Rare and Select Secrets in Physick and Chyrurgery")

A Bedford Lady Doctor in 1666, Bedfordshire Times, 6 August 1915, p.7 and 17 September 1915, p.4

Dr M.H. King, first lady medical officer appointed by County Council, leaves for Devon, Bedfordshire Times, 4 October 1946, p.5

Private Charity & Public Purse, by B. Cashman, pp.155-156, opposition to women being appointed to the Board of Management of Bedford Hospital, 1907, Searchroom Library, Ref: 150.

Archive Sources

- M.O. 2 p.7. Brother Negus who has hurt himself "makes use of a Woman Surgeon, but He says, if it does not do well, He will employ a proper one". 1746
- L 28/63 Receipt of Jane Baldwin "As Doctress" for seeing to Silsoe Poor 1859
- G.P.V. 10/1 File on V.D. clinics. Includes a letter to Miss Champion, 43 Shakespeare Road, stating appointment of a lady doctor to the V.D. Treatment Centres impracticable. 20 April 1923
- G.P.V. 10/2 File on V.D. clinics. Includes circular sent to women's organisations stating that the small number of medical women who are acting as V.D. Clinic Officers considered to be one of the factors which deter women from seeking treatment. 20 April 1923
- G.P.V. 44 Appointment of Miss Marjorie Hamilton King as Woman Assistant Medical Officer of Health 5 April 1929
- X 495/173-175 Diaries of Dr Dora Mason 1955-1964
Dora Mason was a former Bedford Borough Medical Officer and a leading suffragist.
- see also
- CRT 170/4/14 Calendar of "Life Recollections of Dr John Brown" includes reference found amongst the public records of a Dorothy Sparkes of Woburn, Gentlewoman Surgeon, 1662.

NURSES

Several books have been written on the hospitals in the County. References to nurses and nursing can be found amongst the following works:

Hospitals in Luton and Dunstable, An Illustrated History, Margaret R. Currie, 1982 [Library Reference 150]

Private Charity and the Public Purse, The Development of Bedford General Hospital:1794-1988, B. Cashman, 1988 [Library Reference 150]

A Proper House, Bedford Lunatic Asylum:1812-1860, B. Cashman, 1992 [Library Reference 150]

Private Charity & Public Purse, by B. Cashman, pp.155-156, opposition to women being appointed to the Board of Management of Bedford Hospital, 1907, Searchroom Library, Ref: 150.

Archive sources for the history of nursing can be found in the brown binder marked Hospitals & Nursing. The main hospital records are as follows:

HO:B	Bedford Hospital	1801-1948
HO:L	Bute Hospital and Luton and Dunstable Hospital which replaced Bute in 1939 (A substantial amount of the archive relates to nursing training at the Hospital from the 1940's to the 1970's e.g. HO:LN 1/1-6/1 Registers of nurses trained at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, 1939-1976; and HO:LN 10/1-4 Brochures on nursing at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, c. 1960's-1980's).	1872- 1992
HO:LSMR	St Mary's Hospital, Luton (previously Luton Poor Law Union)	1948-1968
HO:BW	Biggleswade Joint Hospital Board	1903-1948
HO:D	Daneswood Hospital, Aspley Heath. A Jewish Convalescent Home founded in memory of Judith Lady Montefiore.	1869-1948
LF	Three Counties Hospital (Fairfield)	c.1855-1990
LB	Bedford Asylum	1812-1860
HO/NB	Records of the North Bedfordshire Area Health Authority (See in particular HO/NB 33/1 - HO/NB 35/1 which are nursing education minutes, 1948-1973).	c.1948-1989
HO/SB	Records of the South Bedfordshire Area Health Authority	1982-1984

Other archive sources:

BEFORE 1900

References to local nurses paid by the parish can appear in Overseers accounts in the parish records (black binders marked "P"). Other references include:

T.W. 607	Gift by Margt Joanes of Byddinham "nurse" to her daughter of _10 entrusted to the safe keeping of Wm Boteler of Biddenham.1588
W 1/203	Bedford Infirmary. Matron's salary £21.00 with a gratuity of £10.00 and an allowance for tea of £2.12s.6d. Nurses get £7.00 salary and £3.00 gratuity. 29 Sept 1811
X 143/21	Letter of Sir John Burgoyne of Sutton; wounded at the Alma. He writes that the nurses "40 unprotected females" who have just arrived, are "a regular subject of ridicule". 1854
P 10/28/40	Memo on proposal to obtain competent person to nurse sick and poor of Northhill and Old Warden[c.1880]

Bedford Nurses Institute

A Trained Nurses Institute was opened in Bedford at St. Peter's Green in 1889. It provided subsidised nurses for Bedford's population and accommodation for the nurses. A description of the work of the Institute can be found in Bedfordshire Times, 31 March 1894.

AFTER 1900

Newspaper Sources

Bedfordshire Nurse in the Serbian Retreat, Beds Standard, 14 January 1916

Archive Sources

Z 613/12	Rules for Probationers. Bedford County Hospital c.1900
X 291/498-510 & 291/254/32	Records of Gertie Grimmer. Nurse during First World War X and later district nurse. 1915-1944
X 291/498	'Confession album' completed by military patients and nurses at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge and Leaf Square Hospital, Salford 1916
Z 160/429/1-2	Nursing diary and sketchbook of World War I V.A.D. nurse 1915-1916
CRT 180/496	Notes on Margaret Wood of Bedford, nurse c.1915
X 550/21/1,3,5	Press cuttings and photographs re nursing career of Audrey Howard of Clapham Park during the Great War c.1914-1918
E.B.V. 16	Correspondence regarding Bedford school nurses 1921-1938
PULV 30/1	Rules for nurses, Luton Union Infirmary Dec 1928

X 291/579	Leaflet regarding a nursing exhibition at Town Hall, Bedford Feb 1947
Z 613/55	Includes obituary of Miss M.E. Redman, former matron, Luton and Dunstable Hospital 1967
Z 615/1	Beds Area Health Authority information sheets. Lists of nursing staff qualifying 1974-1982

DISTRICT NURSES

At the conference of County Lady Representatives held on the 2nd December 1896 in connection with the Technical Instruction Committee of the County Council, a resolution was passed that a Rural Nursing Association should be formed for Bedfordshire, on similar lines to those of the Lincolnshire Association already formed.

The aim of the Association was to provide trained nurses throughout the villages of Bedfordshire and with this object to encourage the formation of Nursing Districts throughout the County.

N.C.	Records of the Bedfordshire Rural (later County) Nursing Association 1897-1948
N.A.	Minute books of the Ampthill and Millbrook Nursing Association 1893-1937
N.B.	Records of the Bedford District Nursing Association 1896-1948
N.C.R.	Minute books of the Cardington District Nursing Association 1900-1949
N.D.	Records of the Dunstable Nursing Association 1896-1950
N.H.	Records of the Harrold Nursing Association 1913-1948
P 117/28/6	Annual report of the Clapham and Oakley District of the Beds Rural Nursing Association 1920
P.C. Maulden 9/12	Scheme to provide District Nurse in Maulden 1924
N.S. 1	Minute book of the Stagsden Nursing Association 1934-1945
N.W.	Records of Woburn Nursing Association 1936-1948
O.R. 2153	Advertisement of garden party at Hinwick Hall in aid of District Nursing 1912
He.V. 2	County Nursing Service: equipment taken over from the former District nursing Associations, and file of letters from nurse accepting service from the Council 1948

See also:

Local newspapers for reports of meetings. Also "50 Years of District Nursing", August 1947, in Press Cuttings, Vol 1, p.92.

C.R.T. 130 Bedford 94 Reminiscences of Miss Fenely. Includes time spent as district nurse in Dunstable pre World War II.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NURSES

X 678/13/8	Nurse - probably from Bedford County Hospital. Glass negative. c.1895-1905	
Z 801/8	Nurses on parade	c.1914-18
X 291/499	Nurses with matron and doctor	c.1915
X 464/91-94	Photographs of wounded soldiers, nursing staff and members of the Orlebar family at Hinwick House Auxiliary Hospital	c.1915
X 291/246/33	Snapshot of VAD's at 61st(?) General Hospital, France	c.1916-18
Z 808/4/3	Nurses and male orderlies	c.1916
O.R. 2386/7	pp.24 & 26. Nurses and Ambulance Service personnel	c. 1920's
Z 797/6/2	Nurse, Vancouver B.C.	c. 1920's
Z 797/7/2	Paddington Hospital nurse	c. 1920's
Z 797/4/6	Beatrice Wadelin in nurse's uniform	c.1925
PC Billington 19/77-78	Nurse Burchell, midwife at Billington, in uniform in a garden with a mother, and a child in pram	1927
Z 562/27	Maud Sprague in uniform. Matron of the Cedars Old People's Home in Ampthill	1930's
Z 335/1	Staff at Old House Convalescent Home, Ickwell	1942
HO:L.Ph 1/8-14	Photographs of nurses at work, Luton and Dunstable Hospital	c.1960
X 351/1	p.84. Nurse Perry, District Nurse, Aspley Guise	1965

MIDWIVES

Midwives Before 1900

References to midwives before 1900 occur in court cases and in the parish overseers of the poor accounts. Midwives are also often witnesses on Quaker birth notes.

P.O. 3	Volume containing disbursements and purchases of Sir William Becher. Page 13 "Itt' pd the Midwife Mrs Lane of Bedford for her delivery of my wife in the child birth of her son John _3"1664	
H.S.A. 1668 S 46	Mary Males, Bedford, midwife examined body of Mary Chambers	26 Apr 1668
H.S.A. 1669 S 59	Examination of Mary Samme, midwife on Mary Dazey of Henlow and her still born child	23 Mar 1669
H.S.A. 1677 S 56	Examination by a midwife of Margaret Rogers to see if she had had a child	1677
A.B.A. 1	Testimonial for midwife. Avice Brydall of Lidlington	1712
ABP/W 1772/19	Will of Mary Bruce, Bishop's Hatfield, midwife	1772
Z 11/3	F. Kingston of St. Albans, man-midwife - witness on a Quaker birth note	1799
FR 6/9/7/5	Elnr Goodchild, midwife, witness on Quaker birth note of Mary Squire of Edworth.	1777
FR 6/9/7/11,17	Jane Philips, midwife, sign by mark on Quaker birth notes for Squire family of Edworth.	1779
FR 6/9/7/12	Mary James, midwife, witness on Quaker birth note for Mary Squire of Astwick	1779
P 76/12/4	Blunham overseers account book "fetching midwife to Tomsons and home"	1750
P 84/12/2	Heath and Reach overseers account book "Item paid to midwife 5s"	1764
P 58/12/1	Totternhoe overseers of the poor accounts. Mention of midwife	1796
P 72/12/2	Overseers account book, Dunstable. Midwifery expenses,	1813-1821

Midwives after 1900

For midwives in the 20th Century see official black catalogue C.W., being the records of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1903-1947, particularly C.W.P. which includes details of individual midwives.

See also:

Report of the opening of an Infant Welfare Centre in Bedford, Bedfordshire Times, 18 October 1929, p.15

N.M. 1	Bedfordshire Association for Midwives, minute book 1912-1941	
Z 160/390-399	Records of the Elms nursing home (and maternity), Kempston and records of the matron, Gladys Sprake,	1923-1952
P.U.B.H. 10/1-4	Bedford Union Maternity Registers	1925-1947
SL 7/3 p.91	Biggleswade Red Cross Maternity nurse cash a/c	1929/30
Z797/9/6	Midwife's register of cases, Herts and Beds	1931-1948
P.U.L.V. 26/1	Maternity Register, St. Mary's Hospital, Luton	1931-1949
N.C. 10/1	Agreement for the provision of a domiciliary service of salaried midwives. Beds C.C. and Beds County Nursing Assoc. 1938 (Similar agreement with Sandy Nursing Assoc. Ref N.Sa.)	
WEL/V3/22-23	The Limes, Biggleswade. Maternity Ward Nurses Report Books.	1951-1953
HO:LPh 1/8-14	Views of delivery room, Luton and Dunstable Hospital c.1960	
PC Billington 19/77-78	Nurse Burchell, midwife at Billington, in uniform in a garden with a mother, and a child in pram – b&w photo	1927

Z 160/429/1-3 Diary, sketchbook and nursing notebook of Evelyn Jackson 6398, 18
General Hospital, Cannors, France 1915-1928

Z 160/239 Press cuttings book belonging to Miss M. Knowles, Bedford. Miss
Knowles, a VAD nurse, was aboard HMS Britannic when it was
torpedoed and sunk c.1916

SFM 3/358 Girls' Friendly Society Annual Report for Bedford Branch gives details
of lodgers - 55 were National Service Volunteers 1918

AQ uncat 190/1 Large folder relating to W.H. Allen entitled "The Story of a Family
Business". Photographs of women workers during World War I.

Z 791/11, 13 The Queen's Engineering Works Magazine, pictures of
women workers 1917; 1919

Z 791/12 The Queen's Engineering Works Magazine, article on new dining hall
for women 1918

CRT 160/219 History of Hilda Hewlett and Gustac Blandeau's aircraft
factory at Leagrave, c1914-1919
In Stationary Engine August 1990

Photographs

Z 725/1-2 Photograph of Bedford munitions workers - men and women.
c.1916

X 291/246/33 Snapshot of VAD's at 61st(?) General Hospital, France
c.1916-18

CD 918 Postcard of soldiers and nurses posed outside door marked
'Officers Mess' 1914-18

X 498/176 Postcard showing WRAF girls at Henlow Camp (names of
these shown recorded) n.d.?c1914-1918

X 495/253 Group of women workers, Cardington c.1919

X 291/246/1 Women sorting fabric at Cardington c.1919-21

X 498/176 Postcard showing WAAF girls at Henlow Camp 1914-1918

X 495/251 Photograph of women working in balloon sheds at
Cardington 1914-1918

X 498/143 Photograph of Laura Millard of Meppershall in WRAF uniform
c.1914-18

X 464/91-94 Photographs of wounded soldiers, nursing staff and members of the
Orlebar family at Hinwick House Auxiliary Hospital c.1916

Z 49/495 Women from Agricultural College hoeing at Arlesey House
1914-1918

Slide 5175

Slide of Kathleen Hull milking at Bridge Farm, Great Barford
1914

Z 50/141/uncat (order 4056) Photograph of Mary Quenby working at Bromham Mill
1917

SECOND WORLD WAR

Printed Works

Luton at War, Luton News (Comp), 1947. [Library Reference 130 LUT]

A Factory Went to War, being the war history of Skefco Ball Bearing Company Ltd., Luton
[Pamphlet box 160]

County Record Transcripts

CRT 130 BED 251 Wartime reminiscences of Bedford by Mrs K.R. Taylor

Newspaper Sources

From 28 October 1941, the Bedford Record changed the name of its women's section, "The Woman's Corner" to "Women in Wartime", beginning with an article on Lady Bowring, Joint Borough Organiser of the W.V.S. Subsequent weeks give further articles on leading W.V.S. women in Bedford. The series finishes in the issue of 21 April 1942.

W.A.A.F. taking charge of barrage balloons, Bedford Record, 23 September 1941, page 1.

Women at the Bench - doing men's work in a war-production factory, Bedfordshire Times,
15 May 1942, page 6. Article and pictures of women at foundry work.

Bedfordshire Times negatives

The Record Office has glass negatives used in local newspapers for the war years. These often show women working on the land or replacing what were previously men's jobs. "Rec." indicates Bedford Record, "A.N." Ampthill News etc. Quite often the newspaper in which the picture appeared will have an accompanying article e.g. "Women Eager to Serve", Bedford Record, 22 April 1941, page 1 (negative number 1078/5); and "Women in the Engine Sheds", Bedford Record, page 3 (negative number 1087/4-7).

Negative Number:

730/3	Kempston, ATS girl in uniform at Kempston Barracks, 27 September 1939
738/1	Lower Dean, Land Army girls, B.T. 13 October 1939
1038/1-3	Bedford, women railway porters at Midland Road Station, Rec., 11 March 1941
1049/1	Ampthill, opening of W.V.S, canteen, A.N. & W.R., 1 April 1941

1049/2 Clophill, Land Army girl, Miss Rita Woodward, A.N. & W.R.,
25 March 1941

1063/5 Bedford, women sorting waste paper, Rec., 8 April 1941

1066/1 Millbrook, women setting seed potatoes. Rec & A.N., 22 April 1941

1077/2 Sandy, W.V.S. knitting meeting, N.B.C., 6 May 1941

1077/3 Wrestlingworth, W.V.S. knitting party, N.B.C., 6 May 1941

1078/1 Bedford. Women of 21 registering for National Service, Rec.
6 May 1941

1078/5 Bedford, National Registration of woman of 21 years, Rec.
22 April 1941

1079/1 Biggleswade W.V.S. Evacuees making camouflage nets. N.B.C.
6 May 1941

1081/1-3 Great Barford. Land girls, Rec., 13 May 1941

1087/4-7 Bedford Railway Station. Women engine cleaners at railway sheds,
Rec., 20 May 1941

1094/1 Ampthill W.V.S. stall, A.N., 27 May 1941

1111/1 Bedford. Women gardeners on Embankment, Rec., 17 June 1941

1138/1 Shefford. W.I. jam-making centre, N.B.C., 15 July 1941

1170/3 Biggleswade, women bean-picking, N.B.C., 19 August 1941

1174/3 Ampthill, W.V.S. air raid distress collection, A.N. & W.R.,
26 August 1941

1181/3 Bedford, inspection of V.A.D.'s, Rec & N.B.C., 2 Sept 1941

1201/1 Bedford, Mrs Gooch, Bedford's first woman bus driver, Rec.,
7 October 1941

1201/2 Bedford, Dame Beryl Oliver inspects V.A.D. and First Aid posts, B.T.,
7 October 1941

1205A/2 Bedford, jam making centre, Rec., 30 September 1941

1209/1 Sandy, W.V.S. canteen, N.B.C., 21 October 1941

Archive Sources

1219/1-3	Biggleswade W.V.S., N.B.C.,	4 November 1941
W/N 1-6	Records relating to wartime nurseries	1941-1946
W/W.V.S. 1-5	Records relating to Women's Voluntary Service	1939-1945
AQ uncat 190/1	Large folder relating to W.H. Allen entitled "The Story of a Family Business". Contains photographs of women workers during World War II.	
AQ uncat 70 bundle 11	Photograph album of women working at W.H. Allen	1942
BR 82/5	Wartime tank production at Britannia Iron Works (photos and newspaper cutting)	
Z 764/9	Book, " <u>An Account of our Stewardship</u> ," being a record of the war time activities of Vauxhall Motors Ltd., by W.J. Seymour.	
W/V 2/1	Book, " <u>Old Girls in New Times</u> ", Bedford High School in the war	
Z 50/24/105	Photograph of women working on barrage balloon fabric at Cardington	c.1930's
Z 462/35	Minute book of Officers' meetings of the Girls Training Corps, Company 785, Bedford	1943-1945
X 464/23/1-3	Certificates and photograph of Mrs E. Graham of Elstow Lodge. Includes certificates for Social Welfare Officer for County of Bedford; authority to wear WVS uniform; ARP membership card.	1940-44
X 637/5/1	Papers of Regional Woman Fire Officer Alice Marie Sophia Foster	1940's-50's
P 63/28/16	List of men and women from Eaton Bray who served in the forces - forces homecoming fund	Oct 1944
Z 50/100/68	Photograph of Women's Land Army at Sharnbrook House	1940-1945
Z 290/8/8	Programme for Women's Land Army exhibition and rally. Includes photographs and history of the Women's Land Army in Bedfordshire.	1946

For further information on the Women's Land Army - personal records etc. - contact Ministry of Agriculture Records Review, telephone number 0665 60288.

W/V 2/1	Book, " <u>Old Girls in New times</u> " Bedford High School in the war
Z 50/24/105	Photograph of women working on barrage balloon fabric c.1930s at Cardington
X 464/23/1-3	Certificates and photograph of Mrs E Graham of Elstow Lodge. Includes certificates for Social Welfare Officer for County of Bedford; authority to wear WVS uniform; ARP membership card. 1940-44
P 63/28/16	List of men and women from Eaton Bray who served in the forces - forces homecoming fund Oct 1944
Z 290/8	Programme for Women's Land Army Exhibition 1946
Z 966	Diaries, letters, photographs, of wartime romance between a Dunstable girl and an Italian POW and its resumption in later life [diaries embargoed until 2027] 1944-1986

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

FEMALE FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Friendly societies helped members when they were sick or unemployed, acting as a private health insurance. They were encouraged by the local gentry as an invaluable alternative to the poor law or vagrancy.

Archive Sources

SY 53/1	Statement of relief given by the Friendly Female Society	1809
P 10/28/40	Scrapbook including; Rules and regulations of the Female Friendly Society established 1 January 1832 Statement of the state and prospects of the Northill Female Provident Club, January 1873 Rules of the Northill Female Provident Club or Friendly Society (est. 1 January 1832), January 1874	
HY 738-739	Bequests to Female Friendly Club in wills of Sus. and Sar. Harvey of Ickwell	Pr.1863 & 1869
P 34/28/2	Accounts of Kensworth Female Benefit Society (est. 1839)	1866-1867
Q.D.F. 4/1	Report of Registrar of Friendly Societies in England, p.32, gives following societies: Female Friendly, Cranfield United Benefit, Leighton Buzzard Union Female Benefit, Luton Old Meeting Female Benefit, Luton Female Friendly, Marston	1873
Q.D.F. 4/2	Fourth Report of Commissioners appointed to inquire into Friendly and Benefit Building Societies. With information on Bedfordshire Female Friendly Societies, pages cxlii-cxlv.	1874
Q.D.F. 4/5	Report of Assistant Commissioner, Southern & Eastern Counties of England, pages 30-31.	1874
Q.D.F. 2/5/1	Rules and accounts of the Barton Female Friendly Society est. 1852. Mention of two women's clubs at Caddington	1876
Q.D.F. 2/5/2	Mention of Marston Moretaine Women's Club	1876
W 4064-W 4070	Account books and P.O. Savings Bank Book of Southill Female Friendly Society	1878-1937

O.F. 59/1-36	Records of Duchess of Bedford Female Lodge, Woburn	1912-1929
O.F. 52-55	Records of Dame Alice Female Lodge, Bedford	1912-1942

CHARITIES

Parish charities helped widows and fatherless girls by providing accommodation, education etc. Jane Cart's Charity in Dunstable, for example, gave pensions to the widows or daughters of clergymen. A useful summary of charities can be found in the Reports of the Charity Commissioners: Bedfordshire, 1815-1839 [Library reference 120 CHA]. Under the Charitable Trusts Act of 1853 accounts of charities had to be sent in every year to the Clerk of the Peace. These are listed amongst the records of Quarter Sessions at Q.D.C. Look in the subject index under CHARITIES for details of further documents held.

See also in the Employment and Occupations section of this guide for details about charitable apprenticeships.

Ladies Lodge, Dunstable

R 3/1849	Letter from Mrs White to Daniel Beaumont. Encloses clause from the will of Mrs M [Matthews] relating to provision for 6 "maiden gentlewomen who reside and may reside in the respective 6 tenements called the Lodge in the East St., Dunstable"	1798
Z 513/1	Rules for the Ladies Lodge for poor maiden Gentlewomen upwards of 40 years and descended of reputable parents	1885

GIRLS HOMES AND REFUGES FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS

X 544/37	Papers on the care of the unmarried mother and child; background to the adoption of children.	1971-1972
X 544/32	St Albans Diocesan Council for Social Work. Minutes and correspondence concerning unmarried mothers, welfare services and housing.	1963-1976

St Ethelreda's Deaconess' Home and Orphanage

The orphanage was started shortly after 1872 and was founded by Sister Fanny Eagles. The home had girls until 1963, thereafter mixed. The Deaconess' Community of St. Andrews withdrew from St Ethelredas in 1971

X 455	Records of St Ethelreda's Deaconess' Home and Orphanage	c. 1875-1987
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Bedfordshire Training Home for Girls

Formed by the Bedfordshire Ladies' Association , 1879. The objectives of the home are stated in its first minute book (ST 1497) "The Association takes for its first object 'the prevention of evil'. To meet this it is proposed to establish in or near Bedford a training home for girls of all denominations and of the lowest grade of society". A Branch Home was opened for younger girls at Woburn Sands in 1889. The home was handed over to the Bedford and County Girls Home in 1931

ST 1497-1545 Records of the Bedfordshire Training Home for Girls
1879-1931

W 3976 Letter from R.H. Kinsey to Samuel Whitbread asking for financial assistance towards the new building for the Girls Training Home and Laundry, 16 May 1911 with reply, 19th May 1911.

Bedford and County Girls Home (the Mother and Baby Home)

The Home was started in Brereton Road in 1908, and moved to Ashburnham Road on 30th April, 1920. Pregnant girls came to the home and stayed for six months after the baby was born. They paid so much each week according to their means and when they left were placed in some situation. The children generally went to foster mothers.

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Bedford and County Girls Home with a description of the work of the home under Miss Mumford, Bedfordshire Times, 7 June 1935, page 9.

X 151/1-3 Minute books 1908-1923

X580/1-5 Records of the Bedford and County Girls Home 1928-1966

Girls' Hostel, Bedford

Article about the moving of the Girls' Hostel from Peel Street, Bedford to St. Peter's. Bedfordshire Times, 24 May 1935, page 9

Winsden Girls' Home, Farley Hill, Luton

PAV 25 Superintendent's weekly return 1934-1939

PAV 27/3 Matron's Reports 1940-1948

St Faith's Home, Luton

St Faith's was an unmarried mothers' refuge. It was replaced by the Widecome Mother and Baby Home at Stopsley.

X 544/34 Correspondence concerning St. Faith's 1965-1970

North Bedfordshire Association for Moral Welfare

Home for mothers and babies at Hill Rise House, Bedford. Moved in 1959 to Holt House. Holt House closed 1968.

X 580/6-10 Records 1960-1967

North Bedfordshire Association for Social Welfare

X 580/11-22 Records 1968-1978

Christian Family Care

Annual Reports, 1980/81 and 1981/82 [Pamphlet box 150]

ORGANISATIONS

The following are sources for women's groups. General societies that had previously been all male were not always agreeable to admitting women members. The Bedford Camera Club had a general meeting in May 1922 and "Considerable argument was aroused by the proposition that the club should be thrown open to all Amateur Photographers". The proposition was carried by 12 votes to 8 but was rescinded the following year as no application for membership had been received (X 652/2 and comments in speech of 10/10/1944, X 652/6).

ABSTINENCE

The Bedford Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association was established in 1883 (see The Bedfordshire Almanack and County Handbook, 1885, p 94).

Newspaper Sources

Article on Women's Temperance Association at Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire Mercury, 15 July 1893, p.5

Meetings of the British Women's Temperance Association reported in Bedfordshire Times, 30 January 1892, p.6

Annual fete of British Women's Temperance Association at Elstow. Bedfordshire Mercury, 14 July 1894, p.5

Archive Sources

Z 530/1-4 Minute book of the United Women's Meeting at Cranfield; Minute book and pledge book of the Cranfield Branch of the National British Women's Total Abstinence Union
1917-19;
1937-47

BRITISH LEGION

X 291,400 British Legion, Women's Section. Notices of appreciation to Hon. Romola Russell
1942,1949

Z 508/5 Leighton Buzzard British Legion, Women's Section, minute book
1952-1956

CO-OPERATIVES

X 744/1 Potton and District Co-operative Society Minute Books. Committee recommended the starting of a women's guild and provident club
21 November 1905

DORCAS SOCIETY

The Dorcas Society was a woman's organisation connected with Bunyan Meeting, Bedford. The account book for the society begins in January 1835 but the society was functioning before this date. The society combined the making and distribution of garments with the provision and loaning out of maternal bags, a work which was later carried out through the Mothers' Meeting.

BY 6/1	Account Book	1834-1940
BY 6/2,3	Historical account of the Dorcas Society by Mrs T. Rose (aged 78), 1899. Two copies - one handwritten, the other typed.	
BY 6/4	Report read at the centenary meeting, 1934	

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Founded by Mrs Townsend in 1874 at a meeting at Lambeth Palace, it was the first Anglican organization to be run by women. It was intended for single girls; the Mothers' Union was founded for the married GFS members. One of the aims of the GFS was to improve the status of domestic service and consequently a large percentage of its members were recruited from the servant class.

Fac 84	Girls' Friendly Society - account of festival	Sept 1892
Z 251/17	Certificate for faithful discharge of duties, Girls' Friendly Society 1905	
Z 50/100/110	Photograph Sharnbrook Girls' Friendly Society	c.1913
Z 566/30	Photograph of Dunstable and Houghton Regis Girls' Friendly Society	c.1914
SFM/358	Bedford Branch Girls' Friendly Society annual report	1917
Z 795/2	Register for Girls' Friendly Society Candidates, Northhill	1927-1933
Z 795/3	Test book of G.F.S. knowledge for members and candidates of Dorothy Mary Williams, Senior Candidate (11å), Northhill Branch 1937	
Z 795/4,5,7	G.F.S. publications	1899; 1936-37
Z 795/6	G.F.S. 'Service of Re-dedication'	April 1937

MOTHERS' UNION

P 134/28/1	Card giving objects of Mothers' Union	n.d.
P 40/28/5-8	Oakley M.U. registers	1922-1942
P 6/28/9-11	Haynes M.U. records	1927-1963
Z 153/64	Willington M.U. Branch register and minutes	1929-1943
P 63/28/4-5	Eaton Bray M.U. register and minutes	1944-1972
P 108/28/10	Souldrop M.U. register and minute book	1947-1954

P 133/28/10 Bedford, Holy Trinity, M.U. minute book 1951-1969

Photographs

X 498/62,63 Campton ?M.U. c.1904

Z 50/96/43 Open-air musical show at Riseley 1920s

Z 50/100/71 Group photograph of Sharnbrook members c.1931

X 291/525/40, 41 Maulden M.U. members 1954

X 535/4 pp 122-123. M.U. members at Pavenham

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

X 809 Records of Biggleswade Afternoon Townswomen's Guild
1949-1991

X 528/1-5 Press cuttings books and correspondence for Bedford Federation of
Townswomen's Guilds 1952-1974

Z 290/5 4 issues of 'The Townswoman' (the journal of the Townswomen's
Guild) 1956-1958

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Women's Institute has its origins in Canada. The first WI in Britain was on Anglesey North Wales , followed soon by others throughout the British Isles. By 1918 there were something like 800 separate institutes. The first Institute formed in Bedfordshire was Dunstable in 1917. Dean followed almost at once. The County Federation was formed on 15 July 1919. The organisation aimed at educating and informing country women. During World War II the W.I. came to prominence with its abilities to tackle such activities as allotment gardening, jam making and land clearance. The activities of the local W.I.'s are often reflected in their scrapbooks.

Articles on history of the W.I. in Bedfordshire in:

J. Godber 'Women's Institutes in Bedfordshire' Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 20 pp.147-152, 193-196.

C.L.F. Mackey Brown 'Women's Institutes in Bedfordshire' Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 9, p.317-320

Archive Sources

Z 737/1-14 Beds Federation of Women's Institutes Year Books 1936-1950

SY 247/1-12 Bundle of documents relating to the Women's Institute including talk
given by E. Starey to Pavenham W.I. re the need to choose new
programmes to enliven the meetings. n.d. c.1924

X 499/1-2 'The Masque of Lady Margaret' written by C.L.F. Dalton with help of
Mary Kelly and album containing material illustrating the masque.
(see also X 718, portfolio of sketches for masque) 1931

X 644/112	'Three knitters in Council'. Booklet by Frederica St. John Orlebar, Nat Fed of W.I.'s	1922
OR 2286/2-5	Letters to Frederica St. John Orlebar congratulating her on her booklet 'Three knitters in Council'	1922
X 704/184	Gamlingay W.I. Notices and programmes	1925-1951
X 21/715-717	'Tudor Pageant' held by Woburn W.I., photographs	1928
CHAR 2/1	Arlesey W.I. accounts	1930-1955
Z 290/8	Programmes for W.I. exhibitions	1935-1962
Z 153/51	Records of the Willington Fruit Preserving Centre which operated during W.W.II under the auspices of the National Federation	1941-1942
Z 738/4	Tempsford W.I. minute book	1942-1945
X 654/1-10	Minute books and annual reports of Willington W.I. (X 654/1 records its start in 1944)	1944-1980
X 704/153	Wrestlingworth W.I. Programmes	1947-1950
X 704/83/3	Everton W.I. programme	1949-50
X 704/127	Potton W.I. Poster. Sale of work, 1958; programme,	1960-61
Z 290/28	Handbook and Annual Report of Beds. Federation	1965/66

Scrapbooks

C.R.V. 9	Papers <u>re</u> village scrapbook competitions	1955-6; 1965
X 535	Historical scrapbooks made by Willington, Roxton, Bromham, Pavenham, Great Barford, Biddenham	1956
X 351	Scrapbooks made for the Women's Institute Golden Jubilee in 1965: Aspley Guise, Pertenhall, Melchbourne, Carlton & Chellington, Pavenham, Odell, Bletsoe, Bromham, Milton Ernest, Streatley, Cople, Haynes, Eaton Socon, Campton, Stagsden, Great Barford, Kempston Rural, Heath & Reach, Langford, Souldrop, Clapham, Stotfold, Cranfield, Wharley End, Gravenhurst, Harlington, Biddenham, Toddington.	1965
X 761/1-2	Wharley End W.I. Silver Jubilee scrapbook; Scrapbook to celebrate Beds Federations 70th Anniversary	1953-1978; 1989
Z 664/1	'The Prime of Our Life' 20th Birthday souvenir, Haynes W.I.	1969
X 577/1	'A village observed - Stagsden, Bedfordshire'	1975
X 797/1	Chalgrave W.I. scrapbook	1977

X 680/1-3	'Focus on' Haynes, Eaton Socon, Chalgrave scrapbooks	1983
X 741/1	'Focus on Carlton' Scrapbook	1983

War Histories

At the end of the Second World War the local branches of the W.I. were asked, at the instigation of Miss Godber the County Archivist, to write a history of their village during the war. The histories produced contain details about evacuees, Air Raid Wardens, agriculture and the Home Guard.

W/V 2/5	Village war histories for Arlesey, Carlton and Chellington, Clapham, Eaton Bray, Harrold, Haynes, Marston Moretaine, Meppershall, Milton Ernest (poem only), Northill, Studham, Turvey, Old Warden, Woburn	1939-1945
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Photographs

X 498/6, 48,50	Campton W.I.	1928;c.1930; 1954
X 456/15/70-71	Clapham W.I.	late 1920's
Z 128/24	Clapham W.I. Christmas party	1938
Z 160/603/4-5	Clapham W.I. Presentation to retiring President	1965
X 614/50/2	Eaton Bray W.I. concert party	1928
X 614/50/4	Eaton Bray W.I. New Year's social	1934
Z 160/717	Produce Guild members	1966

W.R.V.S.

The Bedford Record ran a series of articles on W.V.S. women from 28 October 1941 until 21 April 1942 entitled "Women in Wartime" and beginning with Lady Bowring, Joint Borough Organiser of the W.V.S.

There are several Bedfordshire Times glass negatives showing the W.V.S. during the Second World War see WAR section in this guide.

W/W.V.S.	Wartime records	1943-1945
Z 317/6-8	Armband, pass and letter of thanks from Queen Elizabeth	1943-1945
X 464/28	Bundle of leaflets. W.V.S. wartime instructions	1944-1946
W/V 2/7	Chart showing organisation of W.V.S. in Northill during World War II	n.d.
CS 3022/19/f1-2	File on W.R.V.S. Meals on Wheels service and luncheon clubs	1962-1985

X 759/12	W.R.V.S. Guide	1970
Z 902/12/7	W.R.V.S. newsletters	May 1983; Oct 1984; Jan 1985

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

BP 3	Bedfordshire Ladies Music and Art Club Exhibition, report in the <u>Bedfordshire Mercury</u> , Page 8, column 4, 14 July	1894
X 291/38	British Women's Temperance Associations public meeting report in the <u>Bedfordshire Mercury</u> , Page 6, column 3,	16 February 1895
P 91/28/16	Report of Leighton Buzzard Ladies' Visiting Society	1897
BP 3	Bedford Board of Guardians request for a committee of 'Lady Visitors' to visit the workhouse, report in the <u>Bedfordshire Mercury</u> , Page 3, column 3,	28 July 1898
BP 3	Ladies Association of the SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) meeting at The Home, Bromham Road, Bedford, report in the <u>Bedfordshire Mercury</u> , Page 5, column 4,	29 September 1898
CRT 110/147	Records of Soroptimist International of Bedford,	1931-1994
Z 160/870-872	Records of The Bedfordshire Ladies Music and Arts Club	1932-1939
X 736/1-4	Records of the Electrical Association for Women (Bedford Branch) <u>see also</u> report of 1st A.G.M. of Electrical Association in <u>Bedford Record</u> , 3 March 1936, p.2	1934-1984
X 729/3/1-2	Turvey Pleasant Wednesday Afternoon, minute books, reports	1934-1978
X 729/12/1-3	Turvey Women's Guild. Financial records	1951-1971
Z 530/5-6	Cranfield's Women's Fellowship minute book and account book	1952-1974 1955-1975
X 715/3	Keysoe Brook End Baptist Church, Women's Bright Hour minute book	1961-1971
X 644/1	Minute book (and copy of the constitution) of the Wilden Ladies Club	1967-1974
X 494/16/18	Women's Club for all races suggested, Bedford Constituency Labour Party Newspaper Scrapbook, No. 18,	12 July-20 August 1974

RELIGIOUS GROUPS See also ORGANISATIONS

RELIGIOUS HOUSES

For ex religious nuns see CRT 100/18 - Cardinal Pole's pension list (transcript made from records at the Public Record Office)

1. ELSTOW

Benedictine nuns. Founded near the end of the 11th Century by Judith, widow of Earl Waltheof and niece of the Conqueror.

Victoria County History, Volume I, pp. 353-358

The Nuns of Elstow, H. Johnstone, 1941 [pamphlet 130 ELS]

Bedfordshire Parish Register Series, Volume 35, gives names of ex religious buried at St. Mary's, Bedford

2. MARKYATE

Benedictine nuns. Founded 1145.

Victoria County History, Volume I, pp.358-361

Talbot, C.H., (ed. and translator), The life of Christina of Markyate, Oxford, 1959

3. HARROLD

Arrouasian nuns. Founded between 1140 and 1150.

Victoria County History, Volume I, pp.387-390

Robinson, B. 'Harrold Priory' in Bedfordshire Magazine Vol 14 pp.118-121

Fowler, G. Herbert, Harold Cartulary, B.H.R.S. Volume 17, 1935

Archive Sources

T.W. 491-579 Deeds to Harrold Priory, 1188-1528

4. CHICKSANDS

Gilbertine nuns and canons. Founded c.1150.

Victoria County History, Volume I, pp.390-393

BUNYAN MEETING

a. Bedford

Women's Groups:

BY 7/1-5	Minute books of the Women's Guild	1926-1970
BY 6/1-4	Records of the Dorcas Society	1834-1940
BY 8/1	Minute book of the Women's Meeting	1945-1970

Ada and Annie Freeman of Keysoe Row, Bedford were once taught at Bunyan Meeting, Bedford. Annie later wrote religious tracts about her and her sister Ada's illnesses and sufferings. See:

Sighs and Songs, Being an Account of The Experience of Annie Freeman, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

In Loving Memory of Ada Louise Freeman, died 11th March 1903, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

A Twentieth Century Miracle, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

b. Goldington

BY 16/11	Volume marked 'Ladies' Circle' containing summary of meetings, list of members, officers	1958-1962
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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

See ORGANISATIONS for records of the Mothers' Union and The Girls' Friendly Society.

Sister Fanny Eagles was the founder of St. Ethelreda's Deaconess' Home and Orphanage.

See:

Sister Fanny, A Short Memoir, Introduction by Lady Alwyn Compton, Brown & Wilson, Bedford [Pamphlet box 180 FAN]

Clergy Wives

X 544/22/10	South Beds Clergy Wives Group, circulars and letters	1966-1976
X 544/68	Ring binder containing address for clergy wives retreat	1965

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Z 206/39	Bedfordshire Federation of Congregation Women minute book	1951-1969
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METHODIST CHURCH

MB 1410-1411	Luton North Street Methodist Church Women's Bible Class minute book - general and committee meetings	1955-1973
MB 1868-1869	Totternhoe Methodist Church Women's Bright Hour minute and report books	1967-1989

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH

Primitive Methodists accepted women preachers e.g. "Sister C. Dodsworth be authorised to preach in any of our places of worship occasionally", Minute Book, Bedford Mission of Hull Circuit, 13th September 1840, (MB 182)

MORAVIAN CHURCH, BEDFORD

In the early period of the Moravian Church in Bedford women as well as men served on committees - like the Quakers. By the 19th Century this had changed and married women in particular were almost completely excluded from decision making.

Printed Works

The Bedford Moravian Church in the Eighteenth Century, B.H.R.S. Vol 68,
Edwin Welch (ed), 1989 p. 179-194 Single Sisters' Diary, January-December 1780 (M.O. 1019) p. 199
An account of the Single Sisters c.1745 (M.O. 405) p. 210-211
Mary Collier's Relation (M.O. 621), p. 211-212
Sister Rogers' life p. 212-213
Elizabeth Berrill's Obituary (M.O. 617) p. 215-222
Life of Ann Okely (M.O. 606) p. 223-224
Life of Elizabeth Carter (M.O. 619)

Archive Sources

M.O. 1019	The Bedford Single Sisters' Choir House Diary, 1779-1788 Contains account of the happening of the Choir house, spiritual progress of members, mention of tambour work.
M.O. 1020	The Bedford Single Sisters' Choir House Diary 1789-1796 The entries for 16-18 Mar 1796 has an interesting account of the new agreement with the Mistress for whom the Sisters did their tambour work. Account of the beginnings of several day and Sunday schools.
M.O. 606	Notebook containing the life of Ann Okely 1691-1766
M.O. 614-645	Brief biographies of people connected with the Bedford Congregation including several for women 18th Century
M.O. 395-410	16 reports on the state of soul of sisters sent to Br Hackenwelder and Br Rogers by Sister Ann Odell n.d. [1743-1746]
M.O. 411	Letter presented to Sister Ann Odell from Ruth Bradshaw, Ann Bradshaw and Ruth Honour, giving the state of their souls. pre 1749
M.O. 986	An account of Sister Noslop's being carried away from Herrnhag and her return 1748
M.O. 992	Printed verses "In memory of Mary Louisa La Trobe who [died] in London June 10, 1839, aged 41 years".
M.O. 993	Printed verses "In memory of our beloved and venerable sister Anne Elizabeth Moore who [died] at Fairfield, April 24th 1841".

M.O. 690-704	Records of the Moravian Girls' Sunday School	1846-1912
M.O. 713-746	Records of the Moravian Ladies School	1805-1891
M.O. 785	Printed circular letter to Single Sisters,	1894
M.O. 786-787	Printed notices of Single Sisters Festival,	1912, 1913
M.O. 788	Manuscript notice of Single Sisters Festival	1916

QUAKERS, SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The small local weekly meeting was called a Settled or Particular Meeting; a group of Particular Meetings met at a Monthly Meeting for worship and business- a county area met four times a year at Quarterly Meeting; and Friends from the whole of England came together annually at Yearly Meetings.

Particular Meetings

FR 14/2/2/1	Hogsty End P.M., Women's Minutes	1787-1810
FR 16/2/2/1-2	Luton P.M., Women's Minutes	1788-1821
FR 15/2/2/1	Leighton Buzzard P.M., Women's Minutes	1869
FR 13/10/8/1-27	Records of Hemel Hempstead P.M., Domestic Mission	1892-1928

Monthly Meetings

FR 2/2/2/1-10	Luton and Leighton MM Women's Minutes	1762-1884
FR 6/2/2/1	Pulloxhill and Ampthill MM, Women's Minutes	1712-1782
FR 6/9/7/1-23	Pulloxhill and Ampthill MM birth notes. Mostly signed by women. Some give signature of midwife.	1775-1789
FR 4/2/2/4-6	Leighton MM, Women's Minutes	1808-1879
FR 2/10/2/1-52	Luton and Leighton M.M., letters from Women's Yearly Meetings	1813-1876
FR 3/2/2/1	Albans MM Women's Minutes and accounts	1703-1764
FR 3/1/1/1-2	Albans MM minutes and accounts. References to Women's Meeting (see catalogue for details)	1703-1768
FR 4/2/2/1-2	Hogsty End/ Hogsty End and Sherington MM, Women's Minutes and accounts	1761-1790

Quarterly Meetings

Mic 52	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Quarterly Meeting. Women's minutes	1785-1865
Mic 262	Hertford Quarterly Meeting - Women's minutes	1760-1782

Other Quaker records

FR 2/10/7/1-4	Certificates for Amelia Brown to be a travelling friend. Is a "minister".	1836-1837
FR 2/10/9/1	Testimony issued by Tipperary Monthly Meeting for Sarah Grubb deceased. Nursing Mother Elder, Travelling Friend. Died aged 34.	1791
FR 20/1/6/1-3	Berkhamstead Women's Adult School, Minutes	1925-1935
X 67/847	Diary of Elizabeth Brown of Ampthill (Extracts printed in <u>B.H.R.S.</u> Volume 40)	1778-1791

SALVATION ARMY

Z 49/501 & 502	Photographs of Salvation Army sisters, Arlesey	n.d. 1914-18?
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BEDFORD AND BEDFORDSHIRE AUXILIARY OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

X 523/3	Secretary's Memoranda Book contains list of members of the Ladies Association	
X 523/4-5	Ladies Bible Association Minute and Subscription Book	1866-1939

WOMEN MISSIONARIES

Maud Orlebar (1844-1910)

Missionary in India.

OR 2291/3-7	Letters and papers re missionary work	1894-1902
OR 2337/9	Newspaper cutting re death of Maud Orlebar	January 1911

General

Printed Works

Bedford Mercury, 24 June 1904, p.5. col.5. Young Women's Christian Association.

Bedford Mercury, 8 July 1904, p.6, col.6, Ladies Home Mission Association.

Bedford Mercury, 14 Apr 1905, p.7, col.11, British Women's Temperance Association report.

MARRIAGE

FAC 1 PROB 11/158	Will of Robert Palmer of Old Warden. Devises to his daughters fourscore pounds a year to be employed as their own stocks and at their wills and pleasures and their husbands not to intermeddle	10 August 1630
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PSBW 6/2-13 Biggleswade Petty Sessions - cases of matrimonial cruelty
1927-1958

FAMILY PLANNING

Z175/37/10 Bylaws re: sale of contraceptives from machines 1949

X 544/47 Family Planning Association, pamphlets 1970s

G.P.V 10/1 File re: V.D. treatment 1916-1922
- Includes Annual Report of the Royal Free Hostel for Women and
Girls 1920/21 (Hostel for women and girls suffering from venereal
diseases)

G.P.V. 10/2 File re: V.D. treatment 1923-1937
Includes poster on Healthy Womanhood – “A girl has the right to
demand that the man she marries is free from these diseases”

CHILDBIRTH

See also: MIDWIVES

P60/12/4 Kempston Overseers Accounts, “Pd Thos Webb in Want at his Wife’s
Second Make-believe Cry-Out” (hysterical pregnancy) 22 April 1772

OR 2246/53 Letter written to Richard Orlebar from his wife Frederica ‘For
Richard...In case I were to die’. 1863

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Printed Works

Stockdale, Eric A Study of Bedford Prison 1660-1877, Phillimore, 1977

Bedfordshire Magazine, Vol 5, pp 119-120 & 174-175 on Sarah Dazeley who was hung for the murder of her husband in 1843.

'Extraordinary conviction...' According to the newspaper the first record of a woman
'...being convicted and imprisoned for using snares to take game...' Bedfordshire Times, 1
January 1848, p.3, col.6.

Husband: My wife is "...my property..." Bedfordshire Times, 25 November 1848,, p.3, col.2.

Report of a case brought under the Married Woman's Act at Bedford Petty Sessions,
Bedfordshire Mercury, 29 February 1896, p.7, col.1

Archive Sources

For records of women in prison and on trial see the brown Quarter Sessions (Q.S.) catalogues particularly Q.G.R. which includes gaol reports and papers and Q.G.V. which includes registers of prisoners. Records of prisoner's post 1878 are listed in the brown catalogue marked PRIS.

For court records of the 17th Century see the green catalogues marked H.S.A. which list files of the Clerks of Assize, 1653-1694.

J 1270	Deposition of Eliz. wife of Jn Pearson, accusing her father Jn Mitton of inciting her to murder her husband, and of threatening her life if she refused.	19 Sept 1615
Q.S.M. 1	Emme Saunders, Little Staughton, indicted for bewitching William Holland <u>see</u> Beds. County Records Vol. II, searchroom book 110, p.24, for extract	1653
Q.S.S. 4	Prison Governor's statistics. Useful tables of information, includes women transported and hung. Table No 15 p.153 shows offences and levels of literacy.	1801-1878
Mic 83	Logbook of the Lord Wellington from Deptford to Rio de Janeiro en route for New South Wales with female convicts and children	Mar-Sept 1819
Q.G.R. 5	Minute Book of the Visiting Justices. Diet of female prisoners	1834
Q.G.R. 6	Minute Book of the Visiting Justices. Woman prisoner on hunger strike	28 September 1846
Q.S.P. 31	Home Office circular regarding imprisonment of girls	8 July 1914
CH/V 88/1	Register of girls from Bedfordshire in remand homes	1966-1972

LAW

Women Magistrates

First women justices in the County were Lady Amphill, Oakley House, 1920; Lady Ludlow, Luton Hoo, 1922; Mrs Kate Eaton, Langford Road, Sandy, 1922

See Subject Index under GOVERNMENT, LOCAL J.P.'s name index

Q.S.J. 3/4	Annual printed lists of county justices	1918-24, 1926, 1928-39, 1942-55
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L.C.A.V. 11	Lists of justices after 1974	
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The following Advisory Committee records regarding the selection of Justices of the Peace may prove to be useful:

ACC/C1/1-20	Files re. Appointments to the Bench Most include statistics on the appointment of magistrates. Further statistics can be found at ACC/V2/1-2.	1936-1988
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ACC/M 1	Advisory Committee minutes	1949-1973
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ACC/P1-73	Advisory Committee papers	1949-1991
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ACC/C1/1-20	Advisory Committee files re. Appointments to the Bench	1936-1988
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NOTE: Advisory Committee material is subject to an embargo.

Crime

J 1270	Deposition of Eliz. wife of Jn Pearson, accusing her father Jn Mitton of inciting her to murder her husband, and of threatening her life if she refused.	19 Sept 1615
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Q.S.S. 4	Women transported and hung	
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WITCHCRAFT

Robbins, R.H. The Encyclopaedia of Witchcraft and Witches [Library Ref O]

Godber, J History of Bedfordshire p.200 Case of Agnes Jeffes hanged for witchcraft in 1594. P.295 cases of Emma Saunders, 1653, Mary Chamberlain 1693 and Elizabeth Pratt 1667.

Bedfordshire County Records 1651 to 1660 Vol 2 p.24 "Indictment of Emma, the wife of Robert Saunders of Little Stoughton, carpenter, 'for feloniously bewitching of William Holland' - transmitted to the assizes".

"Testing for witchcraft at Oakley in 1735" in Blaydes, F.A. (Ed) Bedfordshire Notes and Queries Vol 3 pp.287-288 [Library Ref 120]

"Two witches proclaimed at Leighton Buzzard" in Blaydes, F.A. (Ed) Bedfordshire Notes and Queries Vol 1 p.43

Emmison F.G. (Ed) Bedfordshire Parish Register Series, Vol 22 p.B23
23 MR 1596 Eliz w Cuthbert Ocle 'was hanged at Bedford for wichecraft'.

Emmison F.G. (Ed) Bedfordshire Parish Register Series, Vol 49 p.90
26 Jun 1683 burial of Mary Dow 'which was counted as a witch', Dunstable.

CRT 150/57	Photocopy of article "Witches" by Keith Thomas taken from <u>The Listener</u> , 12 March 1970
CRT 100/27/4	p.283. Maulden woman ducked in Flitton mill dam, 1780
CRT 150/159	Case regarding girl of Harrold who took out the heart of a cat while still alive and stuck it full of pins, 1848

Archive Sources

ABC 2	p.45. Alice Smallwood of Blunham presented at Archdeacon's court for using "arte magica" 1538
J 1422	Memorandum regarding Will. Hillary obtaining cash by false pretences, curing a bewitched girl. Pre 1655
HSA 1662 W 24	Wm Cob, Stagsden, husb. to prosecute Ric and Mary Favell "concerning a matter of witchcraft". 1662
HSA 1667 W 16, 18-23, 26	Recognisances re Elizabeth Platt for bewitching 1667
HSA 1667 W 24, 27	Recognisance re Ursula Clarke cursing Wm Metcalfe and his cattle 1667
HSA 1667 W 28	Recognisance re Mary Hudson for bewitching children to death 1667
HSA 1667 W 40	Mary wife of Dan. Hudson accused of witchcraft on Jn Heywood so that he languished and died 1667
HSA 1667 W 51-54	Accusations of witchcraft at Dunstable. Includes information of female jury. 1667

HSA 1669 S 30-34	Jane Hobbs of Woburn charged with bewitching a child to death	1669
HSA 1669 S 55, 56	Elleanor Inch accused of bewitching Wm Hebbes to death	1669
HSA 1680 W 68, 94-98	John Wright of Bedford accused of witchcraft	1679
X 239/1	Stevington Baptist church minute book p.29. Mary Chamberlain "reported to be a witch"	1693

Women County and Borough Councillors

The first woman County Councillor in Bedfordshire was Amy Walmsley, 4 The Avenue, Bedford, Principal of the Training College. She was unopposed at the election of 7 March 1922 for Bedford No 6 Division.

Mrs Fawcett, wife of Dr Fawcett of Toddington was the second woman on the County Council. She was elected in July 1929 for Toddington District.

The first woman town councillor for Bedford was Mary Milligan of 55 De Parys Avenue in January 1919. She was the Secretary of the Bedford Women's Citizen's League (Bedfordshire Times, 10 January, 1919, p.6). Miss Gabriel, a Poor Law Guardian and a prominent member of the Women's Citizen's Association was one of the candidates in the municipal bye-elections shortly afterwards (Bedfordshire Times, 31 January 1919, p.5). Mary Stewart, also a leading light in the National Woman's Citizens Association was elected in St. Peter's Ward in November 1919.

See:

CRT 150/143 Early women County Councillors and Magistrates (since 1880)

C.C.Y. County Council Year Books (ask for date required)

Photographs of County and Borough Councillors:

C.C.V. 59 Complete County Council, 1934. One woman, Mrs L.B.M. Fawcett

C.C.V. 33/70 Bedford Rural District Council, 1937. 2 women: Mrs C.L. Gurney and Miss M.A. Measures

C.C.V. 33/79 Complete County Council, 1952. 4 women councillors: Mrs M. Young; Mrs A. Urwin; Miss D.M. Mann and Mrs L.B.M. Fawcett. 2 officers: Miss J. Godber (County Archivist) and Miss D.E. Cowcher (Children's Officer)

C.C.V. 33/76 Complete County Council, 1962

C.C.V. 33/82/1-2 Complete County Council, May 1989

Women Officers

News cuttings Volume - Celebrities p.56. Article on women in local government. Miss Doris Cowcher, Children's Officer; Miss Joyce Godber, County Archivist; Miss Winifred Frost, Chief Nursing Officer. (Beds Times 16 February 1968)

POLITICS

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

The 1918 Representation of the People Act extended the vote to women over 30. The 1928 Act extended the vote to all women over the age of 21.

Printed Works

First general meeting of Women's Liberal Association, Ampthill, Bedfordshire Mercury, 9 November 1895, p.8, col. 3.

Liberal Women addressed by Mr. McLaren, Bedfordshire Mercury, 14 March 1896, p.3, col.5.

Women's Liberal Association Meeting: report (Sandy), Bedfordshire Mercury, 25 April 1896, p.7, col.5, also p. 6 and 16.

Women's Liberal Association, Bedfordshire Mercury, 9 May 1896, p.5, col.2.

Bedford Women's Liberal Association, Beds Mercury, 23 October 1903, p.10, col. 2 and 11 December 1903, p.9, col.1.

Bedford Politics 1900-1924, Bedfordshire Record Office Background Papers No.2, 1986

"Women's Suffrage: demonstration in Queen's Hall, London", Beds Mercury, 16 June 1894, p.3

"Women in Politics - the need for Organisations" by Mary Hughes, Beds Times, 31 May 1918, p.6.

Archive Sources

- W 3959 Printed letter by Josephine E. Butler together with leaflet appealing for moral members of parliament and regretting inability of women to bring any direct influence to bear in the creation of the new Parliament. 1885
(Josephine Elizabeth Butler, English social reformer 1828-1906)
- BP 3 Women's Liberal Association annual tea at the Liberal Club, Bedford, report in the Bedfordshire Mercury, Page 8, column 6, 3 November 1894
- X 291/38 Ampthill Wesleyan Guild debate "Should Women enter Parliament?" report in the Bedfordshire Mercury, Page 8, column 1, 16 February 1895
- X 291/38 Numbers of Women Guardians of the Poor nationally, report in the Bedfordshire Mercury, Page 3, column 5, 23 February 1895
- BP 3 Bedford Board of Guardians request for a committee of 'Lady Visitors' to visit the workhouse, report in the Bedfordshire Mercury, Page 3, column 3, 28 July 1898
- BP 3 Electoral Registration Court, Southern Division, Ampthill District, the claims of Mrs. Sarah Elliot of Hillfoot Farm and Mrs. Susannah

- Arnold of Church Street, Shillington to be included on the Parliamentary Electoral Register rejected, report in the Bedfordshire Mercury Page 7, column 6, 15 September 1898
- BP 3 Potton Women's Liberal Association organised by Miss Agnes E. Slack, report in the Bedfordshire Mercury, Page 8, column 5, 1 December 1898
- X 291/251/1 'Votes for Women'. Postcard of women with posters and banner "Wallasey WSPU" [early 20th C]
- X 464/122 Picture in Illustrated London News showing suffragettes smashing windows. 1912
- AD 1082/4 p.18, 20 Newspaper reports of arson attacks by Bedford Suffragettes 1913
- OR 2306/11 Letter from Mary Boughton-Knight to Frederica Orlebar. "I never wished to mix in any public matter, but having had the vote forced on us by the mischievous suffragettes, there is nothing for it but to shoulder our responsibilities", . 13 July 1924
- SM uncat 27 Letter to Sir Douglas Newton M.P. from J. Smyth. Enfranchisement a "needless and uncalled for action". May 1929
- BD 1430 According to Admiral Barnard's memoirs, Sybil Barnard was a Suffragette, chained herself to the railings of 10 Downing Street, was force fed when arrested and was one of the suffragettes who drew lots to see who would run in front of the King's horse on Derby Day. Compiled post 1966

Bedford Society for Women's Suffrage

Mrs Maitland came over from Cambridge on December 4th, 1908. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was approached with a view to sending an organiser to Bedford to start the Society. Miss Marjorie Strachy came as organizer from March 29th to April 3rd, 1909. A public meeting was arranged in the Town Hall, Friday 28th May, 1909.

- X 114/1-6 Documents relating to the Bedford Society for Women's Suffrage 1908-1918
- C.R.T. 180/404 Newspaper article from Bedford Record, 24 June 1913. Meeting held on the market hill by Miss Dora Mason.
- Annual meeting of Bedford Society of Women's Suffrage. Describes meetings of Miss Dora Mason, M.A. in June. 56 members went to Sandy to meet the Women's Pilgrimage. Bedfordshire Times, 17 October 1913, p.7

Other Suffrage Organisations

Women's Suffrage Meeting held at the Corn Exchange. Bedfordshire Times, 1 March 1890

Women's Suffrage Meeting held at National School, Harrold in connection with the North Beds Women's Suffrage Society. Mrs

Morgan-Brown of London spoke. Bedfordshire Mercury, 14 November, 1891.

"Suffragette meetings in Bedford". Beds Times, 10 Apr 1908, p.8 cols 4-7

"Suffragettes visit Bedford. A rowdy night crowd". Bedfordshire Standard, 10 April 1908, p.6, column 5.

Women's Suffrage Meeting on Market Hill, Bedford addressed by Miss Sidley and Miss Henderson of the Women's Freedom League. Bedfordshire Times, 12 August 1910, p6.

Women's Suffrage Meeting. Speeches by Hon. Mrs Haverfield and Lady Constance Lytton for Women's Social and Political Union meeting in the Town Hall, Bedford. Bedfordshire Times, 24 November 1911, p.9.

Anti-Suffragist Meeting held in St. Peter's Hall, Bedford, for the purpose of forming a Bedfordshire Branch of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage.

Report followed by article "An Anti-Suffrage Meeting from a Suffragette's point of view".

Bedfordshire Times, 4 April 1913, p.8

Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association Annual Meeting. Address by Mrs Trustram Eve. Bedfordshire Times, 31 January 1913, p.8

Conservative Women Suffragists. Address by Mrs Trustram Eve. Bedfordshire Times, 16 May 1913, p.9

Meeting of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association at St. Peter's Hall, Bedford, presided by Mrs H. Trustram Eve. Address by Mrs Cooper, a weaver from Lancashire. Bedfordshire Times, 24 October 1913, p.7

Estelle Sylvia Pankhurst at Eggington in 1928. Beds. Magazine. Vol. 26, no. 203, Page 101. "Red Sylvia at Eggington by Simon Houfe"

Obituary of Miss Dorothy Pethick (from Luton News, 24 Sep 1970, see Press Cuttings, Beds. Celebrities, p.75)

LABOUR PARTY

Women's Section of the Bedford Divisional Labour Party (formerly Women's Labour Guild)

Inaugural meeting of the Bedford Women's Labour Guild held 30 January 1919 in the Co-operative Hall, Bedford.

Meeting at Bedford Town Hall with a speech given by Miss Despard reported in Bedfordshire Times, 11 April 1919, p.6.

X 494/6 Records of the Women's Section of the Bedford
Divisional Labour Party, 1919-1939

In 1931 the Bedford Labour Party adopted a woman candidate, Lady Clare Annesley. Her adoption and campaign can be found in the following issues of the Bedfordshire Times:

Selected for adoption	27 March 1931, p.10
Adopted	10 April 1931, p.9
Address at Bromham	28 August 1931, p.2
Statement of policy	16 October 1931, p.12
Speeches & photographs	23 October 1931, p.12
Election results	28 October 1931, p.1
Photograph	30 October 1931, p.10

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

The Primrose League

The Primrose League was a predominantly female organisation formed in 1883 in commemoration of Disraeli. It was used very effectively in election campaigns. Reports of meetings of the League can be found in local newspapers e.g. meetings of the League at Harrold were reported in the Bedfordshire Mercury, 26 June 1886, 31 December 1887 and 22 June 1889. A Primrose League Ball was held at Harrold in January 1891 (Bedfordshire Mercury, 3 January 1891).

Divisional Women's Branches and Women's Advisory Committee

X 502 N.B. 50 year embargo

X 502/3-5, 42-45 Records relating to Divisional Women's branches
and Women's Advisory Committee, 1930-1975

LIBERAL PARTY

Bedford Women's Liberal Association

Annual meeting, speeches by Lady Robinson, Miss Orme and Mr Whitbread, Bedfordshire Times, 24 May 1890

Report of meeting with details of speech by Mrs Bamford Slack on the need for women Poor Law Guardians, Bedfordshire Mercury, 4 March 1893, p.6 col 3.

Advertisement for public meeting, Bedfordshire Mercury, 17 March 1894, p.1

Annual meeting, speech by Mr Whitbread. Speaks on women's suffrage. Mrs Cobden Unwin's criticism of Primrose League and importance of Parish Councils. Bedfordshire Times, 24 March 1894. Speech also reported in Bedfordshire Mercury, 24 March 1894, p.5

Annual meeting, Bedfordshire Times, 7 April 1911, p.8

Meeting at the Liberal Club, Bedford, Bedfordshire Times, 17 January 1913, p.7

Annual meeting, address by Mr Kellaway M.P., Bedfordshire Times, 4 April 1913, p.8

Annual meeting, message by Mr Kellaway M.P., Bedfordshire Times, 18 April, 1919, p.7

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

PERSONAL PAPERS

DIARIES

Printed diaries

Some Bedfordshire Diaries, B.H.R.S. Volume 40, Luton, 1960:

Elizabeth Brown of Ampthill, 1778-1791. Extracts ed. by Joyce Godber. 17 pages of text. Diary of Elizabeth's girlhood at Ampthill, her involvement with the Quakers etc. Main part written before her marriage to Joshua Wheeler. Born 1754, the dau. of an Ampthill draper. Married 1781, Joshua, a mealman, afterwards a wool stapler. Died 1793. Text has been cut to less than half.

C.R.O. Ref: X 67/847

Catherine Young (later Maclear) of Bedford, 1832-1835 & 1846. Extracts ed. by Isobel Thompson. 7 pages of text. Diary of a curate's widow, with two young sons who came to Bedford for their education. In 1836 she remarried to the Rev Geo Maclear, chaplain to Bedford prison. Local affairs, Bedford social life etc. Born 1797 the dau of Abel Bellairs, banker of Stamford & Uffington, Lincs. Married Rev Jn Lindsey Dent Young in 1819. He died 1822. Cath died c.1869.

C.R.O. Ref: A.D. 1719-23. Full transcript of diary on library shelves at 180. See also AD 1724-AD 1728 Account Books, and AD 1729/1 photograph.

Miscellanea, B.H.R.S., Volume 59, 1980: pp. 89-125, "The Memoirs of Jane and William Inskip" edited by Yvonne Nicholls and Sylvia Woods.

Jane Inskip (nee Street) b.1834, d.1924. Married William Inskip, a farmer from Shefford Hardwick in 1860. Reminiscences of country life.

C.R.O. Ref X 595

Journal of Emily Shore, 1891

Lived at Brook House, Potton and Woodbury near Everton. Diary starts when she is 11½ and continues to her death in 1839.

[Library Ref 180] Original not held at C.R.O. Articles on Emily Shore in Bedfordshire Mercury, 28 January 1893, p.6 and 11 February 1893, p.6.

Transcripts of diaries

CRT 130 LUT 39 Extracts from Journal of Elizabeth Read aged 18, 1821

CRT 190/141 Transcript of Mrs Hester Wade-Gery's diary for 1791 and 1797

CRT 190/199 Transcript diary of Elizabeth Boughton of Husborne Crawley, 1868-9

Unprinted diaries

OR 2318/3a-c Frances Stackhouse Acton (1794-1881). Reminiscences of her life in three volumes. Eldest daughter of Thomas Andrew Knight of Downton Castle, amateur scientist. Describes visits of Sir Humphrey Davy, 1805-1812; living at Acton Scott, Salop on her marriage; account of last illness and death of her daughter, 1830.

- X 544/81,82 Mrs Bennet-Powell, diaries, 1902-1924. Mrs Bennet-Powell was the wife of Mr C.E. Bennet-Powell of Normanhurst, Harlesden. Her daughter Gladys (born c. 1875) married the Rev Arthur Sumner Wetherall in 1909 and they had two children, The Rev Theodore Wetherall and Mary (Pax) who married John Hare, Bishop of Bedford, 1968-1976.
- LL 19/2 Mary Ann Brooks of Flitwick, 28 Jan 1839-30 July 1848
Interest in social work in village, botany and sketching. Died 19 Sept 1848 aged 26 years. (Full transcript on library shelves at 180).
References to diary in The Diary of a Bedfordshire Squire, Thomas Brooks of Flitwick, 1794-1858, B.H.R.S. Vol 66, 1987, ed. Richard Morgan.
- X 171/335 Elizabeth Boughton? Printed booklet "The Englishwoman's Diary for 1869". Brief entries. Transcript CRT 190/199.
- LL 17/290 Diary of daughter of J.H. Brooks, 1875. Accounts of various balls in year. 24 pages.
- LL 17/291 Marianne Sophie Eugenie Brooks, Journal of holiday in France and Italy, Sept 1880-May 1881. 59 pages including sketches and postcards. Daughter of Major J.H. Brooks. Died 1885.
- L 31/113 Henrietta Frances Cole. 48 sheets (loose) part of a diary, 1820, 1822, 1843, 1845. Daughter of William Willoughby, 1st Lord Enniskillen, married 20 July 1805 2nd Earl de Grey, died 2 July 1848.
- L 31/114/15 Henrietta Emily Mary Cowper (probably), 28 August 1852-10 June 1853. Eldest daughter of 6th Earl Cowper and his wife Baroness Lucas.
- SY 369 Grace C. Dingwall. Journal, Sept - Dec [1874]. Description of her holiday in France.
- Z 778/1-2 Mrs Green, Journal compiled 1923. "My experiences in the Lake District from April 20th to October 12th 1922" who went with her husband, to keep the country house at Grasmere belonging to James Twamley of Bedford.
- X 106/222 Eliza Hipwell (nee Chapman). Sheets from diary. Jan/Feb 1856. Adopted daughter of Thomas Collier of Kettering and then of Sharnbrook. Married William Hipwell in 1842. See also X 106/587 glass negative of Eliza, c.1852. Hipwells were millers and corn merchants.
- X 550/21/64-130 Kathleen D. Howard, diaries 1908-1976. Born 1889, died c.1980. Sister of Sir D.F. Howard. Founder member of Clapham Women's Institute in the 1920's. Chairman of the Beds. Federation of W.I.'s 1951-1960, and President 1961 on. Magistrate for more than 25 years. Travelled widely in Britain and overseas. Diaries contain quite detailed entries re social round, chores, holidays, journeys etc.
- Z 160/429/1 Evelyn Jackson. Diary, c.1916. 6398, 18 General Hospital, Cannors, France.

- X 291/246/65-105 Nora Ira-Smith. Diaries, 1915-1974. (X 291/246/76 in February references to her resignation from Allen's, 1926). See also: X 291/246/11 letter of dismissal and reference sent to Miss Ira-Smith, Head of the Tracing Office at the Royal Airship Works, Cardington, as a consequence of the closing down of the works, 1921.
- X 291/246/12 Correspondence mainly from Messrs W.H. Allen & Shorts Brothers concerning Nora Ira-Smith's employment, 1916-1926.
- OR 2220/2-4 Anne Orlebar (1773-1830). Diaries, 1827-1829
- OR 2192 Charlotte Orlebar. Pocket diary, 1794
- OR 2194 Constantia Orlebar (1739-1808) Journal of a journey to Buxton, Derbyshire, 1776.
- OR 2214-15 Harriet Constantia Orlebar (1772-1794) "Journal of my expedition to France", 1785-1786
- OR 2156 Mary Orlebar (1730-1821) Diary, 1776.
- OR 2211/1 Mary Orlebar (1786-1797) Diary of Journey to Lille, 1785-1786
- Diaries of Frederica St. John Orlebar (nee Rouse-Boughton b.1838-d.1928)
- OR 2244/5a Travel diary 1860-1861. Includes watercolour sketches but many missing. Visits to Wales; Shropshire; Bridgnorth; Melchbourne; Downton Hall and Castle; Hinwick. Wedding presents and wedding which took place on 30 July 1861.
- OR 2244/6 Volume II Detailed diary, only a few sketches, 1861-1863. Includes honeymoon in Lake District and Scotland, life at Hinwick, children.
- OR 2244/7a Volume III, 1863-1864. Includes some sketches. Holiday in Aberystwyth, lessons with I. Fielding in watercolours at London.
- OR 2244/8 Personal diary, 1859-1864, 1875-1876. Staying at Lamport; Melchbourne; spiritual matters.
- OR 2245/1-65 Pocket Diaries, 1857-1921
- Micf. 40 Rachel, Lady Russell. Diary c.1657-1688. Diary of travels in France [year not given]. Diary of travels in France and Switzerland. Diary of travels in Germany and Switzerland, April-May 1657

- SM/E 54 A.E. Smyth, Edworth, Baldock. Holiday diary, 1905-1916. Relates to holidays in Britain and abroad.
- Z 136/25 Christina Kennedy. Diary, 16 Dec 1875-22 May 1876. Brief entries for journey through France - Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Cannes, Nice, Aux les Bains, then Geneva, Monaco, Pompeii, Rome.
- Z 136/26-27 Wilhelmina J. Kennedy. Diary, Dec 1875-9 Aug 1877. Sister of Christina. Starts in Boulogne and describes journey through France, Monte Carlo, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Greece, Smyrna, Athens, Corfu, Venice, Germany. Full and informative entries.
- Z 136/27 Wilhelmina J. Kennedy (possibly). Diary, Jan- Mar 1879. Journey from Sidenham through France, Spain, Gibraltar, Tangiers and back to England. Fairly full entries.
- LJ 1/1-1/5 Lady Luke, Edith Laura Lawson-Johnson. Diaries 1904-1908. 5th daughter of 16th Baron St John of Bletsoe. Born 8 Sept 1879, married 4 Dec 1902, George Lawson-Johnson, 1st Lord Luke. Died 2 Aug 1941. Diary for 1904 (LJ 1/2) includes foreign travels.
- X 495/170-175 Dr Dora Mason and her sister Lillie Gordon Mason, diaries 1932-1964. Dora Mason was a former Bedford Borough Medical Officer and also a leading suffragist.
See CRT 180/404 newspaper article entitled "Votes for Women" and Z 160/496-498 photographs of Dr Mason and her sister. Also letter in Beds Times, 21 April 1978.
- Z 188/61 Norah Smith. Journal, Feb-Mar 1882. Records visit to France & especially to Paris.
- SY 229 Anne Starey. Journal of travels abroad, 1850-1856. Belgium, Germany and Switzerland in 1850 & 1852, Innsbruck, Austria in 1856.
- SY 233 Elizabeth, "Lily" Starey. Diary of travels abroad, Aug- Sep 1862. Belgium, France and Switzerland.
- SY 235 Emily Starey. Diary and notebook, 1871-1879. Journal of holidays at Folkestone, 1871 & 1872, Isle of Wight, 1875 and Wales, 1874. References to sale of Milton Ernest Estate pp. 66, 79, 81-2, 86-8, 115. Quotations from poems etc. up to 1879.
- SY 237 Emily Starey. Journal of a tour in Normandy, 1876. Includes photographs.
- L 31/106 Catherine Talbot. Journal of a visit to Wrest, 28 May-13 Jun 1745. 46 pages. Brief portrait of life at Wrest - large part of time spent in reading. Names in code. (Transcript at end of L29/30 catalogue). Born 1721 died 1770, only child of Edward Talbot, Archdeacon of Berkshire. 1725-1768 lived with Dr Secker, who after being first Bishop of Bristol, then Bishop of Oxford became Archbishop of Canterbury. Secker superintended Catherine's education and she became learned in the scriptures and an accomplished linguist
- X 67/847 Elizabeth Wheeler. Diary entitled "Sundry memorandums by way of

Journal wrote by my late dear wife Elizabeth Wheeler formerly Elizabeth Brown". 20 Dec 1778-3 Jul 1791. Quaker.

Miscellaneous

- L/Lib.B 1/19/7 (6,9,10,16-18,29,30,43,49,60,62)
Powers of attorney by various Beds. Gentlewomen re disposal of South Sea stock 1720-1730
- Z 966 Barbara Moulster. Diaries entitled "The Story of my Greatest Romance" 1984-1946 + 1974-1996. Records her wartime romance with an Italian prisoner-of-war, in Dunstable, and their later marriage after both had married other people, after a gap of 28 years. [Embargoed until 2027].

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

LETTERS

The letters and correspondence written by women at the Record Office have generally been deposited as part of a large family collection and represent the writings of women from the middle and upper social classes. Letters by working class women are rare. The lists printed below are not exhaustive but a guide to what is held. There are only a few letters written by women surviving from the 17th Century. The most famous 17th Century letters by a Bedfordshire woman are the love letters of Dorothy Osborne to William Temple. The originals are held at the British Library. The letters are available in published form viz: The Letters of Dorothy Osborne to William Temple by G.C. Moore Smith, Oxford, 1947 [Library Ref 180]. See also Two Quiet Lives by David Cecil, 1948 [Library Ref 180].

1600 to 1700

J 1464-1465	Eliza St. John of Bletsoe to Uncle Rowland; requests his help in selling house in Watling Street (with his reply), 1641
TW 683-684	Letters to Sir Wm Boteler from Mistress Margt Mordaunt, daughter of Henry, Lord Mordaunt, while she was tenant of Harrold Hall <u>re</u> tenancy matters 1652-1653
TW 953	Letter from Hellen Butler to father, Sir Wm Butler. "We are both well ... our greatest want is your company..." n.d. c.1645
TW 1111	Hellen Farrer to Mrs Boteler at Biddenham. Hopes she is better. Is glad her own children are well. c.1660
B 652	Ann Massingberd, London, to Hen Brandreth, Houghton Place, Beds. saying she expects £4,000 at least for her son's wife's portion (with draft of answer) 1668
B 653	As above. Further details 1668.
TW 1115	Mary Davyes, to sister Eliz Boteler. Is not coming down as has resolved to stay in town because of pain in head. Has had civil letter from son Ford. Asks for old smock or shirt to make some night clothes. n.d. c.1678
TW 1116	As above. Mentions son Hatton, debts, lack of clothes. n.d. c.1678
TW 1120	Ann Carew, Bedlington, Surrey, to mother, Eliz Boteler. Mentions her 2 children 1688.
TW 1122	Helen Chernock to her mother, Elizabeth, wife of Wm Boteler at Biddenham, "I hope I am not soe infectious now that you need feare a letter from me". n.d. c.1695
TW 1128	Hellen Farrer to her sister in law Elizabeth, wife of William Boteler. Children came safely and send their duty. 10 January 1695

TW 1130	Helen Chernock to her mother Elizabeth. "Leaving you ill has made me very uneasy".	n.d. c.1695
OR 2071/164	Letter from Mary Rolt to her mother	1681
L 30/1/1-4	Letters of Amabel Grey mother of Duke of Kent	17th C.
L 30/8/30/1-6	Letters to Duke of Kent from his grandmother Amabel Grey	undated 1690's
L 30/8/31/1-17	Letters to Duke of Kent from his sister Amabel	1690-1691
Micf. 40	Letter of Rachel, Lady Russell describing travels in Switzerland and South of France together with 2 similar but not identical drafts of preceding letter.	17th C.

1700-1800

Printed letters

The Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, Joyce Godber, B.H.R.S. Volume 47, 1968
Life at Wrest Park based on the letters addressed to the Marchioness and to her two daughters, besides copies of letters written by the Marchioness herself.
C.R.O. Ref: L 30

Political and Social Letters of a Lady of the Eighteenth Century, 1721-1771, Emily F.D. Osborn (ed),? 1890. [Library Ref 180]

Sarah Osborn nee Byng was the only surviving daughter of Admiral Sir George Byng. Born 1693 at Southill. Married in 1710 to John Osborn, eldest son of Sir John Osborn of Chicksands Priory. Original letters not held at C.R.O.

McGreggor, M., "Astry and Orlebar correspondence from the Ashton Court Papers (1709-1721)", B.H.R.S. Volume 72, pp. 116-128

Four letters of Diana Astry and some by her husband Richard Orlebar of Hinwick.

Unprinted letters

By the 18th Century letters written by women are becoming far more numerous amongst the archives stored at the County Record Office. Mostly still from women of the upper levels of society. Exceptions include the letter written by Anna Maria Fitzgerald to the Marchioness Grey applying for charity, 1793 (L 30/9/36) and a good collection of correspondence mostly from middle class women in WE 184.

1700-1800

L 30/3/1	Letter of Amabel Cambell to Duchess of Kent "I... recommend to you the care of my poor helpless child"	1727
L 30/8/8/1-54	Letters of Amabel Cambell to her father the Duke of Kent. Foreign tours.	1721-1725
L 30/8/39/1-21	Letters of Sophia Grey, Duchess of Kent. Garden alterations at Wrest Park.	1788-1734

Letters to Jemima, Marchioness Grey

L 30/9/3/1-116	from Lady Anson	1748-1759
L30/9/10/1	from Tryphosa Box, maid to Margaret Heathcote regarding Margaret's death in childbirth (Jemima took Tryphosa Box into her own service and on retirement was settled in a house in Silsoe - see Godber <u>History of Beds</u> , p 380)	1769
L 30/9/18/1-40	from Willielma Lady Glenorchy	1766-1784
L 30/9/1c/1-7	from Lady Capell	1748-1750
L 30/9/22/1-40	from M. Capell	1748-1758
L 30/9/24/1-41	from Elizabeth Carpenter (nee Petty)	1740-1761
L 30/9/27/1-10	from Charlotte Cox	1783-1797
L 30/9/32/1-65	from Ann Sophia Egerton	1768-1777
L 30/9/39/1-15	from Lady Mary Forbes	1758-1760
L 30/9/47/1-5	from Jemima Mary Gregory	1779-1781
L 30/9/50/1-43	from Lady Mary Gregory	c1750-1757
L 30/9/51/1-18	from Amabel Grey (daughter)	1761-1767
L 30/9/53/1-19	from Lady Mary Grey (later Gregory)	1740-1741
L 30/9/54/1-18	from Mary Jemima Grey (daughter, later Robinson)	1763-1768
L 30/9/63/1-42	from M. Jeffreys	1778-1797
L 30/9/74/1-11	from Ann Plumtre	1782
L 30/9/81/1-158	from Mary Robinson (Lady Grantham)	1780-1796
L 30/9/87/1-4	from Catherine Talbot undated	c 1760
L 30/9/89/1-67	from Charlotte Villiers (Lady Hyde) pre 1797 most undated	1754
L 30/9/96/1-15	from Almeira Wyndham	1751-1762
L 30/9/97/1-197	from Agneta Yorke	1763-1796
L 30/9/102/1-13	from Elizabeth Yorke later Anson	1744-1747
L 30/9/104/1-9	from Elizabeth Yorke wife of 3rd Earl	1784-1796
L 30/9/110/1-15	from Margaret Yorke, mother in law	1740-1761

L 30/9/111/1-273	from Mary Yorke, sister in law	1762-1796
L 30/9/53/1-143	from Lady Margaret Heathcote (nee Yorke)	1751-1768
L 30/9a/1-9	Transcripts of Jemima Grey's letters to Catherine Talbot, Mary Gregory and Mary Yorke	1740-1774

Letters to Amabel Lady Polworth, later Countess de Grey

L 30/11/7/1-49	from Ann Anstruther	1778-1795
L 30/11/13/1-44	from Anne Barker	1778-1793
L 30/11/15/1-10	from Catherine Bathurst	c 1830
L 30/11/50/1-12	from Charlotte Cambridge	1804-1825
L 30/11/99/1-7	from Carole Elicot (nee Yorke)	1793-1806
L 30/11/114	Long semi-literate letter from former servant	1798
L 30/11/121/1-41	from Jemima Mary Gregory	1778-1794
L 30/11/122/1-395	from Jemima Grey (mother)	1761-1796
L 30/11/123/1-84	from Mary Grey (sister)	1765-1780
L 30/11/133/1-15	from Sarah Harrison (includes some to Mrs Box)	1789-1820
L 30/11/152/1-134	from Elizabeth Countess of Marchmont (mother in law)	1780's
L 30/11/229/1-7	from Amelia Purves of Berwick	1792-1804
L 30/11/236/1-21	from Henrietta Lady Grantham (niece in law)	undated
L 30/11/240/1-394	from Mary Lady Grantham	1780-1811
L 30/11/241/1-29	from Mary Gertrude Robinson (great niece)	1830-1832
L 30/11/242/1-53	from S.A.L. Robinson	1815 & undated
L 30/11/323/1-191	from Agneta Yorke (aunt)	1772-1820
L 30/11/324/1-15	from Anna Maria Yorke	1817-1832
L 30/11/325/1-2	from Anne Yorke	1802
L 30/11/326/1-14	from Caroline Yorke	1785-1790
L 30/11/330/	about 200 letters from Harriet Yorke	1780 & undated
L 30/11/338/1-6	from Margaret Yorke Countess of Hardwicke	1757-1761
L 30/11/339/1-605	from Mary Yorke (wife of Bishop)	1766-1823

Letters to Lord Polworth

L 30/12/29/1-8	from Jemima Marchioness Grey (mother in law)	1776-1779
L 30/12/34/1-17	from Amabel Hume Campbell (wife)	1777-1780
L 30/12/35/1-170	from Lord and Lady Marchmont (parents)	1768-1780
L 30/12/52/1-4	from Mary Robinson (sister in law)	1780

Letters to Mary Lady Grantham

L 30/13/9/1-133	from Jemima Grey (mother)	1763 & undated
L 30/13/12/1-117	from Amabel Hume-Campbell	1772-1814
L 30/13/25/1 & 2	from Catherine Talbot	1767 & n.d.
L 30/14/143/1-19	Letters of Lady Mary Forbes negotiating marriage of 2nd Baron Grantham	1780
L 30/15/50/1-166 & L 30/15/12/1-9	Letters of Anne Robinson of Saltram	1780-1788
L 30/15/53/1-13 & L 30/16/16/1-102	Letters of Mary Baroness Grantham to her brother and sister in law	1787-1788

Letters to Catherine Talbot

L 30/21/1/1-10	from Lady Elizabeth Yorke, later Lady Anson	1744-1759
L 30/21/2/1-12	from Lady Amabel Grey, later Lady Polworth	1763-1769
L 30/21/3/1-14	from Jemima Marchioness Grey (and 2 travel journals)	1750-1767
L 30/21/4/1-7	from Margaret Heathcote	1753-1759
L 30/21/5/1-6	from Jemima Marchioness Grey	1780-1789

(See also diary of Catherine Talbot at Wrest, L31/106)

Letters of Amabel Countess de Grey

L 30/23, 24 & 25	Letters of Amabel Countess de Grey to relations	1762-1820
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Many of the above 'L' letters have been transcribed in extenso; even more have been calendared in detail.

R 3/104/2	Letter to Robert Butcher from Alice Brothers re a carpenter's shed. Have been a cripple for 4 yrs, having lost part of my foot, and spent all ready money on surgeons and apothecaries (no punctuation)	1761
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R 3/274	Letter from Mary Elliot, Bedford, sending Duke's bill for flax delivered	
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	to Raynor of this town	1767
HW 85/75	Letter from Rebecca Osgood giving account of a wedding which was attended by many persons of quality	21 January 1715/16
HW 86/1-120	Papers concerning Isabella Eccleston running away at the age of 15 to marry the coachman, John Everard. Includes letters from Isabella.	1717-1745/6
M 10/2/94-169	Letters from Christian Russell nee Williamson to brother Edmond Williamson, Rector of Millbrook. Food, clothes purchased in London sent to Millbrook. Trip to Plymouth.	1750-1765
M 10/2/198-229	Letters of Christian Williamson (widow of Talbot Williamson). Lettings at Crawley.	1766-1769
M 10/4/19-59	Letters from Margt. Cater to Mary Williamson (nee Tipping). Social visits, clothes.	1773-1779
M 10/4/135-165	Letters from Mary Tipping to her daughter Mary Williamson. Financial matters referred to son Edmond.	1761-1767
M 10/4/179-203	Letters from Christian Williamson, step-daughter of Mary Williamson. Farming matters. Household accounts. Report on stores.	1769-1775
M 10/4/282-305	Letters from Mary Williamson to her mother. Some formal school letters. (M 10/4/302: "This will be the last letter I shall write to you unknown, as the maid which carries them to the post is going away").	1772-1778
M 10/5/934-939	Letters from Mary Williamson (later Trevor) to her brother Edmond Williamson	1778-1795
J 1527-1538	Dispute between Susanna Louisa Dowager Lady St. John and her son Henry Beauchamp, 12th baron, over the payment of an annuity to her second son St. Andrew, who was apparently heavily in debt.	1788
HG 12/4/56-65	Letters from Sarah Higgins, Weston to brother John Higgins. Local news.	1790-1799
HY 927	Letters from Sarah Harvey (widow) to her son John and daughter in law Sus. (Gibbard); long and interesting estate & family details	1796, 1801
OR 1035	12 letters from Charlotte Nicholls to Miss Orlebar	1792-1821
OR 2071	3 Volumes of documents used by Frederica St John Orlebar for her Orlebar Chronicles which there are many letters written by women. See list for details.	17th-19th C.
WE 184	Correspondence mostly by or relating to Mary Bishop. Mary and her sister Sophia were cared for by their cousin Penelope Cunningham after their mother, Ann Cunningham of Clophill milliner, died in 1783.	

- Mary seems to have led what some of her relations consider rather a reckless life, marrying a sailor who drank and spent freely.
1783-1805
- X 311 Some letters from members of the Rugeley family
late 18th C
- L/Lib.B 1/19/7 (46) Notes from Lady Lucas re books and use of library
at Wrest etc (3 items) 1801-c1820
(85) Letter from Elizabeth Whitehouse to Mrs Ludlow at
Felmersham: commiserates on illness etc.
n.d. (Watermark 1803)
- Mic 130 Letters of Cecilia Parke while living at Amptill Park and elsewhere
1838-1845
Originals at Northumberland Record Office. Also available in bound
form on library shelves at 130 AMP.
- L 30/16/15/1-25 Letters of Henrietta Robinson to her aunt 1806
- L 30/18/47/1-40 Letters of Mary Baroness Grantham to her son 1801-1803
- L 30/19/2/1-28 Letters of Henrietta Baroness Grantham to her son c.1830
- L 30/19/3/1-17 Letters of Anne Florence Countess Cowper to her brother
c.1830
- L 30/19/4/1-15 Letters of Mary Vyner to her brother 1829-1830
- HG 12/4/66-95 Theresa Higgins to husband John. Requests items to be purchased.
News on children. (HG 12/4/85 "little Mary pop dont like her Book at
all, I am afraid she will never be a Blue Stocking but must
condescend to wear white ones all her life"). 1807-1844?
- HG 12/5/1-8 Han Aislabie, Dane Court to Theresa Higgins, Turvey Abbey. Selling
her property and possessions. 1807-1818
- HG 12/5/16-21 [Mary] Caroline Longuet, Bath, to sister Theresa Higgins. Social life.
1804-1807
- HG 12/5/22-27 Eliza Longuet, Bath, to sister Theresa Higgins. Social life. (HG
12/5/26 went to see "Mrs Siddons in Lady Macbeth but I was
disappointed in her being grown so large...."). 1804-1807
- HG 12/5/28-32 Mrs Mary Longuet, Bath to daughter Theresa Higgins, Turvey Abbey.
Family matters. Advice on nursing child. 1804-1807
- HG 12/8/8-11 Mary Higgins, Turvey Abbey to brother Henry Higgins. Local news.
Elopement of Miss Talbot with Mr Asprey. 19th Century
- W1/6001/1-28 Letters between Maria Edgeworth and Lady Elizabeth Whitbread
(Transcript CRT 180/498) 1819-1835
- HY 929 Elizabeth Harvey. 3 letters as to her marriage with T.K. Bayley
1822

- OR 2071/539-553 Letters and writings of Mrs Mary Orlebar 1794-1818
(for further letters and writings see subject index FAMILY:
CELEBRITIES Orlebar, Mary)
- OR 2318/3b Loose stitched volume containing reminiscences and letters of Fanny
Stackhouse Acton (1794-1881) eldest daughter of Thomas Andrew
Knight of Downton Castle. c.1824-1844
- OR 2318/4-29 Letters of Fanny Stackhouse Acton to Frederica Rouse Boughton
(later Orlebar) 1861-1880
- OR 2306/1a-11 Letters from Katherine Emily Boughton Knight to aunt
Frederica Orlebar. 1874-1924
Katherine Emily Boughton Knight b.1864, married 1899 Eliot George
Bromley-Martin. Died 29 November 1950. Her letter of 13 July 1924
(OR 2306/11) gives views on Jews and women's suffrage.
- OR 2307/1a-3 Letters from Catherine Charlotte Rouse-Boughton to her sister
Frederica Orlebar 1880-1911
- OR 2311/1-7 Letters from Frederica Wayne to her God-mother Frederica Orlebar
c.1875-1924
- OR 2312/1-5 Letters from Theresa S.C. Wayne to Frederica Orlebar 1880-1881
- OR 2320/1-14 Letters from Mrs Eichbaum to Frederica Orlebar 1860's-1881
- OR 2246/1-53 Correspondence of Frederica Rouse-Boughton (later Orlebar). All
except OR 2246/1 relate to Frederica's engagement and marriage to
Richard Orlebar. 1845-1863
- OR 2247-2288/11 Correspondence of Frederica St. John Orlebar (nee Rouse-
Boughton) 1861-1926
- OR 2291/1-7 Letters from Maud Orlebar (1844-1910) Missionary in India to
Frederica St. John Orlebar 1877-1902
- SY 1-46 Letters to Ann Bletchley (born c. 1790. Died 1856) many from female
relations and friends. In particular SY 27/1-23 letters from Julianna
Ridsdale which includes many details of the Mission Schools for girls
in Cockin, India. 1811-1854
- SY 64/1-52 Letters from Ann Starey to Benjamin Helps Starey. 1823-1848; 1856
- SY 77/1-14 Letters from Ann Bletchley to Ann Starey nee Butterfield
1839-1846
- SY 83/1-34 Letters from Elizabeth Starey to mother Anne Starey
1858-1880
- Li/Lib. B. 1/19/7 (46) Notes from Lady Lucas re books and use of library
at Wrest etc (3 items) 1801-c1820
(85) Letter from Elizabeth Whitehouse to Mrs. Ludlow at
Felmersham: commiserates on illness etc. n.d. (Watermark 1803)
- SY 84/1-7 Letters from Emily Starey to mother Anne Starey 1867; 1873

SY 93-102	Letters received by Elizabeth "Lily" Starey. Includes letters from Grace Sarey in Colombo, Ceylon.	1859-1888
SY 123-126	Letters to John H. Starey from Grace Dingwall. Letters before marriage in 1882; from Ceylon in 1884; Southsea 1897 and Bedford 1903-1914.	1878-1914
SY 134/1-18	Letters from young daughters, Cynthia, Margaret and Freda to John Starey	1896-1905
SY 153-192	Letters to Grace Starey	1860-1940
SY 331/1-25	Letters from Julia Dingwall to husband Charles Dingwall. Family matters, travels, illness	c.1852-1887
Z 525	Letters of Harris family of Leighton Buzzard. Quakers. Includes many letters from women. Theodore Harris was a partner at Bassett's Bank in the High Street. He met his wife Ann of Tarn Bank, Cumberland, c1854. Theodore's first proposal of marriage was unsuccessful (Z 525/129) but by September 1855 the couple were corresponding regularly. (Only Anne's letters have survived Z 525/1-96). They married in October 1856 and lived in Church Terrace, Leighton Buzzard. In 1868, Ann who was pregnant with her 5th child developed cancer of the womb and died in July at Brighton. (See Theodore's only surviving letters Ann Z 525/166-7). A letter from Anne's mother, Mary Fletcher, is particularly interesting in being a description of an anti-slavery meeting chaired by the Earl of Shaftesbury, 1853 (Z 525/150)	

1900 onwards

As in the previous periods, correspondence by women generally comes from large family deposits. Increasingly there are letters from smaller deposits and the social level of the writer is becoming more varied although still at the beginning of the century predominantly from the middle and upper classes.

X 106/486-	T.C. Hipwell's papers in relation to Annie his wife and her two sisters Euphemia Attenborough and Virtue Elizabeth Milligan, especially as trustee of their shares. Includes letters from Annie and Euphemia. Euphemia had considerable financial problems e.g. X106/515 "it has been very hard work, to keep this big house tidy, do poultry and gardening, with only a maid 15 years old".	1894-1923
SY 211-212	Letters received by Margaret "Tita" Starey	1904-1930
HG 12/9/4-24	Letters from Ann Higgins to son Henry Longuet-Higgins. Servant problems. Family and social.	1897-1904
HG 12/10/158-191	Letters to Gertrude Longuet Higgins from daughter Maude. School life, life as teacher. Comments on First World War e.g.: HG 12/10/166 hopes mother will like work at Kensington Square "bandages are not strenuous making" and HG 12/10/171 "the account of Miss Cavell's execution makes one feel absolutely ill". Later in Burma.	1906-1926

- HG 12/10/196-214 Letters to Gertrude Longuet Higgins from Mildred Sampson, South Africa. References to Boer War. Life in South Africa. 1899-1931
- HG 12/11/37-79; Letters from Gertrude Longuet Higgins to her son Kenneth HG
12/11/100 away at school. 1898-1914
- M 20/3-11 Photocopies of letters from Edith Blundell (b. Australia c.1871, later of Argyll House Cirencester) to her cousin Percy Blundell and to Percy's son Eric Blundell. Wartime letters give a picture of Cirencester between 1939 and 1945. 1934-1955
- Z 966 Letters received by Barbara Moulster of Dunstable, mainly from an Italian prisoner-of-war with whom she had fallen in love and who wanted to return to Dunstable after the war to marry her. 1946-1947

Miscellaneous papers

- Li/Lib.B 1/19/7 (6, 9, 10, 16-18, 28, 30, 43, 49, 60, 62)
Powers of attorney by various Bedfordshire gentlewomen re
disposal of South Sea stock 1720-1750

RECIPE BOOKS

Printed

Diana Astry's Recipe Book c1700, B.H.R.S. Volume 37, 1957. C.R.O. Ref X 178

The Compleat Cook or the Secrets of a Seventeenth Century Housewife, (Rebecca Pine's Recipe Book), Madelaine Masson (Comp), 1974
[Library Ref 160]

Bedfordshire Magazine, Volume 26, p.122, 'To Make a Cake' from Elizabeth Jenkins recipe book, 1714. C.R.O. Ref PM 2600

The Country Housewife's Family Companion, W. Ellis, 1750. Mic 39

Unprinted recipe books

GY 7/1	Elizabeth Welby's book	1682
GY 7/2	Blanch Hooker's book, (nee St. John) wife of Jonathon Hooker, Rector of Sandy.	1691
GY 7/3	Hester Benyon's book. Cookery and medical recipes. c.1701	
GY 7/4	Menu book kept by Hester Gery. Married Rev Hugh Wade in 1792. Menus for dinners and suppers, notes of guests and arrangement of dinner on table, sample menu.	1794-1826
GY 7/8-47	Loose recipes, food and medicine	17th-19th Cent
LL 17/270	Elizabeth Daniell's Book of Receipts	1660
LL 17/271	Lucy Wright's Recipe Book	c.1700
LL 17/272	Receipt book. Includes medical and veterinary recipes.	1762
LL 17/273	Recipe book	late 18th Century
LL 17/274	Misc. loose recipes and other papers compiled by Mrs Ann Brooks	1817
LL 17/275	Recipe book compiled by Mary Brooks	1817-1853
X 171/59	Recipe book late 18th/early 19th C	
X 171/60	Book of mixed contents. Begun as a recipe book afterwards used as a notebook	18th-19th C
PM 2600	Elizabeth Jenkyn's book. Cookery and medical recipes. The later recipes are in another hand.	1714
PM 2601	Catherine Pym's book. Cookery and medical. Later recipes in other hands.	18th C
PM 2604	Jane Elizabeth Pym's book	3 October 1816

L 31/201-202	Two small recipe books	early 18th C
L 31/203-216	Loose recipes	18th C
X 189/1	Cookery book kept by Mrs Mary Ann Tomson, afterwards Mrs Wheeler, housekeeper of the Cock Inn, Eaton Socon c.1830	
X 189/2-11	10 recipes, loose, kept by above. See also <u>Beds Times</u> , 28 August 1942, and 2 subsequent issues. (Catalogue entry for X 189 includes transcript of diaries not deposited) c.1830	
X 362/4	Recipe for gooseberry cheese. Endorsed Rebecca Thomas. 19th C	
AD 1724	Account book of Catherine Young contains recipes c.1818	
SM/E 49	Recipe book covering both cookery and medicinal matters [late 18th C.]	
SM/E 50	Recipe book - cookery, domestic (polish for floors) and medicinal. Includes instructions to servant [early 20th C.]	
Z 153/65	Cookery book of Bessie Chapman made up in part from press cuttings [20th C.]	

SCRAPBOOKS/COMMONPLACE BOOKS/PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

OR 2218	Commonplace book of Harriet Constantia Orlebar (on such subjects as 'Friendship' 'Cheerfulness')	1787
X 171/temporary	Commonplace book of Jane Porter	1797
SM/E 51	Autograph and commonplace book containing copies of letters, signatures, copies of engravings, articles on famous people etc. probably compiled by Elizabeth Kidman of Luton	c.1813-c.1849
PM 3011	Scrapbook of Elizabeth Susanna Palmer elder sister of Mary Jemima Pym, married Rev Quenby Ashby of Quenby Hall. Died 12 March 1905.	1837
LL 17/285	Scrapbook of Mary Brooks - includes drawings, photographs, pressed flowers etc. sent by J.H. Brooks to his mother while in India	1843-4; 1853-8
PM 3012	Scrapbook of Mary Jemima Palmer, married Francis Leslie Pym, 7 October 1847	1844
SM uncat 16	Album with 19th C. engravings and photographs. Under an engraving of "Mansion House Establishment for Young Ladies, Hanley Road" is written "where I went to school 1847 E.S." 19th Century	
SM uncat 17	Commonplace book. Quotations and poems. Perhaps made by same girl as above.	19th Century
SY 231	Commonplace book. Lucy Starey. Quotations from Bible and poetry	1860
SY 232	Commonplace book used by Lucy Starey, 1861-1866 and John Starey 1867-c.1878. Contains songs, quotations from books and poetry.1861-1878	
SM/E 53	Autograph book, containing also some sketches and pictures of Annie E. Smyth	1871-1930
SM/E 83	Scrapbook kept by Alice Smyth of Quickswood. Autographs cut from letters, sketches, cards, stamps, press cuttings	1872-1916
SM/E 82	Scrapbook kept by Louisa Smyth of Quickswood. Christmas and birthday cards, autographs, photographs	1882-1894
X 464/73	Photograph album compiled by Mrs B. Orlebar. Includes newspaper cuttings and programmes.	1901-1939
X 464/76	Photograph album kept by Mrs Graham, Elstow Lodge. Photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to her wedding 4/10/22, holidays, social round and children.	1922-c.1926

- Z 160/237 Photograph album belonging to the late Misses Bull, Foster Street, Bedford, dancing teachers. Mainly personal snapshots but including two large photos of dancing classes. 1930's-1950's
- X 291/498 'Confession Album' completed by military patients and nurses. Includes 'Should women have vote?' 'Do you object to women smoking?' 1915

HOUSEHOLD

Household and Personal Accounts

L 31/122	Account book, probably of Mary, Baroness Lucas, wife of 11th Earl	1694/5
L 31/115-120	Six bills for dressmaking- the first made out to "Ladie Grey", the others to the Countess of Kent	1664-1699
TW 827/1-18	Bundle of bills of Madam Boteler. Includes one from Mary Kent, 1691. Muslin, lace, ruffs, holland	1689-1691
OR 2071/60-65	Mary Orlebar's dress bills	1691
UN 95	Folder marked "Mrs Antonie" containing 14 snippets from account books	1719-1737
L 31/130-164	Bills for clothing, jewellery etc for Jemima, Marchioness Grey.	1723-1761
X 800/26	Account book of Anne Antonie (nee Beke) principally for housekeeping and clothes	1737-1744
X 800/37	Housekeepers accounts (probably by Margaret Clarkson) for Richard Antonie	1767
M 10/4/179-203	Household accounts in letters of Christian Williamson (looking after house in absence of parents)	1769-1775
AD 1724-1728	Account books of Catherine Young/Maclear	c. 1818-1867
HY 930	Book of accounts between Susan Harvey and her daughter Elizabeth	1819-1823
SY 51	Housekeeping account book of Ann Bletchley. (Most pages have been removed leaving columns of figures in R.H. margin).	1839-1840
LL 17/290	Diary of a daughter of J.H. Brooks. Has 24 pages of personal accounts at end.	1875
SL 7/1	Mrs Shuttleworth's private ledger	1913-1920
SL 7/6	Details of Mrs Shuttleworth's jewellery (in letter book pages 594-597)	1917-1928

Housekeeping (see also SERVANTS and RECIPES)

X 464/75	File of notes kept by Mrs Graham, Elstow Lodge, concerning parties and housekeeping	1922-1966)
OR 2325/1-9	Inventories of pictures, crockery, linen etc at Hinwick House compiled by Frederica Orlebar	1878-c1920
OR 2325/10	List of things for Frederica to remember (list of routine household supervision done by Frederica Orlebar)	c.1885
OR 2325/14-17	Grocery lists and lists of clothes being washed	1878-1891

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

WRITING AND LITERATURE

WOMEN WRITERS

Annie Freeman

Wrote religious biographies of herself and her sister Ada.

Sighs and Songs, being an Account of the Experience of Annie Freeman of Keysoe Row, Bedfordshire, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

In Loving Memory of Ada Louise Freeman of Keysoe Row, Bedfordshire, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

A Twentieth Century Miracle or Walking, Leaping and Praising. Being an account of the suffering and experience of Miss Annie Freeman, Keysoe Row, near Bedford, (photocopy) [pamphlet box 180 FRE]

Mary Orlebar (1730-1821)

Printed:

Collett-White, J. "My Choice. A poem written in 1751 by Mary Orlebar", B.H.R.S Volume 72, pp. 129-141

Manuscript poetry:

OR 2170-2171	Volumes of poems	1751-1752
OR 2175	Poems by Mary Orlebar	1762-1821
OR 2179	Misc bundle of poems and prose	18th and 19th c
OR 2181	Bundle of riddles (mainly poems) by M. Orlebar	18c-19c
OR 2071/290	On a lottery ticket; lines by Mrs Mary Orlebar	1772
OR 2071/295-6	Lines by Mrs Mary Orlebar, on Mrs Orlebar's death	1777
OR 2071/368	Lines	1785
OR 2071/542	Lines on Christmas and New Year addressed to Charlotte Paul	1818
OR 2071/544	Lines to Anne Orlebar	1804
OR 2071/547A	Lines on a piece of bridecake	1821

See also:

OR 2071/567	Epitaph by Sir E. Dolben on Mrs M. Orlebar	1822
OR 2071/563	Description of Mary Orlebar by Samuel Isted	c.1820's

Fanny Stackhouse Acton (1794-1881)

Eldest daughter of Thomas Andrew Knight of Downton Castle.

- OR 3218/3a-b Autobiography and reminiscences of Frances Stackhouse Acton.
- OR 2318/38 Manuscript book "An account of Charles II escape from Worcester"
(This work was copied and extended in c.1878 by Frederica Orlebar)

Frederica St John Orlebar (d. 1928)

- OR 2327/1a Fair copy manuscript of 'The Adventures of Her Serene Limpness, the Moonfaced Princess, Dulcet and Debonaire' c.1886-1887
- OR 2327/6 The Adventures of Her Serene Limpness, The Moonfaced Princess, Dulcet and Debonaire, F. St J. Orlebar, published by Bentley and Son 1888
- X 464/73 Photograph album containing obituary of Frederica St John Orlebar, 2.3.1928, with the opening pages of her book "The Children of the Manor House and their Posterity"

Mary Norton

Creator of The Borrowers and Bedknobs and Broomsticks. Brought up in a manor house at Leighton Buzzard.

- CRT 180/196 Photocopy of article in Mother and Baby Magazine May 1976 "Meet Mary Norton"

Gertrude Page

Gertrude Page (1873-1922) was the fifth daughter of John E. Page, J.P., of Woburn Sands and Bedford. She moved from Bedford to Rhodesia two years after her marriage to Alec Dobbin, third son of Captain R.A. Dobbin, Indian Staff Corps. Her obituary can be found in Bedfordshire Times, 7 April 1922, page 8.

Novels of Gertrude Page

- Z 160/272-283 The Silent Rancher; Where the Strange Roads Go Down; Winding Paths; Follow After; Some There Are; Love in the Wilderness; The Great Splendour; The Rhodesian; Edge of Beyond(another copy Z 145/31); The Pathway; Two Lovers and a Lighthouse, 1917; Far from the Limelight, 1918(another copy at Z 160/308).
- Z 160/372 Winding Paths
- Z 160/314 Follow After c.1914
- Z 160/129 Paddy-the-next-best-thing, 1918 (another copy Z 160/309)
- Z 160/133 Jill's Rhodesian Philosophy or the Dam Farm
- Z 160/373 The Supreme Desire, 1919
- Z 160/313 The Veldt Trail, 1919

SOURCES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

SPORT

Newspaper Sources

Hockey club for ladies playing in Bedford Park. Plea for women to dress reasonably. "Were men to wear petticoats and clinging flounces they would become enfeebled non-walking animals, and begin to pine away". Bedfordshire Mercury, 25 March 1893, p.5 col 2.

Cranfield Ladies Cricket Club. Report of general meeting. Bedfordshire Mercury, 14 July 1894, p.6

Archive Sources

- LL 17/323 Bedford Tennis Club minutes "It was agreed that in future ladies and gentlemen play together" 17 July 1878
- Z 50/142/30 Photograph of male and female members of Clifton Cycling Club. The invention of the ladies safety bicycle had enabled women to join these clubs, which had previously been male preserves. 1890's
- Z 50/142/172 B.N. Cubbington later Mrs Gouch, riding a motor cycle, St Augustine's Road, Bedford. "I think I was the first woman to ride a motor bike in Bedford".1911
- Z 50/142/253 Photograph of Toddington Church ladies cricket team 1934
- Z 1073 Records of Bedford Ladies Rowing Club, formally established in 1957, which became affiliated to the Star Rowing Club, Bedford, in 1973.
- Z 1073/1 Minute Book. The minutes of the ordinary committee meetings, 1957-1968, are at the front of the volume, those for the annual general meetings, 1957-1971, are at the back 1957-1971
- Z 1073/2 Bundle of loose papers found in the above minute book, including letters concerning the storage of the Club's boats at the new RAF Cardington boathouse, 1956-7; club rules, c.1957; Captain's reports for 1958 and 1971; circular letter to members from Captain Valerie Walter charting decline of the Club and urging a revival before affiliation to the Star Club, Feb 1973; articles of affiliation to the Star Club, c1973; rules of the Star Club, c1973; final report of the Star Club on the rowing season of 1973/4 (13 items in total) 1955-1973
- Z 1073/3 Account book, originally entitled *Financial No 1 and 2 Acct*, with a few annual income and expenditure accounts attached 1954-1965
- X 1073/4 Loose income and expenditure accounts found inside the above account book (13 items) 1961-1972