



IN TIME

Ely U3A History Group Members'
Newsletter



Edition 5

30th April 2020

This is now the fifth edition of IN TIME, how time flies. Thank you for all your contributions please keep them coming. This week we learn about the Cromwell family, football kit, some family history, the advent of the ansaphone and the second part of Lady Paget's extraordinary life.

Please send contributions to Maggie Haverson [REDACTED]

[The Cromwells - Heather Carruth](#)



If you think it's a small world now, step back into the 16th century and you will be amazed. When Thomas Cromwell, Lord Chancellor was beheaded in 1540, you might have thought his family would have fallen out of favour and disappeared from history, but you would be wrong.

His son Gregory became 1st Baron Cromwell, married Elizabeth, Lady Ughtred, née Seymour, sister to Jane Seymour and therefore became brother-in-law to Henry VIII and uncle to Edward VI. A true survivor, when his brother-in-law and patron, Edward Seymour was ousted in 1549, again he seems to have remained untouched. Gregory's family connections had provided him with wealth, property and privileges; however, like his father, it was through his own endeavours that his wealth grew. His luck ran out when aged 31, when he caught the sweating sickness (the same illness which caused the death of his mother and two sisters), dying in 1551, during England's last outbreak of the disease.

Sir Richard Williams, also known as Sir Richard Cromwell, the son of Thomas Cromwell's sister Katherine, was a Welsh soldier (his father, Morgan Williams, was Welsh) and a courtier in Henry VIII's court. He worked closely with his uncle and profited enormously from the Dissolution of the Monasteries in which he took a full part. In 1537, he had the grant of the nunnery at Hinchingbrooke and Ramsey Abbey. In 1541, he was appointed High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire and the following year he was also returned as member of parliament for Huntingdonshire adding the grant of St Mary's monastery in the town of Huntingdon and St Neots Priory to his collection.

Sir Richard Cromwell was the patrilineal great-grandfather of Oliver Cromwell; not bad for a line that started with Walter Cromwell, a Putney Fuller and Brewer.

[Reading corner](#)

If you want a 'long read' – Maggie Haverson

Both Heather, who has written in this edition about the history of the Cromwells and I, are reading the Hilary Mantel Trilogy featuring Thomas Cromwell, (Wolf Hall, Bring up the Bodies and The Mirror and the Light) and we have both reached book three. I have to admit it is a bit of a marathon but definitely worth the effort. The books provide a fascinating insight – albeit historical fiction – into the politics of Henry VIII's reign.



My only criticism is the physical size of the books, book three is 800 pages and in hardback this is a weighty tome to be holding for any length of time. Perhaps I should have bought it on Kindle.

[Why do West Ham United FC play in Claret and Blue? - Clinton Tweed](#)

This story offers one explanation.

In 1899, there was a fair was being held near to Villa Park in an area known at the time as the 'Black Patch', where a travelling community welcomed attractions. One visitor apparently challenging all comers, was William Dove, a London-born professional sprinter of national fame. Along came four Aston Villa players (league champions that year) to the fair one day, strutting their Victorian stuff through the side shows and attractions. The Villa players were challenged to race by Dove, they agreed and a money wager was set. The race was run and the Aston Villa players lost.



The Villa players didn't have any money, so a compromise was reached. One of them had been given the job of getting the first team's kit washed so to placate Dove, they gave him the complete claret-and-blue kit, which he took back to London, and they reported it stolen to the Aston Villa directors. William's son, Charlie Dove, was an apprentice riveter who played right-half for his works team, Thames Ironworks. The then amateur team had played in a number of different colours, including dark blue, inspired by the firm's chairman, who had been at Oxford. When William Dove, who also helped coach the team showed up one day with a complete set of claret-and-blue Aston Villa kits, they adopted it. At the end of the 1903/04 season Thames Ironworks were disbanded and re-launched almost immediately as West Ham United keeping the new claret and blue strip.

Urban myth or true? - Another version of the story says West Ham copied Aston Villa as they were the best team in the country at the time but I prefer the wager story.

[A Hundred Years Ago... – Liz Herrington](#)

This is a picture of my great grandparents, Ernest and Bessie Jenkins, surrounded by their sons and daughters. It was clearly taken at some time after the start of the Great War in 1914. The family lived in the village of Shenley, near Bletchley in Buckinghamshire.



As we have been reminded recently, the war was followed by the Spanish flu pandemic. My great grandmother Bessie died of the flu in 1919, at the age of 49. Her death had a dramatic impact on the

young people pictured here. Ernest married again fairly quickly. His second wife has possibly had a bad press in the family but it's significant that following the wedding all the children, apart from Doris, the youngest, and Ethel, whom these days we would have said had learning difficulties, left home and never returned.

My grandmother (seated on her mother's left), took a post as a nurse in the Risbridge Hospital in Kedington, Suffolk. This must have seemed a long way from her home in Bucks but it was while she was there that she met the gamekeeper's son, Clem Herrington, and the rest, as they say, is history

The last picture shows Ernest with his second wife and some of his daughters at their home in Bletchley – from the age of my father, the little boy with curly hair, it must be about 1929. It's good to know that the family were eventually reconciled to some degree, though I don't think my grandmother ever liked her stepmother.



Strange to think that were it not for the 1919 flu pandemic my grandparents would never have met and I would not have been born. I wonder what family stories will be told in a hundred years time about the effect of the pandemic of 2020?

[Walburga Lady Paget \(Part II\) - Ian Forrest](#)

In 1893 Walburga brought the Torre di Bellosguardo in the south of Florence, where Queen Victoria visited soon after the purchase. After her husband's death she stayed at Bellosquardo devoting her time campaigning with others to preserve old Florence.

In 1908 Walburga purchased Unlawater House in Newnham on Severn on the edge of the Forest of Dean, moving there permanently in 1913. She loved England and the countryside of the Forest of Dean. She told everyone that to remain active and never suffer from bad health one should eat only one dish at every meal and avoid all meat, tea, coffee, and drugs. One should sleep with the windows wide open, go to bed early and rise early. Hot baths and scented soap were unnecessary. To preserve your teeth, you should only eat brown bread. Obviously, there should be no smoking or drinking to excess. She used to bathe her face every day in morning dew and she always washed in rain water first hot and then cold. (The cook disapproved of Lady Paget's vegetarianism and used to cut pieces of meat very small & include them in her meals. Washing in morning dew may be good, but someone has to go out to collect the morning dew!). She was Vice-President of the London Vegetarian Society & was the author of four books about her life & travels.

It became a routine at Unlawater House that on a weekday evening the butler's young daughter would play in the library while Lady Paget read the newspapers. On Thursday 10th October 1929 his daughter was unwell and in her bedroom. Lady Paget asked the butler to remove the fireguard as her feet were cold. It is thought that as she dozed, the newspaper slipped down her lap into the

fire. She rang for her butler who quickly tore her skirts off and beat the flames with his hands. He carried Lady Paget to the family's convertible Austin 7 and drove her to Wooton Hospital in Gloucester where she died of her injuries the next day.

The butler was my grandfather Thomas Leslie Forrest.

Her passing was the end of an era with her being referred to as Queen Victoria's last personal friend, someone who knew many of the heads of state of the Victorian period. Walburga Lady Paget is buried next to her husband Sir Augustus Berkeley Paget in the plot owned by her son-in-law the Earl of Plymouth in Tardibigge, Worcestershire.

BANDAGED WITNESS
Butler's Inquest Story of Dash to Save Walburga Lady Paget

"It was a deplorable ending to the life of a very distinguished lady," said the coroner at yesterday's inquest at Gloucester on Walburga Lady Paget, aged ninety.

Lady Paget, who was the widow of Sir Augustus Paget, British Ambassador at Rome and other places, died of burns. Accidental death was the verdict.

Thomas Forrest, butler at Unlawater House, Newnham-on-Severn, whose hands were bandaged, said last Thursday Lady Paget sat on a chair in front of the fire reading a newspaper.

Later he heard a loud peal of the bell, and, rushing to the library, found Lady Paget enveloped in flames, which he extinguished.

Petty's Pick of the Week

"Hello, I'm not here" – Telephone Past Snips: These two stories appeared in a Cambridge newspaper April 21st 1951 and 1980

1951

A Recordon dictaphone, various wires, amplifiers and relays, together with other improbable odds and ends have enabled a Cambridge doctor to overcome the problem of maintaining a continuous telephone 'watch'. If there is nobody to answer a patient's ring they hear, after a short pause "Hello this is the automatic telephone speaking, the doctor is at the hospital. Goodbye". The doctor is now turning his inventive imagination in the direction of an apparatus which will record an incoming message.

1980

An entirely new kind of telephone has been developed by Patcentre International of Melbourn. It uses a high-frequency radio link which would 'beam up' to a microwave receiver installed on an ordinary telephone pole or high buildings. A user wanting to make a call would simply stand under one, dial and speak. The cost of his call would automatically be added to his bill. The company think it has a real future but might take time to get accepted and production is years into the future.

