

18 February 2024

## Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

Welcome to the February issue of the Newsletter. Lots of new projects and ideas to think about this month and get involved in.

### 1. News

#### a) Family research - Edward Peregrine Gueritz

Last month I wrote of Josie Manjaji's visit to see her cousin Sue Pither who lives here in Colyton and the research she is undertaking into their mutual family history as descendants of the renowned Evans family of doctors who lived and worked here in Seaton and Colyton since the nineteenth century.

During her visit Josie mentioned that she was also researching Edward Peregrine Gueritz who served as Governor of the former British Colony of North Borneo and Labuan before WWI. Josie gave me the attached photo which shows her grandfather Richard Francis Evans on the right of the picture, his friend Edward Gueritz in the middle and the third figure on the left is identified as Myddleton.



*Myddleton*

*Gueritz*

*Evans*

Edward Peregrine Gueritz was born in December 1855 and after leaving school began a long career in the Colonial public service when he entered the Sarawak Civil Service in 1874 – following in the steps of his brother George who had been in the Sarawak Service since 1870. By 1880 Edward had moved to North Borneo and gradually rose up through the ranks, undertaking a variety of roles until in 1904 he was appointed Governor and Commander in Chief of North Borneo and Labuan until 1911 when he retired. He died at his home 'Labuan' in Seaton on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1938.

During his many travels around the Far East, Edward took the opportunity of being the only passenger ever to travel on the famous 'Cutty Sark' clipper when he took passage from Sydney to Shanghai in July 1881. There were no passenger cabins and he was accommodated in an apprentice's cabin, the fare was £25 and the journey took 46 days. Fragments which survive from his diaries also depict various incidents he had to deal with during his career. The entry for 22 March 1883 recalls:

*"Murder of Malanjang at Bongon. He had accidentally shot Ah Kim's wife (a native). Her relatives captured him. When I sent Sergeant Nahim with a warrant to bring him in for trial, they cut him up in front of Nahim."*

An obituary published in the North Borneo Herald after his death observed how much the State owed Edward for his skilful administration of government "*under which the country's prosperity and trade greatly increased.*"

His father, the Rev Mamerto Gueritz, was Vicar of the Church of St Andrew at Colyton for over 40 years. David Gunn Johnson has recently published a new biography of Mamerto Gueritz.

If you have any information about either Richard Francis Evans or Edward Peregrine Gueritz please let me know and I will pass it on. ([sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk))

### Sources

- <https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/read/4375/passing-of-bnb-governor-who-produced-first-compilation-of-laws/>
- <https://www.ornaverum.org/family/findlay/gueritz/edward-peregrine.html>
- <https://www.ornaverum.org/reference/pdf/353.pdf>  
*Mamerto Gueritz: A Country Catholic 1823–1912 - David Gunn-Johnson*  
[https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=X3jdEAAQBAJ&pg=PT91&source=gbs\\_select\\_ed\\_pages&cad=1#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=X3jdEAAQBAJ&pg=PT91&source=gbs_select_ed_pages&cad=1#v=onepage&q&f=false)

**b) New column – Do you know what this is?**

Sometimes our splendid town walk guides, when they are leading visitors around Colyton are asked questions for which they don't have an immediate answer! Can you help them? For example these figures and letters on the wall of the old bank – does anyone know what they stand for?



In future whenever the town walk guides receive a new enquiry about a local historical fixture we will post the query on here and if anyone can answer the question or has useful information please let me know.

([sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)) Also, if you've always wondered about the history of something local then send me a picture and your question and we will ask if anyone has an answer!



**c) History Society talks**

Don't forget the 2024 season of History Society talks begins at **2.30 pm on Tuesday 27 February** in Colyton Town Hall. All welcome.



# COLYTON PARISH HISTORY SOCIETY

## A SOCIAL AFTERNOON WITH TALKS & QUIZ

### Dairymaids & Milkmen

A History of Dairying in Colyton  
by Colin Pady

1924  
That Was The Year  
That Was

A Century On  
by Marian Sydenham

Includes Tea & Cake

All Welcome  
Come along and join  
our friendly group

£2 Members  
£4 Visitors

Tuesday 27 February, 2.30pm  
Colyton Town Hall



#### **d) Jon Facey's latest finds**

On a recent metal detecting expedition to the Colyton area Jon Facey unearthed a number of interesting items. Unsurprisingly they came out of the ground covered in mud and with no design features visible. However once cleaned up they revealed some interesting details. Of particular note are two buckles, the



smaller one with the pin dates to circa 1500 and the larger one from around a 100 years later. The buckles will be recorded by the local Finds Liaison Officer and added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



An exciting find is the button below which dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It bears the crest of the Pole family and has been dated to Sir John de la Pole, the 6<sup>th</sup>



Baronet. Further research in Burke's *General Armory* from 1883 has revealed a description of the coat of arms which associates it with Shute House!

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\\_John\\_de\\_la\\_Pole,\\_6th\\_Baronet?fbclid=IwAR05xW0XgRQbiSmTOwyHNfWm5vSdXkmBtDV05dt0FQrpMGIlfRSmeRyM4\\_k](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_de_la_Pole,_6th_Baronet?fbclid=IwAR05xW0XgRQbiSmTOwyHNfWm5vSdXkmBtDV05dt0FQrpMGIlfRSmeRyM4_k)



**Pole** (Shute House, co. Devon, bart.). *Az. semée-de-lis a lion ramp. ar. Crest—A lion's gamb gu. armed or. Supporters—Dexter, a stag gu. attired and unguled or; sinister, a griffin az. gorged with a ducal coronet ppr. armed and beaked or. Motto—Pollet virtus.*



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w. [www.colytonheritagecentre.org](http://www.colytonheritagecentre.org)

### **e) New project - Tales of Home**

Do you live in Colyton? Did you know there are 116 listed buildings or structures in the Colyton area according to Historic England. Listed buildings are defined as buildings, objects or structures that have been judged to be of national importance in terms of their architectural or historic interest.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1333548>

Have you ever wondered about the history of your house? Have you done any research already?. Have you made notes of what you found out? Then would you like to help us with a new project?

Colyton History Society is looking to put together a file of information about as many local properties as possible which our volunteer town walk guides can draw on to help them in telling the history of the town and to answer visitors questions as they lead walks around Colyton.

Remember - it doesn't just have to be about your home - there may be historic or architectural interest in an old derelict built structure on your land. It could be a barn, enclosure or even a pipe line or dam. And it doesn't necessarily have to be Listed or even have to be particularly old. What we are also looking for is the social history attached to your property – have members of your family lived there for generations, did someone with an interesting back story once live there, a local character perhaps or did something happen there? Is it alleged to be haunted? We will keep a file of all contributions in the Heritage Centre.

Like the idea of researching the history of your home? Who has lived there in the past? Have you discovered any amusing/sad anecdotes about your property? Or have you found any interesting items hidden away when you were redecorating or refurbishing your house? Do you have any old photos or early deeds to your property which you are happy to share?

Keen to have a go? Well our volunteers in the Heritage Centre will be happy to show you what material we may already have about your home. In return we would be very pleased to receive any information you discover to add to our files. We will take a copy of any documentation provided. This is community history in action – anyone can get involved!

If you are interested in becoming involved please do let me know.

[\(sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)



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## **f) New offer – Bespoke Family Research Package Visits**

We have also been looking at how to improve our 'offer' to visitors keen to engage in researching their family roots and heritage here in Colyton Parish. We are lucky to have Parish Registers going back to 1538. In recent years we have received an increasing number of requests – from all over the world - for help with tracking down information about a named local family, some of whose members may have emigrated 200 or 300 years ago to America, Australia, or Canada and many other places. Indeed, there are towns named Colyton in Australia and New Zealand.

We have decided to offer a bespoke package for family tree researchers which will include a guided walk around Colyton led by a town guide and directed study assistance from one of our research volunteers into the records we hold in the Heritage Centre. A donation of £20 (for one person) or £25 for two people is requested and we will require 28 days notice to set this up.

For further details please contact us through the heritage centre website at [https://colytonheritagecentre.org/contact\\_us/](https://colytonheritagecentre.org/contact_us/) or email me direct on [sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarah.charman@yahoo.co.uk)

## **2. Other CPHS Matters**

### **a) Behind the Scenes at the Heritage Centre**

Come and discover the wide range of archive materials held in our Heritage Centre.

Would you like to help out for 2 hours once a month meeting visitors?

Find out more about the Heritage Centre

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am – 12 noon**

Just drop in, all welcome

### **b) Reopening of Heritage Centre**

The Heritage Centre will reopen for the summer season on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024**. The Centre is open three days a week on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm**. Our volunteers will be happy to help with any queries you have. Entry is free. Donations appreciated.





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### c) 2024 Talks Programme

#### PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2024

Tuesday 27th Feb <b>2.30pm</b>	<b>SOCIAL AFTERNOON</b> <b>Dairy Maids &amp; Milkmen</b> by Colin Pady	Colyton Town Hall
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Tuesday 26th Mar 7.30pm	<b>AXMINSTER THROUGH THE AGES</b> <b>Shaped by Fire &amp; Flood</b> by David Knapman Axminster Heritage Museum	Colyton Town Hall
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Tuesday 23rd Apr 7.30pm	<b>FROM DEEDS TO DIGITAL</b> <b>The Work of Devon Record Offices</b> by Brian Carpenter	Colyton Town Hall
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Tuesday 24th Sept 7.30pm	<b>LOST BUILDINGS OF EXETER</b> <b>Destruction from 1800-1899</b> by Todd Gray	Colyton Town Hall
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Tuesday 29th Oct 7.30pm	<b>HUNTING THE HUNTER</b> <b>Dunkeswell &amp; Battle of the Atlantic</b> by Brian Lane-Smith Southwest Airfields Heritage Trust	Colyton Town Hall
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Tuesday 26th Nov <b>2.30pm</b>	<b>SIR THOMAS GATES</b> <b>Son of Colyton, Governor of Virginia</b> by Sarah Charman & Jon Dover	Colyton Town Hall
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The attendance fee for each talk  
£2 for Members and £4 for Non-members  
includes refreshments.



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#### **d) Membership - Annual Subs due in January 2024**

A reminder that annual membership fees for 2024 are due from the beginning of January. It is £8 for a single membership or £12 for a couple.

Subscriptions can be paid at any Society meeting. Or they can be paid by standing order or BACS transfer using the following details: Colyton Parish History Society, Sort Code: 30-90-37, A/c no 00992240 (Lloyds Bank.)

### **3. Other organisations events**

#### **a) Devon and Somerset archives**

This spring Devon and Somerset archives have organised a series of coffee time (10.30 am) online talks on the theme of researching your West Country :

- i) family - 23 February
- ii) criminals – 15 March
- iii) poor – 19 April

For more information and to book click on the link below:

[https://swheritage.org.uk/news\\_tags/coffee-time-talks/?dm\\_i=5KNS,Y6EA,4G6WD,48USA,1](https://swheritage.org.uk/news_tags/coffee-time-talks/?dm_i=5KNS,Y6EA,4G6WD,48USA,1)

### **4. Items you may have missed**

- a) South West Academy art exhibition at Thelma Hulbert Gallery

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/24087019.thelma-hulbert-gallery-south-west-academy-exhibition/?ref=eb&nid=2397&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=310124>

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