

AN OLD DEVON FAMILY
BY MARY GRIFFITHS JAMES

There were members of the Furneaux family in Devon since the Norman Invasion in the 11th century and the name originates in France. Alan de Furneaux was born in Fen Ottery in 1100 and in 1199 Alan Furnellis was Sheriff of Devon. The Furneaux family were in the Ashburton/Buckfastleigh area by the 1600s, including Rev Christopher Furneaux who was born in Paignton but was known as 'The Curate of Buckfastleigh'. Rev John Dolbeare was the Vicar and Patron at Buckfastleigh and his will gives details of land left via his daughter Sybil, who married Christopher Furneaux, to the Furneaux family. Christopher and Sybil had six sons and four daughters and many, if not all, of the later Furneaux in Buckfastleigh were descended from this line.

Buckfastleigh was a medieval town which had grown due to its physical situation, being on the edge of Dartmoor Forest with two streams: the Mardle and the Dean Burn that ran into the River Dart. The water from these enabled woollen and paper mills to be set up and in 1806 the Hamlyn family were able to build a four storey mill on the banks of the Mardle, benefitting no doubt from the new manufacturing processes which came into being with the Industrial Revolution. The woollen mills produced blankets and serge and the various processes could be carried out in one place, other than the tentering of the cloth which at one time was carried out in the lofts of cottages on Chapel Street. There were plentiful flocks of sheep in the area, including the Devon and Cornwall Longwool. Prior to the First World War, cloth was exported to China and was made also for the Admiralty and for Military Officers' uniforms.

The presence of black marble, copper and limestone in the area further contributed to the economy of Buckfastleigh. Lime was used to 'sweeten the soil' for lime wash, flooring and cement and is also used in the tanning process. The sheep were used not only for their wool but also as sheep skin which in the First World War was used for airmen's jackets and gloves.

The Furneaux family

It was into this community that Henry Furneaux was born in 1798. Henry married Elizabeth Waldron in her home town of Widecombe in the Moor on 16 December 1821 and their first son, John, was born there being baptised on 28th July 1822. Elizabeth died the following year and Henry took his son with him back to Buckfastleigh. Henry married his second wife Mary and they had a further nine children, all baptised in the nearby Ashburton Wesleyan

Methodist Chapel. Henry worked at the paper mill in Buckfastleigh and he died of typhus in 1855.

Henry and Elizabeth's son John (senr) had a long life having been born in 1822 and dying in 1914. was a tanner and worked at the Hamlyn's tannery which was set up in 1806 on Church Street and is said to be the oldest established sheep tannery.

John (senr) married Mary Buckingham in the Parish Church in Buckfastleigh on 3rd March 1844 and both bride and groom signed their names at that time, giving both their fathers' occupations as 'husbandman'. Mary Buckingham also came from a family who had been in Buckfastleigh for generations and her father Henry worked as a lime burner. Henry Buckingham married Mary's mother Mary Baskerville who was also from a longstanding Buckfastleigh family and she had been baptised in the Parish Church in 1792.

John and Mary Furneaux had thirteen children, some of whom emigrated, as had three of John (senr)'s half siblings, two going to the US and one to Australia.

The Furneauxs and the Post Office

John and Mary had a son John, their fourth child, born in early 1848. John would eventually go on to work for the Post Office. John married Sarah Grace Boarder in late 1867. Sarah Grace, as a twelve year old, was a wool factory hand and her brother who was six year older was a copper miner presumably at either Brookwood or Wheal Emma Mine.

John had worked as a shoe maker until he joined the postal service as a Rural Postman. In 1801 the population of Buckastleigh was 1525 but by 1901 this rose to 2781¹ and no doubt the building of the railway in May 1872 would partly explain the increase in the population. The Post Office had put in a telegraph system used for the railway signalling system and so letters etc would be able to be brought quickly to Buckfastleigh and then distributed by John and his colleagues to this increasing community.

From the 1700s the publican at the Valiant Inn had been the Post Master but during John's time with the Post Office he would have worked from the newly built Post Office on Fore Street, which was built in 1870. The pub continued until the 1960s and has since opened its doors as the Valiant Soldier Museum and in 2019 the Post Office building -- which would have been so well known to John Furneaux -- closed its doors and a sub post office opened across the road at Haccuby's store.

John served as a postman for twenty years but in 1901 and aged fifty-three, he had to retire due to ill health. John's wife Sarah Grace had already died but John continued to live in a multi generational house on Bridge Street, a street which straddled the River Mardle which was so important to the economy of the town.

¹ 'Buckfastleigh', *Wikipedia*. [Link](#).

Tracing John's children

John and Sarah Grace had at least six children, their first child William John having emigrated to Australia where he died in Lithgow, New South Wales in 1920. William John married Brigit Pascoe in Broken Hill in 1895 and Brigit must have been a Roman Catholic as they are both buried in the Roman Catholic part of Lithgow cemetery.

Walter, the fourth son of John and Sarah Grace, was born in 1877 and had worked in the woollen mill but in 1903 he emigrated to Canada. Walter left from Liverpool together with a considerable number of young men who were labourers and they may have been travelling on the 'British Bonus Scheme'. Walter married and moved to Saskatchewan where he was a farmer, dying there in 1938. Walter had a younger brother Frederick who also emigrated to Saskatchewan. Whilst Frederick was living in Buckfastleigh he had worked as a flesher in the tan yard.

John and Grace, meanwhile, lived all their lives in Buckfastleigh, at times sharing their home with Sarah Grace's father and also John's father John(Senr) who in fact outlived his son by two years.

John's final days

John died on 22nd January 1912, his cause of death at that time being given as aortic valvular disease and congestion of the lungs. It is not known how his condition had affected John and whether this was the ill health which required him to retire early. As a postman John would have carried heavy loads for a distance of a considerable number of miles each day and this may have impacted on his health.

John was buried in the same grave as his wife in the local graveyard and was later joined by the remains of their son George who had lived with his father and was the informant at his father's death.

John's wider family were spread far and in Canada and Australia although some of his descendants remained in Buckfastleigh, the place of their forefathers

Fact Sheet: John Furneaux

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> John Furneaux
<i>Person ID:</i> DV1009
<i>Your name:</i> Mary Griffiths James
<i>U3A group:</i> Heatons and Reddish
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
John Furneaux was born in 1848 in Buckfastleigh, Devon, being registered in the first quarter of that year, in the registration district of Totnes.
2: Who were your pensioners' parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
<p>John Furneaux & Mary Buckingham, were John's parents, both from families who had been in Buckfastleigh for many generations – John's for at least 7 generations.</p> <p>John Snr was born in Widcombe on the Moor which was the home of his mother Elizabeth Waldron but her husband Henry Furneaux was from Buckfastleigh where he married again after his wife's death.</p> <p>Henry & Elizabeth, John Jnr's grandparents , were married in Widcombe on 16 Dec 1821. Henry worked in a paper mill & died of typhus in 1855.</p> <p>John Snr was the only child from the first marriage but he had at least 9 half siblings, 2 of whom emigrated to the US and one to Australia. Either Henry, or his second wife Mary were Wesleyan Methodists as their children were baptised in the Wesleyan Chapel at Ashburton.</p> <p>John Snr ,John's father, was born in 1822 & baptised on 28 July 1822 at Widcombe in the Moor. He died in 1914. William Hamlyn, in his book about Buckfastleigh says of John: 'Among these was John, a fine character. He started at the age of eight as an apprentice to the Hamlyns, and became next to the foreman, a key man. Hamlyn's set up a tannery in 1806 on Church Street and it is said to be the oldest established sheep tannery. They also had a 4 storey spinning and weaving mill.</p> <p>Mary Buckingham John jnr's mother, whose family had also been in Buckfastleigh for generations, married John Snr. in the Parish Church in Buckfastleigh on 3rd March 1844 when both bride and groom signed their names. At their marriage they both gave their</p>

father's occupations as 'Husbandman'. They went on to have 13 children. Mary died in January quarter of 1886.

John Senr. was on parochial relief in 1901 and living with him was a daughter who worked in the woollen mill. By 1911 he was living with our pensioner – **his son John Jnr** – and with John's son. **John Senr.** outlived his son John and died in 1914 aged 92.

Henry Buckingham, Mary's father was baptised in the Parish Church in Buckfastleigh, as was Mary. Mary was baptised on 5th October 1823. At the 1861 census he was living with his daughter Mary and her husband John Furneaux and family, aged 63 and a lime burner

Mary Baskerville, was Mary's mother and was also baptised in Buckfastleigh Parish Church in 1792. Conan Doyle is said to have based his novel 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' on the local Buckfastleigh Squire Richard Cabell of Brook Hall after spending time on Dartmoor and hearing the stories of Cabell & he would possibly have known the name Baskerville from this time.

3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation)

John was the third of 13 children

Henry Buckingham Furneaux, the oldest was born in the July quarter of 1844. He was said in 1861 to be a lime burner. The 1871 census finds Henry in Brixham where he was lodging and gave his occupation as labourer. There are numerous men with the name Henry Furneaux in Devon and it is not possible to follow him further.

Jane was born about 1847 although no actual birth or baptism records have been found. There were possibly children born prior to Jane, who died. Jane was said to be a serge weaver in 1861 but in 1866 she married **William Keast**, a Scots man and they moved to Scotland before 1881 where she was living in Dunbartonshire.

John's birth was found in the January quarter of 1848 and the year following, a 4th child

William was born and registered in the October quarter of 1849. There is a death registered in the April quarter of 1872 in Devonshire which could be for William.

Mary Grace was born in the October quarter of 1851 and she died aged 15 in the April quarter of 1867.

Elizabeth Ann was born in 17 March 1857 so there may have been children who died between Mary Grace and Elizabeth. Elizabeth had been a dressmaker & in 1939 she was living with her nephew. Elizabeth never married and lived her whole life in Buckfastleigh where she died in 1949.

Susan Eliza was born in the January quarter of 1858 and died aged 15 in the April quarter of 1873.

Ellen was born in the January quarter of 1860 and died in the July quarter of that same year.

Ela Louisa was born next on 22 Aug 1863. Like her sister, Ela was a dressmaker and in 1894 she married **Francis Harvey**, a farmer. In 1939 Ela and Francis lived next door to her sister Elizabeth and nephew **George Boarder Furneaux** and when she died in 1942, leaving £743.14s.6d. George was the executor of her will.

Samuel was the last sibling recorded and was baptised on 22 October 1869 in Buckfastleigh Parish Church. Samuel died on 20 September 1946 in Australia and is buried in Footscray Cemetery in the Melbourne area. His uncle Richard, his father's brother, is buried at the St Kilda Cemetery which is only a few kilometres from Footscray. Samuel left from Plymouth on 11th October 1890 on the Orotava for Melbourne, Australia and it was in Victoria State in 1891, according to the Australia marriage index, that he married Mary Ellen Harvey, sister of Francis Harvey who married Samuel's sister Ela Louise. In 1919 Samuel was living at Pilgrim Street, Footscray and was said to be a tanner. The same occupation is given on his probate papers and this would be a profession which he will no doubt have learned from his father John who started work at the Buckfastleigh Tannery in 1830. Samuel had arrived in Australia before 1897 as he is shown on Sands Melbourne Directory living at 136 Charles Street, Footscray. The Sands Directory shows 8 people named Furneaux in the Melbourne area and it is possible that these may be cousins or other relatives. Samuel and Mary Ellen's first child William was born in Footscray in 1894 and died there on 30 August 1953 and he was also a tanner according to his probate record. They also had a daughter Ela born in Footscray in 1905. The electoral roll of 1927 shows Ela at home at Pilgrim Street with her parents and being occupied in home duties. Ela married William John Reginald Clifton 2 years later in 1929 in Victoria State. She died on 31 March, 1995 at Hobson's Bay according to the Victoria Probate records, her husband having predeceased her.

Although no record has been found of Ela and her family coming from Australia to England, on the UK and Ireland Outward Passenger List they are found on 18 October 1924 departing from London to Melbourne on the Ormuz when they were said to be returning to a 'British Possessions' of Australia. Samuel's profession is given as Tanner and the family gave the address where they had been staying in England as c/o F Harvey, Crest Hill, Buckfastleigh, which was the home of Francis, Mary Ellen's brother and Ela Louise, Samuel's sister.

Part Two: Marriage and children

1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation)

John Furneaux married **Sarah Grace Boarder/Border** in the October quarter of 1867 in the Totnes, Devon registration district. She was the daughter of **Henry Border** and **Mary Ann Honeywell** and born in Ilsington Devon in the October quarter of 1848.

Henry and Mary, in the 1881 census, were living in Silver Street, Buckfastleigh in the home of their son William and his wife and children. Next door were John Furneaux's parents John and Mary with three of their children. Henry Boarder's occupation is given as Sawyer and John Furneaux as labourer. Elizabeth and Ela Louise, John's sisters are given as wool weavers. By the 1891 census, still living in Silver Street, were Henry and Mary Ann but in a different house and with another son, Philip who was said to be a dairyman. Henry was now 72 but was said to be a General labourer. 2 of Philip's sons were living in the house and 15 year old son Harry was said to be a Groom and Coachman.

The 1861 census shows 12 year old Sarah Grace as a wool factory hand, her father Henry as a Sawyer at a mine, her 20 year old sister Elizabeth as a Labourer at Copper Ore (?), 18 year old brother William a Copper Miner and 7 year old Thomas was given as a scholar. There were 2 copper mines at Buckfastleigh, namely at Brookwood and the Wheal Emma Mines.

Sarah Grace died on 31 August 1898 and is buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard Buckfastleigh together with her husband **John** who died on 22nd January 1912 and one of their children George Boarder Furneaux who died on 6 January 1951. This information is on the MI on the grave (Find a Grave)

2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

John and Sarah Grace had at least 6 children.

William John was born in the January quarter of 1868 in The Totnes registration district. William is on the 1871 & 1881 census returns and in 1881 he is said to be a factory operative aged 13. He went to Australia about 1885 and in 1895 he married Brigit Pascoe in Broken Hill in NSW. All 5 children were born in NSW. William John died on 16th December 1920 in Lithgow, NSW. Brigit lived for a further 43 years and her MI in Lithgow gives the date as 3rd December 1963

There is more than 1 William J Furneaux in Australia and they may be relatives from his grandfather John Furneaux' half siblings who emigrated to Australia. 'Find a Grave' gives William's death as 16th December 1920 at Lithgow, NSW in the RC part of the cemetery. William had married Brigit Margaret Pascoe in Australia in 1895 and presumably she was RC. They had 5 children.

Thomas Henry was born in the Oct quarter of 1869 in the registration district of Totnes and died in the Oct quarter of 1890. On the 1881 census Thomas is shown as being a scholar.

George Boarder was born in the Jan quarter of 1872 and died on 12th Jan 1951 as is shown on the Memorial Inscription on the grave he shares with his parents. On the 1901 census he is shown with his wife Matilda Bovey and their 3 daughters. George is said to be a journeyman tanner on the census. On the 1911 census he is living with his sister Elizabeth, his father and grandfather who are both given as pensioners, his father as a Postman Pensioner, and his 10 year old daughter. They were living at Bridge Street, Buckfastleigh. On the census George was said to be single. One of his daughters died in 1902 and the other was living with George's sister and family at Crest Hill, Buckfastleigh where she was said to be a dairymaid and her aunt's husband was a dairy farmer. This daughter, **Sarah Gladys** married in 1930 and her husband William Coker was said to be a Prison Warden on the 1939 census. **Ella Louisa**, the daughter who was with George on the 1911 census married Samuel Smerdon in Oct 1919 and when she died in Buckfastleigh on 28 July 1986, she left £23,806. No death details were found for George's wife Matilda but it may be that she died at the same time as her daughter Bridget Florence who died in 1902 and that George put himself as 'single' in the 1911 census meaning that he no longer had a wife.

Walter, the 4th son was born in 1877 in the January quarter. On the 1901 census Walter was living with his parents at Bridge Street and was working in the Woollen Mill which may have been an improvement on his situation in 1891 when he was given as a General Labourer and living with his family at Market Street. On 28 March 1903 he arrived at Halifax, Canada having left from Liverpool. He was one of a considerable number of young men who were labourers travelling on this vessel and they may have been travelling on the British Bonus Scheme, as Canada was wanting immigrants. Notes on his passage give Winnipeg as his intended destination but by the 1911 census he was in the Humboldt District of Saskatchewan and was given as the head of the Household with a George Furneaux born 1885 in England and no doubt a relative. It sates on 'Find a Grave' that he married Ettie Teresa McLoughlin in 1919 By the 1921 census he is a farmer and with a wife Ettie who was 16 years younger and they had a son. When Walter died on 10 Aug 1938 he had 4 children. Ettie was buried with him 10 years later in Govan Cemetery, Saskatoon District of Saskatchewan.

Samuel Boarder, the 5th son was born on 5 Feb 1882 in Buckfastleigh and died on 10th December 1952 at Dial House, Fore Street, Buckfastleigh with probate being granted 3 Jan 1953. Samuel died in Torbay Hospital. On the 1901 census Samuel was living with his father John, a retired Postman in Bridge Street and said to be working in the Tan yard, as were 2 of his brothers also. In the Oct quarter of 1902 Samuel married **Mary Ann Joint** in Totnes Register office. Samuel, his wife and 2 daughters are shown on the 1911 census living at 7 Market Street, and his occupation is given as a flesher in the tanyard. On his Short Service Attestation in 1916 he is with the Devonshire Regiment. The Military Service Act of Jan 1916 would have meant that Samuel would have been conscripted that year. Samuel survived WW1 and by the 1939 census he was with his wife and 2 sons and living at Dial House. His occupation is given as a finisher in the woollen mill.

Frederick was born in the Jan quarter of 1886 in the Totnes Registration District and died in 1942, being buried in Regina Cemetery, Regina Division, Saskatchewan, Canada. Frederick is found on the 1901 census with his father, 3 brothers, 1 sister and his aunt's

daughter **Helen Keast** , who was born in Scotland. Frederick is, like his brothers, a flesher in the tan yard.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

See below.

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1851 Census – Bridge Street Buckfastleigh

John Senr.Furneaux – Tanner age 29

Mary Furneaux – no occupation age 27

Henry Furneaux – scholar age 6

Jane Furneaux – scholar age 4

John Furneaux– (infant) age 3

William Furneaux – (infant) age 1

Henry Buckingham – Ag Lab age 55

1861 Census – Sherwell Street (next to Silver street)Buckfastleigh

John Senr Fuerneaux.– Tanner age 38

Mary Furneaux – no occupation age 37

Henry Furneaux – Lime Burner age 16

Jane Furneaux – Serge Weaver age 14

John Furneaux – Shoemaker age 13

William Furneaux – Scholar age 11

Mary Furneaux – Scholar age 9

Elizabeth Furneaux – Scholar age 5

Above the family on the census is Thomas Furneaux , wife, son and 3 servants & he is said to be a farmer of 30 acres and a tanner, employing 3 men and 1 boy

1871 Census – Workhouse Court Buckfastleigh

John Furneaux– Shoe Maker age 26

Sarah G Furneaux – no occupation age 23

John Furneaux – Scholar age age 3

Thomas Furneaux – Scholar age 1

1881 census – Market Street Buckfastleigh

John Furneaux– Postman age 34

Sarah G Furneaux – no occupation age 33

William Furneaux – Factory Operative age 13
Thomas Furneaux – Scholar age 11
George B Furneaux – Scholar age 9
Walter Furneaux – Scholar age 4

1891 Census – Market Street Buckfastleigh

John Furneaux – Rural Postman age 44
Sarah Furneaux – no occupation age 42
George Furneaux – Tanner’s Labourer age 19
Walter Furneaux – General Labourer age 14
Samuel Furneaux– Scholar age 9
Fred Furneaux – Scholar age 5

1901 Census – Bridge Street Buckfastleigh

John Furneaux – Retired Postman age 54
Walter Furneaux –Warp ? in Woollen Factory age 24
Samuel Furneaux – Flesher in Tanyard age 19
Frederick Furneaux – Flesher in Tanyard age 15
John Furneaux – Boarder – Wid? – Late Flesher in Tanyard (this is probably John Senr) age 80
Elizabeth Furneaux – Boarder – Housekeeper (this is probably John’s unmarried sister) age 44
Helen Keast – Visitor – dressmaker’s apprentice (this is John’s Niece) age 16

1911 Census – Bridge Street Buckfastleigh

John Furneaux – Old Age Pensioner (formerly Labourer) age 89
John Furneaux – Postman Pensioned age 64
George Furneaux – Labourer in Tanyard age 39
Elizabeth Furneaux – Housekeeper age 54
Ella Furneaux – no occupation given age 10

Part Four: Anything Else

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner

The Teignmouth Post announced on 1 June 2019 that the Post Office on Fore Street was closing and a sub post office would open in Haccuby’s Store across the road. Beverley Garland, the Post Mistress said that the Post Office had been running at a loss in recent years, saying the Post Office Ltd did not want stand alone Post Offices any more as they are not financially viable.

The Post Office, on Fore Street, had been there for 150 years and so John Furneaux would have been particularly familiar with this building. Prior to this, the Publican at the Valiant Soldier Inn had been the Postmaster. The Inn had been there since the early 1700s and presumably after the ‘new’ Post Office was built, it continued as a pub until its closure in the 1960s. It has since reopened its doors as the Valiant Soldier Museum.

Buckfast Abbey, just outside Buckfastleigh, was the site of a Saxon Monastery built in 918 and endorsed by King Canute. The dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry V111 lead to the Abbey being in ruins but in 1882 monks who were exiled from France bought the land and the Abbey was rebuilt. The new Abbot at this time was Boniface Natter, who died in 1906 when his ship was wrecked. John was a Rural Postman during this time he would have known the Abbot although denominational differences may have separated them.

A contemporary of his grandfather, William Hosking born in Buckfastleigh in 1809 may have been known to John's family but the Hosking family emigrated to NSW, Australia when William was quite young. He did return to England and indeed in 1840 he became the first Professor of Architecture at Kings College, London. Whilst it is not thought that William ever returned to live in Buckfastleigh, there was a large extended Hosking family who were farmers and John, as a Rural Postman, may have delivered letters to them, some of which may have been from the family in Australia.

In May 1872 a railway was built through Buckfastleigh, with a telegraph system used for the railway signalling being put in by the Post Office. The railway would have made a considerable difference to Buckfastleigh and may explain to some extent the rise in population in 1801 of 1525 to 2781 in 1901

Buckfastleigh is a medieval town and its physical situation explains its growth. It lies on the edge of Dartmoor Forest with 2 streams, the Mardle and the Dean Burn running into the River Dart. There is black marble and copper in the area and limestone. The occupations coming from these include mining and in the case of lime, lime burning. Lime was used to 'sweeten the soil', for lime wash, flooring, cement and also in the tanning process. Tanning also used large quantities of bark which was obtained from the Forest. The tanning industry in Buckfastleigh was considerable although in WWII the sheepskins were no longer made for rugs but were used for Airmen's jackets and gloves.

Water is absolutely essential for woollen mills and for paper mills and so in 1806 Hamlyns were able to build their 4 storey mill on the banks of the Mardle, benefitting no doubt from the new manufacturing processes which came into being with the Industrial Revolution . In the woollen mills, which produced blankets and serge the various processes were undergone in the same place, other than the tenting of the cloth which was at one time carried out in the lofts of cottages on Chapel Street. Prior to WWI, cloth was exported to China and was made also for the Admiralty and for Military Officer's uniforms.

The main component for the woollen mills was of course sheep and these were plentiful in the area around Buckfastleigh and included the Devon and Cornwall Longwool which is long, heavy and curly and this lustrous wool is of a very good quality. The occupations resulting from these industries are reflected in John's wider family with those working in lime burning, the tanning industry, in the mining of copper, in the woollen mills and his grandfather in the paper mill.

So, where does John fit into this community as a Postman?

John's death certificate gives the cause of death as aortic valvular disease and congestion of the lungs. This could be something with which he had lived for a very long time and may have affected the manner in which he lived or it could be that he was not aware of this. As a Postman he would have carried heavy loads for a distance of a considerable number of miles each day, which could affect his health.

John's wider family were in Australia and Canada, as were many other families and they probably wrote to their families in England and John would be delivering their letters, bringing good news and bad news and his deliveries would be welcome by the recipients. When a Rural Postman he would be delivering to isolated farms etc and he may have been the only 'outsider' that those people would see for days on end. John's work was essential to his community.

When John retired in 1901 due to ill-health, he was 53 and had served as a Postman for 20 Years.

He had a retirement lasting the same length of time and until his death on 22 January 1912 when he was buried in the same grave as his wife in the local Churchyard, later to be joined by their son George. George is the son with whom he is shown as living in 1911 and he was the informant at his father's death.

John's daily routine, occupation is not known during this time, but the 1911 census shows him living with members of his family, including his father. They were living on Bridge Street, which straddles the Mardle, in the lower part of the town. This was a multi-generational household so he would never be on his own.

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

Class: HO107; Piece: 1874; Folio: 324; Page: 17; GSU roll: 221022 – 1851 census (Ancestry)

Class: RG 9; Piece: 1419; Folio: 71; Page: 35; GSU roll: 542810 – 1861 census (Ancestry)

The National Archives; Kew, London, England; 1871 England Census; Class: RG10; Piece: 2096; Folio: 66; Page: 22; GSU roll: 831786 - 1871 census (Ancestry)

Class: RG11; Piece: 2177; Folio: 62; Page: 22; GSU roll: 1341524 – 1881 census (Ancestry)

The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891; Class: RG12; Piece: 1712; Folio: 59; Page: 24; GSU roll: 6096822 – 1891 census (Ancestry)

Class: RG13; Piece: 2074; Folio: 36; Page: 22 – 1901 census (Ancestry)

Class: RG14; Piece: 12837; Schedule Number: 141 – 1911 census (Ancestry)

England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 (Ancestry)

England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915 (Ancestry)

England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915 (Ancestry)

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995(Ancestry) reshedulereshedulere

Valiant Soldier Museum, Buckfastleigh