

*JOHN DAVIS SHEPHARD  
(1840-1915)*

*BY TONY DOBBS*

*In this piece, our RSLP participant Tony Dobbs imagines the life of John Davis Shephard from a first-person perspective.*

My name is John Davis Shephard. It is September 1901. Queen Victoria died at the start of the year and I am sixty-one years old. I have just been admitted to Herrison Hospital (the Dorset County Asylum) near Charminster. I am often confused and the doctors here say I am suffering from 'religious mania'. I am convinced 'there is a serpent inside me turning my body black'. Before being brought here I was living in Poole; for a while I was lodging with my younger sister Annie, now Lilian Trapp. I am separated from my wife Elizabeth who is still living in Beaminster. Apparently, there was an 'incident' in Poole and the doctors here tell me that, as a result, I am on remand from Poole Assizes, resulting from my behaviour at a children's playground.

When I arrived here, I told the doctors I was previously a rural postman in Beaminster. I was born in 1840 and baptised in Stoke Abbott as John Shephard. When I was very young I lived with my parents, James and Betty; they were living with my mother's parents Samuel and Phillis Davis in Stoke Abbott.. I now call myself John Davis Shephard to recognise their part in my life. I also told the doctors that my father was a 'great drunkard' and when I was nine years old he left us. My mother, my sister and I had to live in the Beaminster Union Workhouse. It was hard and my younger sister Jane died there. Jane was only six years old. The law caught up with my father and he was prosecuted for deserting his family in 1849, and again in 1856.

Life in Herrison could be worse. They make us wash and brush our hair every morning, and insist we bathe once a week with changed linen. I work in the shoemaker's workshop now and again. But there is no medicine they can give me to keep 'the serpent' away. I feel that other patients talk about me behind my back.

I wish I was back at work, even though it was tiring and the hours were long. We had to carry mail bags that could be as heavy as 35 lbs (16kg). Letters and parcels would come to Beaminster Railway Sub Office for delivery to Post Offices in surrounding villages as well as in Beaminster itself. This would lead to long days. For



Figure 1: A photograph of John taken from the Dorset County Asylum casebook when he was around sixty-one. Reference NG-HH/CMR/4/14A/4, Herrison Hospital Collection © Dorset History Centre

example, post for Netherbury had to be there by 8 am and be collected at 5 pm and the post for London and other parts from Beaminster was collected at 7 am and sent at 6 pm. I am told there was a postmen's strike in 1890 about the harsh working conditions. They say that following a protest march hundreds of postmen were sacked. On the other hand working as a postman had its brighter moments. Christmases were especially busy. Every day in the week before Christmas last year, 1900, I remember, they used a two-horse mail coach from Bridport to Beaminster to take and drop off the mail. This was a sight to see; in normal times only a one-horse mail coach was needed. But things seemed to change so fast before I retired; new delivery and collection times, new post boxes and post shelters being installed. It was difficult to keep up. In 1894 old Swaffield, another rural postman, had been given permission to use his own horse to take post to Salwayash, a nearby village and only one year later he was on his bicycle. In 1897 we were all given new uniforms, two suits each year. They were just the same as the town posties and my three good conduct stripes were clearly shown. Although, I was more concerned with the extra pay from the stripes than their appearance.

I have six surviving children; two others died in infancy. Bessie Ann, the oldest, is working as a domestic servant in Bromley, Kent. Florence Alice is now living in Beaminster with her husband Charles Hann, a bootmaker. Lilian Lucy, twenty-two, Alfred John, eleven, still at school, and their sister Ada are living with her mother in South Street Beaminster, near the Mill there. Ada is fifteen years old and working as a 'housemaid domestic'. My son William George is living in Bridport and working as a groom, a job I was doing before I became a postman in 1876.

I remember well my marriage to Elizabeth in 1871 in Thorncombe. She was only seventeen. I was thirty-five but pretended I was younger. Mary Sansom, nineteen, was one of witnesses. She was Elizabeth's friend. They both came from Stoke Abbott village. Mary was working as a maid at Sadborrow House in Thorncombe. At that time I was groom in Strode Manor Place, a grand house in South Bowood.

It is now 1908, and I am still in Herrison. They tell me a man called Wright has just flown like a bird. Of course, I don't believe them. I have just been told my dear daughter Lilian has died. This has set me back a great deal just like it did six years ago when I heard my son William George had died. He was only twenty-two.

*John Davis Shephard died in Herrison Hospital in November 1915 age 75. The cause of death was senile decay.*

## **Notes**

Much of the personal information came from the Admission and Case Notes for Herrison Hospital held in the Dorset History Centre. Details of John's work as a Rural Postman were informed by the Paper Collection titled "Bridport Post Office 1828 – 1983" D-1066 in the same library.

The comment about John being guarded about his true age is surmise on my part. I also think his wife may have been pregnant when they married; this based on the birth date and late christening

of Bessie Ann, their daughter, and also on the location of their wedding, which was some distance from their home area.

## Fact Sheet: John D. Shephard

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> John Shephard
<i>Person ID:</i> DR1003
<i>Your name:</i> Tony Dobbs
<i>USA group:</i> Weymouth and Portland
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
<p>John was born in 1840. He was baptised in Stoke Abbott (also called Stoke Abbas) on 11th November 1840 (ref1) and is described as 7 months old in the census of 1841 (ref2) that was held in June that year so he seems to have been baptised soon after birth.</p> <p>Stoke Abbott is a parish in the registration district of Beaminster in Dorset, approx 5 miles north of Bridport (ref3), the postal area that John is listed in, in the list given at the start of the project. Netherbury is a nearby village that also figures in his story.</p> <p>The name Shephard (and Shepherd) is quite common in this area as is his first name, John, and his wife's first name, Elizabeth, so there are many alternative possibilities in searches. A further confusion arises from spelling, in some cases Sheppard has also been used in transcriptions. In view of these issues I cannot be 100% confident that I have discovered the correct details but I have double checked and discarded several alternative records.</p>
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's father was James Shephard (b Stoke Abbott about 1817 (ref2)). James was baptised in Stoke Abbott in June 1814 (ref71). His mother was Elizabeth Davis also born in Stoke Abbott about 1817 (ref2) she was baptised Betty Davy in November 1815 in Stoke Abbott (ref72). I believe Elizabeth died in Weymouth in the workhouse in 1908 age 85 (ref73). John's father was an agricultural labourer, seemingly all his life (ref2 and 4).</p> <p>John first appears as John Davis Shephard in 1871 (ref4). Previously he is known simply as John. Afterwards he is sometimes identified as John D. Davis was his mother's maiden name (ref5). His parents were married on 20th April 1840 in Netherbury, Dorset (ref5).</p> <p>John's father James was the eldest son of a large family. James' father was John Shephard, often spelt Sheppard (b1780 Powerstock, Dorset, died 1885 Netherbury), mother Phebe nee Hansford (b1788 and died 1839 in Netherbury) (ref42).</p> <p>When John was born his parents were living (1841 census) with Samuel (65) and Phillis (60) Davis at a house called Hocurme Bay, Stoke Abbott (ref2) next door to a flax factory at Horshill. Samuel and Phillis (nee Forsey) were Elizabeth's parents; they were married in Stoke Abbott 9/3/1804 (ref6) and died in 1860 buried 9th September (ref7) and 1846 buried 9th June (ref7) respectively in Stoke Abbott. The family name Davis sometimes appears as Davy (or Davey) and is described as an alias in online Village records (eg ref7).</p> <p>John's father, James, is a boarder with his younger brother John, a blacksmith, in South Bowood, Netherbury in 1851 (ref43). But, John (age10) his mother Betty (age 34) and sister Jane (age 6) are in the Beaminster union workhouse at that time (ref44). This workhouse was a new property opened in 1838 and was busy during the period following the potato famine of 1846 (ref45). Jane Shephard died while in the workhouse and was buried on 14th July 1851 (ref51). James and</p>

Elizabeth had another daughter, Sarah Ann in 1843 (ref46). She died age 2 and was buried 16th March 1845 (ref51)

In 1861 John's family are living at 108 East St Beaminster (ref8) James Shephard, 44; Elizabeth Shephard, Wife, 40; John Shephard, Son, 18 (though he would have been 20 at that time) - Groom; Elizabeth Shephard, Daur, 8 - Scholar; Ann (Annie) Shephard, Daur, 3.

John's parents continued to live in Beaminster; I have census records for them in 1871 (ref9) at 106 East St. They have a lodger at this time; he does not appear to be related to the family.

John's father, James, had several brushes with the law, accused and found guilty of 'vagrancy and leaving family' in 1849 (ref47) and again with similar charges in 1856 (ref48). There is a record of a James Shepherd that died and was buried in Portland prison in 1879 (ref50) but this does not seem to be John's father because in the 1881 census James Shephard (birth place matches and age is roughly correct) is in the Beaminster Union workhouse (ref70) despite his family living in Beaminster, perhaps there was a domestic rift. A search for Death Certificates on GRO confirms that James Shepherd, buried on Portland is age 24 so is not the James of interest. There is a registered death of James Shephard in Beaminster in Q2 1899 but the age of death is 93, I calculate John's father would have been 85 (ref74).

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 had two sisters that survived beyond infancy, Elizabeth 10 years younger than him and Ann (or Annie) 15 years younger. They were both born in Beaminster (ref 8). Despite being born about 1855 Elizabeth was not baptised until December 1859 (ref51).

In 1871 (ref9) Elizabeth, 18, was a General Servant and Annie was a Domestic Servant, age 12.

In 1881 Elizabeth (as Betty or Betsy 65), her daughter Elizabeth 28 and other daughter (called Nancy) but the correct age for Annie 23 are living at 153 South St Beaminster. Living with them is Lydia B age 1, Betsy's granddaughter, and a lodger Henry Coppard age 6 (ref52). Lydia Bridley is Annie's daughter as identified in baptism record of January 1880 (ref53). This illegitimate child of Annie may be a reason for the subterfuge of using a different first name of Nancy. I have searched for other records of a Nancy Shephard but not found records that could belong to another sibling of John D. Lydia has a short life and is buried in Beaminster in 1885 (ref54).

Annie married Frank Trapp in Poole on 27/8/1888 (ref 12) and they were living in Poole in 1901 (ref13) when John Shephard (Sheppard) was staying with them as a Boarder. Annie dies in 1935 (ref56) in Wareham, Dorset and Frank is buried in January 1940 also in Wareham (ref57).

I have not been able to discover any plausible records of Elizabeth Shephard after 1871.

## 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 married Elizabeth Ann (or Anna) Parker in Thorncombe on 5th May 1871 (ref4). This is a little strange because Thorncombe is about 10 miles from Netherbury and Elizabeth and John were both living in Netherbury for the April 1871 (ref9 and ref10) census. Elizabeth was living with her parents (ref9) and John Davis Shephard was living in the household of George Tilly

Gollop at Strode Manor Place. His occupation was groom/domestic servant. Both of these properties were in the same Hamlet of Netherbury, called Bowood. In the census return Elizabeth Anna is at property number 193 and John Davis is at property 200. John's parents were living in Beaminster for the census, a similar distance from Thorncombe (ref10).

Both John's and Elizabeth's father were described as Labourers in the banns (ref4). John and Elizabeth were both born in Stoke Abbott as was Mary Sansom (a similar age to Elizabeth and a witness at the wedding), a kitchen maid at Sadborow House in Thorncombe in April 1871 (ref14). Also working at Sadborow House was a John Parker (Footman age 28 b Burstock Dorset). This John Parker may have been related to the bride (same surname) but I have not uncovered a plausible link.

In the wedding banns (ref4) the groom John Davis Shephard is described as a Gentleman's servant. In the 1871 Census returns for Thorncombe village there are no Shephards listed but in the banns John is described as 'Bachelor of full age, Gentleman's Servant of Thorncombe' (ref4). Elizabeth is listed as 'under age', being 17. It seems that John and possibly Elizabeth moved to Thorncombe in the month between the census and their marriage but whether and why is unknown. I suppose it could be that a baby was on the way.

John only appears to become John Davis (or D) Shephard in 1871, at around the time of his marriage, possibly to recognise his mother's maiden name.

Elizabeth's father and mother were George and Ann Parker (nee Page). They were both born in Broadwin(d)sor abt 1824 (ref9). They were married in April 1851 in Broadwindsor (ref15). He died in 1898 (ref 16) and she died in 1909 (ref17) both in Beaminster. I believe George's father was John Parker and mother Mary (nee Forsey); they were married in Stoke Abbott 15/6/1820 (ref18).

Ann Page's parents were John and Mary Page they both died in Broadwindsor in 1875 and 1873 respectively.

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)

According to the 1911 census Elizabeth Shephard had 8 children and at that time 4 were surviving (ref19). I have found the following

- Bessie Ann b Chard Somerset Q1 1872 maybe January (ref20). This might seem strange bearing in mind where John and Elizabeth were living and where the other children were born but Thorncombe was a parish in the district of Chard and John and Elizabeth were married in Thorncombe. Bessie is baptised, in Beaminster at the same time as Florence on 27th Feb 1867. Bessie is 4 years old at the time and this is written on the baptism record (ref60). This would tie in with the theory that her parents marriage was motivated by Sarah Ann already being pregnant. Bessie marries George Parker in Limpsfield, Surrey in 1910. At the time of the marriage Bessie is living in Bromley Kent and George, a Carter, is living in Limpsfield (ref58). In 1911 the couple are living in Oxted, Surrey and George is a Carter in a Brickyard as in the census return. In 1939, according to the Register of Electors, Bessie, George and daughter Ada Parker 27 are living in Godstone. Ada Parker birth was registered in January 1912 in Godstone. In the 1891 census Bessie is a Servant in a Drapers' household in Bromley Kent. Bessie Ann Parker dies in Surrey in 1946 (ref59).

- Florence Alice b Beaminster 1876 (ref21). She was living with her parents in the census of 1881 but in 1891 is working as a domestic servant in a house in Netherbury age 15. She marries a local boy Charles Hann in July 1899 in Beaminster (ref22). In 1901 census the couple are living in Stoke Abbott, Charles's birth place, where he is working as a bootmaker age 29, Florence age 25 (ref 61). In 1911 they are living in a house in Beaminster called Tanyard. Charles is now a Boot Repairer. The return shows they have had no children (ref62). The couple are still at that address in 1915 when Charles is enlisted in the 7th Dorset Regiment at the age of 44 (ref63). Charles was buried in Beaminster on 23 December 1926 (ref64). Florence Hann died Q3 1960 in Weymouth (ref69)
- Lillian Lucy b Oct 1878 (ref 23) Beaminster d 1908 (ref24) and was living with her mother in all census years.
- William George b 1881 Beaminster (ref25) d 1902 (ref26). George was living with his parents in 1891 but in 1901 was working as a groom and living as a boarder in a house in Bridport age 20 (ref66)
- Ada b October 1885 Beaminster (ref 27) and baptised on 27th May 1904 (ref65), designated as a 'Housemaid Domestic' in 1901 census age 15 (ref28). Ada is not with her mother at census time 1911 and I have not located her anywhere but she marries John Mynard on April 13th 1914 in Limpsfield, Surrey in the same church as her sister married 4 years previously (ref67)
- Alice b August 1883 Beaminster died and buried as an infant, 2 weeks old (ref55)
- Alfred John b July 1890 Beaminster (ref29). I believe Alfred John died on 29th August 1960 in Hammersmith (ref68).

In 1911 Elizabeth is living with her son Alfred age 21 a Drapers Porter? and grandson Ernest Shephard 7. I do not know who his mother and father were, searches did not show any clues, but I did not look at a birth certificate.

It seems likely that Elizabeth Annie Shephard, John's wife, survived him by several years and died on 31/8/1931 in Ash, Surrey in hospital (ref30). Possibly, Elizabeth moved to Surrey, where she had two married daughters sometime after her husband John Davis died. She was in Beaminster, South Stoke, on the electors register up to 1915, the year John died.

### 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

- 1851 John is in the Beaminster Union workhouse with his mother and sister Jane
- 1861 John is described as a Groom, he is living with parents (ref31)
- 1871 John is described as 'groom' in the census return of 1871 as his relationship to the master of the house. In the occupation category he is described as a domestic servant (ref32)
- 1881 John is listed as John D and is a Postman (ref33)
- 1891 John is J D and a Rural postman messenger (ref34) living at 6 South Street Beaminster
- 1901 John (Shepperd) is living in Poole with his sister and described as pensioned rural postman (ref13)

- 1911 John is in Dorset County Asylum Charminster Dorset. He is described as a 'lunatic' with the occupation Late postman (pensioner)(ref35).

John was appointed to the Post Office as a messenger in March 1876 (ref36).

I have found a record of a John Davis Shephard in the Bedford Assizes 9th Nov 1909 for 'Placing himself on Midland Rd to gather alms' I think this might be a sign of derangement (ref37).

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

Only house occupants with an occupation are listed

- 1841 Sam Davis (65) Labourer, John Davis (20) Labourer, William Davis (15) Sailcloth weaver, Ann Davis (15) flax weaver, James Shephard (25?) Ag Labourer. Our postman John is 7 months.
- 1851 John is in the workhouse
- 1861 at 108 West St Beaminster. James Shephard (44) Labourer, John Shephard (18) Groom, Elizabeth (8) Scholar.
- 1871 at Strode Manor there is a Housekeeper, a Cook, a housemaid and three Nurse/domestic servants aside from John Davis the groom/domestic servant (ref32)
- 1881 at 117 East St Beaminster. John Shephard (39) Postman, Bessie A (9) Scholar (ref33)
- 1891 at 6 South Mills Beaminster. J D Shephard (49) Rural postman Messenger, Lilian (12), William (10) and Ada (6) all Scholars (ref34)
- 1901 John in Poole. Frank Trapp (34) Goods carman, John Lemon (18 nephew) Porter (trade shop?), Noel Nobbs (30 boarder) Timber ??, John Sheppard (60 boarder) Pensioned rural postman. (ref13)
- 1911 John is in the Dorset County Asylum

#### Part Four: Anything Else

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

After retirement his life appeared not to be happy. In the 1901 census his wife, still living in Beaminster, recorded he was in Poole (ref 35), where he was lodging with his younger sister.

This was obviously not a long term visit because John Davis Shepherd is listed in the Electors Register in 1901 and 1902 living in South Gate Beaminster (ref38) (It might be notable that from 1903 to 1915 Elizabeth Shephard is the Registered elector at that address.)

There is a hint that he might have been before the assizes in Bedford (ref37) in 1909 but he was classified as a lunatic in 1911 when he was in the mental hospital in Charminster, Dorset(ref39).

John Davis died in the Dorset County Asylum Charminster on 21st November 1915. His address was given as Ashley Road, Longfleet, Poole. This address does not match with that for his sister in



either 1891 (West Jury? Rd) or 1901 (New Buildings Love Lane) or 1911 when she is living in Wareham. The cause of death was senile decay. There was no post mortem (ref40).

The Dorset County Asylum was the Herrison Hospital, Charminster, opened in 1832. It closed to patients in 1986 and the building finally closed in 1992 (ref41). The main buildings of the hospital are still standing, 2021, and have been mainly converted into flats in Charlton Down.

### Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

#### References

- 1 John Shephard's baptism 1840 Dorset History Centre; Dorchester, England; Reference: PE/STA: RE 1/1-3, 2/1-2, 3/1-4, 4/1-2, 5/1, 6/1-2
- 2 Shephard family census 1841 Class: HO107; Piece: 282; Book: 1; Civil Parish: Stoke Abbas; County: Dorset; Enumeration District: 14; Page: 1; Line: 12; GSU roll: 241337
- 3 Local geography in Stoke Abbot area  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/Stoke/StokeAbbot/StokeAbbot.htm>
- 4 Wedding banns John Davis Shephard and Elizabeth Parker May 1871 Thorncombe. Dorset History Centre; Dorchester, England; Reference: PE/THO: RE 3/2-7, 4/1-3, 5/1, 6/1
- 5 Wedding in 1840 of John's parents James Shephard and Elizabeth Davis. Ancestry.com. England, Select Dorset Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
- 6 Wedding in 1804 in Stoke Abbott of Samuel and Phillis Davis.  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/Stoke/StokeAbbot/StokeAbbotMarrs.htm>
- 7 Burials of Samuel and Phillis Davis in Stoke Abbott.  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/Stoke/StokeAbbot/StokeAbbotBurs1838-1875.htm>
- 8 Census return 1861 for Shephard family.  
<http://www.opcdorset.org/BeaminsterFiles/1861BeaminsterD2.htm>
- 9 Census return for the Shephard family 1871. The National Archives; Kew, London, England; 1871 England Census; Class: RG10; Piece: 2026; Folio: 31; Page: 34; GSU roll: 831759
- 10 Census return 1871 showing John Shephard living in Strode Manor Netherbury.  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/NetherburyFiles/1871NetherburyED1.htm>
- 11 Census return 1871 for Parker family in Beaminster. The National Archives; Kew, London, England; 1871 England Census; Class: RG10; Piece: 2024; Folio: 21; Page: 34; GSU roll: 831758
- 12 Marriage of Frank Trapp and John's sister Annie Shephard in Poole in 1888. FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 13 Census return for Trapp family in Poole with John Shephard as a boarder. Class: RG13; Piece: 1979; Folio: 51; Page: 8
- 14 Census return 1871 for Sadborow House, Thorncombe  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/ThorncombeFiles/1871Thorncombe.htm>

- 15 George and Ann Parker's (nee Page) wedding. Ancestry.com. England, Select Dorset Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
- 16 George Davis' death FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 17 Ann Davis' death FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 18 George Parker and Mary Forsey's marriage.  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/Stoke/StokeAbbot/StokeAbbotMarrs.htm>
- 19 1911 census Elizabeth Shephard record of children still alive. Class: RG14; Piece: 12472; Schedule Number: 80
- 20 Bessie Ann Shephard's birth. FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 21 Florence Alice Shephard's baptism Ancestry.com. England, Select Dorset Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
- 22 Florence's marriage to Charles Hann in 1899 FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 23 Lilian Lucy Shephard's birth 1878 FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 24 Lilian Lucy Shephard's death 1908 Ancestry.com. England, Select Dorset Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1999 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.
- 25 William George Shephard's birth 1881 Beaminster. FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 26 William George Shephard's burial 24<sup>th</sup> April 1902 Holy Trinity Beaminster. Dorchester, England; Reference: PE/BE
- 27 Ada Shephard's birth 1885 Beaminster. FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 28 Ada Shephard as a 'Housemaid domestic' in 1901 .Class: RG13; Piece: 2011; Folio: 15; Page: 3
- 29 Alfred John Shephard's birth in Beaminster 1890. FreeBMD. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
- 30 Elizabeth Anna Shepard's death. Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Reference: 6606/1/20
- 31 John Shephard as Groom in 1861 Census. Class: RG 9; Piece: 1365; Folio: 23; Page: 17; GSU roll: 542802
- 32 John Davis Shephard as a groom/domestic servant in Netherbury in 1871. RG10; Piece: 2024; Folio: 22; Page: 36; GSU roll: 831758
- 33 John as Postman in 1881. Class: RG11; Piece: 2121; Folio: 20; Page: 21; GSU roll: 1341512
- 34 John as Rural postman messenger in 1891 The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891; Class: RG12; Piece: 1662; Folio: 45; Page: 1; GSU roll: 6096772
- 35 Record by his wife on census return that she was 'wife of John Shephard of Poole'. Class: RG13; Piece: 2011; Folio: 15; Page: 3

- 36 PO appointment British Postal Museum and Archive; Series: POST 58; Reference Number: 88
- 37 Possible Assize appearance for John Davis Shepherd on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1909. Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service; Bedford, Bedfordshire; Bedfordshire Petty Sessions; Reference Number: PSBB3/19/5
- 38 John in Electors Register 1901 and 1902 Dorset History Centre; Dorchester, Dorset, England; Dorset Electoral Registers and Poll Books; Microfilm Reference Number: MIC/R/1240
- 39 John as a Late postman (pensioner). Class: RG14; Piece: 12411
- 40 Death certificate for John Davis Shephard
- 41 Dorset County Asylum, Herrison Hospital  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/dorset/hi/people\\_and\\_places/history/newsid\\_8374000/8374111.stm#:~:text=The%20Herrison%20Hospital%20was%20the,957%20patients%20at%20the%20hospital.](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/dorset/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8374000/8374111.stm#:~:text=The%20Herrison%20Hospital%20was%20the,957%20patients%20at%20the%20hospital.)
- 42 Details of John and Phebe Shephard from Morrish Family tree on Ancestry, verified by inspection of details on Netherbury OPC website.  
<https://www.opcdorset.org/NetherburyFiles/Netherbury.htm>
- 43 James Shephard as a boarder with younger brother John (Blacksmith) in 1841. Class: HO107; Piece: 1860; Folio: 317; Page: 1; GSU roll: 221008
- 44 John, mother and sister in 1851 in workhouse Class: HO107; Piece: 1860; Folio: 363; Page: 7; GSU roll: 221008
- 45 Beaminster workhouse <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Beaminster/>
- 46 Baptism records for Sarah Ann and Jane Shephard. Dorset History Centre; Dorchester, England; Reference: PE/NBY: RE 1/1-1/3, 2/1, 2/2, 3/1-3/4, 4/1
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